

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.8 - Slumber Party Mayorssacre

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

[pleasant acoustic music plays]

Rebecca: Summer's almost here, San Dimas, and you know what that means. It's time for centrist vegan, ice cream. Hi! I'm Rebecca Swallows-Oak-Garcia, substitute government teacher, mother of a very special boy, and founder of Swallows Vegan Ice Cream Parlor. Where we love making you smile almost as much as we love bipartisanship. Reach across the aisle for a tasty scoop of our deficit-friendly flavors, like Middle of The Road, Status Quooy and new Neoliberalopolitan, featuring three types of vanilla! And don't forget our means-tested toppings bar, where you can make a reasonable amount of incremental changes to your order.

Rebecca: Whether you're socially liberal and fiscally conservative, fiscally liberal and socially conservative, or if you just aren't that interested, we're sure to have something that'll make you say, "Wow. The system works!" Maybe that's why San Dimas' very own mayor calls Swallows Ice Cream Parlor a valued contributor to the committee to reelect the mayor. Look, my fellow San-demons, let's be reasonable. Does my vegan ice cream have problems? Of course, it does. But the only alternatives are communism and fascism, so come on in for two scoops of compromise at Swallows Vegan Ice Cream! Where both sides are yum.

[pleasant music finishes, intro music plays]

Freddie: Dungeons and Daddies, not a BDSM podcast. This is the story of four teens searching for their lost dads in a world forever changed... *[suddenly stilted]* after their granddads fucked it up and unleashed an eldritch god.

[chuckles]

Freddie: This is them correcting the mistakes of the previous generation.

Will: These are their stories.

Freddie: These—

Will: Doink-doink!

Freddie: Doink-doink. My name is Freddie Wong, I play—

Will: Lenny Briscoe! The hard...scrabbled cop on the New York Police Department.

Beth: Hard-scrabbled cop.

Will: His partner Benjamin Bratt helps him solve crimes.

Freddie: Hardscrabble cop throwing ZAs down nonstop—

Beth: Yes.

Freddie: —getting triple word scores. My name is Freddie Wong I play Taylor Swift. The hardscrabble—

[laughs]

Freddie: —anime teen, ranger. Hey now, that's a great spinoff series for the Lord of the Rings movie. Teen Ranger Aragorn?

Will: Aragorn, Teen Ranger?

Anthony: Aragorn, comma, Teen Ranger.

Will: That's pretty good.

Freddie: I'd watch it.

Will: Get on it, Amazon.

Freddie: Taylor's rad teen fact for this week. I mentioned previously a little thing called a blankie.

Will: Oh— Ooh!

Freddie: Taylor has a blankie.

Beth: Wow.

Will: We're getting to the blankie already, I'm in.

Freddie: The blankie is not a blanket. It is, in fact, a body pillow.

Will: *[gasps]*

Freddie: With two anime ladies on both sides.

Beth: Oh. My God...

Freddie: And-

Matt: Two on both, like—

Anthony: So four altogether?

Will: So fou— I'm seeing double! Four anime ladies!

[laughter]

Matt: Four altogether, or two altogether?

Freddie: Four altogether, that's right.

Matt: Okay. *[laughs]*

Freddie: But a different, like... a different sort of smorgasbord of moods. So he flips it depending on like, y'know. What the ambience, the aura, the vibe of the room he wants.

Matt: Eugh.

Beth: Oh, God.

Freddie: What do you mean? What, "eugh"?

Beth: I get it.

Anthony: Because— How many vibes can there be?

[group laughter]

Matt: Yeah! And then it's weird! Like...

Will: Seems like one general vibe.

Beth: Well, with that kind of company? You just don't know.

Matt: There's not a four-sided pillow. So it's like... are there four vibes or two vibes? Is one pillow, like, one side? A happy girl and a sad girl, and then you like... how do you get four...? *[laughs]*

Will: It's actually a trick body pillow. It's the same on both sides.

Beth: Damn.

Will: It's like Two Face's coin.

Matt: Oh, is it—?

Anthony: Until there's a fire and one of the sides of the body-pillow gets burned.

[laughter]

Matt: Can you take off the cover and turn it inside out, and there's eight?

Freddie: Yeah. Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Matt: Like there's even... double-sided?

Freddie: Yeah, yeah, yeah!

Will: Remember those pens when you were kids that had seven pens...? That you—

Freddie: Oh! The four colors?

Will: Yeah—

Freddie: And then you press two colors on the opposite side and they get jammed up and you're like, "I can't use any of these."

Matt: Are they from... an anime?

Freddie: No, Matt. They're just anime girls.

Matt: What? Okay.

[pause]

Freddie: Yeah!

Will: Are they OC?

Freddie: N—

Will: What are they?

Matt: I'm just wondering because then—

Freddie: No. I'm answering your question.

Matt: —there's the possibility that your mom might do the dub of one of the... characters.

Freddie: I'm answering your question. No. Okay, so you know how Hello Kitty is not an anime, right?

Matt: Like, yeah, that's what I was...

Freddie: Hello Kitty was a series...

Beth: Because she's not hot.

[group laughter]

Anthony: Whoa, speak for yourself, Beth! Some of us like some personality in a girl.

Freddie: Yeah, so it's like Hello Kitty, right? Sanrio is this company that just shits out cutey characters that fit on key chains. Obviously, in the future, the anime aesthetic is so beloved that you can have Hello Kitty-esque...

Anthony: Faprio.

Freddie: Yeah. Like—

[laughter]

Freddie: Hello Kitty-esque characters that are unlicensed for any shows, but are characters unto themselves. Which, by the way, kind of already is the case. You have like, Miku, right? Who's a Vocaloid character that doesn't really have a show that she's a part of.

Anthony: She has a job. She's a singer. She does concerts.

[laughter]

Will: She's a person, dude.

Freddie: *[laughs]*

Matt: Hey, everybody. My name's Matthew Arnold. I play Lincoln Li-Wilson/ Schooled-at-home soccer kid who's the protective paladin of the group. I guess this is kind of more of a Grant fact, but a little fact about Lincoln here. This morning he woke up in a sweat because he kind of just like had that *Usual Suspects* moment where kind of everything kind of clicked.

Beth: Damn.

Matt: After hearing about... And he just realized like, "Wait a second—"

Beth: Drop the mug.

Will: Oh, no.

Matt: Yeah, he was like, "Wait a second." Like every time they do movie nights and they take turns who picks movies, and he's like, "Wait." Grant's favorite movies were like... *The Wall*, and *Manchurian Candidate*. And *American Sniper*, and *Sniper 1* and *Sniper 2* and *Sniper 3*, and *Enemy At the Gates*. Every single movie he picked was a sniper.

Freddie: The entire Sniper direct to DVD series.

Matt: And he's like, "Wait a second. He was really bad at math and he didn't like to teach me math, but he was really good at predicting wind and the physics of objects dropping as it's going very, very quickly."

Will: He could always tell...

Matt: "And he told me—"

Will: ...how far away something was.

Matt: Yeah, how far away something... "When I broke my glasses—"

Freddie: He'd be really specific. Whenever he'd look at something far away, it would be very specific yardages.

Matt: Lincoln wears contacts now, but—

Anthony: He taught me how to throw a baseball with the Coriolis effect.

Matt: He broke his glasses once and like...

[laughter]

Matt: He broke his glasses and Grant could just literally create optics, he could just carve glass to like be...

Will: [laughs]

Matt: ...the thing. He was always like—

Link: Wow, dad! You're really quite the Renaissance man!

Freddie: That's not a thing!

Matt: And Grant says, "I'm really just good at one thing." He's like, "What's that?: He's like, "Oh, nothing. I didn't mean that. That didn't mean anything."

Will: "Loving you, son."

Anthony: "Being your dad!"

Beth: That Facts of an Assault Rifle finally came in, like, after years.

[laughter]

Matt: So to make it about Lincoln though, one of the few things he was actually well-taught in homeschool is that he's not good at math or a lot of things, but he's very good because Grant would use it to explain how to kick long distance shots for free kicks. He's very good at just like... kind of knowing the wind and stuff.

Anthony: Ooh!

Matt: Throwing objects—

Freddie: Just estimating distances, and... yeah.

Matt: Yeah! So he's good at... He'd probably be pretty good at basketball too in a windy environment, I guess, if that was a thing.

Freddie: [laughs] In the future they got windy basketball.

Will: We play Wind Ball!

Matt: Windy... basketball courts out four times longer and you play outdoors in the wind.

Will: Hey, everyone, I'm Will Campos. I play Norm Oak plain Jane run-of-the-mill garden variety, ordinary teen. My normal fact for Normal this week is that he likes Marvel movies.

Freddie: Guh!

Beth: Oh, this hurts...!

Matt: Alright!

Will: He thinks they're pretty good! But he thinks they're a little too long.

Matt: Yeah! That's an opinion.

Anthony: It's a pretty normal opinion.

Matt: Yeah!

Beth: That's pretty...

Freddie: Pretty... right down, right down the middle.

Matt: I don't think any of the three friends here could find much to say about that opinion one way or the other.

[laughter]

Freddie: Mission accomplished.

Beth: Hi, I'm Beth May and I play *[intensely]* Scary Marlowe.

[gasps]

Beth: A goth-punk seeker of darkness who is not like the other warlocks.

Freddie: Phew.

Beth: She's—

[chuckles]

Beth: —a really high level warlock.

Anthony: Yeah, what the fuck!

Beth: So high level, just keeps leveling up. Fun fact about Scary: Last year, Scary really wanted to get a tongue ring and her mom said no.

Will: Uh-oh.

Beth: So she—

Freddie: Oh...

Beth: —to kind of simulate it—

Freddie: Eugh!

Beth: —she put a binder clip on the tip of her tongue.

Anthony: Great.

Beth: Her mom probably had the argument of, “Oh, you'll have a lisp, or something.” Y’know, one of those problems—

Matt: You’ll swallow it.

Beth: Or swallow it, or like, one of those mom reasons why you can't get things.

Matt: Yeah.

Will: It'll damage the back of your teeth.

Beth: Yeah, or something. But to prove that she could handle it, she put on a binder clip on the tip of her tongue, but ended up cutting the circulation off—

Will: Uh-oh!

Beth: —at the tip of her tongue and had to go to the nurse's office with a bluish-black tongue, which she thought was equally cool. Until the circulation came back and her tongue was a normal tongue again.

Matt: She was cool for a minute there.

Beth: Yeah.

Anthony: Hi, I'm Anthony Burch, I'm your Daddy Master.

Freddie: Hey, Daddy!

Anthony: Hi! Just more high school memories. The first movie I ever made ever in my whole life was a book project where you had to prove that you read a book by making a little fake movie trailer for the book, and that book was Chuck Palahniuk's *Lullaby*, and that's the first thing I ever did...

Will: Woah!

Beth: Oh my God!

Anthony: ...that made me want to make movies with my friends, that I would end up making movies with for the rest of my high school career.

Will: I can't remember if I've talked about this on the podcast before, but there's an incredible treasure trove—

Freddie: You haven't.

Will: —of high school project videos on YouTube...

Matt: Yes.

Will: [*giggly*] ...of specifically the scene from *Of Mice and Men*.

