

Dungeons & Daddies

Dungeon Master: Anthony Burch

Taylor Swift: Freddie Wong

Lincoln Link Li-Wilson: Matt Arnold

Norm Oak: Will Campos

Scary Marlowe: Beth May

Season 2 Ep.9 - Debate Me, Cowards

Will: Dungeons and Daddies is a rowdy, horny, violent podcast for grownups. Content warnings can be found in the description.

[beeping sounds of an old computer start]

Freddie: FBI case file 34A-325. Subject: Lincoln-Li Wilson.

[two confirming beeps, and two drum beats, kind of like Law & Order; there very quiet ambient music setting the mood like a dimly lit interrogation room on an American TV police drama]

FBI Agent: Well, well, well what do we got here?

Link: Who are you guys? How do you get into my house?

[paper shuffle]

FBI Agent 2: *[has a slightly higher voice]* Lincoln-Li Wilson? Sophomore, very tall, soccer player.

Agent: Well, well, well. You know what, Jim? My adopted kids, all 12 of them, the orphans? They're varsity soccer players, too. Three of them are dating. I try to get them to stop. I'm not comfortable with it.

FBI Agent 2/Jim: Eh, y'know. Kids'll be kids.

Agent: Yeah, I guess they will. But you know what they're not? Fucking criminals!

[two drum beats]

Link: *[sobbing]* You're right, I'm a criminal! Take me to prison, those firefighters and EMT! I murdered them!

Agent: Whoa, murder? Uh... no.

Jim: We really couldn't care less if you dabble in murder. It's fine.

Link: [*teary*] Why won't anyone arrest me for my murders?

Agent: Look kid, we don't have time for your Catholic guilt.

Link: Oh. No. I'm not Catholic. I mean, my dad was raised Catholic. He's not anymore. I mean, I don't... I'm not against it! I mean, I respect—

Jim: Shut up!

Link: Okay! Oh, God!

Agent: I just want your friend, Taylor. Swift.

Link: Taylor? Why?

Jim: Take this bracelet. Put it on him and keep it on him.

Link: Oh. No, I mean, this is not his style. I don't think he's going to just put this on.

Agent: That's your problem. If you tell him or anyone else what's going on or anything we've told you here tonight, we'll make sure your other daddy is just as gone and dead as your last one.

Link: [*crying*] Grant's dead? No!

Jim: Oh, we don't know. We just, uh...

Link: What?

Jim: We just assumed he was.

Link: Oh thank God... [*cries*]

Agent: You'll go into foster care. We'll put Marko in prison.

Link: No, not Dad!

Agent: We can do that. We get off on doing that.

Link: Why?

Agent: That's our whole thing.

Link: What?

Agent: Nobody can stop us. Especially not you.

Link: *[quiet]* I'm not gonna try.

Agent: Because you're a kid.

Jim: You got 48 hours to put the bracelet on or you can consider yourself an orphan. Again. Let's get out of here.

[cool sound effect and the music stops]

Marko: Oh, hey, Link. Sorry I'm late.

[door closes]

Marko: I picked up pizza on my way home. Who were you, uh... Who you talking to?

Link: Uhm... *[voice cracking]* No one, Dad.

Marko: Okay. Oh, by the way, sorry. They were out of pineapple today, so all we have is pepperoni.

Link: *[starts sobbing]*

Marko: Oh! Oh, my baby boy! I know, I know, I know! I'm sad, too! Pineapple's so good on pizza! I love it! *[stutters]*

Link: *[sobbing]* This is...

Marko: *[quietly]* Oh, God...

Link: *[sobbing]* This is about pizza...

[intro music plays]

Freddie: Welcome to Dungeons and Daddies, not a BDSM podcast. *[with precise diction]* This is the story of four teens searching for their lost dads in a world forever changed after that one time their granddads accidentally unleashed an eldritch god. I'm Benedict Cumberbatch, American man.

[group laughter]

Freddie: I'm Freddie Wong, I play Taylor Swift. The... block rock and samurai sword wielding, katana chopping, weeb teen ranger—*[quietly]* ranger—*[normally]* of the group. This week's rad fact. Taylor's the best person on the debate team. He's the best one on the debate team.

Will: What!

Freddie: It's too bad...

Beth: Fuck...!

Freddie: ...that he's not on this debate, but he...

Will: Damn.

Beth: Damn.

Freddie: ...slays at debate.

Beth: Well you didn't win it literally any arguments when we were trying to agree what debate to... You weren't good at debating with us. Like...

Freddie: Beth, the art of debate, as anybody who has done debate can tell you, has very little to do with your ability to manage your day-to-day life and your actual disagreements with your friends.

Will: *[laughs]*

Freddie: Debate is about saying as many things as possible so that you get as many points on the board as possible so that your opponent can't refute them all. I'm of course speaking about a style of debate, because I don't know if you guys did— Did any of you guys do debate in high school?

Beth: No.

Will: No.

Freddie: I didn't do it, but I was friends with all the debate people. There's ones where you can prep beforehand, there's ones where, for example, they give you what the subject is and you have an hour to research it. There is a type of debate that is basically just get as many arguments out as possible, and if your opponent can't refute any one of those, that's counts as a point on your side. That's Taylor's specialty, the Gish Gallop. The, "say as many things as possible..."

Will: It's like when they shoot all that chaff off in the dog fight in the missing king—

Freddie: Yeah!

Matt: Yes.

Freddie: Exactly, exactly. That is the debate style that Taylor was—

Will: Alright!

Freddie: —a master at. And unfortunately, you have no access to him because he's going to be taking that skill to the FBI.

Matt: Hey everybody. My name is Matthew Arnold. I play Lincoln-Li Wilson, the stay-at-home sports kid, protective paladin of the group. *Pshh*, I don't know. I feel like Link might die or go to prison forever this episode, so.

Will: [*laughs*]

Matt: Just some basic facts. His birthday is March third... uhm, and... every year he celebrates his birthday by... His dads take him to Outback Steakhouse, which is the most popular restaurant in America now. Since...

Freddie: [*laughs*]

Beth: Oh, my God.

Matt: Since the...

Beth: Truly an apocalypse.

Matt: Yeah. Nobody's under the age of 40 that shows up other than his parents, because everybody that goes to their birthdays are just Markos and...

Will: He's an old soul!

Matt: Grant's dads. Yeah. So, he, y'know, just... Sits at Outback...

Freddie: How many blooming onions does he get?

Matt: That's pretty much all he eats.

Will: Bloomin' onion?

Matt: He gets whatever wants on his birthday, which means he gets half of one because you can't eat a whole blooming onion by yourself. It's too much.

Beth: That'd be wild. Yeah.

Matt: Yeah. That's a lot. That's it.

Will: [*Australian accent*] Crikey.

Matt: I'm expecting presents. Next year.

Will: *[laughs]* Hey, everyone I'm Will Campos and I play Normal Oak. Plain Jane, humdrum, ordinary, garden variety run-of-the-mill teen.

Freddie: Snoozers. Yawn!

Will: Rad fact about Normal. If Normal seems like he's got a bit more swagger, a bit more pep in his step, it's because he started wearing lifts to bring his height up to 64.6 inches, which is the average height, according to Google, of a 14 year-old-boy.

[chuckles]

Freddie: What is a lift?

Will: Lift is like—

Beth: In your shoes...

Will: —you slip them into your shoes—

Matt: Yeah.

Will: —to make yourself a little taller. He was sitting at like 63.7 inches. He's like, "I got to Normal this up." So he brought himself up to 64.6.

Beth: It's like that picture of Robert de Niro on the set of the...

Matt: Irishman?

Beth: The Irishman.

Matt: With his huge...

Beth: Where he's like these huge boots that make him as tall as...

Matt: Wait so how many inches are those lifts?

Will: That's like a 0.9.

Matt: Oh, okay.

Will: Yeah.

Matt: So it's very subtle.

Will: Yeah.

Matt: Okay, okay.

Beth: A subtle lift.

Freddie: Don't they smash the top of your feet into your shoes, though?

Matt: No, you...

Will: Norm wears...

Freddie: I guess you can loosen your laces.

Will: ...flip flops.

Freddie: You can loosen your laces.

Will: With lifts.

[*group laughter*]

Freddie: He wears yeezys.

Anthony: So everyone can see that he's wearing lifts?

Will: Yeah.

Beth: That's such an archaic rumor to spread about school. [*like a regency dame*]
"Did you know that... Normal wears lifts?"

Matt: [*conspiratorial*] Lifts!

Freddie: Why don't I do this?

Will: You could, Freddie.

Anthony: Because you're short king—

Beth: You could.

Anthony: —and you respect yourself.

Will: Yeah.

Matt: Yeah.

Beth: Yeah.

Anthony: Like me.

Freddie: I could be five foot... seven and a half.

Anthony: You've seen the fucking surgery you can do, right? Where they just extend your bones?

Beth: Oh, yeah!

Matt: Yeah.

Beth: They break your bones and they put external fixators in it, and then your bones allegedly grow into the space, but only a few inches and they're kind of fragile giraffe legs at that point.

Matt: Yeah. And they can't do it to the one bone that matters.

[off-guard laughs]

Beth: Yeah.

Freddie: That's right, your spinal cord!

Matt: Spinal cord!

Will: *[laughs]*

Beth: Damn.

Freddie: That's right, you need another vertebrae. They can't do that.

Will: My other dad fact is Normal is saving up for the bone thing.

[laughter]

Beth: Hi, I'm Beth May and I play Scary Marlowe.

[gasps]

Beth: A goth punk seeker of darkness who is not like the other warlocks. Fun fact about Scary. She knows that black is technically a shade and not a color. Y'know, she knows that. So if you're wondering what her favorite color is, it is... Mole's Breath from Home Depot. That's right. A very, very, very dark shade of gray.

Anthony: Hi, I'm Anthony Burch. I'm your dad. My dad fact is that my favorite color is blue because I'm colorblind and blue is the only one I know what I'm getting.

Beth: Aw.

Freddie: *[laughs]*

[intro transition plays]

Anthony: You were all hanging out at Taylor's house. You were studying for the big debate against the mayor who has the sauce. The mayor made themselves known to you. This also happened after you all found out that Lincoln had to some extent kind of betrayed all of you or at least just Taylor, by putting a wristband on him that the FBI could listen to him through.

Will: He gave us friendship bracelets under false pretense, which—

Matt: Yeah. That's the big betrayal.

Will: —to me counts as a betrayal.

Freddie: That's a betrayal.

Matt: That's actually the bigger betrayal because the FBI thing, that's just following the rule of law? Like the false bracelets is a betrayal.

Will: He violates everything that Lance Armstrong and LiveStrong bracelets stand for.

[laughter]

Beth: Which, in hindsight, wasn't a lot.

Anthony: Yeah. He cheated, which means he's actually very much in the spirit of the Lance Armstrong motif.

Anthony: Turns out that the FBI was listing for something. You didn't know what until the mayor grabbed your wrist, spoke into your bracelet, Taylor, and said that Nicholas Foster was nearby—even though he was not, and who is that? A portal opened, Taylor and Link were grabbed and thrown into what seemed to be a very large protective... cell, like a prison cell type thing. Like the thing they held the Hulk in the first Avengers movie. You know what I'm talking about. Then the portal closed.

Will: Not before a certain ventriloquist dummy was also hurled through the portal.

Anthony: Yes.

Beth: True.

Anthony: Also a tiny Teeny was thrown through—in lieu of a gun—and the portal closed. And then the mayor kissed one of you on the forehead and said, “See you at the debate,” and then disappeared, left the house. So.

Anthony: You are yanked through the portal by three men in hazmat suits, big yellow hazmat suits. Once the portal is closed, the FBI agent that you saw come to your house, Link, says something into his earpiece. The three hazmat-suited men immediately start moving backwards towards the door while still facing you. They are going to leave the cell and lock it behind them. The cell is basically a big flat room that is surrounded on all sides by what looks kind of like glass. And on every side of this cell, you can see machines set up. You can see people holding guns. You can see security cameras.

Beth: Like Magneto's cell—

Matt: Yeah.

Beth: —in X-2.

Anthony: Yeah, very much like Magneto's cell. This is—

Beth: Or X-1, I guess, too.

Anthony: This is very much an observational sort of thing. They thought that something very dangerous was going to be inside here that they needed to keep an eye on and needed to have countermeasures in case it escaped. If you want to roll Perception, I can give you more details.

Matt: Yeah!

Freddie: Let's see what the old...

Matt: [*dice roll*] I got a 6.

Freddie: ...Perception gives me...

Anthony: It's a room!

[*dice roll*]

Matt: Okay!

