

Episode Twenty-Three: Vae's Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day - Part Two

Dungeon Master: Xaan

Jerome: Lady

Mogan: Queen

Vae: Alex

Snow: Bean

Leif: Selah

Kareus: Kian

Content Warning:

Xaan: Critically Chaotic is a rowdy dungeons podcast that consists of adult themes and humor. Content warnings for this episode can be found in the episode description, as well as a link to transcripts. Because of some real life circumstances, Selah will be missing for a few sessions, and thus Leif will be off on a solo adventure for several episodes. Rest weary traveler, and enjoy.

Recap:

Kian: In the last episode, Vae's terrible, awful, no-good, very bad day kicked off to a great start with a painful nightmare. While she went off to cool down at the library, Snow and Kareus spent much of the day together. Kareus cured her hangover, and the two discovered that they had much more in common than either of them originally thought. Kareus and Jerome then went to the magic shop to discover some interesting things about Kareus' little buddy, Terry. Now we circle back to Vae, who is probably perfectly fine. Probably.

[theme song]

Xaan: Okay, so y'all can head home... I was thinking about the... thinking about the time... It's probably more like evening-ish, like early evening? Late afternoon, early evening when you head back, because I think you would've broke for like

food, and then there's also the travel to the shop and everything, if that's cool with y'all.

Kian: Mmkay.

Alex: All good with me, I'm just at the library.

Xaan: You're- you can now be done with the library if you wanna go and meet Valen since it's about closing time for the library as night is beginning to fall. Or, for the museum, not the library.

Alex: I will head over to Valen's. And while-

Xaan: Alright.

Alex: While Vae is walking, I feel like she's probably just like, flipping around the knife, which is kind of threatening to everyone around her-

[Kian laughs]

Alex: -but she doesn't care.

Xaan: Alright, alright. There are less people that are out and about since it's getting to be about dusk time. And so you're just walking, heading in the usual direction, and the whispers have been around kind of all day, it was always kind of background noise during your time at the library, but you start to hear them grow louder again.

Alex: Oh, yay. Of course today couldn't go fun. Had to- had to take another bad turn.

Xaan: It's the horrible, awful, very bad, no good day.

[Alex and Bean laugh]

Alex: [sarcastically] Yay!

Xaan: And this time the voice, which sounds a bit different from the last one that was very clear- like it's very similar, but it's just like, a slightly different tone to it. So the main voice that is- that can be heard above all the others.

Distorted Whisper: Stop.

Alex: I stop.

Distorted Whisper: Turn left.

Alex: What's left?

Xaan: It's just a different street.

Alex: Okay. Do I know what left is heading towards?

Xaan: It's just heading to a different part of the city. The library's kind of like in the center of the city, kind of like. It's maybe like six-ish blocks away from the museum, and so left is just heading towards the northern-ish area of the city.

Alex: Okay. Yeah, I'll turn left then.

Xaan: So you're walking, and the voice just kind of keeps giving you directions. Do you try to stop at all? It's leading you on for like, maybe like half an hour as you're wandering through the city.

Alex: Jesus, um. I feel like the only way that Vae would stop walking is if she, like kind of recognized where she was headed and like... if she knew it wasn't a good location. Otherwise, she would probably keep going just to not get that insane migraine feeling again.

Xaan: So then she's being lead around for about half an hour, it's leading mostly kind of north, and then a little bit to the west. And it's starting to enter different areas of the old town district, it's kind of heading towards one of the gates. And this is when the voice starts telling you to take like- so it was- you were mostly on the main roads for most of this. But then it starts telling you to go down some

different pathways, kind of like more towards some back alleys, more just in like kind of seedier type of alleyways in the city.

Alex: I feel like before Vae goes down any of the alleyways, she'll try and do a perception check, she doesn't wanna like... walk through something that's obviously like. Like if there's people there. Like if there's a bunch of like, hooligans loitering, then she'll like not do it, but otherwise she would go.

Xaan: Okay, roll perception.

Alex: Oh, and perception is Wisdom, fun. Oh, okay, 12.

Xaan: Okay, yeah you don't really see anybody, the voice isn't really trying to like, head you into very obvious dangers, like. You don't really see like a group of hooligans, or like a guy in a trenchcoat with a knife ready to stab you or anything like that.

Alex: [laughs] No hooligans?

Xaan: No hooligans.

Alex: Okay, cool. Good! Then she goes ahead.

Xaan: Alright. And so you're heading around, going through all these back alleys, until the voice guides you to a backdoor. And the voice then says to you

Distorted Whisper: Knock on the door.

Alex: Do I know where I am, like do I know the streets? Like address around here or is just somewhere completely new?

Xaan: I don't? No actually, you would have gone through this area when you entered, because you entered Wingston from the north. So you're in one of the smaller shopping districts, and roll an investigation for me.

Alex: Okay. Oh shit, I rolled that with advantage, whoops. Investigation is not wisdom, shit. [dice rolling] Still terrible, 9.

Xaan: Alright so then. Yeah, you're not quite sure like, what shop this is the backdoor to. You just know that you're in one of the smaller shopping districts.

Alex: [sighs] I feel like Vae just sort of stands there for about 10 seconds, and then the memory of that intense pain that she felt last night goes through her head again, and she's just like "Well, if I disobey it, I could end up flat on the ground," so she'll knock on the door.

Xaan: Alright, so you knock on the door, and then you hear a small thump, like somebody suddenly pressing up against the door, and you hear a low voice that says.

Low Voice: What is it?

Xaan: And the whispers in your head, they say.

Distorted Whisper: Repeat after me, understand?

Alex: Yeah, she's just. Yeah, she'll repeat whatever they say.

Xaan: So, the voice instructs you to say "My face is porcelain, and my breath is absent."

Alex: Yeah, she says it.

Xaan: There's a brief pause, and then-

[MUSIC starts playing]

Xaan: -the door opens into a very dark room. You're able to see a little bit of it from the ambient light of the streets that shine inside, but it's so dark that you can't make it out with Darkvision.

Alex: Are the voices saying anything, because I feel like Vae wouldn't go in unless the voices tell her to, because she's just not feeling it.

Xaan: Yeah, the voice tell her to go inside.

Alex: Actually, before- before she goes into the room... Can I try and drop the dagger- the Tamrain's dagger, because she's been- I said before that she was flipping it in my hand.

Xaan: Uh huh.

Alex: I feel like Vae probably has her notebook and shit in her pocket, so she won't do that, but can I try and like drop it or throw it a little bit further away?