Freddie: Yes!

Matt: Oh, sh...

Beth: Oh my god.

Freddie: It's so funny!

Will: Because a lot of kids have had to do exactly that—

Beth: Yeah.

Will: —for that scene from *Of Mice and Men*, and it's just like. Just seeing the sound effect for the gun, it is literally like a perfect punchline every single time.

Freddie: It's so fun.

Matt: If you're a teenager and you have to do a video about *Of Mice and Men*, there's only one scene you're gonna pick.

b: Yes.

[*group laughter*]

Matt: Like teachers should know. What are you doing? And I have a feeling it's probably not a very sensitive depiction.

Anthony: No, probably not.

Beth: No! No.

Will: Nope!

Beth: The first like video thing I did was also a book, and it was of *The Old Man and the Sea*, and I was just in my parent's swimming pool on a float like, "Where's this fish?"

[group laughter]

Anthony: Fuck, that's really good. That probably still kills. Shit.

Matt: Yup.

Anthony: Some of you may have noticed that last episode, we didn't roll for left-handedness or for whether or not Scary jerked off. Regarding the latter, the next time Scary chooses to use the Kellogg K-nife, or I guess the first time, we'll roll for every episode that we did not roll for jerking off.

Freddie: That's also just more dramatically interesting.

Anthony: Regarding the lefthanded dying thing?

Freddie: We got a complaint from the National Left-Handed—

Beth: [*like a regency dame*] Of which I am the president!

[laughter]

Anthony: Yeah, so Beth specifically didn't want us doing that anymore.

Beth: No, I—

Anthony: No, it's not Beth. It's not Beth.

Beth: It's not. No.

Anthony: It was just like, eh.

Beth: I could still do it.

Freddie: Well, can we just do one more?

Beth: We just forgot.

Freddie: Can we just do one more that covers for the rest?

Anthony: Sure.

Beth: Okay!

Will: Just do 100 rolls right now.

Anthony: Yeah, actually, yeah. I'll roll a d100...

Matt: It's the future. We finally fixed things. They made everybody right-handed. Today—

Will: *[laughs]*

Matt: Today, Scary gets her surgery to become right-handed like everybody should be.

Will: *[clapping]*

Freddie: To become a righty!

Matt: So this is the last day she has to roll to see if she dies or not.

Anthony: So let's say...

Freddie: And she dies in surgery.

Anthony: So what episode is this? Eight? This is episode eight.

Freddie: This is episode eight, yeah.

Anthony: Okay, so assuming that we get to 68.5 episodes, that means I'll roll 60 more times on the d100, and if any of them have zero-zero next to each other, that means Scary dies at some point.

Beth: Oh my God.

Will: It'll be that episode.

Matt: Oh, wait. You know what would be really good? *[laughing]* Is if she dies on that episode, so you know what episode Scary has to die on.

Anthony: 51, 52, 53...

Matt: What happened?

Anthony: 60...

Matt: What's happening?

Beth: This is the worst.

Matt: I'm sorry, Beth. I'm sorry I dragged you into this...

Beth: Please kill the only woman on your podcast, I beg you.

Matt: [*chuckles*]

Anthony: So what I was looking for was anytime where there were two zeros next to one another. And there was a zero next to a nine.

Matt: [*gasps*]

Anthony: So you were one away. From having died in... four episodes.

Freddie: Ohohohoho...!

Beth: Oh, wow!

Anthony: Now we know that you're not going to die anytime in the next 60 episodes, hypothetically. At least not from being left-handed.

Will: A couple close calls, you said?

Anthony: Couple close calls.

Beth: Not from being left-handed.

Anthony: Yeah, not from left-handed you can—

Matt: Because you're right-handed now.

[laughter]

Beth: Matt, you're—

Anthony: I leave that character position to you.

Beth: You're going down the path I can't follow.

Anthony: No. You will be left and proud forever.

Matt: Yes.

[*intro transition plays*]

Anthony: Last episode, you found Grant. Grant was not having a great time, but he told Link that he wanted Link to not be anything like him. That's the way that he can make his dad happy is by not loving him and by not being anything like him. And also the current government teacher who is Normal's mom, Mrs. Swallows-dash-Oak-dash-Garcia told you that the mayor is coming to the school for a visit. And shortly thereafter, Agent Mae Hailes, your #2, showed up in a Never Been Kissed style, pretending-to-be-a-teen outfit, pulled you all aside and said that

you're going to have to kill the mayor because the mayor is on the sauce. Or sorry, the mayor has the sauce. "On the sauce" means drunk.

Matt: So she said we have to kill the mayor?

Anthony: Yes. So because you cast Charm on Mrs. Swallows-dash-Oak-dash-Garcia, you don't have to go back inside, but you can hear her from inside going—

Rebecca: I actually thought it'd be a really interesting thing to have the mayor here to explain debate to all of you. Our mayor is generally known as one of the best debaters in the state. She was a president of her debate team in high school—

Scary: Aw, man.

Rebecca: —and I thought it'd be kind of fun to do a mock debate between a group of, say, four of you and the mayor when she showed up.

Link: [*loudly*] Can we stop talking about bears, right? Ms. Hailes, you said kill the bears. Correct?

Matt: I'm like, panic. I'm looking at you.

Link: You said kill the bears right now?

Mae: Y...es...

Link: Can we all go to the bathroom? Immediately. Please.

Rebecca: Is Scary going with you?

Link: We all—

Scary: Sure, I'll go.

Link: We all need to go right now.

Rebecca: Alright, well, as long as Scary's with you. She's cool. So I trust her around all of you.

Link: We'll be back—

Rebecca: Also, my son. I also trust my son.

Normal: Oh, thanks, Mom! I appreciate that.

Rebecca: Sorry.

Link: We all drank water at the same time in the morning.

Rebecca: I know what that's like.

Link: Okay... Please, every...

Matt: I'm looking at the four of them, I'm like—

Normal: It's a whole thing we do...

Link: Can we please go?

Rebecca: I'll wait to tell you everything about the mayor until you get back from the bathroom. Don't worry.

Link: Guys— guys. Ms. Haile...

Freddie: We look at the rest of the kids like—

Taylor: You're welcome for the break.

Anthony: [*chuckles*]

Link: Everybody just act normal, and can we go into our work?

Scary: You mean...?

Normal: W...?

Scary: D.A.D.D.I.E.S. headquarters?

Link: Yeah, please.

Normal: Uh- Okay.

Scary: I'm down.

Normal: Link, what's going on, bud?

Link: Everybody, just act really cool and go down into the work, okay? Please?

Will: Link's being weird. I'm going to do a sense motive on Link.

Link: Jus— Please?

Anthony: Yeah, give me some Insight.

Matt: I start walking, desperately waving everybody to come with me.

Anthony: So what's your Insight roll?

Will: [*dice roll*] I got— Oh, a 1.

Anthony: Who knows what's going on in Link's mind! No way of knowing.

Will: What a mysterious man.

Freddie: I'm following along.

Matt: Are you guys all following?

Will: I decide to follow Link. Matt has an impish smile on his face.

Matt: [*impish stutter*]

Anthony: Scary, are you following Link?

Scary: Yeah. I mean, as long as we get close to those doors again, I think good things are coming my way.

Link: If we have like— know there's like, girl problems, but I got boy problems. A private space where nobody could hear us, where our dad's maybe talked about secrets. Like, any place my parents or gossips wouldn't hear about it. Just any really quiet place.

Anthony: Mae Hailes says like—

Mae: There's a bathroom at D.A.D.D.I.E.S. HQ. Just...

[*laughter*]

Link: But like, where our— like...

Freddie: There's a gross bathroom at D.A.D.D.I.E.S.

Link: I guess it's underground, so it'd be hard to hear things, like bad cell reception, all that stuff.

Mae: Yeah, we— we are underground right now.

Link: Okay.

Anthony: So you zoom back to D.A.D.D.I.E.S. HQ. You show up next to the vending machine and she goes—

Mae: I'll just lead you to the bathroom, sure.

Link: Cool.

Mae: And there's a lock on the door on the inside, I know you guys love those.

[ambient sounds of wet plumbing play and fade out under dialogue]

Scary: Buddy, what's going on, man?

Link: So this is going to sound weird. I got growth on my back—

Normal: Oh my God!

Scary: God...

Link: I'm a little worried, so I just really want to talk to all of you about this.

Taylor: Okay—

Normal: Do you want me to pop it?

Taylor: *[gags]*

Matt: And I say—

Link: So whatever you do, don't react to how gross this growth is, okay?

Normal: Okay.

Matt: On the piece of paper, I write down—

Normal: Why are you writing stuff on a piece of paper?

Link: Guys, I'm drawing a growth! I'm drawing the growth first.

Normal: Why don't you just show us the growth?

Link: I got to draw it first so that you'll understand.

Taylor: Hold on, something's going on. Something's going on, Norm.

Link: Okay, I'm showing you the growth. You're right, I should be showing you the growth.

Matt: But instead I take a piece of paper and I write, "The FBI are listening."

[pause with just Freddie laughing]

Scary: What?!

Normal: *[gasps]* I knew they were!

Link: Ah, I know! It's really gross, right?

Taylor: Oh, my God!

Link: That's why... I mean, killing *bears* is one thing, but like, this growth is pretty messed up.

Scary: Just, Link. What does the FBI stand for...

Link: *[stutters]*

Scary: ...to you?

Link: The FBI? I don't think they can help this growth. I need to go to a doctor!

Anthony: Uh.

Scary: *[sighs]*

Link: Not the FBI.

Matt: And then I write, "I'm sorry," and I have tears in my eyes, I'm looking at all of you. And I look at you, Taylor, I say—

Link: Your yellow bracelet was given to me by—

Anthony: But as you say that...

[laughter]

Matt: No, I'm writing it.

Anthony: Sure... but they heard you say FBI.

Beth: Once I get a sense that something is afoot, I will aid my friends by... saying—

Scary: Listen, I know how guys' minds work. It stands for "female body inspector."

Anthony: Okay. Roll a Deception with advantage.

Freddie: So that the FBI handler who's listening on this...

Beth: [*dice roll*] Ooh. A 17, first roll. Ah! [*dice roll*] [*gasps*] 20...!

Will: The handler's like, "I've never heard that one before!"

Anthony: There's a— yeah, there's a—

Freddie: Hey, Chuck. You hear this shit?

Anthony: Yeah.

Will: [*laughs*]

Freddie: Hey! Y'know wh—!

Anthony: Guys, guys, guys, guys, guys! Check this out. Female body...

Anthony & Freddie: [*yelling*] Oh...!!

[*laughter*]

Anthony: Oh! Oh! Oh! Oh!

Beth: So I write on the paper, "How can we help?"

Matt: I write, "Act like you saw really gross growth."

Taylor: Eugh!

Scary: Uh...!

Link: Right!

Normal: Ew, that growth is so gross!

Link: Am I gonna die?

Scary: That's metal as fuck, Link.

Freddie: And I'm pointing at my bracelet like, "You? This?"

Link: Yeah, I'm sorry. It was just really scary, and the growth was really oozing and gross, and I was afraid if... my one dad saw the growth, I would lose both of my dads because one dad thought the growth was so gross he left.