Freddie: And I got a 23.

Anthony: You can feel that A, you were underground. You were far underground...

Freddie: Hold on, hold on. I'm sorry. I'm sorry. I accidentally opened up my old character. *[chuffs]* That's what that Perception rule was.

Anthony: Oh...!

Freddie: I can't roll a 23.

Beth: Now it all makes sense.

Freddie: *[dice roll]* I got a 4.

Matt: *[laughs]* Wait, what?

Anthony: This isn't your house!

[laughter]

Freddie: Well, I'm going to pick up Teeny.

Anthony: Okay.

Freddie: And put him on my hand.

Anthony: All right...

Freddie: And I'm going to go to the Link and I go—

Taylor: Don't worry, Link, I got this.

Link: Uhm.

Taylor: *[loudly]* I will only speak through my lawyer! *[muffled, out the side of his mouth, and with an unidentifiable accent]* That's right. It's to me, his lawyer!

Beth: *[laughs]*

Anthony: So while you're doing that, they close the door and lock you inside.

Taylor: *["Lawyer" voice]* Oi, oi!

Link: This can't be legal!

Taylor: *["Lawyer" voice]* We get a phone call!

Freddie: The FBI agent that you've seen, Link, presses a button on a console and says—

Agent: *[over intercom]* What... did he transform so he looks like Link? Somebody run a scan.

Link: What?

Agent: *[over intercom]* Where's the fucking...

Taylor: Hey, no scanning without my consent!

Anthony: They press a button and *[trills his tongue]*

Taylor: What the fuck?

Anthony: This red light kind of scans up and down the room.

Taylor: *[vocal shudder]*

Anthony: He leaves the fucking intercom on because otherwise this is going to be a really boring scene. You hear a technician turn and go—

Technician: *[over intercom]* It doesn't look like there's any sign of the savior.

Freddie: *[surprised laugh]*

Matt: What?

Technician: *[over intercom]* The devil savior.

Anthony: He goes—

Agent: *[over intercom]* God! Fucking— Damn—!

Anthony: You see the FBI agent lose his fucking mind and just like... sort of rub his hands over his eyes.

Freddie: I start banging on the window.

Link: Oh, hey! Hey. Wow, so...! We're not what you're looking for. Uhm.

Matt: I kind of point over to Taylor.

Link: I didn't tell him anything. How did... the mayor, you should look into that, that's wild.

Taylor: Let me the fuck out of here!

Agent: *[over intercom]* Why don't you just go ahead and sit down? I got to think about this.

Anthony: Then he turns to another similarly suited agent, but one that's shorter so that you can immediately tell that they're an inferior.

Freddie: Ah...

Beth: *[chuckling]* Oh, God!

Will: Damn!

Matt: Both look exactly like Freddie, but one's wearing lifts.

Beth: One's wearing lifts, yeah. *[giggles]*

Agent: *[over intercom]* Well. One of two things are going to happen either he is going to show up here looking for the fucking kid or... I don't know. Do we get rid of him? Do we let the kids go? Do we—

Taylor: Yes!

Link: No, no they're not listening to me. You said— Who is your lawyer?

Taylor: Oh. My lawyer right here? *["Lawyer" voice]* Well, hello!

Link: Oh...

Taylor: *["Lawyer" voice]* It's me, the lawyer! *[normally]* You see this way, Link. We can sa—

Link: No, I mean, but your mom... You must have a lawyer. You guys are pretty well...

Taylor: My mom has an entertainment lawyer—

Link: Oh, God—

Taylor: —who negotiates contracts so is pretty much useless for everything else.

Link: We want our phone call. This is illegal, right?

Taylor: Yeah, hey, we get a phone call!

Anthony: Go ahead and roll Persuasion.

Matt: *[dice roll]* A 5.

Freddie: *[dice roll]* 9.

Matt: I cry.

[group chuckle]

Anthony: They turn off the mic and then you just see them, like, freaking out and *[intentionally incomprehensible mumbling]*.

Taylor: It's safe to say that they're ignoring us. So we're going to have to bust out of here.

Matt: We look surrounded, right? We're in a clear cell...

Anthony: Yes. You're in a clear, empty cell with no furniture in it.

Freddie: No furniture? Okay but there's air, right? Air comes in here.

Anthony: There is air.

Freddie: How does air come into the cell?

Anthony: There's a vent, you can see above, on the top of the cell. So the whole cell's glass.

Freddie: *[chuckling]* Can we reach it if we stand on each other's shoulders?

Anthony: Why don't you try Acrobatics?

Taylor: Hey Link, give me a boost here.

Link: Uh- Okay. I think they're going to see us, but all right, here. Here.

Taylor: Well, what? Yes, but what are they going to do about it?

Link: I guess open the door?

Taylor: Exactly.

Link: *[gasps]* And we could run!

Taylor: Exactly. I'll take the vent, you go barrel out the front way.

Link: Okay.

Freddie: [*dice roll*] All right. I rolled a 13+1, 14.

Matt: [*dice roll*] Uh, that's a natural 20.

Anthony: Whoa!

Freddie: [*laughs*]

Beth: Nice!

Anthony: Alright!

Matt: A lot of bad ones before that.

Anthony: What does your natural 20 do?

Matt: You were climbing up me, right?

Freddie: Yeah.

Matt: I think the moment you get to my legs, I just fucking perfectly like. shove him straight up into the vent.

Anthony: Oh, okay, great! So you're just already in the vent.

Will: How big is this vent?

Anthony: It is man sized, like all... all good vents.

Will: Classic bad guy escape...

Freddie: Like all good vents.

Beth: This vent checks out.

Anthony: Yeah.

Anthony: Actually, you know what? No, they were smarter. This one's smaller than a man, but it's the perfect size for a teenager.

Beth: Teen size.

Freddie: Teen size vent.

Will: Small enough for a man, strong enough for a woman.

[*laughter*]

Freddie: So I get yeeted into this vent.

Anthony: Right. And everyone sees you.

Freddie: Oh, no, but do they? Roll Perception, Anthony! They're arguing about— Because they got the wrong person, they're arguing!

Anthony: No you—

Matt: There are whole guards.

Anthony: You roll Stealth.

Freddie: Okay.

Anthony: I'm not rolling.

Matt: It's not two people, Freddie. It's an entire group of people have guns looking at us.

Freddie: [*dice roll*] 2+3, 5.

Anthony: 5.

Freddie: Yeah.

Anthony: Okay. So they definitely see it. As you're climbing through this vent, you hear a— [*light hissing*]. Distant at first.

Freddie: I'm gonna hold my breath.

Anthony: And then— Okay, great. So roll Constitution.

Beth: [*laughs to herself*]

Matt: I go—

Link: Look, look over here. Don't look up there!

[*dice roll*]

Matt: And I started doing the Whatnot.

[*chuckles*]

Freddie: Fuck me! 4+3, 7.

Anthony: Okay.

Freddie: I'd managed to hold my breath perfectly but run out by the time whatever this is gets to me.

Anthony: Yeah, yeah, yeah. Yeah. There was no gas, and then you have to take a big breath when the gas gets to you and immediately you start crying, it's acidic, it's burning the inside of your lungs. It's not going to kill you, but it's going to take a lot to make you keep crawling through this vent.

Beth: I'm glad it's you two stuck in this jail situation, because when I heard the sss, I would've been like, "Oh, no, snakes!"

[group laughter]

Matt: Beth. Beth. That's- that's... what I thought it was.

[laughter]

Matt: I thought it was snakes.

Freddie: The FBI was going to release snakes into the vent. Okay, shit.

Beth: Release the snakes...!

Matt: So is he just passed out up there?

Freddie: I think it's like tear gas, right?

Anthony: It's tear gas. It's like really hurting.

Beth: Ooh, fuck.

Anthony: So you can decide to try to keep going or you can go back and get out of here.

Freddie: What's the penalty if I try to push through?

Anthony: If it gets bad enough, you're going to start taking really bad HP damage, and then you might pass out.

Freddie: I think I'm going to press forward.

Anthony: Okay.

Freddie: I assume that the vent is also clear?

Anthony: Oh no, no.

Matt: No...

Anthony: It's a *Diehard* vent that's made out of metal.

Freddie: Oh, okay, okay, okay. It's not like the X-Men thing where it's like a full 360...

Anthony: Yes, no, they didn't—

Freddie: ...completely empty...

Beth: Yeah.

Freddie: ...and there's just a me inside, like, [*chuckling*] a tube.

Anthony: Yeah.

Freddie: 10 feet in the air. Okay.

Anthony: Okay, if you want to keep going, go ahead and give me another Constitution roll.

Freddie: [*quietly*] Come on, motherfucker. Give me something.

Matt: I'm just... Don't understand his endgame.

Freddie: [*dice roll*] 16+3, 19.

Anthony: 19. Okay. So you get just far enough—

Will: You get 19 inches forward—

Anthony: Yeah.

Will: —before you pass out from pain.

Anthony: So you get just far enough to see that there is a grill in front of you that's pointed downward.

Taylor: Could cook some hamburgers on that.

Beth: Yeah.

Anthony: At the outside of the cell that Link is currently in. So Link's in the cell, you manage to move just beyond the bounds of the cell.

Freddie: Okay, fine. I'm going to turn around... and then face back the way I came, because you said it's very small, it's a tight size thing.

Anthony: Uh-huh.

Freddie: I'm going to fill my body up so that the gas now vents downwards into that room. They release tear gas into themselves.

Anthony: Oh! That's fun.

Will: Oh, so you're going to block the vent?

Freddie: I'm going to block the outflow—

Anthony: You're going to Winnie-the-Pooh.

Freddie: Yeah! I'm going to Winnie-the-Pooh it so that I shoot tear gas into their control room. And all those poindexters won't be able to handle it.

Anthony: That's pretty fun.

[dice roll]

Will: Yeah, how are you blocking it? Are you just curling up like a ball?

Freddie: It doesn't matter because I rolled a 1.

[laughter]

Anthony: Uh, yeah. You pass out.

Freddie: [laughs] I try to do that, be like—

Taylor: I need to turn around so I'm not facing the vent.

Freddie: And so as I'm trying to turn around like Austin Powers style inside this vent, I just pass out. I just pass out.

Anthony: You hit yourself on the head really hard as you try to do a quick three-point turn inside of this vent.

[chuckles]

Will: So you snap your neck clean in half.

Matt: So I'm hearing him crawling above me and then I hear him stop.

Anthony: Yeah.

Matt: And cough.

Anthony: You hear a loud bang and then it stops...

Freddie: *[laughs]*

Beth: Oh, God.

Anthony: ...and then you hear one of the scientists outside go like—

Scientist: *[over intercom]* Oh, I can see his face in the grill. He's... Yeah, he's unconscious. He's good.

[generic Japanese pop song plays on a speaker in the background]

Anthony: We're back to Scary and Norm.

Normal: Ah! Oh my God! Oh my God! Oh! Oh my God! *[pants]* Did you see that? What's going on?!

Scary: I can't believe I'm stuck here now. They get to go in the cool, like, alt universe. I bet they're having the time of their lives. I bet... I don't know. I bet they're being like, interrogated and getting to say cool things like, "No, fuck you!" And I'm just stuck here.

[music fades out]

Normal: Scary. What we do? Do we... What, it's—

Scary: Oh, for like, the debate?

Normal: Well, I don't know, anything! Like- *[stutters]* Guys just left! What's what's going on? I'm freaking out!

Anthony: So Mae Hailes who is here says—

Mae: Okay, okay. I think what you can focus on, is trying to win the debate because that's an immediate problem.

Normal: Who were those guys, Mrs. Hailes?

Mae: *[scoffs]*

Anthony: She puts up quotation marks—

Mae: That's the FBI.

Normal: Why are you putting quotation marks up?

Scary: Yeah, so that's like—

Normal: What's that about?

Scary: So are they legit or not?

Mae: Because they're not really the FBI. They're a shadow organization inside the government.

Scary: Do they suck like the FBI?

Mae: They suck worse than the FBI.

Scary: Woah...

Mae: They're called the FBI, but it doesn't stand for Federal Bureau of Investigation. They're the Final Boreanaz Initiative.

[gasps]

Freddie: [yelling] What!?

Scary: Woah...

Normal: The what? I don't know who that is, but I—

Scary: Sit down. I can tell you all about it.

[laughter]

Normal: [sighs]

Mae: They're really, really obsessed with demons. Not Doodler stuff, not like what we are doing, trying to save the world. They're really obsessed with demons and hell dimensions and all that kind of stuff.

Scary: Oh, that sounds metal as fuck.