Xaan: Yeah, so like into the street, or?

Alex: Someplace [laughs] someplace not- probably not into the street, because it can be found and picked up, just like maybe further down the alley, but just enough that like, people won't pick it up.

Xaan: It's like a, like a mark kind of a thing.

Alex: Yes, yeah.

Xaan: Gotcha, yeah you can do that.

Alex: That's marked. So she does that, and then I'll walk into the room, but I'll try- can I try and do so that they don't notice? I don't know if the person's still looking at me or not.

Xaan: Yeah, but you didn't see anyone in the doorway.

Alex: Cool! Then I don't need to do it... I'll try and do it without raising suspicion, but no one's there to not raise suspicion for, so. She just fuckin does it, and then she walks in.

Xaan: Alright, so you walk in, and you step forward a little bit into the dark room, and then the door shuts behind you, so now you're encased in almost just complete darkness. And for a second like, it's very still and quiet, and even like the whispers in your head seem to just stop for a second, and for the briefest

moment in like 24 hours, you have complete silence to yourself. And then you hear a voice in the darkness say

Low Voice: Welcome sister shadow.

Xaan: And you suddenly feel an arm go over your throat from behind.

Alex: Oh I hate that. Okay, can I try and break free?

Xaan: Sure! Let's do a grapple opposition.

Alex: Oh yay. So I'm doing acrobatics, correct?

Xaan: Yes.

Alex: Oh great, 7.

Xaan: Unfortunately, they got a Nat 20.

Alex: Oh, lovely, perfect.

Xaan: So you are- you are held there as you're trying to struggle and scratch at the arm, and desperately trying to get out of this grip, and you can hear Ele shrieking around you in a very haunting familiar way of the first time you put on the Golden Mask when you heard Ele's shrieks as the goop just encased you. And you're struggling, you're trying to claw at the arm, and you slowly hear the whispers start to come back from the silence as you're being strangled. And you can just hear one thing being chanted over and over by these whispers, and they just keep saying

Distorted Whispers: [getting deeper] You should have died. You should have died. You should have died.

Xaan: Until finally you are enveloped in a further darkness than the room you find yourself in, and you have passed out.

[MUSIC ends]

[Kian frantic breathing, followed by Alex and Bean laughing]

Xaan: So Kareus, you and Jerome head back, and-

Bean: Oh my god!

[several laugh]

Alex: No!

Bean: That was beautiful.

Alex: That was amazing.

Bean: Yeah, cool, yeah, Kareus Jerome, whatcha guys up to?

Kian: UM. Well [wheezes] after coming back, Kareus would go to Snow to see if she still wants to go see Miren. Mitra, shut up my brain is on fire.

[Xaan laughs]

Bean: Snow is currently meditating in her room when you get there.

Kian: Jerome do you wanna do anything?

Lady: Oh no, I just go back to the room since it seems like Kareus is done with the outing for the day and try and be a good person and not invade anybody's privacy or cross any boundaries.

Kian: When he knocks on the door and sees Snow chilling he says

Kareus: Is this a bad time?

Bean: Snow opens her eyes and kind of looks up

Snow: Oh, no, I'm all good.

Kareus: Oh okay. I was just-

Snow: Are you done with your outing?

Kareus: Yeah, it was... interesting. I was wondering if you still want to go see... I don't remember if you mentioned her name, but the girl you met last night?

Snow: Oh Mitra, yeah sure. Hopefully she's feeling better, if not I assume that you will help her with that, yeah, let's go.

Kareus: Sounds good.

Bean: Do I remember the directions to her house, I was pretty drunk on my way back [laughs]

Xaan: For simplicity's sake, I'll say yeah.

Bean: Cool, thank you, 'cause I realized that could be a problem.

Xaan: Otherwise there's no way you'll get there, so.

Bean: Yeah, okay dope, so I was not that drunk, I was just like-

Xaan: Yeah, no it- it mostly hit you while you slept.

Bean: Sounds like a plan, okay cool. So yeah, I'll lead us to Mitra's place.

Kian: Before we leave, I'm just gonna say that I do tell Jerome where we're going, just to keep him informed.

Bean: Oh yeah. And maybe we tell him that we will be back tonight.

Kian: Yes.

Lady: Jerome visibly looks uncomfortable around Snow.

Bean: Snow does not look angry at him anymore.

Lady: He still kind of keeps his distance and like doesn't start conversations. But he like, nods in acknowledgement and bids you both have fun and don't die.

Bean: Alright, so they go to Mitra's house.

Xaan: So you head there, and like from last night, you're in the noble district, so a lot of big fancy houses are surrounding you. There doesn't seem to be a lot of activity in the noble district besides the amount of guards that are constantly going around and monitoring the area.

Bean: I go up to her door and I pause for a moment, kind of realizing how weird it is that I just showed up at her door with a friend that she has not met, and then I kind of like shake my head and I'm like "no no, this is fine," and I knock.

Kian: Kareus pats Snow's shoulder comfortingly when he sees her hesitate. Like, just supportive wingman energy. [laughs]

[Bean aww's while Xaan laughs]

Xaan: Cute. So, you are standing there for about a minute, and then the door opens and there is Mitra, who looks a bit surprised to see you, and then she smiles warmly.

Mitra: Snow! Hi, I didn't expect to see you here this morning.

Snow: Hi! I was feeling pretty rough today, I figured I should come check and make sure you were doing okay.

Mitra: Oh yeah, I feel fine, the alcohol just went right through me, a Natural 20 of sorts.

Snow: Oh!

[Bean and Kian laugh]

Snow: Oh, well lucky you. I unfortunately did not have the same experience, but my friend here Kareus- he helped, I brought him just in case you weren't feeling good. Kareus, this is Mitra.

Kian: Kareus gives a little wave and says

Kareus: It's very nice to meet you.

Kian: I would like to do an insight check on Miren to make sure, I mean- fuck, why do I keep calling her Miren- Mitra. Mitra, to make sure that she's actually like, just to check if there are any bad vibes.

Xaan: Okay, yeah.

Bean: She is lovely, why you hate on her. Don't hate on her. [laughs]

Kian: [overlapping] I'm not hating! He's just sus. [laughs] That's a 21.

Xaan: Yeah no, she seems chill. She seems cool, she seems very much in a little gay panic over Snow.

[Bean laughs]

Kian: Okay. Yup, chill.

Bean: I love it.

Xaan: She opens the door a bit more to let you all in, and it is a halfling door that she opened, so she unlatches the main door to open it up so you all don't have to crouch through the shorter door.