[laughter]

Link: And the other dad might be taken away because he did a bad job taking care of me!

Beth: I write, "Is the bracelet cursed?"

Matt: I write, "I don't know how technology works. It's his though, just his bracelet."

Taylor: Ju— just this?!

Freddie: I point at it like, "What?" It's just Taylor's bracelet? I'm going to try and take it off.

Matt: I write, "Don't, don't, don't, don't."

Beth: Okay—

Matt: I'm like, scribbling, "Don't," super quickly.

Beth: I touch it and I cast... Remove Curse. Which is a third level... abjuration.

Anthony: I feel like it's not a curse-curse.

Beth: Okay.

Matt: So it didn't work.

Anthony: Unfortunately, no.

Will: Where did this bracelet come from?

Freddie: Remember he just gave them to us?

Anthony: Remember when, you specifically, Will Campos, said...

[flashback transition harp run plays]

[flashback audio is distorted, almost like under water]

Past-Will: Matt, if there's a fucking wire in this bracelet, this is some FBI sting plot?

[laughter]

Past-Will: And you fucking Serpico'd our asses, I'm going to be furious.

Past-Link: Oh- Oh no.

[laughter]

[audio returns to normal]

Will: God, damnit! *[laughs]*

Matt: So for the audience, we did that, two days later the FBI just came up? Anthony gave me an email. I'm not going to say what, but explaining what the FBI did to Link.

Will: Wow.

Beth: Oh.

Freddie: So I'm going to write, "Audio? Video, question mark?"

Matt: I shrug. And I say—

Link: All- all I know is that, y'know, I'm not really into hunting, and I know we got to kill some bears, but like—

Freddie: So I'm gonna go to the sink—

Link: You might be careful about...

Freddie: I'm going to the sink.

Link: ...talking about killing bears.

Freddie: I'm going to go to the sink, I'm going to turn on the water...

[sound of running water starts]

Freddie: ...and then run it over the bracelets the whole time.

Taylor: Hey, I assume they can't hear me over this.

Link: W-Who? You talking about bears? This is—

Taylor: You're fine! Look, water. They can't. No way!

Anthony: Okay, I know whether or not they can hear you.

Matt: Shit.

Will: *[laughs]*

Freddie: But I'm turning on both faucets.

[sound of running water doubles]

Anthony: Oh, well then they definitely can't hear— Two faucets? That definitely destroys the might of the FBI.

[running water sounds fade out]

Matt: What's Ms. Haile do during all this?

Beth: She's outside. We're in the bathroom.

Anthony: She's waiting outside for you. Sounded like you wanted privacy.

Matt: Oh, I wanted her to come in and see all this.

Anthony: Oh okay. So she's there and she's like—

Mae: *[series of nervous, strained, noises]*

[running water sounds start again]

Taylor: It's fine. You can say whatever you want. I'm running it underwater.

Mae: Okay?

Taylor: Turn on that Dyson air hand washing thing.

Beth: *[chuckles]*

Will: Oh, I press a button and turn on the—

[sound of a hand blow-dryer starts, on top of the water]

Will: —Dyson Air Blade 5000.

Taylor: *[shouting]* Okay, anyway, so—!

[air dryer turns off]

Beth: But it's motion sensor, so each of us need to keep going, *chuu, chuu, chuu!*

[air starts up again, now oscillating intensity with something passing through it]

Will: Yeah.

Anthony: [chuckles]

Beth: With our hands.

Will: Normal is waving his hands through the sensor over and over again.

Taylor: [shouting] All right. So this should be enough to allow us to speak freely!

[sounds fade out]

Matt: Actually, I plead and I write down, "Please. They will take Marko."

Taylor: [shouting] God-fucking—!

Matt: "They will take my dad."

Taylor: —dammit! What the fuck do you want me to—!

Normal: Alright! We have. To remove. A growth.

Link: Yeah.

Normal: It's a big growth, it's going to be pretty hard to remove.

Link: Mm-hmm.

Normal: And I personally have never removed a growth before, so that's new. Uh...

Link: And maybe the growth is just, y'know, with us now and we still have to kill bears, but maybe... I don't know, I just don't want to get arrested for hunting when we're not supposed to be hunting, but at the same time, we have to.

Normal: Oh, the bears are the mayor! Oh, not the growth?

Link: Oh!

Normal: I mean, the bear! We have to kill a bear-growth.

Matt: Yes.

Normal: I never—

Matt: I write, "Bear equals mayor." and I write, "Code word," and smiley face like, "Cool, we're cool now."

Scary: Since, like, "growth" is wiggling you out so much, Norm, maybe we should have a whole list of words like growth that don't really mean the growth, so that we don't have to say like... what the growth is. Because you're so grossed out by it or whatever, [*lowly*] like a pussy. [*normally*] So like, let's all like do this for Norm, guys, so that we can talk freely, but not, y'know...

Taylor: Yeah, I'm tired of these code words.

Normal: Yeah, the word "growth" really grosses me out. What if we call the growth something that is happy, like the mayor? So when we talk about the growth, we just say the mayor.

Matt: Okay.

Scary: Okay.

Matt: I go—

Link: Oh!

Normal: So you got the mayor on your back...

Taylor: And we've gotta get rid of the...

Normal: ...and we need to remove the mayor.

Mae: So regarding... mayor removal. There are many options potentially. I know there's some items we have around that could maybe help. I—

Taylor: Will any of these items cause me to, for example, lose, mm, functionality in, let's say, my primary jerking hand?

Mae: So let's— yes. So that was what I was going to ask you. I don't know if we have anything... necessarily—

Taylor: That's gonna be a hard—hard!—pass.

Mae: —that works on the kind of growth that you have.

Taylor: Hard pass!

Mae: Okay, then I'm out of ideas.

Link: I'm sorry to throw this all on you about my gross growth. And I know we just met and it's not cool to see kind of this stuff.

Taylor: Yeah, really jacked up, fucker!

Mae: Could we maybe... smash and break the growth, and they may not necessarily interpret that as something that happened intentionally?

Link: Maybe if we make it seem like I accidentally lost my growth... my mayor...

Normal: Wait a second, wait a second...

Mae: Mayor, right.

Matt: *[laughs]*

Normal: But if the mayor on your back is... listening—

[laughter]

Normal: —to us... wouldn't it maybe be better if we told a bunch of fake stuff to the mayor? The mayor would think everything was okay, but really...

Link: Yeah!

Normal: ...we would be doing other stuff, but the mayor wouldn't know about it.

Link: The fake thing is that we're all going on a hunting trip to kill a bear, right?

Scary: Far, far away.

Taylor: I see what you're saying...

Link: I'm saying we gotta kill— maybe the mayor is a problem we solve for later, but we're just aware of it while we're trying to kill the bear.

Scary: Well, here's the thing—

Link: Which I'm already scared about doing because I don't want to kill anything.

Freddie: Taylor— Taylor, as a ranger, wants to roll an Insight check into this technology. As somebody who has, y'know, played around with hidden cameras and GPS trackers and magnetic shit as a gadget kid, a little bit.

Anthony: Insight's about sensing motive in other people. I feel like this might be more of—

Beth: Arcana...

Anthony: —an arcana roll.

Freddie: Let's say Arcana. Technology, essentially.

Anthony: Yes.

Freddie: [*dice roll*] 8+2, 10.

Anthony: Okay. So with a 10, you can tell that it definitely has microphone in it.

Freddie: Okay.

Anthony: In some way.

Freddie: Yup.

Anthony: It has the ability to do something not ideal, you can't tell exactly what it is.

[laughter]

Will: Great.

Beth: Fuck.

Anthony: When either removal is attempted or if it's triggered remotely.

Beth: Triggered remote.

Freddie: Jesus fucking Christ.

Beth: Uh...

Freddie: Okay, when removal's attempted? So— [*quietly*] Oh, my God.

Anthony: If they can tell that you attempt to remove it, then they could possibly—assuming they're monitoring it at that moment—could trigger it.

[*ad break*]

Taylor: I have an idea, folks.

Freddie: And I text my mom.

Matt: The FBI doesn't—*pff*—doesn't tap phones at all.

Freddie: Well I text my mom and I say—

[*text tapping*]

Freddie: "Hey, can my friends come over for dinner?"

[*tapping replaced by a bloop of a message going through*]

Anthony: So you get a text back being like, "Yeah, absolutely!" Smiley emoji.

Beth: Aww.

Freddie: And I text back—

[*text tapping*]

Freddie: "What's cookin, Mom?"

[*message sent*]

Anthony: So she texts back, "I have to do a job for your favorite anime today, so I'll be home kind of late. So I was thinking I would just order pizza and have it ready for you when you got off school."

Matt: [*quietly*] What an expert.

Taylor: [*shouting*] Agh! Fuck!

Normal: What's wrong?

Taylor: My mom's not going to be home. Here's what I was thinking...

Freddie: And I still have it underneath the thing, right?

Anthony: Uh-huh. It's still under the water.

Freddie: So I think I'm cool enough to have figured this out, so I'm going to act like they're not hearing me. It's like—

Taylor: Listen, we can talk all we want. I'm effectively masking their auditory capabilities.

Matt: The moment you say they probably don't hear, I tackle you and I cover your mouth.

Freddie: [*muffled shout*] Mm!

Anthony: Okay. So you roll Strength, see if you can tackle him in time.

Matt: [*dice roll*] I got a... 14+3.

Will: Ooh!

[*whistle*]

Matt: 17.

Freddie: Gah, damnit.

Anthony: All right. So you tackle him to the ground and you put your hand over his mouth.

Taylor: Gah, what the— [*muffled*] What the fuck, man?

Normal: Woah, woah, woah! What's going on? What are you doing?

Link: [*stutters*]

Matt: I'm saying, "Write it down." We could talk like we're writing it down.

Will: I th...

Matt: Don't speak like that—

Will: I think...

Matt: —because if they know, they'll take Marko.

Taylor: Ms. Haile, can you bring one of those rolls of butcher paper in here? You know what I'm talking about?

Mae: Yeah, yeah, yeah!

Taylor: Those gigantic...

Mae: No yeah, we absolutely have those.

Taylor: Like presentational role of butcher paper.

Mae: Yeah. Yeah.

Matt: Great.

Taylor: I got a lot of shit to clean up.

Matt: And then I roll your sleeve over your bracelets as I got you grappled. So if there is a camera or something, they're not seeing what we're writing.

Freddie: [*sighs*] Alright.

Anthony: Okay. So she comes back with the big old thing of butcher paper—

Will: I—

Anthony: —and a bunch of Sharpies.

Freddie: And now we continue our conversation, but it's all written out.

Matt: It's all written.

Anthony: Okay.

Matt: Hear that, Anthony?

Beth: Yeah.

Matt: None of this is talking. We— no character speaks!

Will: The following is a transcript of the events that transpired.

Anthony: Great.

Scary: Yeah. I mean, if you guys ever did need to talk, I could like, sing one of my songs into Taylor's wrist really loud so that they wouldn't really hear over. Because like, one, they'd probably be like, paying attention to the song—

Matt: I tackle you and I cover your mouth—

[*laughter*]

Matt: —the moment you say, “They wouldn't really hear,” I tackle.