Mae: Yeah, kind of. Yeah, but not the way they do— They're being narcs about it. They're not pro demons.

Normal: But what— like—

Mae: They're like, "grr, demons."

Scary: Oh, okay.

Normal: Our friends, are they going to be okay? Are they going to kill them? L-lady? What's going on?

Mae: As long as none of them have any demon DNA in them, they'll be totally fine, I assume.

Normal: Oh, okay.

Scary: Oh.

Normal: That's probably not a... I mean, all right.

Scary: Yikes.

Normal: Uh! Uh, this—

Scary: I don't know, Norm. I get vibes from Link. He's so tall.

[group laughter]

Matt: And humanly.

Normal: Ah. I- I- I got to sit down.

Will: And the Norm just sits down on the floor and starts rubbing his temples.

Normal: This has been a lot. This is a lot. This is a lot to ask of a 14-year-old. [sighs]

Anthony: Mae says—

Mae: I know. I know it's a lot. What I would recommend is that you just get as good a night's sleep as you can. I'll head into Ryton's Dungeon, I'll pick some locks, I'll see if I can find some items that can help me find them. You just need to have a good day at school tomorrow for your debate.

Normal: Are you freaking kidding me?

Mae: I don't, this— I'm trying to be calm. I'm trying to be the adult, but what else can you do? I don't know where they are—

Normal: [sighs]

Mae: —you don't know where they are!

Normal: *[exhales]*

Mae: You need to worry about the mayor because if you can't, there's going to be an incursion point.

Normal: There demon guys running around, we almost got killed by the mayor, and we still got to do our homework tonight. That's what you're telling me.

Scary: I mean, I don't think we need to do, like, homework-homework, but if you could take point on the debate, I'd really appreciate it.

Freddie: *[laughs]*

Scary: But Mae's got a point. We should get a good night's rest or whatever. I could tell you a bedtime story if you want.

Normal: Oh, that'd be great. As weird as this sounds, Scary, I think that might actually calm me down. It's just, y'know, it's been a lot lately and I—

Scary: No, I totally get it. I totally get it. Okay, so once upon a time, there were—

Will: I crawl into Taylor's bed.

[laughter]

Anthony: You huddle one of his body pillows.

Will: Yeah.

Scary: There are these four kids, right?

Normal: Okay.

Scary: And they were living in a town in, uh... like Maine, right?

Normal: Keep going, this is helping.

Scary: So like, they weren't very popular, but they became best friends or whatever.

Normal: Okay.

Scary: But that summer, a lot of kids were going missing.

Normal: Oh— Uh. Okay.

Scary: And they didn't know what was causing it, but eventually it turned out to be this evil clown that could personalize...

Normal: Okay...

Scary: ...whatever each kid was super scared of. So like, what are you scared of?

Normal: Clowns!

Scary: Fuck, that's perfect.

[laughter]

Scary: So, y'know, for you, if this thing... were real—

Normal: But it's not, right?

Scary: N-no. No no, no no.

Normal: I mean, it could be! Like look all the crazy stuff! Maybe it's like, do I— Thinking about it, it makes it real!

Scary: Yeah, that's kind of like what happens in the story, too!

Normal: Oh, my God!

Scary: So they think that they get rid of it, right?

Normal: Ok— uh-huh!

Scary: But no way! They grow up and they have kids and they think that their lives are cool. But no, it follows them, like... all the way until they're adults. And I don't remember what happens after that. I think, like, the second part was kind of sucky. Of the story, at least. Not that I'm making it up. But anyways.

Anthony: Mae Hailes leans over and goes—

Mae: Thank you for omitting certain details from that... story.

Scary: Oh... kids also, like, all have s—

Mae: No, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, no!

[group laughter]

Mae: No, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, no! No! No! No!

Freddie: And then, and then you hear a computerized voice, go— *bup bup bup*—

Computer: [through speakers] Taylor no longer detected.

Freddie: And then the lights in the room—

[lo-fi jazz starts playing]

Freddie: —dim down and purple lights and pink lights turn on and smooth jazz anime covers start to play and they'd be like—

Taylor('s voice): [through speakers] Hello, ladies.

Beth: That's—

Matt: Wait, when you're not there?

Taylor('s voice): [through speakers] I've— It appears that the man Taylor has stepped out, and has given you the run of his room. Please—

[barely restrained laughter]

Scary: Yeah that's probably something it would say...

Taylor('s voice): [through speakers] Please—

Scary: ...to make us feel at home, right?

Matt: [laughing] That happens every time you leave the room?

Freddie: Well, if it detects— if there's people in there...

Matt: [laughing] Okay.

Freddie: If my Alexa detects that there's people in there and I'm not there, then clearly... whoever—

Anthony: Taylor's mom is very rich.

Matt: [laughing] So your mom's cleaning... or your mom just goes into your room for any reason...

Taylor('s voice): [through speakers] Please, make yourself comfortable...

Anthony: You're mom learned not to stay in your room for more than 35 seconds at a time if you're not in there.

Taylor('s voice): *[through speakers]* Please, make yourselves comfortable. There's a Monster energy drink to your left.

Freddie: And then the lights turn on to highlight that energy drink fridge, like—

Taylor('s voice): *[through speakers]* Please avail yourself of the many ramunes inside.

Normal: You know what? Scary? That story wasn't as scary as this. I'm going home.

Freddie: *[laughs]*

[ad break]

Link: Help, this can't be legal. My friend, is he okay? Also, what... W-where's my dad? Is my dad okay?

Anthony: They press the button down, and the FBI agent who came to your home says—

Agent: *[over intercom]* Do either of you have a way of summoning Foster?

Link: Foster?

Agent: *[over intercom]* Yes. Nicholas Foster. His da— So you really don't know shit about shit? Okay, great.

Link: Well, that's rude. I mean...

Agent: *[over intercom]* This is going to be a waste of time. Press the pusher button.

Anthony: One of the fucking walls of the vent just—*k-ch*. Comes out a little bit. And on a pneumatic arms goes— *uooooo*, towards you.

Freddie: *[laughs]*

Anthony: And just slowly pushes you back the way you came, through the vent.

Matt: I go to catch Taylor, when he slips out.

Anthony: Like a crane game.

Freddie: Like a loose turd.

Anthony: Your ass just falls down through the... Yeah, like a loose turd.

Beth: [*chuckles*]

Anthony: Just falls out through the vent that you came from. And when you land, the shock of landing kind of wakes you back up.

Taylor: Guh!

Matt: Well I— I catch him very gently.

Anthony: Okay!

Beth: Aw!

Matt: Yeah. And I put him down. I go—

Link: Sleep well.

Freddie: [*Link impression*] Sleep well, my prince.

Link: My prince.

Matt: [*laughs*]

Anthony: Okay. If you want to be not conscious for this dialogue scene, that's perfectly—

Freddie: No, I'm back. I'm back up. It's just too—

Link: Wake up!

Matt: I slap you.

Taylor: Ah! Gah! Gah!

Link: What did you do? Did he find anything up there? We got to get out of here.

Taylor: I almost made it. I almost made it.

Link: Help!

Taylor: But hey, that was a good toss.

Link: I—

Taylor: Are you on the cheer team? You totally could be on the cheer team.

Link: Open fields, that's why I live. This is— I'm getting so claustrophobic. I hate this.

Freddie: [laughs]

Matt: I'm just like— I start running. I'm running around like an animal, like around a circle, just freaking out. I start pounding.

Anthony: So—

Link: You're gonna have the death of a kid on your hands in five seconds, I swear to God, I can't handle this!

Taylor: And Link threatened to kill me. Take me off hostage!

Link: I'm gonna—! No, I couldn't. I would never do that.

Taylor: Looks like it's up to me!

Freddie: And I'm going to get Link in the rear naked choke. And be like—

Taylor: If you don't let us out, I'm killing this kid! And his blood will be on your hands!

Anthony: So the FBI agent like... like raises a finger as if he had an idea and then you do that and his finger goes limp and he goes—

Agent: [*over intercom*] Ah, uhm... I was going to say, if you don't... do something, we are going to kill your friend, but you're going to kill him—? So...

[laughter]

Link: Wait...

Agent: [*over intercom*] So, uh...

Taylor: That's right! Link, this is the secret of debate.

Link: Ow!

Taylor: You always gotta keep 'em guessing.

Matt: I push him off me.

Taylor: Gah!

Agent: [*over intercom*] Okay, fuck this. We'll kill both of you.

Link: What?

Agent: If you don't stop us.

Anthony: If you want to roll Insight. You can try to—

Beth: [*nervous chuckles*]

Matt: Stop you. I mean...

Freddie: [*dice roll*] 13+2. 15.

Matt: [*dice roll*] Got 8.

Link: I don't know what you're saying.

Anthony: 8, you don't know what he's saying, but Taylor, you can see that when he says, "Stop us," he's looking directly at you, Taylor.

Taylor: The fuck do you want me to do, dude?

Agent: [*over intercom*] Whatever it takes to prevent this from happening.

Anthony: And the ceiling tiles above you...

Freddie: [*nervous chuckles*]

Anthony: ...unfurl, and you see a couple of space-age looking-ass little laser turrets. They point at you through the glass.

Agent: [*over intercom*] That is pure heat. That is going to pass through unharmed the cell you're in. But it will vaporize you in about three to five seconds after I hit this button. So if you feel like, I don't know, calling for someone who might help you... or unleashing a power that maybe you didn't know you had, you've got 10 seconds.

Link: Can we take a quick...

Anthony: [*still over intercom*] And he looks at his watch.

Link: ...timeout? I feel like there's often a misunderstanding between adults and us children, but like, you did happen to realize when you took us out there was a elected official, like in our room...? Weird and dangerous. Don't you think maybe that would be better than us two idiots that just... We're just... What?

Agent: [*over intercom*] The weird person in the room, did they have a... demonic energy?

Link: I mean, yeah. That's one word for it. Yeah. Freaking, she was wild.

Agent: [*over intercom*] Was she on fire?

Link: No. Right Taylor? She wasn't on fire.

Agent: [*over intercom*] Okay. Not demonic energy then.

Taylor: No, no, definitely not. Definitely not on fire.

Agent: [*over intercom*] Waste of my time. Okay. 10...

Link: Uhm...

Agent: [*over intercom*] 9...

Link: Ms. Haile! Ms. Haile! Please, help!

Taylor: I—I'm working for a secret organization! Called D.A.D.D.I.E.S.!

Link: I don't wanna work—!

[*laughter*]

Freddie: I'm ratting— I'm ratting the whole thing out.

Link: I don't want to work there anymore! I just—

Taylor: I don't wanna work there!

Link: I just want to find my dad!

Taylor: I'll tell you what you want! You want to take us to court? I'll rat them all out! These people were all...!

Link: Look our dads are gone!

Taylor: They made us do this against our will! They made us against our will! They're kidnapping children! That's right!

[laughter redoubles]

Taylor: They're forcing us to do things, that they were meant to do! I had nothing to do with this, I swear to God! I just want to watch anime! And fucking play with my swords, okay, man?!

Link: Our boss kills people! And now the FBI's killing—

Taylor: I will—!

Link: Is killing kids?

Taylor: I know exactly what she looks like! I have every information you need on her! I would— She— You put her away! I don't care! I don't care I'll give you her number right here! These are all the things that she gave us!

Link: [sobbing] My dad kills for a living! Just help us, please!

Anthony: Uh. [chuckles] Okay, both of you roll... because you're not lying. You're just giving everybody up. So I guess roll Persuasion with advantage?

Freddie: [dice roll] Oh, thank God, 18.

Matt: [dice roll] I got 19.

Anthony: Okay.

Matt: I'm hugging Taylor, [laughs] also.

Freddie: No, here's what it is, Matt. We're both hugging each other, and then over each other's shoulders, we're just screaming about how we're going to rat our friends out.

Anthony: So the agent cocks their head and presses a button and the turrets retract back into the ceiling. He goes—

Agent: [over intercom] So you guys really don't know anything, huh? About anything?

Taylor: I know everything about D.A.D.D.I.E.S. I'll show you the headquarters. There's all kinds of weird shit going on.

Link: We know quite a bit. It's just... I don't know what you're talking about. We're just... I don't, we're just trying to save our dads and we're trying to stop this weird stuff from happening because people are dying.

Anthony: They say—

Agent: *[over intercom]* What do you know about Code Purple?

Link: Uh, we've heard— we've heard of it. What do you know about it?

Taylor: We don't know anything about it. They said don't do it. That's the thing that they told us. They said, "Don't do it."

Agent: *[over intercom]* Okay...

Link: Are you going to kill us?

Agent: *[over intercom]* Uh, that remains to be...