Bean: Snow smiles very gratefully and follows her in.

Kian: Kareus follows after Snow.

Mitra: Can I get either of you some tea or some snacks? I have some in the kitchen, or...?

Snow: I'm quite alright, Kareus?

Kareus: I'm also alright, I can also leave you two to chat, I only came with just to see if you were alright. It's a-

Kian: And he kind of gives Snow a knowing look.

Bean: Snow kind of like shrugs and is kind of just like "ah, you can stay, it's fine, like she wanted to kind of meet you guys."

Kian: Kareus just shrugs and says

Kareus: But either way, I'm alright as well.

Mitra: Alright. Come, sit.

Xaan: And she guides you into the living room, which is decorated with a lot of things- it's clear that a lot of effort has been put into decorating the area and making it look really nice. And it's decorated with a lot of- while it is decorated with a lot of stuff, it's also almost minimalist? It's like the minimalist aesthetic, but with a lot of stuff, so it's not really minimalism, you know?

Bean: [laughs] Snow kinda, she takes a look around, and she's. She kinda smiles and says

Snow: I love the decorations, I'm a bit of a fan of design and that sort of stuff, it's beautiful.

Mitra: Oh, thank you! My mentor gave me a lot of my taste, but I didn't retain quite the same lifestyle choices that he always practiced.

Bean: Snow laughs along with her. And clearly, Snow is just very awkward now without the liquid courage or any of the events that helped lead last night along.

Kian: Seeing Snow stumble, he- Kareus asks

Kareus: So I don't think Snow mentioned, what's brought you to Wingston if you're not- or are you from here?

Mitra: Oh, no I'm not from here. I've been traveling a little bit around Usheydal to perform some business meetings for my family.

Kareus: Oh, that is- it's nice to travel at least, I imagine.

Mitra: Oh yes, it's very nice, it's wonderful to see different parts of the world.

Kian: Kareus nods agreement.

Kareus: I'm a big fan of travelling myself.

Mitra: Oh yeah? Where have you been?

Kareus: I've been to a few countries now, but I've been travelling around Usheydal for most of my life these days, just exploring, taking up odd jobs, and these days I'm working with Snow and the Vox.

Mitra: Are- are you two... new to working together?

Snow: Yeah, decently.

Bean: And at that point she kind of like leans a little closer to Mitra and is like

Snow: It's- he's not the guy I told you about, though.

Xaan: She get's like a "aaah" kind of a look-

[Bean laughs]

Xaan: -and she seems to like relax a little bit more.

[Bean and Kian laugh]

Xaan: Like "ah okay, this is not the guy I need to be a little concerned about, okay."

Snow: Kareus and his...

Bean: And she gives him this like, very pointed look.

Snow: "friend" Leif joined our group at the same time we met everyone else, me and my sister.

Kian: Kareus gives him that look- I mean Snow- gives him that knowing look, Snow like gives him- Karrie gives her like a playful "shut up" face.

[Bean and Kian laugh]

Mitra: What's your friend look like? Leif?

Kareus: He's a tiefling like me, just a tad bit shorter, but he had to leave for some personal business, but he'll be back in a little bit. So hopefully he'll get a chance to meet you as well.

Snow: He's green and uneven horns and-

Mitra: [high pitched] Oh!

Snow: -very pretty, for you know, a man.

Kian: Kareus kind of nods agreement at the 'pretty' thing, but just is now realizing he nods agreement at the 'pretty' thing and is just like "I've been led into a trap."

Bean: Snow's kind of smirking at him at that.

Xaan: While you two are having your cute little teasing moment, Mitra's face is aflame.

Bean: Snow kind of notices and goes

Snow: Do you know Leif?

Mitra: [high-pitched] Oh what no! No! I'm gonna go make some tea.

Xaan: And she gets up and heads to the kitchen.

Kian: I would like to Insight check that.

[Bean and Kian burst into laughter]

Xaan: Go for it!

Bean: Snow is not going to.

Kian: 18.

Xaan: Sorry, say that again? Lemme roll for Deception- yup, yup, nope. She knows Leif. That much is obvious.

Bean: [laughs] Snow kind of gives Kareus a look and is like

Snow: Lemme look into this?

Kian: While she's in the other room making tea, Kareus puts a hand on Snow's sh- like knee- like hand- like wrist before she walks off and goes

Kareus: Just make sure it's a good knowing?

Kian: Because he just remembered that- like- he's thinking about the fact that Leif is wanted by the law, and he is nervous.

Bean: Right, forgot about that part. Yeah, Snow just gives him a nod and like follows Mitra in.

Snow: Mitra, it's. You don't have to lie to me, it's okay if you do know him in whatever manner.

Mitra: No, I'm not, I- [exhales]

Xaan: She is like, putting water in like a teakettle, and she like sets it down.

Mitra: I've. It's not me wanting to lie to you, of course I. That's not. I'm not the lying type. I don't know if Leif is still doing... what Leif was doing when I met them. And if they are not, and you don't know what they used to do, then I don't want to be the one to tell you.

Snow: You don't have to tell me anything. I'm just going to say that, from the time that I have known Leif, we've learned a few things about them, and most of it is in the past, so I do not believe any bad things that Leif may have done have followed into the future.

Mitra: Oh I- it's not bad what he did, no, but...

Bean: Snow raises her eyebrows and is like "mmmm what?"

Mitra: It's his personal business, and so I'm not... if you know about it, then you will understand, but it's not- no it's not bad, but.

Xaan: She just, she looks very embarrassed.

Snow: Pardon me for being presumptuous here, but. Did you- were you two ever... something?

Mitra: [squeaking] Something? Yes.

Snow: That's- that's fine, it's. I'm sure both of us have people in the past, it doesn't bother me.

Mitra: Even if they're a teammate?

Snow: No, it's. Don't. To be honest, Kareus and Leif are probably gonna be a thing when I finally push them to the point of admitting it, so. It's fine. [laughs]

Xaan: She gives a soft chuckle as she's like, calming down from her embarrassment.

Snow: It's fine, I honestly- it happened before I even met either of you, why would I care?

Mitra: Alright, I just. Just if you're... you're on the same team, and I just met you, so I didn't know how you may have reacted to something like that, and I also don't wanna make it awkward between the two of you if you're teammates, and.

Snow: I mean? As long as it- as long as you two would be on okay terms, it does not bother me in the slightest.

Mitra: Oh, no, yeah, we're on, we're on good terms, as far as I know?