Anthony: Do it again. Roll your Athletics and you roll Acrobatics.

Matt: [*dice roll*] Goddammit. I got 11.

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

Matt: Okay.

Anthony: Okay.

Beth: Again.

Matt: I say—

Anthony: You cov—

Normal: Link, stop tackling people! Get it together, man!

Link: Just write the...

Freddie: Okay, the following is a transcript, Anthony!

Will: Alright! I write on the piece of paper:

Normal: Guys.... I just had an idea.... Have any of you seen that old movie... *Enemy of the State* with Will Smith in it?

Taylor: No.

Matt: Lincoln writes—

Link: It's one of Grant's favorite.

Matt: And as he's writing it, the paper gets wet because you see tears...

[*laughter*]

Matt: ...dropping on the ink.

Normal: In the movie, they visit a guy who lives in a metal cage, I think? And the cage jams the signal from the government bad guys. It's like a—

Taylor: Ah! A faraday cage!

Normal: A freeman cage! Or a...

Taylor: A faraday cage.

Matt: Yeah.

Normal: A king for a day cage. Uh...

Matt: I look judgmentally at Ms. Halie being like, I thought that's what this would be. *[laughs]*

Will: I— So, I draw—

Mae: This is a bathroom!

Anthony: She says. Out loud.

Will: I draw a picture of Taylor's hand with the thing, with the bracelet on it. And then I draw a picture of a cast over his hand. And then I draw a little diagram that's like we wrap chicken wire and metal around the inside of the cast, and we put it on Taylor's hand so that it's jamming the signal... but it looks just like a normal cast, like he just broke his arm.

Beth: Scary writes, "Let's not waste time with hypotheticals." And then she crosses it out because she spelled it wrong...

[group laughter]

Beth: ...and then she's trying to spell 'hypotheticals'. *[laughs]*

Taylor: Hypno... hypno-theatrical. Hypno-thatrics. What are you writing?

Anthony: The fact that you wrote out, "What are you writing?"

[laughter]

Freddie: Yeah, yeah. It's arrows to it.

Anthony: Yeah.

Freddie: It's like, confused face, "What are you writing?" Also, you'll notice that Taylor's handwriting is like... perfect anime lettering handwriting.

Matt: *[laughs]* It looks like a manga.

Freddie: It's like you're reading a manga, it's like perfectly written.

Matt: Link goes—

Freddie: And! Taylor writes from right to left.

[laughter]

Will: [whispered] Jesus Christ.

Anthony: So you're smearing it as you fucking go?

Matt: Link is writing, he goes—

Link: Yeah, that's a good idea, but we gotta make— the FBI will know if it's fake if we put a cast on, so I think...

Taylor: Well, I guess I just need to break my arm.

Link: I think I have to break your arm because they'll know if we fake a doctor report too—

Scary: Fuck!

Link: —the FBI knows everything. You're just going to have to break your arm and then convince them to let you keep the thing on your cast. I'm sorry!

Anthony: Mae's like—

Mae: By that logic, couldn't we just... remove the whole arm... and the problem is solved the end?

Taylor: No.

Matt: I go—

Link: Ms. Haile, you're not being a lot of help! Like—

Mae: I'm try—! I'm the idea woman.

[laughter]

Beth: [laughing] It's not a lot of help.

Will: I write in the corner, "Ideas" and like one is "break Taylor's arm," two is "remove Taylor's arm, question mark?"

Anthony: And then Mae points her finger at you, winks and nods like, "You got it."

[laughter]

Freddie: And then Mae Haile, underneath it puts a little thumbs up with a one next to it like it's on Discord—

Anthony: Yeah, a plus 1!

Freddie: —and it's a little thumbs up plus one.

Anthony: And she's looking at the rest of you like, “Anybody going to write plus two?”

Matt: I vote for break arm. And I look, I write, “Sorry.”

Scary: As long as we keep up writing and all the code words, then we don't really need to worry about the fact that they're tracking us because like. They were tracking Tony Soprano forever and they didn't even get him at the end, I don't think, if that's how you interpret the finale.

Will: Normal snaps his fingers, he's waving frantically. He writes: “Step one, break Taylor's arm.”

[nervous laughter]

Will: “Step two, get cast on Taylor's arm with Faraday implements. Step three, LInk uses his magic to heal Taylor's arm so it's not broken, so it's fine.”

[gasps]

Scary: Yeah!

Normal: And then we've got the perfect cover. Everyone thinks his arm's broken, it's not broken. We've got the cast, the growth on your back isn't listening anymore, and we can go kill the mayor. I mean—

Matt: *[laughing]* Kill the bear.

Scary: Plus, I've got—

Anthony: You wrote out, “I mean.”

[group laughter]

Normal: I mean, wait no. It's fine. That I wrote it.

Freddie: Taylor asked, written down, asks—

Taylor: What does the FBI know about me?

Matt: And then I write—

Taylor: Everything?

Freddie: Underscore, question mark?

Link: Everything you've done in the last four days. Or however many days has been since this happened.

Scary: Oh, fuck!

Taylor: Oh, no!

[laughter]

Beth: Yeah.

Anthony: That means they've heard me jerk off 67 times!

Freddie: Taylor now sweating profusely. This is my idea for Taylor. What if Taylor gets into ventriloquism? So there's a big ventriloquist dummy on his arm...

[laughter]

Freddie: ...and then that— it's wrapped in like—

Will: Normal has like—

Matt: Shit.

Will: —never been more excited for an idea in his life. He's like—

Matt: This is very good.

Normal: Yeah! Yeah! Yeah! Yeah! Yeah!

Freddie: So then we can wrap the dummy in stuff...

Link: You could be Teeny because Normal doesn't want to be Teeny anymore. I'm not teeny. You could be Teen— take the Teeny mascot on.

Freddie: Rank ass— underneath I say—

Beth: Also—!

Will: Normal shakes his head, he goes—

Normal: No, no, no, no, no—

Matt: Oh, okay.

Normal: —no, no. If you'll allow me.

Will: Normal goes to his locker, which they have lockers I'm assuming now at the...

Beth: At the headquarters.

Will: Where he was keeping some of his extra—

Matt: Our cubbies. We have cubbies.

Will: We have cubbies.

Anthony: Yeah! [*laughs*]

Will: He goes to his cubby, and he pulls out a dummy of Teeny the Teen.

Freddie: Wha—! [*laughs*]

Will: Because before he abandoned his pursuit of being a mascot, he was working on a routine where Teeny would have a little—

Anthony: A routiney.

Freddie: Oh G— [*laughs*]

Beth: A routiney...!

Matt: A routiney.

Beth: Oh my God...!

Will: A routiney. With Tiny, his tiny Teeny.

Freddie: Oh my God!

Will: And he was going to do a little banter about it at the talent show.

Freddie: So he was going to dress up his Teeny Teen the mascot and then the mascot would have a smaller version of itself as a ventriloquist dummy.

Normal: Yeah, right? It's pretty funny.

Matt: S—

Normal: I mean, it's not. It's whatever, but since I don't want it anymore, you can have it.

Matt: So then I ask Ms. Haile, I write, "Is there technology we could put in this ventriloquist dummy as long as he has it on his hand, we can talk freely?"

Anthony: Okay, so she's going to Google, uh...

Matt: Cause obviously it can't be on all the time because the FBI would get suspicious—

Anthony: Homemade...

Matt: —but I like the idea that we have this.

Freddie: Faraday cage.

Anthony: So Mae Hailes Googles what I just Googled. Uh... which is a website called "Backyard Brains! Neuroscience for Everyone." And basically there's—yeah. You can very easily make a faraday cage out of chicken wire and some basic stuff that you could buy anywhere. So Mae Hailes writes down—

Mae: Yeah. I mean, we could probably make one that fits inside Tiny Teeny.

Freddie: Okay, yeah. Let's do that. Let's do that.

Anthony: Okay.

Matt: That whole time, as you guys have been solving that, Link's like... On the far end of the paper, you see Link's been writing a whole thing... and he kind of waves to you all. And there's like a big picture and he's drawn the four of you all holding hands. And he's written:

Matt: "Once again, I just want to say I'm very sorry."

[group laughter with claps]

Matt: "I haven't— I haven't had any friends my age or any friends at all."

Freddie: Oh, no!

Matt: "I love my family more than anything. I would do anything to protect them, but in doing so I did the one thing I thought I would never do, and I shamed myself and I betrayed myself and my family and the dads I love. I betrayed my family because you are all my family now. I am sorry. Taylor, please forgive me. I love you."

Freddie: Taylor narrows his eyes as Tiny Teeny's being lowered onto his arm.

[laughter]

Freddie: And he's like—

Taylor: You owe me for this one.

Will: Normal writes in the corner, "Hey, I'm so glad you reached out. I'm actually at capacity/helping—"

[group laughter]

Will: "—someone else in crisis deal with some personal stuff..."

[continued loud laughter]

Will: Normal gives you a big hug.

Matt: Thank you.

Will: And says—

Normal: It's all right. We're both going through a lot of stuff right now, man. We'll figure it out.

Beth: Yeah. I write out—

Scary: Link, bro, you got to lighten up. And that's coming from me. Being like really down and depressed and like cool is only cool when I do it.

[laughter]

Anthony: The quality of the Faraday cage you build, I feel like... anybody can roll a Survival, or uh...

Will: Science class.

Freddie: That's me, that's me.

Anthony: ...nature...

Freddie: That's me, that's me.

Anthony: Sure.

Beth: Okay.

Freddie: Survival, nature, all that shit.

Will: We should just do rolls to see what grades we get in classes for these things.

Beth: We should.

Will: We should have a report card.

Anthony: I had a whole mechanic for grades and studying and stuff that was for a different kind of... season.

Matt: Oh we should— so you save on...

Freddie: Is anybody gonna— Is anybody gonna help me with this?

Matt: I mean, aren't we all helping?

Beth: I'll help.

Anthony: Basically, you're going to get advantage on this roll.

Freddie: [*dice roll*] Okay, so my first roll was an 11.

Anthony: Okay.

Will: Okay. Gonna want a...

Freddie: Second roll... [*dice roll*] 14 total.

Anthony: 14 total.

Will: You got another 11 on a D&D Beyond? Bro!

Beth: Damn.

Anthony: Roll a meat dice. Roll a meat space die.

Freddie: No.

Anthony: No?

[*laughter*]

Anthony: Fair enough!

Beth: Come back to the flesh, please!

Anthony: Okay.

Freddie: So I have a 14 on the Faraday caginess of the ventriloquist dummy, and we're going to just go forward from there.

Will: No, can we do one— actually, one more cool thing? So I read a book for research a while ago.

Scary: Wow, I'm Norm, I read.

Matt: This is Will.

Will: This isn't Norm, this is Will. I did a whole thing about the NSA—

Beth: Wow I'm Will, I read.

Will: I read and I read about the NSA—

[group laughter]

Will: And they fucking— at their headquarters to keep people from surveilling them, there's a gap in the walls and they pipe classical music into the walls.

Freddie: That's cool as hell.

Will: To block people from listening. So if we just put a little MP3 player in there that was playing music on loop, it might also help.

Freddie: Oh it's just Hatsune Miku, it's...