Anthony: And then at that moment you see a red klaxon going off behind him and it sort of fills the room with red light. Somebody punches their way through the door and you can see that there's a long hallway leading to what looks like an elevator that the doors are just closing off of. And this person's running hurriedly.

Anthony: You can hear the guy go—

Agent: *[over intercom]* Whoa, what's going on?

Anthony: And they say—

New Person: *[over intercom]* He's here. He's coming. The savior demon's here. He's fucking here.

Anthony: And they go—

Agent: *[over intercom]* Oh, shit! Oh shit, oh shit.

Anthony: And fear, like, ll the blood drains from this agent's face. And he goes—

Agent: *[over intercom]* Uh... Okay, okay. If you want to get out of this alive, if you want any of us to get out of this alive, you're going to work with u— You're going to do what we tell you to do. Right? Right, kids? Right?

Link: Yeah. You're the FBI. We're kids! Like what do you— Yeah.

Anthony: Roll Insight real quick.

Matt: [*dice roll*] 4.

Freddie: [*dice roll*] 15+2, 17...

Anthony: When Link says you're the FBI, you see the lead agent snicker for a second.

Freddie: Buh!

Anthony: And he goes—

Agent: [*over intercom*] Okay.

Freddie: Like all their shirts, these look like they bought them on Venice.

Beth: [*laughs*]

Anthony: The laser turrets come back out. He makes a bunch of hand gestures at all the men with guns and all them kick the doors open and leave them open. And they all point down the hallway towards the elevator. And you can see, even from this distance, the fucking elevator has like, y'know, it's got a long way to go. You can see the little lights going from—

Freddie: Okay, so they're all looking away from us?

Anthony: They're all looking away from you right now.

Freddie: Okay so I go Link, I'm like—

Taylor: Aright Link, this is my chance. Boost me back up there, bro.

Link: Yeah. Let's fucking get out of here, dude.

Taylor: Fucking get out of here bro.

Matt: I throw him up.

Anthony: Roll stealth with advantage.

Matt: [*two dice rolls*] 18.

Freddie: [*two dice rolls*] Oh, natural 20. +3, 23.

Anthony: Wow. Okay. So you managed to-

Freddie: Cause we've done it once.

Anthony: Yes. Yeah. I'm not going to make you roll for the Athletics because you know— know how each other's bodies feel.

[laughter]

Anthony: So you managed to stealthily and quickly get right back up the vent. They've switched off the gas since they pushed you all the way to the back... and they don't notice you there. So you can, again, move forward pretty easily to the grill that overlooks the spot that all of the guards are at. Half of them would notice you when you drop down, the other half wouldn't. Or you could keep climbing around in the vents and see what else you could find.

Link: I think we're looking for fresh air, right?

Matt: Can I just be in there or do I have to roll?

Anthony: Lets—

Will: I feel like, it's a two-man, like...

Matt: Yeah.

Will: Because you boosted him up.

Matt: Yeah.

Anthony: Yeah.

Will: So I feel like he's got to roll to pull you up into the vent.

Anthony: Yeah. He has to roll athletics to pull you up.

Matt: Okay.

Freddie: Okay, yeah. Yeah.

Matt: I'm very tall, so it's not as hard for me to reach the top.

Freddie: [dice roll] 2+1, 3.

Will: [laughs]

Anthony: Okay. So you with your weak little anime arms—

Matt: [dice roll] I got a 2.

Freddie: [barking laugh]

Anthony: Okay.

Matt: I sprained my ankle when I jumped.

Anthony: You land and it hurts real, real bad.

Matt: Can we try one more time with... If you hold Teeny up?

Freddie: Oh, yeah, yeah, yeah!

Matt: For extra- extra length?

Freddie: That's what it was. He jumps and he misses, all right? And I feel like there should be a penalty on this next roll, but then the next one, I'll hold Teeny's hand and then Teeny's arm will go out to his, and that gives us the extra six inches to maybe grab on.

Anthony: Okay.

Will: I will make a Strength check for Teeny, to see how well Norm constructed Teeny. To be the X factor, here.

Anthony: I feel like that'--s because you made him. I think it might be Intelligence, like how well did you craft this thing?

Will: Uh-oh. [*dice roll*] That's a 19.

Anthony: Okay. So, yes. Using Tiny Teeny will undo the penalty I was going to give you for jumping with a busted ankle.

Will: Tiny is secretly made out of a bit of the actual foam from the actual Teeny head. He's like birthed from the flesh of Teeny himself.

Beth: Wow.

Anthony: Yeah. It's like how the Norse believed that earth was made out of Ymir's blood after they murdered him. Very similar thing.

Freddie: *Pfff.*

Matt: I guess I'm trying to decide between trying to just jump up again and join you, which obviously I would want to do, or just trying to make it so that they don't know you're gone.

Will: Or we could do a three-way party split.

[*chuckles*]

Matt: Yeah, that's what I was— I was trying to stay away from—

Will: Has any D&D podcast ever dared attempt the three-way party split?

Anthony: That feels like the Daffy Duck. Like, "I can only do it once!"

[laughter]

Anthony: Once again you roll Athletics, Freddie. You roll Acrobatics, Matt. And then because he is using Teeny I won't give you a penalty for your fucked up ankle.

[dice roll]

Matt: Okay.

Freddie: 12+1. 13.

Matt: [dice roll] I got 9.

Anthony: You managed to grab him by the hand, but his legs are dangling.

Matt: Okay.

Anthony: And now roll Stealth with disadvantage.

Matt: [two dice rolls] 5.

Anthony: 5. Okay, so they see that you're dangling out of there. So somebody goes—

Somebody: [over intercom] The kids are trying to get out of the thing. Should we... The gas, should we with the gas?

Anthony: And I'm going to roll to see...

Freddie: "Should we the gas, should we, comma, with the gas."

Anthony: Should we, the gas, should we, with the gas. He fails his Wisdom throw and he goes—

Agent: [over intercom] Don't worry about the fucking kids, the fucking white whale's coming down here now. Fucking let them go. Who gives a shit?

Anthony: Let's say with that, you are now inside the vent with your boy. And if you're up to the grill, where you can see down sort of into the other area, you hear "ping!" And so the elevator doors open and suddenly you can feel the heat of the room that you're in, increased by about 10 degrees.

Beth: Oh, man...

Anthony: Even in the fucking vents.

Matt: Now that I'm beginning to understand what Grant was, one of the many subtle sniper skills he taught me...

Anthony: Okay.

Matt: Which is just knowing the air direction. So I lick my finger and I just want to get a sense of— If it will help me get through the vent the right way towards...

Anthony: Sure.

Freddie: Ah, the central air?

Matt: Yeah.

Anthony: So what you can feel is that basically the vents that you're in—

Matt: Oh you're not gonna make me roll for it.

Anthony: Actually, roll... roll Nature. Roll Survival.

Matt: [*dice roll*] I swear to fucking... I got a 4. I mean, I wasn't paying attention.

Anthony: Do it with advantage because your dad's a sniper.

Freddie: [*chuckles*]

Matt: Cool. [*dice roll*] Oh, cool. So this time I got 3, though.

Anthony: Okay, even better!

Freddie: [*laughs*]

Matt: [*off mic*] I'm freaking changing my dice.

Anthony: You know that air comes from outside.

Taylor: Okay, well—

Link: Dude—

Matt: I act confident, I go—

Link: I think it's this way.

Matt: And I point straight out.

Freddie: Yeah. We're going to continue crawling through the vents.

Anthony: You can either go straight on...

Matt: Okay.

Anthony: In sort of in the direction toward that hallway, or you can turn to the right.

Link: Taylor, you're a survivalist, man. Where do we go?

Taylor: This is probably a central air system. And if they got HVAC guys pulling it along, then the straightest route is going to lead to wherever the central stuff is coming from. That's going to lead to the elevator shaft in front of us.

Link: Well, that's the... demon.

Taylor: I know, but we're underground. The demon will go here. We'll go over whatever the hell's down there.

Freddie: So I think we go straight through.

Will: I hate to do this, but how well does Taylor know— Because none of us knew elevators existed a week ago.

Freddie: Oh, shit. You're right.

Beth: [*a bump of her mic, as she gets back in range quickly*] Suddenly this guy's acting like an expert!

[*laughter*]

Taylor: I just found out—

Will: I hate to CinemaSins it, but—

Beth: Ding!

Will: It's fine.

Matt: I feel like the moment he found out about elevators—

Will: Yeah.

Matt: —he's done nothing but research elevators in the two weeks.

Anthony: He checked all the conspiracy boards of everything he could find about up-down rooms.

Will: Okay. Fair enough.

Anthony: Roll Perception to see if you can hear what's going on in the cut scene that's going on beneath you.

[laughter]

Freddie: [dice roll] 16.

Matt: [dice roll] I got a 15.

Anthony: Okay, so you can both hear—Taylor, slightly better—the conversation that's going down there.

Freddie: It kind echoes in the... in the vent around us.

Anthony: Yeah, it kind of echoes up through the vent, like the beginning of Metal Gear Solid. You hear a voice that strikes you as ever so slightly familiar, Taylor. Saying—

??: [a deep voice] [echoing in the vent] Where is he?

Anthony: You hear—

Will: Uh-oh, he's hot.

Anthony: —a bunch of shouting voices.

[giggles]

Beth: Uh-oh!

Anthony: You hear a bunch of shouting voices and people shouting for him to get down on the ground to turn off his flame. To fucking get his hands behind his back. You hear this rhythmic stepping forward— because his footsteps don't sound like anybody else's because it's almost like... y'know when you toss a little bit of water onto a really hot pan and it just sizzles like that? It's like every footstep he's taking, you can hear that—

Freddie: Cool

Anthony: — and you can feel some of that heat coming up in this vent, even though you can't see him at this point. And he goes—

??: *[echoing]* Where. Is. My. Boy?

Anthony: You hear the FBI agent—the FBI in quotation marks agent—in the back going like—

Agent: *[echoing]* He's safe for now. If you want to go ahead and make sure that he stays that way, you feel free to go ahead and step inside the suite that we've prepared for you, my boy.

Anthony: And you hear the hot guy voice saying—

[chuckles]

The Hot Guy: *[echoing]* I don't think that's going to happen.

Matt: Can I roll Divine Sense?

Anthony: Sure. What does that do?

Matt: It lets me to detect if something's good and evil.

Anthony: Okay.

Matt: So I just wanna get a sense of... If I sense, like, evil.

Anthony: So you can feel that... the—

Matt: That's not behind total cover, just making it out there for the rules lawyers. Are we in total cover inside this vent?

Freddie: Who cares!

Anthony: I don't gi—

Beth: Who cares!

Anthony: I. Do. Not. Give. A. Shit-tah!

Matt: Okay.

Anthony: So you can sense that the FBI agent—that came to your house and threatened to kidnap your father—is evil.

Matt: Cool.

Anthony: You can feel that the FBI agent that's working under him, that's slightly shorter, is also evil.

Matt: More evil.

Anthony: More e— Well! Shorter evil.

Beth: Oh, God.

Anthony: It's in a smaller area, so more of a nerve [*crosstalked to oblivion*]

Beth: Say not more!

Will: More condensed.

Anthony: Yeah. He's got fucking Napoleon syndrome. So if he got that much power, he'd be way worse. And then the hot person that's talking and walking forward is both good and evil.

Matt: Okay.

Beth: That makes him hotter, dammit!

Will: Oh no!

Freddie: Dammit!

Anthony: Yeah, sorry!

[*laughter*]

[*a powerful rush of air builds*]

Anthony: You hear—

[*gunfire, and the air rush culminates in a burst of flame; from underneath the fire, metal music starts playing*]

Anthony: —plumes of flame exploding.

[*a person's pained shout, gunfire and bursts of flame continue*]

Anthony: You can feel the heat radiating through this metal vent and it's actually beginning to hurt and burn your hands.

Beth: Do we hear a Wilhelm scream?

Anthony: Yes, you do.

[chuckles, and a Wilhelm scream; the gunfire and fire bursts taper off, the music continues]

Beth: Yay!

Anthony: You hear one Wilhelm scream. Tastefully.

Will: You hear that other scream that's like, *[drawn out]* "Ee-aurgh..!"

[laughter]

[that other scream that's like, [drawn out] "Ee-aurgh..!"]

Will: Like the fucking StarCraft academy scream?

Freddie: Yeah!

Anthony: Also if you went back and listened to it again, you can hear way low in the mix the Howard Dean scream—

[the Howard Dean scream]

Anthony: But like it's not...