Snow: Then what would be the issue?

Mitra: Just... things that... happen in private... I've been taught should stay in private, so I was not about to... air out such things.

Bean: Snow smiles very reassuredly, is like

Snow: No, I totally get it, I'm gonna be honest to you, pretty obvious that you were hiding it, but it's completely fine, I truly don't mind.

Mitra: [sighs] Okay. Sorry, I'm all frazzled.

Snow: Don't worry about it, it's quite alright. Did you want help finishing the tea?

Mitra: No I don't want to drink tea, I just needed an excuse to get away.

[Bean laughs]

Xaan: And she pours the not yet heated water back out.

Bean: Snow's like fully laughing, but in a very like, supportive and not teasing way, and she kind of leans against the side of the wall and is like

Snow: Should we- should we rejoin Kareus? I'm sure he's concerned about his "friend."

Bean: And she winks at Mitra.

Xaan: She gives a laugh.

Mitra: Ah yes, I'm sure I've only given him the absolute relaxation.

[Bean and Kian laugh]

Snow: Let's head back out.

Bean: And she holds out her hand for Mitra to grab so they can go back out.

Xaan: And she happily takes her hand.

Bean: We go back out and I just- I smile at Kareus, I'm like "oh yeah, no, it's fine, don't worry."

Kian: Kareus, like was definitely sitting there, completely tense, staring at where Mitra and Snow went off to, and, seeing Snow's very reassuring smile, relaxed quite a bit. Still not fully relaxed, but he relaxes and gives her like a nervous smile in response. And then looks at them holding hands, and looks at Snow, and just smirks.

Bean: Snow gives him a look of like "I'll explain more later, but it's fine."

Xaan: So I'm going to switch back to the Mercenary Guild with Jerome.

Lady: Oh.

Xaan: Whatcha up to Jerome?

Lady: Jerome is now just kind of chilling. He is actually not like doing anything like big or showy or flashy. He's got the book of poetry Vae handed him in the- in the thieves' guild, and is just kind of like reading through it. He's not much of a poetry guy, but like. It- he's trying.

Xaan: Alright, so you're sitting there reading- probably reading a bit to Alice, who is like on you- I feel like Alice is like, on your chest like, back against you like the way that cats sometimes sit weirdly and she's just sitting there like that. And then there is a knock on your door.

Lady: Oh. I'm gonna put the book down and... is there a peephole? Imma look through the peephole.

Xaan: It is Valen.

Lady: Oh! I'm gonna- I'm gonna open up the door.

Jerome: Heya Valen, wassup?

Valen: Hey, I-I just spoke to the receptionist, and they said that you were here, so I'm glad that- is Vae, here? We were supposed to meet up, and I think she may have forgotten.

Jerome: Oh, Vae? I haven't seen her since early this morning, but I also don't know where she was goin' or what she was doin'. Hmm. No yeah, she's. Hmm. She's not here, but she also doesn't seem like the type to try and be tardy to sitchiations.

Valen: Yes, that's why I was a bit concerned, and I was hoping that she had just forgotten. What about the others, are they here? Her sister, maybe she knows where she is?

Jerome: Snow and Kareus headed over to visit some gal Snow met at a bar last night. What was her name, it was... Mitra, something like that? I don't

really know anything else, I've just been holding down the fort, as it were. They might know, but I sure fuckin don't.

Valen: Would you... possibly, I don't know, I don't know how to find this person, could you help me go to find where they are?

Xaan: And by the way, I think that- correct me if I'm wrong Kian, but I feel like Kareus would've also given you an address in case it's like "In case you need to find us."

Kian: Oh yeah, for sure for sure, paranoid motherfucker that he is? For sure for sure.

Jerome: No yeah, I can- I can definitely go help ya track 'em down. Karrie gave me an address in case a' emergencies. So yeah we can go try and track 'em down.

Lady: Jerome visibly bites back what he was about to ask and swallows it down and is just like

Jerome: No yeah, let's. I got my shit altogether, lemme just-

Lady: He grabs his pack.

Jerome: Let's go.

Xaan: Valen follows along with you, letting you mostly lead the way. He looks a bit anxious, because he seems very put off by the fact that Vae missed this meeting, and that Jerome doesn't seem to know where she is. And it's pretty easy to find a place, because you know "okay noble district," and the noble district is very easily navigatable because they have a bunch of marked signs and all this stuff. And so you're able to find the house pretty easily.

Lady: Jerome knocks on the door.

Xaan: Inside, Mitra goes

Mitra: Oh! I wasn't expecting more company, I'll be right back.

Xaan: And she gets on up to go and answer the door.

Bean: Snow gets up with her, just in case.

Xaan: Alright, so you go to the door, and she opens up the door, and you are met with the sight of Valen and Jerome.

Kian: Kareus probably trails after Snow when she gets up.

Bean: Snow kind of like puts her hand on Mitra's shoulder, like pulls her back just a little bit and is like

Snow: Jerome, Valen? What... what is go- Valen, shouldn't you be with Vae?

Valen: I, yes. Is she not... here? She didn't show up.

Snow: No, she was going to the library, and then to meet you I thought...

Kareus: That's what I heard as well.

Valen: That's what the plan was, well we weren't supposed to meet at the library. She was meeting me at my home after work, but she never showed up, and it's been about an hour since our agreed time.

Jerome: No yeah, that does seem out of character.

Snow: Jerome, did she ever go back to the inn that you saw? To the guild?

Jerome: I mean I didn't see her out the window, but I wasn't at the guild the whole time. At least like- I was at the guild with, with Kareus, and then I stayed at the guild when y'all left, but like. I didn't see her through the window, but, if she came in and just went into her room, I wouldn't know.

Snow: Va-Valen, what time does the library close?

Valen: In about an hour, but... D-Do you think she might be there, or?

Snow: I... don't think so, but it is the only guess I really have.

Bean: You can see Snow is clearly concerned by this.

Kareus: We should at least go check.

Snow: Mitra, sorry, guy I told you about, his ex, Vae is my sister.

[Kian cackles and Bean giggles]

Bean: She kind of like points at everyone as she does it.

Xaan: She nods along, she's following.

Mitra: Uh-huh, uh-huh.

Bean: [giggles] That's all the explanation she needs.

Jerome: [overlapping] I-I'm the guy she told you about, I presume.

Mitra: Ah.

Jerome: I'm pretty gossip-worthy fella. Name's Jerome, nice to meetcha.