Will: Normal snaps and he pulls out his—

Matt: It's marching band songs.

Will: —Anagram Generator Mini...

Scary: No it's my— it's my music.

Anthony: Will made a good joke that nobody heard!

[laughter]

Beth: I'm sorry, I'm sorry.

Anthony: He said Anagram Generator Mini.

Will: *[quietly]* It's fine.

Freddie: *[laughs]*

Anthony: There we go.

Will: And I put my marching band playlist on loop.

Scary: *[quietly]* Damnit...

Will: And I give a wistful sigh as I hear what to Normal is the music of what like, a Scottish Highlander, the sound of bagpipes is in terms of driving you into a blood frenzy, he hears it for a second.

Matt: *[laughs]*

Will: And something stirs deep with him inside him and he shakes it off and he stuffs it in.

Freddie: Gotta suppress it.

Will: He stuffs it into Teeny and he's like—

Normal: No.

Freddie: So now at all times, when I'm walking around, very faintly—as a passive perception needs to be pretty high—you can hear cover band...

Will: Normal tearfully realizes that with Taylor now endorsing Teeny the Teen, Teeny the Teen's cache at this school's going to fucking skyrocket even harder.

Beth: Damn.

Freddie: Yeah, I want to cut to school and the doors open up, and it's the slow-mo walking down the hallway shot.

[cool rhythm and bass music starts]

Freddie: And it's that slow, long where people are like, "Who's that?" And it's Taylor with a ventriloquist dummy.

Anthony: Roll...

Freddie: Cool?

Anthony: Performance, I guess?

Freddie: Roll fucking cool. *[dice roll]*

Anthony: Performance or persu—

Freddie: 17!

Anthony: [*audibly disappointed*] 17. All right. So yeah. Exactly what you said you just did happens. Even though it's still class, so. Just the kids that are skipping class and walking around on the campus.

Freddie: Who are the—

Anthony: Who are the cool kids.

Freddie: Who are the tastemakers. Yeah, they're the tastemakers.

Will: Some befuddle algorithm master at Amazon is like, "Why the fuck are ventriloquist dummy orders skyrocketing in San Dimas, California?"

Freddie: There's a thing where Taylor does like a, "Ay!" over there, but then the dummy's going like, "Ay!"

[*laughter*]

Freddie: To someone else on the other side of the room.

[*music fades out quickly*]

Matt: Sorry, just to clarify, we don't know for certain, obviously, if this is working?

Freddie: If it works or not, yeah.

Anthony: Correct.

Matt: Okay.

Anthony: You have no way of knowing.

Freddie: Just to talk about killing the mayor now.

Matt: Okay. Well...

Freddie: Now that we can talk about killing the mayor, right?

Link: Well, I guess this is as good of a time as any to talk about this, and I guess we'll test this out if this is working. [*voice pitch trails up and then down*] FBI...? [*normally*] Okay, let's hope that's good. I hope my dad's still at home. Uhm!

Link: So I don't want to kill the mayor.

[laughter]

Link: I don't know if you heard... my dad, it just feels really violent, and the mayor's like— did you guys vote? I mean, obviously we don't vote, but he's not a bad guy. Like, I don't know. What are we going to do?

Normal: She!

Scary: It's a bad woman.

Link: A bad— oh.

Scary: Even worse.

Link: I'm sorry, you're right.

Scary: Well, I thought that she had the sauce.

Taylor: She— Yeah, she's got the sauce.

Link: She's got the sauce...

Taylor: So we gotta.

Scary: Do we know if the sauce can be cured, or do you just got to, like, die?

Link: I don't know.

Taylor: Yeah, it's cured by the icy embrace of death.

Will: Do we have any money left? Do we have any of those warbucks left?

Anthony: I believe you have one.

Matt: We can ask The Whale.

Normal: Let's ask The Whale! If we can de-sauce someone!

Scary: Okay!

Matt: Yeah.

Link: And also, yeah, Ms. Haile, you said, "Kill the mayor." It's not as important to kill the mayor, we just got to make the mayor not... sauced.

Taylor: No, I'm taking what she's saying, she's saying we got to kill this motherfucker.

Mae: I— I mean—

Link: She can clarify. She's right there. You can just ask her to clarify.

Mae: Yeah, I'm right here. Yeah, I mean, yes. I guess technically, if you could find a way to de-sauce her, that's also fine.

Link: Okay.

Mae: But it just feels like...

Link: Yeah, but...

Mae: A bullet to the head is pretty de-saucy.

Link: My dad seems to be going through stuff, and the last thing he said was to not be like him, and I guess he's killed a lot of people.

Mae: [laughs] Yeah.

Link: And said not to kill people.

Mae: Yeah, he has.

Link: Hey, don't laugh about that.

Mae: Oh, sorry. Right, sorry.

Link: It's okay.

Scary: Well—

Mae: He's just really good at it.

Scary: I mean like, you don't have to be the one that actually kills her. Like...

Link: Oh...

Scary: One of us can like, step up.

Link: History's full of good people not doing enough to stop evil. I can't just sit here and let you guys kill—

Taylor: Yeah, exactly. Join the rest of them and be fine!

Scary: Yeah!

[laughter]

Taylor: That's the whole point of that saying, Link.

Link: Think Normal's got the right... Let's ask The Whale at least, first.

Scary: Wait, yeah, let's ask The Whale.

Anthony: Okay. So you head down to Jimmy Whales' tank.

[there's an echoing ring, suggesting a huge body of water in empty space, and then the mechanical buzz and pleasant jingle of the machine]

Anthony: You put your last Daddy Warbuck inside.

[the release of tiny krill into the tank]

Freddie: The krill comes out.

Anthony: The krill comes out and he goes—

Jimmy: *[his deep voice echoes]* Om-num-num-num-num.

Normal: Mr. Whale... is there any way to de-sauce somebody that's not killing them?

Taylor: Specifically the mayor.

Normal: Specifically the mayor, I guess, if that's knowledge that you are capable of having.

Anthony: The Whale says—

Jimmy: I do not specifically know of the mayor, but I know that if you can reverse the desire or mania or obsession that allowed The Doodler to take root inside them, it will no longer consider them a viable host.

Normal: *[gasps]*

Taylor: So we got to fix someone.

Normal: We got to win the debate with them!

Taylor: But like—

Normal: And if we don't, I mean, we might have to kill her.

Taylor: But like win the— But like win the debate to such a degree that the mayor totally lets go of whatever fucked up thing that they got—

Normal: Yeah!

Taylor: —that they got The Doodler on.

Normal: But how hard could it be to win a debate with the politician? If they're wrong, you just point out why they're wrong and then, y'know, you won.

Link: So we got to destroy them. So we should go on YouTube and type, "Somebody destroys somebody in a debate..."

[laughter]

Link: ...and see what we can learn.

Scary: Yeah.

[laughter]

Link: About proper debating skills.

Freddie: We'd like to run an Insight— I'd like to roll and Insight check on YouTube for how to destroy someone in a debate and what that entails.

Anthony: Uh, yeah. Go ahead. Roll Insight.

Taylor: Hm!

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

Anthony: [quietly] Debate— [normally] Okay.

Will: Let's say hypothetically we needed to destroy someone in a debate.

Anthony: Yes, exactly. So it turns out if you type "destroys debate" into YouTube, the first one you get is actually Ben Shapiro being destroyed by—

Freddie: That's still helpful!

Beth: Yeah.

Anthony: —Andrew Neil from the BBC.

Freddie: That's still helpful.

Anthony: So let's say that whatever rolls you have during debate, you have advantage on the first like— Because this is a actually pretty short little clip. It's like a minute— you have 90 seconds. So within the first 90 seconds of the debate—

[laughter]

Anthony: —you have advantage on all of your roles for dunking on the mayor for whatever debate topic you choose. As you come back...

Link: Oh, that was a lot of pee we all did.

Anthony: So Normal's mother goes—

Rebecca: Oh, you're finally back. So yeah, I was going to say, did anybody want to volunteer to debate the mayor, nobody did...

Taylor: We will!

Rebecca: Oh, okay!

Scary: Yeah.

Rebecca: Fantastic. So—

Taylor: Me and my buddy, Tiny, here. Right, Tiny? [*muffled, out the side of his mouth*] Why yes, we'd like to take on the mayor.

Kids: Teeny! Teeny! Tiny!

Freddie: Whole fucking crowd goes wild—

Kids: Teeny!

Taylor: That's right, folks! Teeny's back! And hand-held!

Anthony: It's like we're in a Tiny Teeny Wonderland.

Matt: Wait, do they all think—

Will: Oh my God!

Freddie: God!

Matt: One kid goes—

One Kid: Yo, was that you in the suit doing the Whatnot?

Anthony: Oh, yeah. Yeah, they definitely assumed that. Yeah—

Second Kid: Was that you? That was way too cool to be Normal, right?

Freddie: And I raise an eyebrow and I go—

Taylor: I'll never tell.

Freddie: And I touch my nose.

Matt: *[laughs]*

Second Kid: Oh, he's so cool! Oh, shit, it was definitely him as Teeny because he was so cool!

Beth: Even though he was like, "Oh, zit juice got all over me!" Like he was there...

[laughter]

Freddie: Yeah, everybody saw me in the Gundam costume.

Anthony: Oh, yeah. They did, didn't they?

Beth: That's how much they want to believe.

Anthony: Yeah, that's true. So—

Freddie: The rumor mill just goes, y'know?

Beth: Yeah.

Anthony: So the teacher says—

Rebecca: You can come up with any debate topic that you like as a favor from the mayor because she's so confident she can beat you in any sort of debates situation.

Freddie: Wait, wait...

Matt: *[laughs]*

Will: *[laughing]* Is that why she's coming to class?

Taylor: Wait, wait— The mayor came... Wait, wait—

Will: *[laughing]* Just to destroy us?

Taylor: To be clear...

Normal: One v. one?

Rebecca: Yeah! She thought it'd be fun to teach you about debate and, like— kind of school you.

Freddie: And school you on any topic?

Anthony: Yeah!

Matt: Is it one child, or is she debating four children?

Anthony: She's debating four children simultaneously.

Beth: Okay.

Freddie: Like a chess master?!

Anthony: Yeah!

Will: No, it's like— did you guys ever do Tae Kwon Do?

Freddie: No!

Will: In my Tae Kwon Do class, the last thing they would do, all the kids would fight one black belt guy.

Matt: *[giggles]*

Freddie: No shit, really?

Will: Yeah. No, they did this!

Matt: Oh shit, really?

Will: It would be like The Matrix burly brawl, but it would be like a...

Freddie: Wait, but like—

Will: *[laughing]* It was literally like, "How many eight year olds can you take in a fight?" thing.

Beth: Wow!

Freddie: Wait, but like full contact sparring?

Will: I mean, it was like a big goofy thing. It wasn't all that, but—

Matt: And they're a black belt, they can just easily dispatch a kid without fucking hurting them. They just push them aside.

Will: Strip mall black belts are experts. So they know how to—

Anthony: You know you can just buy black belts?

Freddie: Yeah.

Beth: Yeah.

Anthony: And just use it as an excuse for beating up kids?