[group laughter]

Anthony: It's not like in *Breaking Bad* where it's so obvious it takes you out of the scene.

[laughter]

Anthony: And you hear blood—

[sizzling]

Anthony: —hitting the fucking ground and you hear sizzling and things boiling and burning.

Taylor: That could just be coffee! That could just be coffee. Link, let's go.

Anthony: And you are getting closer and closer to the elevator. And you hear that same hot voice say—

The Hot Guy: *[echoing]* Where the hell is Taylor?

Matt: I look at Taylor.

Freddie: I'm fucking crawling faster, dude!

Anthony: Okay. Great, great, great.

Freddie: Are you kidding?

[*music fades off*]

Anthony: So you may get to the vent. The vent opens just on top of the elevator.

Freddie: We take a quick second to marvel at the fact that you can carve a shaft out of an ele— It's incredible.

Matt: Yeah.

Freddie: Yeah.

Matt: It's very scary.

Freddie: Incredible.

Anthony: If you look up, you immediately get overwhelmed with the sense of vertigo. You've only been in one up-down room and you've never been in an up-down room shaft. But even if you had, even if you were a veteran of up-down room shafts, this would've been the tallest up-down room shaft you've ever seen. You cannot see its terminus point. It goes on for so fucking high up and so fucking far.

Will: That's good. It means your chance of getting Emilio Esteves'd in *Mission Impossible* is super low.

Anthony: Yeah.

Beth: Oh...

Anthony: You'll have a lot of time to see that shit coming.

Link: Come on Taylor, it's just like— it's just like ropes in gym. I mean, not my gym at home, but you guys did that too.

Taylor: We can just—

Matt: I start climbing.

Taylor: Wait, no, wait, wait. Like, we can press the button.

Matt: I'm already like 10 feet up. I'm like—

Link: Just come on!

Taylor: Wait Link, I'm just going to press the button! We just go in here and press the button.

Link: You're gonna go inside the elevator?

Taylor: Yeah!

Link: Oh, okay. I'll stay up— No, this is scarier. I'll go in.

Matt: I go in.

Freddie: Yeah, so I want to kick—

[metal takes a hard hit in a massive, echoing space]

Freddie: —the top of it down, and press the button on the elevator for whatever the top floor is.

Anthony: Okay. So you kick the little thing that is presumably in the ceiling of every elevator that allows people to do this.

Freddie: Which it isn't by the way, I've looked!

[laughter]

Matt: Yeah, I've actually never seen one.

Anthony: Yeah, me neither. But it's here.

Freddie: That's a full-on movie invention, isn't it?

Beth: No, I've seen one before. In the wild.

Anthony & Freddie: Really?

Beth: Maybe I'm a full on movie invention. But I've definitely seen people working on elevators from the top.

Anthony: Oh, cool.

Matt: Okay.

Freddie: Wait, you've been in an elevator and you've looked up and you've seen some—

Beth: No, not when I've been in it, but I've seen—

Matt: And a person was staring back at you.

Beth: I've seen like— I've seen like people working on shafts before.

Anthony: Uh—

Freddie: So have I.

[laughter]

Anthony: Uh, I've seen people working on shafts before, too.

Freddie: I've seen— I've seen people working that...

Anthony: I also have access to the internet.

Beth: Ha, ha! That's just so funny.

[laughter]

Anthony: Yeah. You kick open the vent and you drop down into the elevator shaft.

[soft sound of the doors sliding open]

Anthony: And just as you're about to press the button, the doors open and you see one of the scientists that you saw outside your cell has been tapping on the up button as fast as he can. And as it opens, you can see behind him bodies that are cut in half, their wounds—

Beth: Oh, God...

Matt: Oh God!

Anthony: —cauterized by a flaming sword.

Will: Some real Sephiroth in Shinra HQ energy.

Anthony: It's very similar, yeah.

Taylor: This is some very similar to Sephiroth and Shinra HQ!

[laughter]

Anthony: And if Hero was here, she'd be like—

Hero: Oh, it's just like the ninja in *Metal Gear Solid 1*.

Matt: [*chuckles*]

Anthony: You see a big, bright flame near the cell that you used to be in. Then you think maybe a fire's gone wild or something like that. But then the scientist who just pressed the button to open your door goes like—

Scientist: Oh! Jesus, it's the kid.

Freddie: And I fucking Sparta kick his ass backwards. This little fucking nerd is going to get the full brunt of a This is Sparta heel kick on him.

Beth: Damn.

Anthony: Sure!

Beth: Kill a man.

Anthony: Give me an attack with advantage. An unarmed attack with advantage.

Taylor: Zephyr... strike!

Matt: At the same time I'm pressing the closed door button.

Anthony: Uh, those don't do anything, so it means nothing.

[*laughter*]

Matt: I'm still pressing it faster.

Anthony: Hey, you know what? It makes you feel better.

[*two dice rolls*]

Freddie: 19!

Anthony: Heal 1 HP because of the placebo effect.

[*laughter*]

Freddie: 19+3! 22, baby!

Anthony: Wow! You This is Sparta this guy so fucking hard, he goes back three feet and lands directly on his back. Which is a really nice reveal...

[dramatic music starts, with a slow, electric, melody]

Anthony: ...for that fire that you're looking at to all of a sudden gets sucked back into one person. And you see somebody that looks kind of like...

[metal guitars and drums come into the music]

Anthony: ...they might sort of in certain circumstances, be related to you. You see a man with one arm with flaming—

Will: What?!

Anthony: With flaming hair.

Beth: Oh, my God.

Anthony: With piercing eyes. With a beard that has not been shaved in some time but in a way that's cool rather than gross.

Beth: Oh, dammit.

Matt: Shit.

Anthony: He is wearing a leather jacket—

[music fades out]

Anthony: —but not like the kind of like, *[mocking]* “Oh, I do motorcycles.”
[normally] Like a cool—

[group laughter]

Anthony: Like a cool one Like a tasteful one. In his remaining hand, he's holding a flaming sword.

Freddie: Oh, hold on. Insight, what kind of sword?

Anthony: Go ahead and roll Insight. Or roll Perception.

Freddie: Yeah, yeah—

Anthony: With advantage.

Freddie: I mean—*[two dice rolls]*—because that's all that Taylor has eyes for, let's be— 13+2, 15.

Anthony: With a 15! You can tell that this is a perfect—somehow. It should be a recreation, because it doesn't make any sense that they would have the real thing.

Freddie: Right.

Anthony: But it seems to be...

Taylor: H-hanzo s-s—

Anthony: A full-on Hattori Hanzo...

Taylor: Hanzo s-s-s—

Anthony: ...katana...

Taylor: —s-s-steel?

Anthony: And...

[music starts back up again]

Anthony: ...as you say... that.

[group laughter]

Anthony: His demon eyes... So he's doing the thing where his head's down, but his eyes look up.

Freddie: Aw, yeah...!!

Beth: Oh... damn!

Anthony: That shit? And he locks eyes with you. And then he starts T-1000 running straight at you.

Taylor: Button, button, button, button, button, button!

Link: I-I've been pressing it this whole time!

[laughter]

Anthony: Okay. So the doors slowly close as this figure starts running at you. And then he throws the sword as hard as he can toward the center of where the doors will close. And I'm going to have him roll... *[dice roll]* So the sword flies through the air in slow motion. And as it approaches the open elevator door, you see this man yell—

The Hot Guy: Taylor, down!

Anthony: And you have a moment to do one thing.

[*music fades out*]

Freddie: I mean, I would... I guess I'm going to hit the floor.

Matt: Yeah, I hit the floor too.

Anthony: Cool. The sword is long enough... It's like one of those big fucking uchiganada, like, fucking swords?

Matt: Yeah.

Anthony: That the hilt—

Freddie: Uchikatana.

Anthony: Uchikatana, thank you. That the hilt of it just barely is long enough that even with the blade of the sword embedded in the back of the elevator, the doors can't close fully around the hilt of it. So they *bluink* and they begin to boink open.

Beth: I've seen this on the internet too.

Freddie: [*laughs*]

Matt: If we were in handcuffs, we could do a cool thing where we used the sword to get rid of our handcuffs.

[*laughter*]

Matt: During that run I tied my hands, and then when I get there I go—

Link: Oh, perfect!

Matt: And I reach behind my back and I used the sword to undo my ha—

Anthony: Perfect.

Taylor: Lincoln.

Anthony: So yeah, you have one action, basically, before he is fully in the elevator with you.

Freddie: It's levered in, right? So can I just lift it up so that it clears the doors?

Anthony: Yeah, sure.

Freddie: Because I'm still freaking out.

Anthony: Yeah, you're still freaking out, but the sword is kind of also made a fire. So go ahead and give me a Strength check—

Freddie: Aah, but guess—

Anthony: —to see can you lever it up just enough that it...

Freddie: [*quietly*] But guess— but guess what? [*normal*] A feature of me. I have Hellish Resistance. I have resistance to fire damage without knowing it.

Matt: I don't!

Anthony: Oh, I wonder why that is.

Freddie: Wonder why that is. No, you don't but I'm doing it. What am I using?

Anthony: I feel like you're using a Strength check to see if you can move the sword, the hilt of the sword. Just sort of angle it a little bit up so that it's out of the way of the closing doors.

Freddie: Excellent.

Will: Just push it deeper into the elevator.

Anthony: Or you can do that. That's totally cool.

Freddie: Either one, yeah. [*dice roll*] 10+3, 13.

Anthony: That'll do it. You can feel that even though this blade is hotter than hot, in the words of Ruby Rhod, it is hot, hot, hot.

[*laughter*]

Anthony: You can feel, like— This entire elevator now feels like an oven that you are just sort of trapped inside. But to you, it's not that bad. It actually feels kind of comforting in a weird way. Like it's warm, like it's a nice blanket being put around your shoulders on a cold winter's day.

[*various "aw"s*]

Anthony: And you manage to angle the sword up just in time for the doors to once again close as this figure is trying to close the distance between you. And he goes—

[doors sliding]

Nicholas: Wait, wait! Son!

[doors shut]

Anthony: And the doors close.

Will: Oh, my God, is this Nick Foster that's Taylor's da—? I'm just kidding.

[laughter]

Freddie: So as we're going up in the elevator.

Anthony: Yes. Then there's only two buttons. There's the very bottom and the very top.

Will: [laughs]

Matt: Am I... Is it on fire?

Anthony: Yes, it is on fire.

Matt: Am I dying?

Anthony: Why would you be dying?

Matt: Because you said it was super hot, but it was comfortable for him.

Will: Like how hot?

Matt: Yeah, how hot?

Will: Are we talking bake a Totino's pizza hot?

Freddie: Sauna, sauna. Sauna.

Will: Or like—

Anthony: A sauna. Yeah. It's...

Matt: Oh, okay.

Anthony: You know when you open an oven or step outside in Arizona—

Matt: yYeah.

Anthony: —and you just get that like—*woof!* of hot air?

Beth: Yeah.

Matt: Okay, okay.

Anthony: It's just that, but constantly.

Matt: Okay.

Anthony: You're not going to die from it, it's just very unpleasant.

Matt: Okay. Cause the way you described it was like he's invincible to— Okay.

Link: You say you didn't know who your dad? Is that your dad?

Taylor: He looked kind of like me, didn't he?

Link: Yeah, but like dangerous. Like real bad.

Taylor: [*quietly muttering*] I look dangerous.

Link: I mean, cool, like— like you! [*gasps*] Maybe that's what you look like when you get older.

Taylor: I did take a 23andMe test and it did say it had non-human DNA.

Link: What!?

Taylor: This all checks out.

Link: Man, you're lucky, your dad's here?

Will: [*laughs*]

Matt: I start pressing down.

Taylor: No! Wait! No, wait!

Link: Dude, that's your dad and I felt he was like, good, but also evil, but I don't know. He doesn't seem angry at us and I don't know what's up there.

Taylor: Well, he can take the elevator! We got to figure out what the hell's going on, and I'm not... I don't know. I don't...

Link: Okay.

Taylor: *[distressed grunt]* I don't think you could turn an up-down room around after it started going up.

Anthony: Ah, you can't. So the up-down room goes on for another 15 minutes and—

Freddie: *[loud laughter]*

Beth: Oh, my God.

Freddie: Then we quickly run out of things to talk about.

[laughter]

Matt: Yeah.

Freddie: Just sitting there, being like—

Link: Hey, uhm...

Taylor: Yeah, they should play music in these. I think it would be like a cool, smooth, like lot of soprano saxophone. I feel like it'd really help kind of make—

Link: Yeah.

Taylor: —this go a little bit faster.

Anthony: Eventually the elevator shudders to a stop.