[Kian wheezes]

Snow: Not-not-not now, Jerome. Mitra, do you mind coming with us? Extra eyes really would help.

Mitra: Yeah, certainly. I'll... yeah.

Snow: Th-Thank you.

Bean: Snow just kind of like, pushes, yeah, Snow pushes past everyone and starts heading towards the library, like, barely even registering what's happening.

Kian: Kareus is following right behind her. [chuckles]

Xaan: Mitra keeps up because she's still holding your hand.

[soft Bean 'aw']

Xaan: So you all arrive at the library. All of you just in-tow, this-this new little party that's happening here. [chuckles]

[Kian giggles]

Xaan: And you are headed inside when Mogan, you notice the group walking in. You catch, you catch Kareus' tail and Snow's white hair as they head inside.

Queen: 'Cause he was just walking. He just changes direction and goes straight towards them. And heads into the library as well.

Xaan: You go inside, you look around, and you don't spot Vae inside.

Bean: Is there a like... librarian that I can talk to you? [chuckles]

Xaan: There is indeed a librarian.

Bean: I-I'm gonna go up to her.

Librarian: Yes, hello, welcome to the library, how may I help you?

Snow: Hi, have you seen a woman. Looks basically like me, no tattoos, no face tattoos, sorry.

Librarian: Yes, she was in here for several hours of the day.

Snow: When-when did she leave?

Xaan: She kind of glances at the clock.

Librarian: About an... hour and a half ago?

Bean: Snow's face gets somehow paler. Somehow. And she looks like, ten times more concerned hearing that.

Snow: Um. T-Thank you, thank you.

Bean: She runs back to the group.

Snow: She-she left like, hours ago, guys, I... I, where would she go?

Xaan: You all finish speaking with the librarian when Mogan walks on in.

Queen: Mogan's gonna like see everyone and just notice, and he's just gonna... see everyone and then all of a sudden he sees Jerome and just, pissed, anger just covers his face and he starts like charging over. Is really about to deck Jerome in the face.

Kian: Seeing Mogan, like, out of the corner of his eye, he just sees a blur of movement and Kareus turns and immediately like, realizing Mogan is charging at Jerome steps between them and like, holds his hands out in the 'STOP', and is like,

Kareus: HOLY SHIT, hold on!

[Kian wheezes]

Queen: And so like Mogan stops for a second and is like,

Mogan: WHAT?! Why should I possibly stop?!

Kareus: Well, first of all, because, don't attack Jerome??? Second of all, Vae's missing and we do not have time for this!

Queen: His expression just completely drops when he hears that Vae is missing, and he kind of like, looks a, he just looks like a little puppy for a second, and he goes,

Mogan: What do you mean Vae is missing?

Kareus: She was meant to meet Valen at the museum this evening and she never showed, and she left the library two hours ago, we need to go.

Bean: Snow catches his eye and he can just see like a heartbroken expression in her face.

Queen: He just sighs. Gives Jerome kind of like, eye contact of like, 'I'm- we'll get back to this.' And he goes,

Mogan: Yeah. We need to find her. Now.

Jerome: No, yeah, buddy, you can uh, you can deck me later, that's fine. Priority is Vae.

Kareus: [large sigh] Priority is Vae. I can try and be, I can turn into an animal that can maybe track her by scent, maybe?

Snow: S-sure, yeah, s-sure.

Kareus: If you- I, since this is the last place we knew she was...

Kian: He glances around to make sure that everyone's good- down with that, but I turn into a... [sighs] Probably a-a dog. [chuckles] Bloodhound-type dog. Dog with good tracking.

Xaan: Alright. You are now a small dog.

Kian: Wh-what would I roll to track?

Xaan: Survival. But because you're dog, you have advantage.

Bean: I also give you guidance.

Kian: Dope! [chuckles] -Eight. Twenty-eight.

Xaan: Fucking twenty-eight. Alright. So you, you sniff around, you sniff around. You're able to like find the book that Vae was looking at, and then you're able to follow her trail like footprints. You just, you're following this scent. And then it's just this trail of colorful people following this dog who's aggressively sniffing the ground.

[Bean and Kian giggle]

Bean: This is a hell of a sight.

[Kian says something unintelligible, overlapping]

Xaan: So yeah, you, you follow this trail left behind by Vae's scent for... A while, you're kind of like winding through all these streets and Valen for, like at one point is just, he doesn't say anything, but he kind of has this expression like, 'Is... are we lost? Is- what-what's happen- what trail is this?' Just very confused about the, the winding paths that Vae took if this is Vae's trail. And eventually you get down an alleyway and so then, you continue until you get to an area of like northern old town, kind of near the old meadows gate, and it's just this alleyway that's just kind of like, for, for you Kareus it just, it STANKS of Vae. It's just everywhere in this alleyway. And I think that with your *twenty-eight*, you're, the scent also is able to lead you right up to Tamrain's knife that was left in the alleyway.

Kian: I was, I was just gonna say, Kareus turns back into person and picks up the knife very gingerly.

Bean: Snow, Snow's been right behind Kareus as a dog this whole time, so she's right with him when he picks it up.

Snow: That's... that's her knife.

Bean: Snow just starts kind of like, hyperventilating a little bit, but she's clearly trying to keep it together so she can look around and learn more.

Kian: Kareus puts a hand on Snow's shoulder and says,

Kareus: We are going to find her. It's okay.

Kian: Just to try to reassure her as he also looks around.

Snow: Does, does anyone know this area of town? What-what could be here?

Lady: Xaaaaaaaaaan?

[Bean giggles]

Xaan: You, you, you'd recg- it's not the same place, but it's the kind of place that you visited the other night when you went to a Mask service. The same kind of like, seedy alleyway, back door with like the steps leading down into it, no lights on.

Jerome: I uh... I might have a fuckin' clue... Remember what I told you about the other night?

Bean: Snow's eyes snap to him and narrow just a little bit.

Snow: You better not be about to say what I think you're going to say.

Jerome: This seems awfully like that place I visited the other night.

Snow: Did you lead those people to us?!

Jerome: Fuck no, this is a different place! Just- and I'm, I'm fucking competent, okay? I know y'all don't fuckin' believe in me. I'm. Competent. This is not like... [sighs]

Snow: You, you said that they moved, right? You said that they didn't stay.

Bean: Did- did he say that, I actually don't remember.

Lady: I did say that, yeah.

Xaan: [overlapping] Yeah, he did.

Bean: Okay.

Snow: You-you said that they don't stay in the same building! Is this, could not be the same people you went and saw?