Matt: So we—

Freddie: *[laughs]*

Matt: Just to clarify, we can pick the debate topic?

Taylor: What should we debate with the mayor?

Link: Yeah, when do we have to let you know what we're debating?

Rebecca: You don't have to let me know ever. We're just going to start class tomorrow, you'll tell me and the rest of the class and the mayor what the topic is.

Normal: Wow, she's gonna—

Link: She doesn't need to prepare?

Normal: Unprepared? She's gonna do— She's that good.

Freddie: Ex-temp, dude?

Scary: *[whispered]* She's that good.

Rebecca: Yeah.

Anthony: Okay, so I feel like this is at the sleepover.

Freddie: Yeah, yeah.

Matt: This is at the sleepover.

Beth: Yeah.

Freddie: So at the sleepover—

Beth: We've already done Never Have I Ever.

[chuckles]

Matt: Is Marko okay being home alone without Grant and...

Anthony: Well, did you check in with him?

Matt: Well, of course I checked in with him.

Anthony: Then yeah, he's fucking psyched that you made friends already. You were homeschooled and you're already going to a sleepover after four days? He's overjoyed.

Link: Nice.

Anthony: He says—

Marko: Love you, my son.

Matt: And the FBI didn't take him.

Anthony: No, he's still at home.

Matt: Okay.

Anthony: He's still answering your texts.

Matt: Okay, that's all I wanted to know.

Anthony: I mean, as far as you know—

Matt: Ah, shit! Could be the FBI texting me.

Anthony: Unless somebody's pretending to be him on the fucking phone.

Will: [stiffly] I love you, son.

[laughter]

Anthony: I lo— Yeah, son is in brackets.

Matt: I like that you like—

Will: Ask him how— Ask him how wolf he is.

[laughter]

Matt: [stiffly] I like that you like soccer. You are good at soccer.

Anthony: Your husband, brackets, find name of husband, is doing well.

[laughter]

[ding-dong!]

Anthony: Ding-dong! The pizza's here.

Scary: [sighs]

Normal: Eh—

Taylor: Oh, pizza's here. Mom, can you get that?

Link: She's not home, dude.

Anthony: Mom's not home. She told you that over the phone.

Taylor: Oh, that's right. That's right, she ordered this.

Will: Normal opens the door.

Anthony: You see a 17 year old girl with a ponytail and she's wearing a top hat. And she has a shirt on that says, like, "Cheesy's Pizza." And underneath that shirt, you can see a very, very anatomically incorrect picture of an anime girl with long red hair who's turning into a bear and it says, "Brave" on it.

[laughter]

Anthony: And she goes—

Hero: [she speaks with a lisp, like she has heavy braces] Oh, my God, Normal, what are you doing here?

Normal: Her— wh— Heo, what are you doing here?

Hero: My job!

Scary: I can tell she's threatened by me.

[laughter]

Taylor: Do you know that pizza delivery person?

Link: Is this your sister?

Normal: This— Guys, this is my sister, Hero. Ugh!

Hero: Hi, guys. Hey, misc— [*scoffs*]

Anthony: And she sees you, Taylor. Taylor, what are you wearing?

Freddie: Probably like my... casual at home jammies.

Matt: [*laughs*]

Anthony: What do those look like?

Freddie: It's like jammies that have a vague tuxedo cut kind of going.

Anthony: [*off-guard laugh*]

Beth: Oh, my God.

Will: Oh, okay.

Anthony: What's on the jammies though?

Will: Just silk.

Freddie: It's like, silk, dude.

Will: Not everything's anime with Taylor.

Freddie: It's just silk.

Will: Sometimes he just goes for a style.

Freddie: It's just very comfortable, expensive, silk pajamas that have a little tuxedo design on them.

Matt: And then on the right, like on the breast pocket, there's a very... a very—

Freddie: A tasteful...!

Matt: —sophisticated embroidery...

Freddie: A tasteful rose!

Matt: ...of an anime character.

Anthony: No, no, it's fine!

Freddie: Yeah, yeah—

Matt: But it is in color!

Freddie: It's a tasteful—

Anthony: It doesn't have to be an anime, thing!

Freddie: It's a tasteful...!

Anthony: My plans for what happens with things doesn't have to—

Freddie: It's a tasteful Tuxedo Mask-like rose.

[laughter]

Anthony: Okay.

Matt: There you go.

Anthony: Okay.

Freddie: Embroidered.

Anthony: So she looks over your shoulder and sees Taylor in the Tuxedo Mask outfit and she goes—

Hero: [scoffs] Somebody still on Sailor Moon? Newbie much?

Taylor: Excuse me one second. Norm, I'm not tipping.

[chuckles]

Normal: Yeah, that's fine.

Taylor: Ah, yeah, okay.

Normal: Well, give us our pizza and get out of here, Hero. Ugh!

Hero: Okay, fine.

Anthony: And she hands you the pizza and she holds her hand out for a tip anyway.

Normal: Uh, here's a tip... Be a better older sister, God.

Scary: Damn...!

Taylor: Slam the door in her face!

Normal: I'm sorry. That was mean. Uh, I don't have any money though.

Hero: Yeah just, I'm just done.

Anthony: And she walks away, she goes back to her Cheesy Pizza car...

Scary: You crushed that girl! Holy shit!

Anthony: And you can see as she drives away that there's a Tuxedo Mask bumper sticker on her car. And you remember that that's her favorite character.

Scary: Man, [*chuckling*] Tuxedo Mask is hot though.

Matt: Link is already on the app to give her five stars and said, "She did a great job, even though the customers were rude."

[*laughter*]

Freddie: [*laughing*] Even though the customers—us!—were rude.

[*ad break*]

Anthony: You wanted to investigate her campaign website?

Matt: Yeah, let's research the mayor.

Taylor: 14 Hawaiian pizzas! All right, let's look into this mayor.

Scary: Maybe there's a way to get her to admit that she's driven by the sauce. Like a debate topic like, "do I like the sauce" or something?

Normal: We need to figure out what's going on with the mayor.

Link: Yeah.

Normal: To understand, y'know, what to do. We should try to do a little—

Taylor: We need to find her greatest weakness.

Normal: Yes!

Scary: Yes.

Normal: What is she obsessed with? That's what we got to figure out, and then we'll debate her about that and we'll convince her...

Taylor: Pull up the campaign website.

Anthony: Go ahead and roll Investigation.

Matt: All of us? This is like all of us on Google?

Anthony: Yeah, why not.

Freddie: Depending on how good we roll is going to be the type of website we're looking at.

[dice roll]

Anthony: Yes.

Matt: Well, I got 13+2. 15.

[dice roll]

Anthony: Okay.

Beth: Fucking, I got a 4.

Freddie: [dice roll] 7+4. 11. I'm looking at like the social media feed, which is not run by the mayor, it's clearly run by an intern trying to be like...

Matt: Scary, you're on just your poetry site or whatever just working on your...

Beth: I'm literally on like, Evernote writing lyrics.

[chuckles]

Will: I got a 2, so I am watching the show *Mayor of Easttown*.

[laughter]

Anthony: Great.

Normal: Interesting. She's so complex! We should talk to her about vaping, it seems like she has a problem.

Scary: Mayor, Norm. It's [emphasizing pronunciation] mayor, not Mayer.

Will: Okay, I'm now listening to the music of John Mayer.

Scary: [sighs]

Freddie: [laughs]

Matt: So I'm the only one who's actually investigating?

Anthony: Yes. You...

Matt: I'm typing very loudly, like passive aggressively, as everybody's doing other things like...

Freddie: Listen. Listen, this is just a group project experience, let's be honest.

Matt: Yup. What do I learn?

Anthony: Okay, so you find a critical article about the mayor that mentions basically her biography and her backstory, and the author—who is from sort of a right wing website—says that basically her mother was mayor of a larger town, not San Dimas, in her childhood, and her mother died halfway into her first term from a car accident. And that everything she's been doing has been out of a pathetic misguided attempt to get her mother's love and that she needs to stop worrying about her dead mother and start worrying about real mothers in this town whom she has treated with the utmost disrespect by all of her policies. And it starts just getting overly angry.

Normal: What if, hear me out... the topic is "should Mother's Day continue to be a holiday?"

Taylor: Ooh!

Link: Ooh, that's pretty good. That's sick.

Taylor: The Mother's Day Debate!

Scary: Yeah!

Normal: Well, that's how we get into the mom stuff.

Link: Or we do... Maybe this is too messed up. Maybe we take the side that car crashes that kill moms are bad, which means that she has to be forced to argue—

Scary: That...

Link: —that it's okay for there to be less moms on Earth due to car crashes. I think that'd be really hard for her to argue that side.

Normal: Hm...

Link: Maybe that's too niche. Maybe the Mother's Day thing's better.

[laughter]

Taylor: Dang. Low blow.

Scary: Maybe... I's like "moms... shouldn't be allowed to do things. Like tell you what to do."

Link: But we would argue that moms are awesome and should have a holiday and they're great, which again, would mean that she would have to argue the opposite.

Taylor: That mothers don't deserve their own holiday.

Link: That's a clear win because moms are great. ...I mean, I don't have one, but I mean if they're anything like dads.

[all laughing]

Normal: Yeah, yeah yeah. Okay, so the debate is "Mother's Day, should we keep having it?"

Link: Yes!

Scary: Yeah.

Normal: And... we say our position is that we should...

Link: Yeah.

Scary: Sure...

Normal: ...because moms are good.

Link: Yes.

Scary: Yeah.

Normal: And then her position is that—

Taylor: Is that Mother's Day should not be a holiday.

Normal: Mother's day should not be a holiday...

Taylor: Let's see her try to argue her way—

Normal: ...and then we can basically use that to get into like... why it's like okay that her mom died.

Link: Is our goal to get her to cry on stage or something?

Scary: N-yeah.

Normal: I don't know! It seems better than killing her, so...

Link: I mean, yeah, I agree! I'm just trying to figure out the goal.

Taylor: Plan B though, how are we going to kill her?

Link: [*nervous laugh*] Uhm... Do you have a gun?

Taylor: Well, no. I have this—

Link: Let's not.

Taylor: —ATM machine.

Scary: I got a knife.

Link: Oh, that's... could you do that?

Scary: It's a pretty sick-ass knife.

Matt: I look at Scary's eyes, where I'm like—

Link: Could you do that? Could you kill her? With a knife?

Scary: Absolutely.

Link: Oh...

Taylor: Your DNA is going to be all over this knife.

Mae: You're also going to be doing it in front of your entire class.

Scary: How else would I get a cred of being like, the metalist chick ever?
Just willing to do...

Anthony: Mae Hailes puts her hands up and says—

Mae: Yeah. No, you're... That's a fair point. Also, I'm here.

Scary: You want to be the metalist chick ever?

Mae: [*quietly*] No.

Taylor: We have access to—

Freddie: *[suddenly out of voice]* —the machine, right? “The ATM size machine with a single red button that when pressed will cause thousands of portals to open up from which thousands of assassins from every conceivable time period will blast the button, press her into oblivion.”

Anthony: And Mae says—

Mae: I did buy a- wha- a trolley thingy?

Taylor: A hand truck.

Mae: A hand truck. I bought a hand truck, if we need to move it somewhere.