[elevator pulls to a stop; ding-dong!; doors slide open]

Anthony: The doors open, and you see 12 fully kitted out, body armored military-looking types, holding assault rifles at the door.

Taylor: You guys going down?

[metal scene transition/ad break]

Anthony: The next day, dawn breaks. The crimson sky goes from black to red in almost an instant, the way that it does every morning.

Will: Ew. Oh...

Freddie: What...?

Will: That's the worst thing yet.

Freddie: That sucks!

Will: That's so unsettling!

Anthony: Yeah. And—

Freddie: It sucks.

Will: It's just like the sun turns on?

Anthony: Kinda, yeah.

Beth: Wow.

Anthony: The black sun still burns angrily in the sky as you head back to school for your debate.

Link: Man, it sucks getting to school before sun on.

[group laughter]

Scary: Man...

Will: Alright, I- I hit up Scary by her locker before class.

Scary: What's up?

Normal: [sighs]

Scary: I'm feeling bright-eyed and bushy-tail— I mean, actually I'm feeling dark and scary.

Normal: Good. This seems like good that you're being y— so, so... I can't remember where we left it off last night. You told me to go get a good night's sleep, so I figured you probably thought of what we should do for the debate, right? Like what we should—

Scary: No, I took that Monster energy that Taylor had in his room and I stayed up watching death metal behind the scenes videos.

Normal: [sighs]

Freddie: It's just death metal AMVs that automatically played from the projector.

Beth: Yes.

Normal: Okay. Okay. Well—

Beth: Because I stayed at Taylor's room all night.

[laughter]

Freddie: You stayed Taylor's, you're like "woah, this is pretty cool! Anime might have something going on here!"

Normal: What are we— what are we gonna do? What are we going to... How are we going to debate her?

Scary: My stepdad, Terry, euw... he always says, like, "Be kind, because you never know what somebody's been through."

Normal: Okay!

Scary: But I think that we take that logic and we use it to be hella mean. Like, y'know, just like... sometimes I really piss Terry off by being like, "I know you are, but what am I?" Even when he didn't say anything.

[laughter]

Normal: Mhm...

Scary: So just like... I think if we annoy the shit out of this mayor, then she won't want to be mayor anymore. Plus it's kind of weird that they have kids debating a mayor. Like, what's the audience for the debate? Is it kids? Is it adults? That's a whole...

Freddie: It is kids. You could use that in your favor.

Scary: Yeah.

Matt: Yeah...

Scary: Like nobody wants to be around the fucking adult. I think we got this, y'know?

Normal: Okay. Okay. Let's do it.

Freddie: Your debate topic should be, "teens are cool." And then her—

[laughter]

Freddie: She has to defend "teens are not cool." And then everyone's going to fucking hate her.

Anthony: Okay. You enter the government classroom, and as always, Norm's mom is there. And she goes—

Rebecca: Aha! The debate can finally begin!

Anthony: Because the mayor is already standing there at a podium that looks like it's made of fucking oak. It's just fucking polished—

Will: Does she look all fucked up and weird still?

Anthony: Yeah. Still.

Will: No one is reacting to that?

Anthony: No, they're just like, "Uh... Oh, wow! It's the mayor! It's impressive that somebody so important is in this classroom. Delightful." You're getting the sense, maybe, the more that you talk to other people and the more that you talk to the firefighters and try to explain what went on in the kindergarten that maybe people can't quite see the same things that you do or maybe they don't want to see the same things that you do.

Scary: Damn...

Normal: [*gasps*] I have an idea.

Scary: Yeah. Go ahead.

Normal: Okay. Wait, just follow my lead.

Scary: Okay.

Will: I give you a thumbs up.

Beth: I give you thumbs up, too.

Will: I give you a second thumbs up.

Beth: I stop it at that.

[*group laughter*]

Anthony: Your mom gestures at your podium opposite the mayor. She goes—

Rebecca: Oh, just the two of you today. That's fine. That's fine. So! As is so often the case, we will go ahead and start by picking the topic and then picking a side for that topic. So, whoever gets to pick the topic first then gets to pick— The other person gets to pick the side.

Freddie: Shit!

Normal: [*whispered*] Shit! Dah, that fucks up my plan.

Anthony: So the mayor says—

Mayor: I will allow you to pick whichever you wish.

Normal: [*whispered*] Maybe we make her pick the topic, we pick the side.

Scary: Yeah, let's do that.

Normal: Scary, you're really chill. I feel like we're getting along! Like, y'know?

Freddie: [*chuckles*]

Normal: Every time it's the four of us, there's a lot of arguing, but it feels like you and I are in sync here!

Scary: I think that we're totally in sync. Yeah, sure.

Anthony: So you two are talking and one of the students, a young girl named Skylar, turns to another student and goes—

Skylar: [*quietly*] Is it just me or am I getting like... Are there vibes coming from those two?

Scary: No!

Anthony: Skylar nods knowingly to herself and goes—

Skylar: Mm! Okay.

Scary: You're like six! Why are you in high school?

Skylar: I'm really smart.

Scary: [*sighs/groans*]

Skylar: I passed all my SATs and my ACTs and my—

Scary: Okay, okay! [*grumbling*] I passed all SATs, too. [*normally*] I passed all my SATs. My- my...

Freddie: [*quietly*] Go, go, go...

Scary: Scary Ass... Test...

[laughter]

Scary: [quietly] Fuck!

Anthony: Skylar cocks her head and goes— She goes—

Skylar: With that improv, I don't know if you did.

Normal: You know what, Ms. Mayor? We're going to let you pick and then we'll pick the side.

Mayor: Okay!

Scary: Yeah.

Mayor: The topic is: which has more influence over our personalities? Nature or nurture?...

Normal: [quietly] Nature or nurture. Which— what do you think?

Scary: Well, I mean... nature's pretty badass. Like, we got that red sky and shit like that. And nurture just kind of sounds kind of dumb and icky. I guess... nature because I'm nothing like my parents at all.

Normal: Okay. ...And I'm trying to not be like myself, which is how my dad raised me to be. But I'm finding that kind of hard. So that would be nature too!

Scary: Yeah!

Normal: We're going to say nature. We'll pick nature.

Mayor: Okay. I will be nurture. Okay.

Scary: Damn, I feel like we just kind of handed her, like, the easy one. Lots of people are going to be like, "Oh, I love nurture! "Oh, well, we'll just have to convince these stupidos that we're in the right.

Freddie: [chuckling] Stupidos...

Mayor: Okay. So what's going to happen is... you get to go first— if you wish. If not, I can go first. We're each going to get 90 seconds to speak.

Freddie: Oh, shit.

Mayor: And then we'll switch. And we'll do that, let's say, three times trying to deal with the other person's counter argument.

Anthony: And this is Anthony. If you want to roll for Persuasion, then the quality of your arguments will be taken better by the class. She points at the class, she goes—

Mayor: The class is going to be the ones to decide the winner. And the class, they don't know me very well and they don't know you very well, so it just be based perfectly on the content of the words that we say. So that's, that's fair!

Matt: Some kids have signs that are like, "Nurture!"

[laughter]

Matt: "Nature!"

Freddie: You guys should just bribe them in your last round. Just like, "If you vote for us, we promise to..." And then just talk about how you're going to buy everyone McDonald's or something.

Anthony: So would you like to go first?

Will: Was there something last episode where we were like, if we win, there's no incursion? What was the...

Anthony: Specifically, you were trying to find a way to get the mayor to not be on the sauce anymore.

Beth: Yeah.

Anthony: In order to do that, you needed to make her give up the thing that made her connect with the Doodler in the first place, which was—to your understanding—her desire to make her dead mother proud by running for and achieving office, essentially.

Anthony: If you win the debate, Mae Hailes is in the back holding a sign that's just saying all this.

[laughter]

Anthony: "If you win the debate, it will weaken her enough to the point where maybe one of us," and then an arrow pointing at her, Mae Hailes, "can kill her. And stop the incursion." And then mayor's like—

Mayor: What does that say on the sign?

Anthony: And Mae Hailes folds it up really quickly.

Scary: Hah! Man, old people can't read far away for shit.

[chuckles]

Mayor: So would you like to go first or would you like me to go first?

Normal: *[exhales]*

Scary: Should we, uh... toss a coin?

Mayor: We could absolutely toss a coin. I'm going to toss a coin and you're going to call heads or tails in the air.

Scary: Okay.

Normal: Heads, right?

Scary: I don't know. Tails is cooler, though.

Freddie: *[laughs]*

Mayor: Say— say what the is. What do you want?

Normal: Uh, tails!

[ping! of a coin flip, clap! as it lands]

Mayor: It's heads.

Freddie: *[laughs]*

Normal: Shit!

Scary: Fuck!

Mayor: So that means I get to choose who goes first and I will choose that you go first.

Will: Goddammit! Okay.

Scary: *[sighs]*

Normal: *[quick breaths, like he's getting pumped up]*

Mayor: Alright.

Normal: Okay!

Mayor: When you are ready, say "start." And I will give you 90 seconds.

Normal: Okay.

Matt: Do you guys wanna take a second—

Normal: Scary, do you want to go first? Ladies first?

Scary: Sure.

Normal: Okay, go for it.

Mayor: You can also talk together. You're one cohesive entity.

Scary: Well, I mean like, we'll be interrupting each other, talking over each other. We've got a lot to say.

Mayor: That's fair.

Scary: 'Cause we're going to fucking kick ass, in this fucking...

Mayor: That's fair. That's great. That's great.

Scary: ...debate.

Mayor: Okay.

Normal: [*whispering*] You have to say start to start.

Scary: Which— I forget which side we're on, dude!

Normal: [*whispering*] Oh, my god!

[*laughter*]

Normal: [*whispering*] We're nature!

Scary: [*quietly*] We're nature... Okay. Nature... [*normally*] Okay. Start.

Scary: So my stepdad... Terry Junior? Got the same fucking name I do. Pretty ridiculous, right? And so yeah, you know the truth now. My name's not Scary, it's Terry. It's Theresa technically, but I've always gone by Terry. Until my stupid stepdad moved in and his name was Terry. And, y'know, he got that from his father or whatever or his stepdad or whatever. He was had daddy issues, like, hardcore.

Scary: But I don't because I don't consider him my dad. That's right. Whoever out there who like, really was my dad, that's who I am. And no amount of fucking nurture or lack thereof can change me.

Freddie: *[laughs]*

Scary: That's right! I came out the womb ready to fucking fight, and be who I am, and nothing's going to fucking change me or change anything, and that's true of all you guys. You guys are great just the way you are, unless you're totally fucking stupid. Nobody's going to fucking change you by being like, "Oh, I'll nurture you or whatever." That's fucking bullshit. Go ahead! Follow me up, fucking Norm.

Normal: Yeah!

Mayor: You have 24 seconds left.

Normal: Yeah! And you know what? Nature's really cool. That's mother nature, right? And we all come from mother nature, we come from the earth, and...! We're beautiful children of the earth, not of each other! You're saying your parents make you who you are? That sucks! My dad sucks! I'll say it! He's like, *[mocking]* "Oh, I don't want you to be the way you are. You're going to be a different way!"

Scary: My step dad sucks!

Mayor: Time.

Normal: Well fuck you, Dad!

Mayor: Time!

Scary: Our dads suck!

Mayor: It—

Scary: Our dads suck!

Scary & Norm: *[shouting]* Our dads suck!

Scary & Norm & The Kids: *[shouting]* Our dads suck! Our dads suck!

Kids: Our dads...!

Mayor: That's time. That's time. Okay. Wow! Some really cogent arguments put forth there for me to rebut.

Freddie: How did the class react to “Our dads suck” as a chant?

Matt: They were... chanting.

Freddie: They were— I heard—

Will: I’m rolling—

Freddie: I heard a whole class chanting.

Will: I’m rolling persuasion, too...

Beth: Oh yeah, I'll roll Persuasion.

Will: [*dice roll*] [*off mic*] 16+...

Beth: I got a 16+... That's so wild that we both got 16.

Will: Wow! This— We're in synch!

Beth: Plus+1.

Will: [*off mic*] 16+2, an 18.

Anthony: 17 and then 18. So yes! Some of the kids in the class start chanting, “Our dads suck.”

Freddie: The ones who hate their dads.

Anthony: The ones who hate their dads. ...Which is... about half...

Beth: Everybody. [*chuckles*]

Freddie: There's that one kid who's just like, [*uppity*] “I quite enjoy the presence of my father.”

Anthony: [*uppity*] “My father has—!”

Freddie: [*uppity*] “My father—!”

Anthony: [*uppity*] “My father has a dealership, and he's going to give it to me upon his passing! I would never say an ill word!”

