

The creature, gaze still fixed on Ego, says, "Choose your arena!"
Darnit suggests choosing a battle of wits. The quick reply comes: "I want CARNAGE!"
Like a collegiate wrestling arena, the center circle is ten ft, larger size is 38 ft, for each.

Arena options:

Gravel arena surrounded by fire, with a bisecting wall of fire

Loose sand pit arena

Raised walls, 18-inches of fluid filling the arena

Domed arena that appears to be little-to-zero gravity

At Darnit's suggestion, Ego asks the rules, the conditions of the battle.
You chose an arena, we go into the arena, we beat the shit out of each other. To submission.

I choose the antigravity room!

She finds herself floating to the dome, going through the wall and listlessly floating in the air.

The creature points at Darnit and says, nastily, "With all your questions!" and Darnit is pushed into the water, out of which comes this giant candy cane. Hiare is there as a spectator.

Izar, Hrothulf, and Dorinda are all in the sand pit together.

Ego, still pretty tipsy at best, sees the Elf standing at the top of the dome (but inside). There are five poles, about three inches in diameter, in the center and each cardinal direction.

Ego starts trash talking, saying we don't have time for this, we have important things to do and its brownies aren't one of them. She floats to the middle pole, removes her sash, and loops is around the pole for some stability.

The elf is furious and has no words. It bares down and launches right toward Ego, and in this fit of rage loses all sense of trajectory and whizzes by Ego. Ego notices, as it comes down toward where the dome and the flat part meet, it comes to a stop and turns around and then lowers itself onto the ground.

Dorinda finds herself in the sand. She is in the southeast, Izar in the southwest, and Hrothulf due north. Dorinda notes that her weapons are all eerily gone.

Antigravity is southeast, north of that is water, west of that is sand, closest to antigravity (probably 15' of space for spectators around each arena) due north of the sand is the ring of fire. A wall surrounds the sand arena about cinder block high.

Dorinda observes her surroundings and tries to be prepared for anything.

Darnit sees the candy cane is about 8' tall. The tip of its crook is about 6' up. It has candy cane legs and arms and sharp points for fingers like when you suck on a candy cane. It has a gaping maw (on the trunk not the hook).

Darnit goes over to the candy cane, grabs it by the crook, puts a foot against the body, and tries to exert force as to snap it apart. He sees a crack appear at the apex of the candy cane. It lets out a bellow and Darnit is engulfed in the aroma of peppermint.

The candy cane grabs onto Darnit to shake him loose. Darnit puts up a mighty fight, until the candy cane dunks Darnit into the water and becomes slick, and Darnit's hold releases, leaving him standing in the water. The candy cane takes a few swipes.



Izar is unsure what to do. He notices, to his annoyance, that his movement speed is about half the usual. Darnit says, "Remember the rules." Izar walks over to Dorinda and says, "I submit!" "Naturally," Dorinda replies.

Hrothulf tries to dig in the sand just to see if he can find the bottom of it. With the softness of the sand that's difficult, because more sand fills when some is moved away. Digging faster, he notices there is a growing bulge in the center of the sand arena. In the course of this some sand gets outside of the circle, but nothing out of the ordinary happens. (Hrothulf thinks about taking two handfuls of sand and heating it as hot as he can go, attempting to melt it into a glass weapon. But he thinks better, knowing that would take time and luck to get it hot enough.) Hrothulf prepares an attack action to do the Captain Kirk two-arm fist once the bulge manifests itself and lets Dorinda and Izar know there's trouble afoot.

Izar sees the growing opponent. "The Battle of the Bulge!"

The bulge erupts and Hrothulf attacks, smacking up against this thick leathery hide of a bright white worm with a red concentric stripe, and it opens its tremor-like three-part maw with teeth. Towering above it descends to swallow Hrothulf whole. Hrothulf mostly gets out of the way, not swallowed, but his leg does get bitten.