Taylor: What if— Okay, hear me out. What if we could somehow... provoke the mayor into hitting this button? What could we put as a label on this pedestal...

Scary: Ah!

Taylor: ...that this mayor had no choice, but to press the button. Thereby—

Scary: I got an idea!

Taylor: Yeah.

Scary: So what if we say that that's the button that you push when you're done arguing?

Link: Oh, what? Oh God...

Scary: Say—

Will: *[laughs]*

Scary: Whenever you think that you've really pwned your opponent and you're like, “Man, I'm done.” Like, “Suck on that!” You just push the button. And we could have a fake button that we push...

Normal: *[exhales]*

Link: Okay, it sounds like we're really going down the rabbit hole—

Taylor: This is great.

Link: —not a plan B, but a straight up let's murder her.

Freddie: [laughs]

Link: And not to have a debate here, but can we just like not have a plan be on murder? Not to be that guy. We could murder her if we— It's a tea— y'know, it's a democracy.

Normal: Here's—!

Link: Let's vote.

Normal: Here's what I would propose.

Link: Okay.

Normal: What if... we have a debate. When you lose the debate, you press the button. But hear me out, hear me out. So... if we win the debate, we... convinced her that we won and we don't need to kill her, right? Wait, so no, it should be— if you lose the debate, you have to press the button. And then if we win the debate, then...

Taylor: It's all good.

Normal: ...she will have to— Then we have to press the button, but we won't! Because... she's not... crazy! And I mean, she doesn't have the sauce anymore, right? So we don't have to press it.

Taylor: No, no, no.

Scary: No, wai—

Normal: Right?

Taylor: Wait, wait—

Normal: If we lose the debate—

Taylor: No, no, no. No, no, no.

Normal: —she has to press the button!

Taylor: No, no, no, no, no no—

Scary: Yeah.

Taylor: —no, no, no. Stop, stop, stop. That's the worst possible thing. Listen...

Normal: Wait, I don't understand, why not?

Taylor: Whoever presses the button—

Link: Yeah, for sure.

Taylor: —will die!

Normal: No, but that's what I'm saying!

Scary: Yeah! Yeah!

Normal: Wait, hear me out!

Scary: I—

Normal: We don't press it!

Scary: Actually...

Will: Here's what we— No, no, no! This is Will talking! This is a good idea.

Scary: I-I agree, Norm!

Taylor: I hear you, Taylor.

Scary: No, I think you're totally onto it, Norm! Like, if she wins, then we haven't convinced her and she has to push the button anyway because she won.

Normal: Yes!

Mae: Yes.

Normal: If she wins, then we lost and she has to push the button.

Taylor: Yeah, so anybody who [*emphasized*] wins [*normally*] the debate...!

Mae: Yes, it's the winner. The winner pushes the button.

Taylor: Pushes the button.

Normal: That's what I said.

Matt: Yeah.

Freddie: No, you said the lose will lose it...

Anthony: You said the loser.

Matt: He said that then he changed his mind.

Normal: I'm pretty sure I know what I said, guys.

[*chuckles*]

Matt: Okay.

Link: But then if we win, we just won't press the button.

Scary: Yeah.

Normal: No, we don't press it. Then we just don't press it. We pretend to press it.

Link: Yeah then we just don't press it.

Scary: Well, we can have like, another button.

Normal: Yeah, we press a different button.

Link: Yeah. I mean, we can just be sore winners.

Taylor: Here's—

Link: And be like, "Yeah!"

Taylor: Here's what it is, here's what it is, here's what it is: We cover the pedestal in a cloth at the beginning of class. Should we lose, we'll whip it off saying, This is the Teeny the Teen High tradition that we're starting. If we win, the cover stays on and nobody is the wiser.

Matt: [*laughs*]

Link: We present the button and we say, "if you are to press this, would you kill..." [*Matt chuckles*] "Would you kill one person to save—

[*group laughter*]

Link: "—four dads?"

[*laughter*]

Link: And we make her argue that is a good moral trade because then if she wins...

Anthony: We do a flashback to fucking Link's house and there's just a DVD copy of *The Box* on the fucking, next to the TV.

Link: If she wins, she's made the argument—

Normal: That she should not.

Link: —that she should also press the button, and then it's fine.

Anthony: Mae says, uhm...

Mae: Does anybody feel like the vibe's off?

Normal: What do you mean?

Link: Yeah, it's been that for a while since I betrayed us all. I'm sorry.

Freddie: *[laughs]*

Mae: No, I... maybe it's just me. I don't know.

Normal: Wh- what—

Mae: Anyway. Sorry, keep going.

Taylor: Explain!

Scary: Hold up. I—

Mae: It just feels like... It feels weird— I don't know, I feel weird. I don't know. Does anybody else fe—

Scary: You feel weird? You feel like you have the sauce or something?

Mae: No, not like I have a sauce! Just so— I don't know!

Scary: I don't know, there's something about you...

Taylor: Are you lactose intolerant?

Mae: I— other than the fact I'm a grown woman doing a sleepover at a kid—

Taylor: Are you lactose intolerant?

Mae: I am, but that's not—

Normal: Six day—

Matt: [*laughing*] We— we didn't invite Ms. Haile...

Normal: Lady, six days ago I was planning cheer routines and trying to do a front handspring, and now I'm with four people trying to figure out how to murder the mayor while being normal enough for my dad to love me. So yeah, the vibe's off!

Matt: I'm rolling Perception.

Beth: I'm going to roll— I'm gonna roll... yeah.

Will: I'm going to roll Insight as well.

Freddie: I'm not. I'm in my house.

Anthony: You trying Insight or Perception?

Matt: Oh, I'm going to do Insight, because I got +4 on Insight.

Will: I'm going to do a sense vibes Insight roll.

Matt: [*dice roll*] I got 19 on...

Beth: [*dice roll*] I got a 19, too!

Matt: Oh, there you go.

Will: [*dice roll*] I got a natural 20.

Anthony: And you all rolled Insight?

Matt: Insight.

Will: Yup.

Anthony: Okay, so you can tell that Mae Hailes is being honest, something feels unnerving to her and she cannot quite put words to it or put her finger on it.

Beth: Fuck.

Will: [*quietly*] Shit...

Matt: So she's just being honest about it.

Will: Well good news...

Anthony: But she's embarrassed now, so she's like—

Mae: Nevermind. I'll be in the corner.

Beth: If we roll Perception, would we have a better chance of finding that out?

Anthony: You could roll and see.

Beth: [*kicked puppy sound*]

Matt: I'll roll a Perception too. [*off mic*] I got...

Will: Can I roll Arcana to understand the rules of Dungeons and Dragons as they...

Anthony: Yeah.

Matt: I got a 13 Perception.

Will: As they exist in your mercurial brain, Anthony?

Beth: [*dice roll*] 11+1.

Anthony: 12.

Will: [*dice roll*] I got a 7.

Anthony: Okay, with a 7. You're not alone in this room.

Normal: [*gasps*]

Matt: I'm going to do Divine Sense.

Anthony: Okay.

Matt: As an action I can Detect Good and Evil. "Until the end of your next turn, you can sense anything affected by the Hollow spell or know the location of any celestial/fiend/undead within 60 feet that is not behind cover. You can use this feature one time." So do I notice anything good or evil, or of that sort?

Anthony: There's something evil... underneath Taylor's bed.

Matt: Link...

Will: Link pulls out a piece of paper.

[*group laughter*]

Matt: Link pulls out a piece of paper and write, "I sense something evil under Taylor's bed", and then I'm like—

Link: Is that maybe the vibe you're feeling Ms. Haile?

Freddie: Taylor pulls down his sick katana. Off the wall and puts it in a ready position.

Beth: I have the Kellog K-nife at the ready.

Will: Normal is going to... just hide behind Link. *[laughs]* And peek his head out from behind Link and say—

Normal: W- W- How evil? What are you feeling, bro?

Matt: Link, feeling bad about betraying his friends, is going to slowly look under the bed.

Anthony: So as you lower your head down, pulling up the, y'know, the skirt of the bed—

Matt: No, I'm as far away from the bed as possible.

Freddie: Using a stick.

Anthony: Oh, so you're not— so you're far away from the bed?

Matt: I'm going to lay on the floor essentially, so I can look across the floor.

Anthony: Okay, great.

Will: As you do that, I kind of lean...

Matt: *[laughs]*

Will: *[off mic]* I'm like falling with you behind you to stay hidden behind you.

Matt: You're like spooning me, essentially?

[laughter]

Will: Yeah essentially. I'm like on your back like a backpack basically.

Freddie: Like Yoda.

Will: *[laughing]* Yeah like Yoda and Luke.

Anthony: As you lower down, you see...

[slow music begins; less music and more ambient, skin-crawling, tones]

Anthony: ...initially nothing until two lids open—

[two sounds, more like the tearing of velcro than the movement of flesh]

Anthony: —and you see two massively bugged out eyes and a big smile.

Beth: Oh God.

Anthony: And slowly a hand...

[dry cracking and snapping, like thin bark being broken or shattered glass being crunched underfoot]

Anthony: ...wraps itself around the side of the bed—

Link: Cheshire cat.

Anthony: —and sort of pulls a little bit—

Link: Nope.

Anthony: —and—

[laughter]

Anthony: And pulls itself into the light.

[more crunches and crackles]

Anthony: The first thing you notice is how big the smile she's wearing is, it almost seems to take up most of her face. And her skin on her face looks pulled taut completely. Like you can see...

Beth: Is it a politician smile?

Anthony: I- it- *[stutters]* Inspiration. You get inspiration. Because she's also wearing a pants suit.

[short laughs]

Anthony: And her hair feels like it's pulled back into a ponytail that looks like it's also pulling back the skin on her face—

Freddie: Eugh.

Beth: Ah...

Anthony: —like you can almost see her bones, like—not that they're, y'know, poking out of the skin or anything, but almost like they're about to come through.

[music cuts out]

Anthony: And she goes—

Mayor: *[voice breathy, soft, and high]* Hi. Hi!

Link: Ah...

Freddie: Taylor's going to stab first—

Anthony: Okay.

Freddie: —ask questions later. Just going to run in and stab. He has the katana, right?

Anthony: Yeah, he does.

Matt: Do we recognize what she looks like? I mean this is doing anyways...

Anthony: You've been doing research on her. So yeah, this is the mayor.

Freddie: And I go—

Taylor: Zephyr... Strike!

Anthony: Okay. What does that do again?

Freddie: I move like the wind. The fucking wind, Anthony. My movement doesn't provoke opportunity attacks. It's a... it's a cast, 1d8 additional damage on the weapon attack.

Beth: Uhm.

Anthony: Okay, so make a weapon attack.

Beth: Wait, can I cast Guidance on you?

Anthony: What does that do? Give him, like, an extra thing?

Beth: "You touch one willing creature, the target can roll a d4 and add the number roll to an ability check of your choice."

Anthony: Great.

Matt: That's a good spell. I guess if you have to do an ability check, it works.

Beth: Oh, sorry.

Matt: No, no. That could be helpful because we don't know what the mayor's going to do.

Beth: Yeah.

Matt: She might do something that makes him have to do a check.