Jerome: Could very well be the same fuckin' people, but I don't know why they would take Vae. Like if anybody, they would be hunting down me, if they did manage to tail me, which I assure you, they did fucking not. But...

Snow: Did you check? Did you make sure?

Jerome: [overlapping] Yeah! I had two tails when I walked out there, which is expected, because I walked out of there, and I made sure I lost them over by the museum before I came back.

Bean: Snow is going to walk up to Jerome and while what he is saying does make sense to her, and on some level she is like, 'yeah, that's logical, that's probably what you did' she's not really gonna process that right now, like, this is, this is, this is a thing for Snow. She's going to grab him by the shirt and lift him up against the wall of the alley.

Kareus: Snow, this- [sighs] This isn't going to help us find her.

Bean: She looks at you, and just like, you can see in her eyes just like, 'just, stop, give me a second here.'

Kian: He does not look happy.

Bean: [overlapping] She looks back at Jerome, held against a wall so he cannot move and lifted up so he cannot try and run.

Snow: I understand that what you think you did was protecting us. You are now going to use those connections to do whatever it takes to find Vae. Do you understand me?

Lady: Jerome blinks for a moment, and then looks kind of upset, actually.

Jerome: Of fucking course I'm gonna find Vae! Jesus! What do you take me for?! I'm not- She's mad at me sure, but I don't want her to be fucking dead, especially if it's something that I fucked up. Which I don't think that I did, but I don't want her to be dead! I'm gonna fucking help you! Jesus, she's a teammate!

Bean: She lets go of his shirt and lets him drop and kind of looks at him for a second and just goes,

Snow: Pardon me for not expecting you to act like a teammate, at the moment.

Bean: And backs off and says nothing else.

Lady: Jerome looks kind of hurt but like, nods in that 'fair enough' sort of fashion. Before like, dusting off his lapel a little bit and being like,

Jerome: Okay. So, [sighs] Kareus, you know where the fuckin' trail went? Like beyond the knife?

Kian: Would I have been able to identify the trail went to the door? Or just, 'it's in this alleyway. This is where it ends.'

Xaan: It's basically everywhere in the alleyway, but this is, so like there's like a couple of back doors but this is the one that the knife was next to, and so unless, unless Vae like threw the knife, you can assume likely it was this door, or at least one near it.

Kian: Alright. Kareus gestures door they're standing next to and says,

Kareus: It's all-she- the trail is all over this alleyway, but it really ends here, especially with the knife. I can only assume she left that as some sort of clue if

something went wrong. I-I can't imagine she would leave that behind on purpose otherwise. But it seems very purposeful to me.

Bean: Snow nods and she's holding the knife now and just kind of staring at it.

Kareus: So I think, I think she's somewhere beyond that door, if I had to guess.

Lady: Did- does Jerome know the passcode to get into the... church of Mask?

Xaan: Not, no, because when you went into the church you had the masks on and you didn't have to say anything.

Lady: Okay.

Xaan: But-that-that had to- that had a door that had like a slider so that somebody could kind of like look out. This one does not have that.

Lady: Okay. Jerome takes in what Kareus says and like nods.

Jerome: Alright. So we have two fuckin' options. Er, no, three options I suppose. One, I can try and do the mask thing and like, go in there in disguise, as one of the mask folks, and hope that something pans out with that, no guarantees. Two. I have a contact that I used earlier that might've been keeping an eye on this Mask folks that could help us get in. She helped me last time, she's pretty reliable, y'know. All that good stuff. Three, we fuckin' bust the door down and kick ass. It's up to y'all.

Kian: Kareus looks to Snow.

Bean: Snow is looking like something inside her might've broken in the last couple seconds and she makes no sign that a, she is going to be all that useful in a fight right, at this second, or that she can make a knowledgeable and impartial choice.

Kareus: I don't think going in guns'a'blazing is a good idea, I don't think would be wise if they have Vae. If you're going to do reconnaissance I would say

I would prefer that I would come with you in Wildshape, hidden somewhere. But I think...knowing what we can do and getting in contact with that, with your contact might be best. At least that's my opinion.

Jerome: Alright. Let's, let's go with that. It'll take me a little bit, probably no more than an hour to get everything in order to really make sure we can get in properly, but uh... [sighs]

Lady: Jerome puts a hand on Snow's back, just momentarily.

Bean: She looks up at him and you can see the beginnings of tears in her eyes but she doesn't shrug your hand away.

Jerome: We'll get her back, Snow. Alright. For all the fucked up shit I did, and happened... I care about her and we'll get her back.

Bean: She just gives like a-a very curt nod and you can tell that she's trying very hard not to lose it in an alleyway.

Jerome: Alright.

Lady: Jerome finds a little hidden-off sort of area to swap into his Jack disguise pretty quickly 'cause he brought all of his stuff with him as he always does. He's always prepared. And then turns to Kareus.

Jerome: Alright, Kareus, gonna pretend to be Jack for a little bit. Do you wanna hang out in my pocket as like a... a small animal or something? I have big pockets in this thing. Alice can fit in one of my pockets.

Kareus: I can do that.

Kian: And Kareus takes Terry off his horns and gently hands Terry to Snow for Snow to look after, and for Terry to look after Snow, and gives Terry a look like 'look after her.' Before he turns into a rat and hops into Jerome's hands to decide what pocket.

Xaan: Terry gives you a salute with his wing.

Kian: Cute.

Bean: That's adorable!

[Kian laughs]

Xaan: Okay, so, K- Kian. Kareus is now a mouse in your pocket. Alice is in your pocket. Terry is on Snow's shoulder. What-what next.

Lady: I am going to take to the rooftops and I'm going to use Expeditious Retreat, so I'm going to try and cast a spell, of a level.

Xaan: Alright. Roll luck.

Lady: That's fifteen?

Xaan: You pass.

Lady: [relieved sigh] Oh, thank god. So, Expeditious Reteet- Retreat, allows me to move at an incredible pace when you cast the spell then [mumbling] as a bonus action at the end of your turn till the spell, you can take the dash action... so I'm using that as like as a sort of, 'hey, let's go really fucking fast' and I want to combine that with... I-I we're not in combat, so I don't know if this is something that you're going to allow, but combine that with cunning action, which also let's me dash, so three dash actions simultaneously. To go really fucking fast around the roofs and scan the city for my contact.

Xaan: Yeah, I'll allow it. Do you let the others know what you're doing, or does it just look like you go onto the roof and then like... bolt?