Matt: [*uppity*] “Dad, can you pick me up? I can't handle what's going on at school today.”

[*chuckles*]

Anthony: Now it's going to be the mayor's turn. She's going to clear her throat and say—

Mayor: [*clears throat*] Nurture. We are nothing without nurture. Scary or Terry, whatever she might wish to call herself. She has a lot of anger in her, and I don't believe that's because of her biology. I don't believe that's because of who she is when she came out of the womb. She told you herself, she was Terry until her stepfather showed up, and then she became—

Normal: [*lengthy mouth-fart*]

Mayor: —Terry Junior Junior. She's Scary.

Freddie: Aw yeah, dude, hit the farts!

Normal: [*still mouth-farting*]

Mayor: She... the nature of her...

Normal: [*fart tapers out*]

Mayor: That she was a kind, open person who used to play varsity soccer? She changed into a much more morose person because of the nurture that she got from her father that she didn't understand how to— how to handle. Stepfather, one might say.

Mayor: And this one, this tiny middle of normal boy. You know that he was Teeny the teen. He was born to be Teeny the teen in a sense, but what was stronger than what was in his blood? It was the desire for the love of his family and his friends. And so he abandoned what he wanted truly in his own heart to become... [*ominously*] normal.

Mayor: And what you see before you is a boy who is so very terrified of his own identity. So terrified of what his own DNA is that he allowed himself to nurture himself into becoming something perverse and other. And that is the most negative element of nurture. The best parts of nurture—kindness, love, the things that we all can give freely to one another—that is what makes all of us so kind and so loving and so great. And that is why I love all of you. I yield the rest of my time.

Anthony: You have two extra seconds if you want it.

Normal: [*hyping breaths*]

Matt: I feel like we got off easy.

Freddie: Yeah, we got off easy, dude.

Will: So, first of all—

Freddie: Wait, fart noises, dude!

Will: —did anyone laugh when I farted? That's number one.

Anthony: Okay.

Will: Do I roll for that?

Anthony: Yes.

Will: I'm trying to undermine her performance.

Anthony: Yes. Just give me a Charisma roll.

Beth: Scary's jaw's on the floor, by the way.

[*group laughter*]

Matt: Scary has changed sides.

Beth: [*chuckles*]

Will: [*dice roll*] I got a... 5.

Anthony: You got a 5. When you did your mouth fart, one person, Kayla, was like—

Kayla: [*snickers*]

Anthony: But everybody else was actually kind of enraptured by what the mayor was saying. And so the mayor has also rolled for the quality of her persuasive roll, and I'm not going to tell you what it is.

Will: [*exhales*]

Mayor: So you have one minute for a rebuttal to everything that I just said.

Beth: I cast Vicious Mockery.

Anthony: Okay. What does that do?

Matt: There we go.

Beth: “You unleash a string of insults—”

Freddie: [*guffaws*]

Beth: “—laced with subtle enchantments at a creature you can see within range. If the target can hear you, it must succeed on a Wisdom saving throw or take 1d4 psychic damage and have disadvantage on the next attack roll it makes before the end of its turn.”

Anthony: Ooh, okay. So she definitely failed her Wisdom saving throw. So, before the timer even started, what did you say to the mayor?

Scary: You can talk about me, my stepdad, all you want, but you're never going to impress your mom... or who used to be your mom. She's not your mom anymore.

Anthony: *[laughing]* Oh, my God...!

Will: *[laughing]* Oh-hohoho...!

Freddie: Damn, dude, do not fuck with teen girls and like. Holy shit.

Anthony: So she takes a d— I'm going to go ahead and advantage that. She takes 2d4 of psychic damage and you see one of her eyelids just go like...*kik!* It just twitches just a little bit. Her smile does not falter, but you got through to her. If she's going to ever throw an attack at you, she's going to do so at disadvantage. Which actually I feel like for the purposes of this, the next thing she says to you, when she rolls for Persuasion, she's going to be doing it at disadvantage—

Matt: Cool.

Anthony: —because she's going to be a little bit more...

Freddie: That makes sense.

Matt: That's their attack.

Anthony: ...heated.

Matt: Yeah.

Anthony: So now you have a minute to rebut the things that she said.

Will: *[several exhales]* I take the stand.

Anthony: Okay.

Will: And I say—

Anthony: Go.

Normal: Our love for our families is a part of who we are, not a part of what we became because of them. And it is destructive. Yes, you are right. My desire to love my family causes me to do all sorts of crazy stuff! That is an inborn desire. The same way your inborn desire to make your mom happy was given to you by your mom. And it has led you down all sorts of dark, destructive paths in your life! And that's because of who you are as a person, not because of who you were raised to be. We hold these truths to be self-evident!

Normal: Scary, put 'em in a body bag!

Scary: We're born with this fucking rage inside of us. You can all feel it, right? Everybody in this room is angry, and that's something we didn't even know was a part of us, not anything that was tampered with by our parents or whatever. We were born with this.

Anthony: Stop.

Scary: We gotta—

Anthony: That was good. All right. Now both of you roll Persuasion.

Will: [*dice roll*] 21.

Beth: [*dice roll*] 3.

Anthony: 3.

Matt: Hey, you know what?

Anthony: Okay.

Matt: On top of Will's, though? That's 25 altogether.

Beth: Yeah.

Anthony: Yeah. It's not bad.

Beth: Yeah.

Matt: Or 24.

Anthony: It's 24. Yeah.

Matt: Yep. There we go.

Anthony: It's not... Good thing you're not in math class.

Matt: *[laughs]*

Anthony: Now she is going to rebut your rebut and she's going to get a full minute to do so. So she...

[slow crackling and cracking, like a field of melting ice]

Anthony: ...arches her back, which is uncomfortable to look at and uncomfortable to hear because you hear the pop of every single vertebrae.

Will: *[whispered]* Oh...

Beth: Oh, God.

Anthony: And the number of pops you hear? There shouldn't be that many vertebrae in a human body.

Beth: Oh, God.

Anthony: And she temples her fingers together and she takes a big breath in through her nose and a big breath out through her mouth. And she says—

Beth: Oh, God.

[laughter]

Mayor: I loved my mother. She was... cruel. She was harsh. She emotionally abused me every day.

Matt: *[quietly]* Oh, God.

Mayor: Before she died, I thought "I will do anything it takes to ruin her. I will do anything it takes to make her... disgusted by me, to live my own life." But when she got into that car accident, I... realized in that moment—from the nurturing that I received from my father, from my mother's mother, from my family—that I needed to do better, that I needed to be better. I was born with that very anger that you speak of burning inside of me. But what changed me? What moved all that anger aside? It was love. It was nurturing; from my community, from my family. I'm a much different, much kinder, much more loving person now, despite my nature. Not because of it. *[full second pause]*...Three, two, one.

[laughter]

Matt: Shit.

Normal: *[whispering]* Shit, shit, shit, shit...

Scary: [*whispering*] Fuck, fuck, fuck...

Will: Is that it? Do we get another one?

Anthony: You're going to get another one.

Will: [*quick exhales*]

Anthony: All right.

Matt: A minute or 30 seconds?

Anthony: The next one's going to be 30 seconds.

Will: Okay.

Scary: [*whispered*] God.

Normal: That went really bad. This isn't going well, Scary.

Matt: You gotta play the crowd.

Beth: Yeah.

Freddie: You gotta play the crowd, dude.

Anthony: So Mrs. Swallows-dash-Oak-dash-Garcia comes in. She goes—

Rebecca: Okay, so this final one, we're going to do final statements. It's not to each other, it's just the crowd. And if there's anything, kids in the crowd, you want to yell out to really get the best out of the debaters, feel free. So you might have some questions coming at you in the moment, and it's going to be— It's gonna be 45 seconds. You're going to get whole 45 seconds. So it's you up first, my lovely son. But I'm not biased. I'm not voting in the debate. So no big deal. Both of you make great points, by the way.

[*laughter*]

Rebecca: Say start and I'll hit the timer.

Freddie: Just promise them pizza, dude.

Scary: Yeah. I can go first if you want?

Normal: Go first. You go first. I'm panicking!

Scary: Start. I don't fucking know who my real dad is. I have no fucking idea. But like... he was a lot cooler and a whole lot more beastly than fucking

this new guy, right? And I know that I'm the way I am because of him. And so wherever he is, if he ever wants to come back or whatever, that'd be totally cool, because I'm really cool because of him! And also if you vote for us—

Kid 1: How do you know that if you've never known your dad?

Scary: Because I'm so cool and because nature wins and because—uh—if you vote for me, I'll give you free pizza.

Kid 1: Oh!

Kid 2: Whoo!

Kid 3: Ohho!

Will: I rip off my shirt. My Jimmy Buffett shirt.

Anthony: Okay.

Will: And I take off my... stupid hat.

Anthony: Okay.

Freddie: *[gasps]*

Will: And I wipe the fucking mascara off my face and pull my socks off and rip off my soccer shorts so I'm in my tighty-whities. And then I grab a dry erase marker off the table, and I put a big T on my chest. I say—

Normal: I am Teeny the fucking teen! And no one can take that from me, because that's who I am! Not who my dad wants me to be, not who my mom wants me to be! It's who I am, goddammit! *[fully yelling]* Now, let's do the Whatnot!

Will: And I try to do the Whatnot.

Scary: The what!

Normal: *[yelling]* The Whatnot!

Scary: The what!

Normal: *[yelling, voice scratching, echoing in the room]* The Whatnot!

Anthony: *[laughs]* All right. Roll your d20s for Persuasion or Performance. Those are both very performative and persuasive.

Will: [*dice roll*] I got a 14.

Anthony: Okay.

Beth: [*dice roll*] I got a 19+1!

Anthony: Wow, okay.

Matt: There we go.

Anthony: Okay. So with the 14, with the doing the Whatnot, you get the class to do the Whatnot. They're standing up, they're doing the Whatnot. And your mom is like—

Rebecca: Oh no, come on! I mean, I'm personally in favor of kids expressing themselves however they want to, but I'll get in trouble. So, oh... come on! No more the what— Okay, that's a little— that's a little graphic. That's a little gra— please sto— Okay. Okay. Everybody sit down, sit down, sit down.

Anthony: And then everybody kind of calms down, settles down. But the Whatnot excited them. You saw a lot of ears prick up at free pizza.

[*laughter*]

Matt: That's what did it.

Freddie: This is what debating really is.

Anthony: Yeah. It's not what you know, it's who you can buy. And now for 45 seconds, the mayor's going to get her rebuttal. So the mayor...

[*fleshy straining*]

Anthony: ...cricks her neck to the left.

Beth: Oh...

[*fleshy straining*]

Beth: No...

Anthony: Cricks her neck to the right. When she cricks her neck, her neck goes under the line of her shoulder as she does it.

Will: [*off mic*] Uh, that's a shame.

Anthony: It just... Little too far in both directions, little too far.

Beth: That is a real shame.

Anthony: She puts her hands together, almost in prayer, and then sort of gestures at the group.

[one more straining crackle]

Anthony: And she is going to start.

Mayor: First of all... free pizza for a year if I win. Second of all, I'm very rich. Third of all... all of us have anger, have fear. Have all these negative things that we believe define us, that we can't explain where they came from, they're just seemingly who we are, as if they'll never change. But I want to tell each and every one of you, every child in this room, every teenager, every teen, every adult!

Anthony: She says, mentioning to the teacher.

Mayor: You're not the circumstances you were given. They influence you a great deal, but you can be more. With better circumstances, with better friends, with hope, with thinking, with meditation, with learning, you can be more than you were. You are more than you think you are. You have everything that you need to be perfect because you already are perfect. I yield my time.

Normal: That's nature. You just said nature.

Scary: *[quietly]* Yeah.

Normal: If you already are perfect—

Scary: *[quietly]* Yeah.

Normal: —then that's your nature.

Scary: *[quietly]* Yeah.

Freddie: Ooh...!

Scary: *[quietly]* Boom.

Anthony: Doesn't matter. That's not going on the transcript.

[group laughter]

Anthony: All right, so she rolls her Persuasion. And a couple of the kids in the class are crying.

Freddie: Oh no.

Anthony: It seemed to go really well. So... because this is a D&D podcast—sort of. There need to be some dice rolling. so some dice rolling's going to happen that got you some debate points. The majority of your debate points are going to come from me, transcribing everything that we said within the confines of those spans of time during the debate. And I'm going to show it to some friends of mine that have never listened to a single episode of Dungeons and Daddies.

Beth: Well, that's fucked up.

[laughter]

Freddie: And they're your friends?