Ego has managed to get her fake-beholder leather belt around the center pole. But her twerk check isn't so great. It's been a while. She considers launching herself at the elf but thinks better of it, preferring to receive a launching creature than to be one herself. She turns to tabaxi form, gets a good grasp of the belt around the pole, and readies a punch, hoping to take advantage of her greater reach.

The elf takes a couple steps back and launches itself at Ego with a rallying cry of, "For the BROWNIES!!!!" Ego takes her punch and hits the elf hard. The elf recoils from the punch, moving back a little, but then somehow continues its flight toward Ego, and it has its tiny hands around her neck (well, mostly resting on her neck) and does minimal damage.

Dorinda comes from the opposite end of the worm from where Hrothulf is and she jumps and kicks the beast.



Dorinda gets a solid hit on it, but is like, "Dang this hide is rough", as it hardly seems to notice.

Darnit goes for a takeout, shooting his shoulder into the body of the candy cane, pulling the legs up, and trying to make it fall, in order that he can then leap and body-press onto the nose of the candy cane, using the awkward center of gravity of the candy cane to his advantage. But instead once he (successfully!) knocks it over he finds he is stuck to the stickiness of the candy cane in the water. The trunk of the candy tank is just big enough that if it opens its mouth it'll get some water in it. Some of the striping is coming off into the water. It shoves its fingers into Darnit from both sides. Darnit is in pain. All of a sudden Darnit burps and there is a peppermint flavor. He takes great damage from the candy cane injecting something into him.

Izar attempts to *chromatic orb* the bulge with the appearance of a snowglobe. It hits and blows open a 3' hole. A massive, dripping wound from the *chromatic orb's* acid.

Hrothulf is supine. The worm's head is in the sand at his feet. Hrothulf is on the opposite side relative to the wound. He army-crawls around to the other side, sticks both hands into it making them as hot as possible, and starts ripping things out. It's about 5'6" in diameter. The worm starts to bury itself in the sand and as it goes it does a lashing tail whip. It misses Dorinda but flings Hrothulf due east about ten feet. The bulge disappears.

Ego takes the form of a Koalinth, an aquatic hobgoblin that hates elves. She tries to play up the foulness of the creature, putting scaly skin against the elf and wildly flailing her face allowing a flurry of saliva to spew form. She puts her arms around the elf and squeezes *tight*. She is noticeably angry.

The elf says, "What is happening?!" and romantically blows this cool air in Ego's face. There's this look of confusion as it's trying to push out of Ego's grip and just can't.

Dorinda looks around for the worm to see if she can spot it. Unable to discern, she walks as stealthily and lightly as possible over to Hrothulf to see if he needs any help. She assists Hrothulf to a standing position.

Darnit grabs and presses down on the crook schnozz of the still-supine candy cane. He is able to lean into it but it's not budging, like he needs to be able to take another step but it's just too sticky to pull off. With a second wind he changes his tactics and, pushing his foot down on it, now pulls up on the crook. He hears a crack, and it's hanging on but just a three-inch chunk, and the whole thing is writhing with bubbles of anger. It stands up and, with its claws, it pushes Darnit off of it. It writhes in agony and as its writing the crook snaps off and splashes in the water, about 8 feet away from Darnit. The creature stumbles a bit, then belches, and a wave of spearmint erupts over the arena and the water in the area freezes, as a cascade of ice surrounds. Darnit can tell he isn't fully encased in ice, but the top several inches are frozen.

Izar decides to assume the worm has submitted and they can leave the arena, so he tries to get out. So he takes a step over the cinder block high sand wall, and he feels a tug of his entire body as he's pulled back into the arena. She tries now saying to Hrothulf, "I submit!" She tries to

shocking grasp the sand, around the space it left, hoping to damage the worm, and/or for a glass weapon as Hrothulf tried before. It makes a bit of a sand crater at least.