Lady: I'll let them know what I'm doing.

Jerome: Hey, I'm gonna go find my contact. Gonna go... try and track her down. Be back when I find her.

Lady: YEET. [pauses] That was Lady saying yeet. Not-not Jerome.

Kian: [cackles] Activate your spell, yeet.

Lady: So I am taking off to try and track her down. What should I roll to try and find her..?

Xaan: Roll... Surrurvival. With advantage. Because she kind of like gave you a hint about where she'd be and you know the-you know the kind of like places that she hangs out in and stuff like that.

Lady: I will say, Jerome's spell only lasts for ten minutes. Oh I would also like to be stealthy while doing so, doing all this sprinting.

Xaan: Okay, also roll a stealth check for me? [chuckles]

Lady: [giggles] Ah... God. [dice rolling sounds] Alright. That is twenty-three.

Xaan: Yeah, you're stealthy.

Lady: [laughs] Okay.

Xaan: You're dashing around, you're jumping between rooftops, you're being so stealthy, you're like batman running through these rooftops, and you're going around and you eventually find her when you're looping back. You catch sight of Harber when you're heading back towards where the group was beforehand. You had just missed her, she was like half-hidden by a building when you had gone the way forwards so coming back you spot her. And she's dressed as the beggar again in one of the back alleys. This time she's just like observing some people that are down the way doing some sort of trade-off.

Lady: Alright. Jerome's gonna go a couple streets over from where she is, find a good little side alley that's out of the way, hop down and then begin to nonchalantly stroll over in her direction. Doing the whole sort of... 'I know exactly where I'm going, and I'm just taking my time because I feel like I have the ability to not worry about it.' Sort of... pace.

Xaan: Yeah. She glances up and she spots you and she gives you like a slight raise of her eyebrows kind of being like, 'again? Already?' and she does like a quick little gesture with her hand that you recognize as a kind of gesture within common thieves guilds to be like, 'hang on and wait a second.' And then she glances back towards the people down the alleyway that she was subtly looking at as you were approaching, kind of implying that she's keeping an eye on that for the time being.

Lady: Jerome provides a little gesture back to indicate that he received the message and he's heading down two alleyways and one over to the right, whenever she has the ability to scoot.

Xaan: She, when you, when you pass by she taps her foot twice to indicate like, 'about two minutes.' And so when you get down the alleyway, you wait about two minutes and that's when she emerges from around one of the corners.

Jack: Yes, I have... another need of your services, related to the previous task.

Harber: And what exactly is that?

Jack: You see, I believe I've found another location for that... Mask church business that was happening. But I do not know necessarily how to get in without a mask.

Harber: Fucking hell, Jack, why do you want to go back in there? I thought you had your fill the last time.

Jack: [small laugh] Believe me, I would rather not be going in there, but uh... [deep breath] Well, let's just say that I've been... taking your words about the... mmmn... advisement of taking on parties to heart recently, and need to go... retrieve something.

Harber: [sighs] Fine. Do you need an escort again?

Jack: I would be much obliged to... if you would be able to help me end my small cohort inside.

Harber: Alright. Fine. [sighs] Listen, Jack, you'd better be paying me a lot for this, okay? I don't like going to the same place twice, especially not within days of each other.

Jack: Have you ever known me to be ungrateful?

Harber: ...No.

Xaan: So she starts walking to kind of gesture for you to like, come with her so you're not lingering in the same spot.

Lady: Jerome joins her, kind of guiding her back towards the street where the church of Mask was.

Harber: Alright. Okay. We're gonna keep this simple. If you have to refer to me, you refer to me as Abby, and I want nothing to do with this group after whatever shenanigans you're getting into. And you need to be let inside. Do you know anything about what's going on in there?

Jack: Just that one of the previous cohorts that I'd mentioned somehow has gone missing within inside, but other than that no.

Harber: Alright. Cool. Cool. Wonderful. Yeah. That's great. Only an initiate happening. That's fine. Yeah. Nothing's gonna go wrong with that.

Jack: Initiate you say. Elaborate?

Harber: Look, I don't know a lot about this place. I try not to get involved in the heebie-jeebies, I don't really care about Cyrus or Mask or Shar or whatever in the hell, but all I know is that they get into some freaky little practices and sometimes when people go missing, it usually has to do with people like them doing some weird ritual thing. I don't know. I've never been to one, don't want to be to one.

Jack: No, yeah, I understand the feelings there. The, the heebie-jeebies are uh... mutual feeling, but what can you do.

Harber: You could not go in there.

Jack: Hm. At this point in my life, not so much of a choice.

Harber: Do you know what the place is that they're hosting this at?

Jack: As a matter of fact I do. We're heading over in that general direction right now. It's...

Lady: He says the place.

[Bean laughs]

Xaan: It's called the Empty Rug Tradeport.

Harber: Did you get, did you get a look at the back door? Did it have one of the sliders?

Jack: Did not have a slider, no.

Harber: Okay, so not visual... they're not gonna want the mask, maybe... Eh, probably not, they couldn't be able to double check and by the time they open the door then it's too late, so it must be some password, and it's empty... um... Okay, yeah. Listen, I can't know for certain that this is the password because I haven't gotten an alert about the new place, but I think I know what the password is that they would use if they're using a place like the Empty Rug Tradeport. Yeah, okay.

Xaan: She's kind of like mumbling to herself as she's trying to figure it out on the way there. So you turn down the alleyway, she kind of taking a bit of charge because she knows what the shop is now that what you told her what it was, and as you're turning down the alleyway she puts her hood back up and holds up a scarf to mostly obscure her face as you approach the group that was left there.

Jack: Just a moment, I must retrieve, or see if the other cohorts that I mentioned before are willing to be retrieved.

Lady: And Jerome climbs onto a roof and skips over to where the others are.

Jerome: Okay, so, got our in, got our, got our password. I'm Jack right now. I'm gonna be talking funny, this is fine, this normal. Gonna be talking to Abby. She's fine, she's my contact. Don't worry about her. Just, can-can any of y'all manage like at least a small degree of subtly?

Bean: Snow kind of just... like stares at him for a second and is just kind of like, she isn't quite sure what to say, but she kind of goes,

Snow: I... my armor is, is loud and it... I-I don't think it's wise if I take it off. Is that, is that what you mean?

Jerome: No, no, like... If we go into someplace, could you possibly immediately not blurt out, 'hey, I'm not supposed to be here.' Could you, could you manage to like, blend in to any sort of situation. This isn't me being like, 'hey, I don't trust you to do this,' this is me genuinely asking at your skills, because I don't fuckin' know.