Anthony: Yeah. And I'm not going to tell them which one is me and which one is you. They are going to read through those transcripts and they're going to vote for one side or the other.

Will: Okay...

Anthony: And then I'm going to roll additional dice based on who gets the most votes and stuff like that. And then, the next time we... sit down to record, I will know who won the debate. But! In the fiction of the story. Mrs. Swallows-dash-Oak-dash-Garcia says—

Rebecca: What a lovely debate! Both sides made me cry—

Freddie: [laughs]

Rebecca: I'm undecided! I love the idea of pizza just once, I also love the idea of pizza for the rest of the year. Both of those are equally good for some reason. But I just want to say, thank you so much, Mrs. Mayor— Madam Mayor?

Anthony: And she goes—

Mayor: Oh, just Mayor is perfectly fine.

Rebecca: And I want to thank my beautiful son Nor- or is it Teeny now...?

Normal: Don't talk to me, Mom.

Will: And I walk out of the room.

Rebecca: Oh! Hermie was right. Kitten does have claws.

[laughter]

Rebecca: But Scary also—

Beth: Scary walks out of the room too.

Rebecca: Okay, cool. So I guess classes... Well, I can't dismiss it. We still have like another hour in the class, but uh...

Anthony: The mayor goes—

Mayor: How about that pizza?

Anthony: And the kids go,--

Mayor: Yay!

Anthony: And pizza gets brought in.

Scary: We got to kill the mayor.

Normal: Yeah, we got to kill the mayor.

[laughter]

Scary: It's actually a huge relief, Norm, because I was never going to be able to afford that pizza.

Normal: Yeah. That wasn't going to ask, because...

Freddie: [chuckles] That one pizza.

Normal: That felt like a campaign promise, so I wasn't going to follow up on that, but I'm glad they didn't either. That seemed like that could've really derailed us.

Will: I do want to do one thing. I would also like to cast Detect Good and Evil to see if I can sense how close we are to this incursion going off.

Anthony: You cast Detect Good and Evil and you sense the obvious, that the mayor is evil. And you sense a lingering evil sort of bubbling up underneath the government classroom. Go ahead and give me an Arcana roll as well.

Beth: Can I roll too?

Anthony: Yeah, go ahead.

Will: [*dice roll*] I got a 14.

Anthony: 14.

Beth: [*dice roll*] 18.

Anthony: 18? Okay, cool. Both of you can sense that there is a bubbling bit of evil incursion juice under the surface of the government room. And if the mayor wins, then— You actually rolled pretty high, so you can tell that she's going to convince a lot of the people in that classroom to basically become followers of her—

Will: [*gasps*]

Freddie: Oh...

Anthony: —and to preach her gospel, so to speak, and to spread her word throughout the school, throughout the city, throughout the world. If you won the debate and she loses, then... some of that energy is going to come out. She might be able to convince one or two people, but she's going to be much weaker if it comes down to killing her. In a sense.

Beth: Yeah.

Normal: Shit yeah, we got to kill the mayor.

Scary: Fudge.

Anthony: Okay, so we're going to jump back to the Final Boreanaz Initiative headquarters.

[*elevator: ding-dong!*]

Anthony: You have a bunch of machine guns pointed at you. Taylor just said, "Are you guys going down?"

Freddie: And then I'm going to follow it up by saying like—

Taylor: Because something's in there, it's killing everyone! Ah! Aah!

Freddie: And I'm going to run out screaming—

Link: Help!

Taylor: Help us!

Link: We're just kids!

Taylor: Help us we're just kids! Help!

Matt: We run.

Anthony: Great. Okay.

Freddie: And I got my hands above me like when the Muppets freak out? You know what I mean?

[laughter]

Will: *[silly]* Ooolooloolool!

Anthony: Freaking out. Persuasion or Deception or Performance.

[dice roll]

Anthony: Whichever you like.

Freddie: Alright. That would be a $17+2$, 19.

[dice roll]

Anthony: 19.

Matt: 18.

Anthony: So both of you got pretty good Deception roles. So the FBI agents allow you to run past them. And you hear like a rocket—

[what is first the scream of something hot moving quickly is backed by drums and then becomes guitar as metal music plays]

Anthony: —is screaming up through the bottom of the elevator shaft—

[roar of fire]

Anthony: —and you hear it behind you. There's an explosion—

[elevator doors are blasted by fire]

Anthony: —and something punches through the bottom of the elevator shaft and gunfire...

[the pops of gunfire start]

Anthony: ...fills the air. You go damn near death in this moment as explosions pop off all around you. I assume you hit the deck, or at least try to—

Freddie: I think we're just still running. We're just trying to get it out of here.

Anthony: Okay.

Matt: Yeah.

Taylor: Don't look back! Don't look back, just keep going, Link!

Link: Go, go, go!

Anthony: A comet—

[the gunfire has stopped; a high whistle through the air, lowering in pitch as it nears]

Anthony: —like a comet of fire zooms over your heads—

[whistle ends in a burst of fire, which crackles and sizzles and fades]

Anthony: —lands in front of you. The surviving gunmen turned to point at it. So you're between the comet and them. The fire goes down again and you see it's this person that's been chasing you. This person that called you son. He says—

Nicholas: Taylor.

Taylor: Ha— What?

Nicholas: Don't. Trust. Anyone.

Anthony: And he tosses you...

Freddie: *[chuckles]*

Beth: Oh... Anthony's—

Will: He's pulling something out again.

Beth: Yeah.

Will: From his bag of tricks!

Anthony: So he tosses you this item.

[a quick fwp of paper]

Matt: What do I see flying through the air?

[someone mimics the sound of something small spinning as it's tossed]

Freddie: You see a ring flying through the air.

Anthony: Yeah, you see a small ring flying through the air.

Freddie: It's the Ring of Swapping. "As a bonus action, the wearer can choose to swap places with the creature they see within a hundred feet. That creature that is swapped with now wears the ring of swapping." That's by Eric Sapolsky. Thank you, Eric.

Anthony: Thank you, Eric.

Beth: Wait, is it like you switch bodies or switch places?

Anthony: Places.

Freddie: You— places but the ring has stayed in the same place—

Beth: Okay.

Freddie: —so that the ring now becomes on their finger.

Beth: Okay, cool.

Anthony: As he throws that at you and he says—

Nicholas: Don't let them use it. Make sure they don't get to use it.

Anthony: At that moment, more gunfire erupts near him, and it tears off one of his flaming wings.

Nicholas: Aah!

Anthony: And he sort of goes down to one knee and he raises a sword. They're moving around you now, shooting at him or whatever. And then electrical bolts shoot into him, into his chest. And then they freeze him and he begins to convulse and stuff like that. He says—

Nicholas: *[strained]* You have to stop them! Stop them!

Anthony: But you also see an open car in the parking lot behind him. Basically you're in the lobby of the FBI, and—

Matt: The Matrix lobby.

Anthony: The Matrix lobby. And beyond the glass double doors at the other end of the room, you can see a bunch of cars. But at the very least it's outside and it's not in this room. So he is racked with electricity, the bullets are just irritating him more than anything, but the electricity seems to be the thing that's making him not move. And he goes—

Nicholas: [*strained*] If they take me, your ...grandfathers are dead!

Matt: Can we get to the car and then drive it back to him?

Freddie: Oh...

Matt: Is he completely surrounded?

Anthony: The men with the guns all move around you, kind of pushing you to the side so you're up against the wall now, and they're now in a circle around him. The fire that's coming out of his body, is getting a little bit dimmer and dimmer and dimmer, and it seems like they're waiting for it to sort of go all the way out before they fully capture him.

Matt: Okay.

Link: Taylor, I'm so sorry. I put you in this situation, we just... Get to the car, get to the car!

Taylor: Don't need to tell me twice!

Matt: Can we just— Yeah.

Freddie: So I think we're going to rush...

Anthony: Okay.

Freddie: ...to one of the cars outside.

Anthony: Great. You pretty easily find that a couple of the cars are— Because it's the future, they're just like... ID centric, push button-y cards that if you have somebody's ID, you can start them up. And! Go ahead and roll... Perception or Investigation.

Freddie: [*dice roll*] Natural 1, baby.

Anthony: Mm.

Matt: [*dice roll*] +2, that's a 18.

Anthony: Okay. So then 18, I feel like you saw some IDs like splatted on the ground...

Freddie: Oh yeah...

Anthony: ...as you were running through and you probably grabbed...

Freddie: Oh, here's how it was. When I did the Sparta kick?

Anthony: Mhm.

Freddie: The scientist's ID badge flew off his neck.

Anthony: Great! I love that.

Freddie: You picked that up.

Anthony: Yes. So you have that scientist ID badge. And yeah, you can start up any of these cars. They are like four-door sedans...

Will: He drives the Pussy Wagon.

Anthony: Yeah.

[laughter]

Anthony: Yes. There are four four-door sedans, and then one perfect one-to-one recreation of the Pussy Wagon from *Kill Bill*.

Link: Taylor, you got to drive!

Taylor: O-okay.

Link: Okay.

Matt: I slip in, I say—

Link: I know your dad just said don't trust anybody, but- but you gotta trust me.

Matt: And I hold my hand out.

Link: Give me the ring!

Taylor: Okay...

Matt: I take the ring and I look at his dad. I say—

Link: Say hi to your dad for me.

Will: *[gasps]*!

Matt: And I switch places... with him.

Anthony: Woah...!

Will: Oh my God!

Beth: Woah...

Freddie: *[laughs]*

Matt: And the moment I appear there, I go—

Link: *[yelling]* Don't shoot, I'm just a kid, I don't know what's going on!

Anthony: They open fire.

Will: O—!

Matt: Oh—!

Freddie: What?!

[outro music starts]

Freddie: Dungeons and Daddies is Matt Arnold as Lincoln Wilson, Anthony Burch as our DM. Will Campos as Normal Oak, Beth May as Scary Marlowe, and Freddie Wong as Taylor Swift. Our theme song is *On My Way* by Maxton Waller. Brian Fernandes is our content producer. Ashley Nicolette is our community manager. Ester Ellis is our lead editor. Travis Reeves provides additional editing. And Robin Rapp is our transcriber. Special thanks to Eric Sapolsky and Skylar for providing names and items we used in this episode.

Freddie: Some of the other fine patrons who support our show are people with the names of Christian Nicdao, Aileen C, Dylan Cook, Nathan Lai, BigDecimal, Trishy, Cuddlesquad, Maggy Ryan, Sara Crabtree, Lauren Gold, Shaun Barneveld, Serana, Slimy Sparrow and Tin Lark, Harold Windchester, Brian and Hazel, Zibani, Cuddlesquad, Brandon Grenier, Alexis Saunders, Something. You can directly support this show and get ad-free episodes at patreon.com/dungeonsanddads. The first episode of our Regency romance mini series is out. It's called Sons and Sonsability. The reviews are in. It's very funny. People like it. Here's a little excerpt just so you can judge for yourself how funny it is.

[outro music fades out]

Jane: I fear she is, in some ways, correct. My toes are much dextrous, far much more so than any of my sisters, and it has long been a source of some embarrassment. But also one may in their heart yearn to believe perhaps... endearing and amusement?

Beth: I'm ruined!

[all laughing]

[outro music fades back in]

Freddie: You can get this and the remaining two episodes of the three-part mini series by being a Patreon supporter at any level. At five bucks a month, you can get the entire back catalog of our after shows as well as all of our bonus one shots, plus ad-free episodes. At \$10 a month, you can get that plus issues of the in-universe Teen High high school newspaper with articles written by the teens, as well as the entire back catalog of monthly bonuses.

Freddie: This month, Beth requested to be scared in VR, so she put on the VR headset and we put her into Phasmophobia and Five Nights at Freddy's and there's some jump scares! Just premium VR jump scare video content. I think I heard some people got popular on YouTube for that! All that and more on our Patreon at patreon.com/dungeonsanddads. And hey, listen, if you're listening and you already support us on Patreon? Thanks. Thanks!

Freddie: You can support us in other ways, too! You can get merch. Our merch is at store.dungeonsanddaddies.com. Our website is dungeonsanddaddies.com. Our Twitter is [dungeonsanddads](https://twitter.com/dungeonsanddads). Our subreddit is [dungeonsanddaddies](https://reddit.com/dungeonsanddaddies). Our TikTok is [dndadspodcast](https://tiktok.com/@dndadspodcast). Our next episode comes out May 31st. We will see you then.

[outro music finishes]

Scary: If you're trying to come up with like, acronyms, we already came up with Female Body Inspector, Fuckboy... Island...

[group laughter]

Will: Coming to Netflix this fall!