Hrothulf stands up, brushes the sand off, and gently moves across the sand to inspect the crater. He is able to discern a glass shard roughly three inches in length. It feels sturdy. It has a heft to it. It isn't particularly sharp. He tosses it over to Dorinda, who deftly catches it with ease. He gently lowers his head to the sand to see if he can hear anything. There is a kind of grumbling thunder gurgling and quickly ascending in volume until... he's swallowed by the worm! It bursts out of the sand and Hrothulf goes right inside. It's very dry inside, but incredibly constricting so it's very difficult for him to move. He has one arm up and one arm down and, given how it's twisting him in its gullet and moving, he's not sure which side is up. He makes his entire body as how as possible.

Ego is a little disgusted by this lawful creature she's turned into and turns into slaad form. She is angry and tired coming down from her drunkenness and is happy to rest her body in some way. She tries to continue to gross out the elf, and she says in frustration, "We don't have time for this! We have gods to find and worlds to save and I don't care about your brownies! Surrender now!" She tries to squeeze the elf again, but her strength is failing her.

The elf slips out her grasp and floats in front of her, hands on hips. "You're an angry frog! It used to be just about the brownies, but now you're just mean!" It pounces on Ego's head, faces the same direction Ego is facing, and it's wildly clawing at her face and eyes screaming, "You. Need. To learn some manners!" It's kind of like being attacked by a cat – more annoying than painful, but worth wincing at. "You need to learn to stop being so mean, and I will only yield if you do!"

Dorinda employs her *nanite surge* and tries to do her best sneak attack into the acid hole, using the shard of glass to do a little extra damage. Having seen what Hrothulf did she goes at the hole. She's able to get to the inside and cut a huge hole, and Hrothulf drops out of that hole. The worm then flops over and on the ground, and becomes sand.

Around the arena there are all these banners and flags of deep red and black and pinstripes, all the colors the victors wear!

Darnit plops his hands on the ice and casts *earth tremor*, breaking the ice. He forces his feet out of the ice and goes to pick up the candy cane's broken-off nose. It's heavier than expected as it still has a triangular piece of ice stuck to it. The candy cane is displeased with what Darnit has done, and it tries to step toward Darnit and slashes at him.

Hrothulf, victorious, ensures that his gi has pockets. Of course it does. He puts some sand in the pockets and goes over to Darnit's arena. He wants to test whether he might be able to enter, and pushes a little on the force field. There is definitely an invisible force keeping him from entering.

As Dorinda approaches the fire arena the flames separate to create an entry, but Dorinda isn't stupid enough to just walk in. She checks with Hrothulf and Izar whether they'd want to go in. But Hrothulf wants to make sure the other conflicts are resolved first.

Ego considers continuing the fight but reckons charisma is a better option. She's also a little embarrassed to have lots her hold, so she decides to play it off as generosity.

"You have stolen and been mean and rude just because of brownies! And here I have released you. But let us find common ground."

Indignantly, the elf is like, "Stealing? Mean? Rude? I have been nothing but hospitable! I set this up super nice. I made brownies and you ruin them! You come into my space and I prepare this feast for you and you ruin brownies! How shall we end this, meany!?"

Ego experiences the sudden emotional shift that only a fairly intoxicated person can. She is so sad to learn how terrible she has been. "I am so embarrassed! I had no idea! Your beholder is spectacular! All of this was you? The meat? The beds with... whips?"

"Something for everyone."

"Delightful. Who are you?"

"Very well. Do you yield then?"

"How could I not? You have won me over."

"Then let's get some smoothies!"

She shakes Ego's hand and, as she does, the bracelet grows and slides from the elf's hand to Ego's. "I'll go start some new brownies, and we can meet in the smoothie room, right above the bakery!!"

Darnit swings his newfound makeshift ax of a sort (the crook with ice). The candy cane crashes to the ice flipping double shivs on its way down and, when it hits the water, melts apart.

Banners go up celebrating Darnit's victory!

We consider all entering the fire arena, but seem to be leaning against, excited to check out more rooms. Hrothulf is hoping for an armory where we might pick up some sweet new goods. Ego is excited for smoothies and more beholder meat.