Snow: I-I probably could, I, at this point, I'm kind of just holding everything back, so I just won't speak.

Jerome: Fair enough. Mitra, Valen?

Mitra: As long as I don't have to talk to anyone, I should be fine.

Xaan: And Valen just kind of like gives a nod. He has like, he has a very serious look on his face. He doesn't look like the same kind of awkward museum curator from before. And he says,

Valen: If-If we're going inside, could, just in case, could I get a weapon from one of you?

Bean: Snow hands over her handaxe.

Xaan: He kind of like takes it and he's like,

Valen: Umm, something more like a sword or a knife, if possible?

Jerome: I got a dagger you can borrow.

Valen: That will do nicely.

Xaan: And he hands the axe back and takes the dagger from Jerome.

Jerome: Alright. Just don't...talk. I know y'all don't think I'm competent. But I know what I'm doing here. Let me do the talking, let Abby do the talking. Y'all will know when there's fuckin' shit about to pop off, just... follow the lead, okay? Can-can you manage that? I'm sorry if this is just like, neh. But.

Lady: So yeah, he directs them down towards the alley where Abby's waiting and hops down himself.

Jack: Apologies for the wait. These are my current cohorts.

Abby: That's fine. They look...

Xaan: She like, kind of gives like a "eh" kind of an expression for a second.

Abby: Okay. Are-are we all going in? All at once?

Jack: Yep. That is the plan, as it stands. All you have to do is get us in to where we're going, you don't have to do any of the fighting or anything that might be happening, just... get us to where we need to go and feel free to take off after.

Abby: Oh trust me, I will. [sighs] Alright.

Jack: [chuckles] Can always count on you, Abby.

Xaan: She gives kind of a thin smile.

Abby: Okay. Now listen, I don't know exactly how this is going to go, but I'm pretty sure, based on the location, that the password is something like 'my face is

porcelain and my breath is absent.' Given the whole empty tradepost thing, I assume it has something to do with the hollowness of man or whatever the fuck. So if there's someone in there and they ask for a password, try that. If it's right, they'll let you in. If it's wrong... sorry.

Jack: Prepare to fight?

Abby: Yeah.

Lady: Alright, I let her lead the way.

Xaan: So, you all get to the door and kind of at the front and she makes sure that you're in front with her, Jerome. And she kind of glances back at the rest of you, kind of like... 'hhnnnnnggghh'.

[Bean cackles]

Xaan: And then looks forward again. And she gives two solid knocks on the door and then you hear a tiny thump.

Cultist: What do you want?

Jack: My face is porcelain and my breath is absent.

Xaan: There is a pause, and then the door opens to reveal a pitch black room. And Abby gives you, Jerome, a kind of look and then kind of like, just slips back through the rest of you in the group to the back, like clearly being like, 'and I'm not going in.'

[Bean snorts]

Lady: Jerome gives her a nod of gratitude, and makes the, 'i'll pay you later' motion before heading inside with the rest of the party.

Bean: This is going to go great, I'm sure!

Xaan: Alright. So you all head on in. What's the order?

Bean: Jerome and Kareus, Snow, Mitra, very slightly behind Snow, and then I'd assume Valen's taking up the end?

Xaan: Okay. So... And let's see, everyone except Mitra has darkvision. Wonderful. So you head on in, it's extremely dark. And you all just kind of get inside a bit and then the door behind you suddenly slams shut. Valen who's taking up the rear like turns, trying to look through the darkness, but there's like, not even like a single source of light. And so you all can't make out anything.

Bean: Um... can I cast Light on my necklace that I'm, the globe necklace that I wear?

Xaan: Yeah.

Bean: Cool. I do that.

Xaan: Alright. So you cast Light and it immediately illuminates the room.

Bean: Great.

Lady: [in pain] Noooo, that's a bad idea.

[Bean giggles]

Xaan: So the room itself is, it's clearly some kind of like, backroom for this shop. At least it, it was built that way. There's not really much in terms of storage back here. There's like a couple boxes along the far wall towards another door that you can presume leads into another are of the shop. But the actual, this actual room is just made of stone and bricks with a very rough floor and there's nothing else in it, you can see some torch sconces along the walls but there's no furniture, there's nothing of that sort. That is aside from the seven robed people that are in the room with you. And so when you cast Light and you illuminate the room, they immediately turn.

Bean: [softly, overlapping] Oh no. [snorts]

Xaan: And one of them says,

Cultist: You're not a Shadow.

Xaan: And let's roll initiative!

Bean: OH GOD, I'm sorry! [laughs]

Kian: [overlapping] Fuck. [wheezes] Ohhhh noooo.

Bean: I immediately apologize...

Lady: [overlapping] I knew that was a fucking bad idea!

Bean: I apologize.

[Theme song starts]

Xaan: Critically Chaotic is a dungeon and dragons podcast brought to you by the following people. The DM is Xaan, who can be found at @Xaandiir on all platforms. Vae is played by Alex, who simply cannot be found. Snow is played by Bean, AKA Alexa, who can be found in a variety of ways but mainly @alexandra_jaden on twitter. Kareus is played by Kian, who can be found as @lostfanboy on most platforms. Jerome is played by Lady, who writes, quote, 'and that's all you get, you dirty gremlins.' Mogan is played by Queen, who chooses not to be located at this time, or ever. Leif is played by Selah, also known as Strawberry online, who can be found at @_str4wberrymilk on twitter. The theme song is Melody by Emorie. If you would like to support Critically Chaotic, please consider leaving a five star review and following us on whatever podcast listening platform you are currently using. You can find us @critchaoticpod on twitter with no underscores, where we post updates and retweet fan content. For any other platforms you would like to find us on, please look in the description. We will see you next week for the continuing adventures of Vox Anima. Have a great week, everyone.

[Theme song fades out]

Lady: But like, look at her!

Xaan: Listen, she has a low charisma, and therefore she can't like, okay?!

Bean: [overlapping] Yeah, that's it!

Xaan: It's fine!

Bean: It's fine.

Lady: She's a nerd.

Xaan: She's a NERD. She's only read books and punches people!

Bean: If you make fun of my girlfriend, I will kill you.

[Xaan and Bean giggle]

Lady: No, I love her!

Xaan: What if God makes fun of your girlfriend?

Bean: God can make fun of my girlfriend because God made my girlfriend.
[giggles]

[Transcript Note: They are discussing Mitra]