Freddie: [*dice roll*] There we go... [*groans*] 3+3 is 6.

Beth: [*softly*] Fuck.

Matt: Does she look creepier than she did in the images? Like...

Anthony: Yeah, you sa—

Matt: As you described it, is that how she looks all the time and everyone's okay with it?

Anthony: No, no, no, sorry. She doesn't look— she didn't look like that all the time—

Matt: Okay.

Anthony: —and that's how she got nominated. Like... It seems like whatever happened to her has happened fairly recently.

Matt: Okay, okay.

Anthony: It looks like a more desiccated version of the woman—the otherwise confident woman that you saw on the website.

Freddie: Ah, ah, ah! I get advantage—

Matt: Okay. We're looking at a bit of a messed up—

Freddie: I cast Zephyr Strike which gives me advantage on one weapon attack roll. So I can try again on that weapon attack roll.

Anthony: I think so. Sure.

Freddie: [*dice roll*] [*quick sigh*] 8+3. 11.

Anthony: 11 is not going to do it.

Freddie: Shit.

Anthony: So you stab downward... How are you stab— Are you jumping onto bed and stabbing or something?

Freddie: I'm basically running straight towards the bed and then like... I'm drawing it in the run and then jumping onto the bed and like, just poking it straight down.

Will: Oh, like in *Kill Bill*? Do you know what I mean?

Anthony: Yeah.

Will: The anime part, where...

Anthony: Yeah.

Freddie: Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah.

Will: Yeah.

Anthony: And just like in the anime part, the blade goes down, but just right in front of her face instead of actually hitting her. And she just reaches forward with her tongue and just—

Mayor: ...eh!

Anthony: And pushes on it, with her tongue, pushes on the blade. The strength of her tongue and just— *pfvv!*

Will: Ooh...!

Anthony: Moves it out of the wood and knocks it loose a little bit.

Taylor: Gah!

Will: Normal steps bravely forward and says—

Normal: [*stilted*] I have a button you need to press.

Anthony: So she goes—

Mayor: I heard- I heard what you said about the button. [*whispered*] I was listening. This is what you call research on your opposition. [*normally, which is still breathy and soft*] So no, I'm not going to be pressing—

Taylor: This is fucking bullshit.

Mayor: That's how you win! That's how I'm so good at debates!

Anthony: Okay, Beth, did you want to do something?

Beth: I cast my cantrip True Strike, which “you point a finger at a target in range, your magic grants you a brief insight into the target’s defenses.”

Anthony: Okay.

Will: Ooh!

Beth: On your next turn, you gain advantage on your first attack roll against the target.

Anthony: Well, I'll tell you her AC is 14.

Beth: Okay.

Anthony: Okay, so that was your action.

Will: What did Mae Hailes do?

Anthony: Oh, Mae Hailes was just like—

Mae: Uh— What do I do? What do you want me to do? You're supposed to order me around.

Normal: Fight! Fight her!

Link: Or debate her, whatever it seems to make more sense right now.

[laughter]

Normal: Use your best judgment!

Mae: Uh—

Normal: We don't want to micromanage.

Mae: Uh—

Anthony: She's like—

Mae: I think we should get big money out of politics!

[group laughter]

Anthony: And the mayor goes—

Mayor: I agree!

Anthony: And Mae's like—

Mae: Okay, I don't know what to do now.

[laughter]

Mae: I don't- I don't know what to do.

Anthony: She pulls herself out and stands up—

[cracking and crackling goes on for far longer than you want it to]

Anthony: —and she's far taller than you expected.

Beth: Oh no...!

Anthony: She's far taller, more slim and more slender than you saw on the website.

Will: [quietly] Slender Mayor.

Beth: She's like a Slender Man politician.

Anthony: She's a Slender Mayor. She looks like somebody put her into a taffy pull—

Beth: Oh-ooh...

Will: Ooh...

Anthony: —and she just stuck that way. And she goes—

Mayor: There's no need for violence, this could be solved in the marketplace of ideas—

Freddie: [chuckles]

Scary: —[eye-rolling] Oh God.

Mayor: and I just wanted to know what your ideas were, and now that I know you're planning to say some hurtful things potentially about my mother. Uh, that's very...

Scary: [*whispered*] Fuck.

Mayor: That's very good to know.

Link: We weren't going to though. You heard us right? We were changing our mind. We were thinking about killi...

Scary: [*stutters*]

Anthony: Oh, well...

[*laughter*]

Scary: Yeah...

Mayor: Yeah, but I'm not going to press that button now, so that's too bad for you.

Link: It doesn't do anything. You want to try it out?

[*group laughter*]

Scary: Yeah!

Anthony: Roll... roll Deception with disadvantage.

Matt: [*two dice rolls*] [*laughing*] 3.

Anthony: She goes—

Mayor: No, I don't think I will. I think I'm good.

Scary: Can't we bring money into this? Money's a big politic thing. Right?

Mayor: I just agreed we should get money out of big politics, and I'm a woman of my word.

Scary: [*exhaling*] Fudge!

Mayor: I suppose I'll just see you tomorrow at the debate so that whatever I do to you will be in front of all of your friends. And your mother. Normal.

Normal: Uh—!

Link: Do you want to agree on a debate topic maybe? While we're here?

Normal: Yeah, what do you—

Scary: Yeah! Let's- Let's—

Normal: What do you want to debate? Yeah!

Scary: Yeah, anything you want! And then...

Link: We were just blue sky...

Normal: yeah we're just spitballin' here!

Link: That's why we got to that weird spot.

Scary: Yeah.

Link: Like, that wasn't what- what we were going to end on, was the whole... your mom things, so maybe we just figure out—

Normal: Look, I'm sure, as mayor, you... have to float a lot of ideas, right? And I'm sure your mayor team, they must say stuff, y'know, like you're just throwing ideas out there about what to do, and some of those ideas might be pretty bad. But that's where you know where the line is! So that's all we were doing. We were just trying to blue sky, figure out where the line is, and you know what? The line is: we're not going to make you press a button, and we're not going to be mean about your mom. And, y'know, thank you for your... feedback. That's good for us to know. What's a thing that you would want to debate that, I don't know, you'd be bad at?

Scary: Yeah.

Mayor: Okay, how about this? How about this? I will tell you—and I'm telling you the truth and any of you can look into my eyes.

Freddie: That's some Rumpelstiltskin shit.

Anthony: Her eyes getting too big—

[a rubbery straining]

Anthony: —like, they pop out even more. She goes—

Mayor: You could look into my eyes and know that I'm telling you the truth. I'm not going to hurt any of you right now, but I need to show you something to show you what I'm very bad at debating.

Normal: O-o-okay.

Scary: U-uh...

Mayor: I'm not going to hurt anyone.

Normal: Alright...

Link: When you say that...

Beth: Can we roll to, like, believe her?

Anthony: You can roll Insight.

Freddie: This whole time—

Anthony: With advantage because her eyes are so big.

Beth: Okay. [*dice roll*]

Freddie: This whole time Taylor's—

Beth: [*whispered*] Fuck.

Freddie: —trying to find the Glock that he sent home, but he can't underneath the pile of all the Gundam packages. So it's just package after package—

Taylor: Goddammit, this— Oh, that's where that was.

Matt: [*dice roll*] 15.

Anthony: You could—

Beth: I got a fucking 7.

Will: You roll to find the gun, dude.

Anthony: Yeah, roll to find it. You don't have to not find it.

Will: [*dice roll*] I got 22. A natural 20.

Freddie: I know, but I'm saying that I probably have disadvantage because it's underneath a pile of other boxes and shit.

Anthony: Sure. Why not? Yeah, yeah. Roll, uh, Investigation...

Freddie: [*two dice rolls*] 12.

Anthony: 12. So with a 12, you find it, but it's still completely sealed up in its box.

Taylor: Ah, shit!

Anthony: No, wait. It's not. You put it in a box.

Freddie: No, no, no! I would've put it in a box and taped the fuck out of it.

Anthony: Okay. Yeah, you find the taped up box.

Taylor: Aw, shit.

Anthony: So with your 22, Normal, you can tell she is telling... not the whole truth, but the truth. She's not going to actively attack anyone, she's not going to harm anybody's HP, she's not going to do anything that's going to result in anybody losing HP indirectly.

Will: Normal's like—

Normal: It's cool, guys. I got this. I've seen some pretty crazy stuff in my day. Y'know, like a lot of wild YouTube videos and stuff. I think I can handle this. What do you want to show me?

Mayor: I just want to show you something, I'm very- I've very bad at debating. So the position that you're going to take is that he's not here. And the position that I'm going to take is...

Anthony: And she reaches over... and rips Tiny Teeny off of Taylor's arm.

Taylor: Ah, shit!

Anthony: And she goes—

Mayor: Nicholas Foster's right here, right now.

Anthony: And in that moment, your bracelet activates. Your back arches in pain-

Taylor: [*nasally as ever*] A-a-a-ah!

Anthony: —as the bracelet begins to put electricity through you.

Taylor: [*wobbly noises*]

Anthony: And behind you—you can't see it, but everybody on the other side, you can.

[*a fizzing, like burning hot metal*]

Anthony: An outline of a rectangle and glowing white light appears behind you, and once the lines connect—

[an electronic, wobbling, tone, and then analog static as the rectangle completes]

Anthony: —it turns to a window with a bright shining light that almost makes everybody blind that looks at it. It's hard to look at directly.

[sound effects fade out]

Anthony: But you see hands in yellow hazmat suits reach out of it and grab you around the shoulders and the legs and the stomach.

Freddie: Me?

Anthony: And they pull— you, Taylor.

Matt: What?

Scary: What? No.

Matt: I dive for him.

Beth: Yeah.

Anthony: Okay, go ahead and make an Athletics check.

Freddie: I would have—during this time—I found the Glock package and I'm like, probably have opened it, I feel like. I want to do a roll to try and open the package for the gun.

Anthony: Okay, but you'll make it with disadvantage because you're—

Freddie: Yeah. That's fine.

Anthony: —in pain.

Matt: *[dice roll]* 13+3. 16, for Athletics.

Anthony: Okay, cool. You grab onto his ankle.

Beth: *[dice roll]* I got a... 9+5...

Matt: 14

Beth: 14. Kill me.

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

Freddie: *[dice roll]* 10 on trying to get the gun out.

Anthony: Okay, so you don't manage to get the gun out. There's one last sticky piece of tape and you're trying to use your fingernail to get at it, but it's just not—

Freddie: Ah! Bad move.

Will: Hate that.

Freddie: Bad move!

Anthony: But it's just a little too— ah! Scary, you hold onto Link, who is holding onto the ankle of Taylor Swift. You feel a very strong yank, and in this moment, Link, you know that... it's a lot of adult men pulling back on Taylor and you're not going to be strong enough to prevent him from going in. But you have a choice and that choice is you can hold on, and go with him, or you can let go.

Matt: Can I roll Perception? Can I see who's grabbing him or anything—

Anthony: Yeah, go for it.

m: —outside the portal or whatever?

Anthony: Yeah.

[dice roll]

Anthony: Perception works perfectly fine for that.

Matt: That's a natural 20.

Will: Wow!

Anthony: Ooh!

Matt: So I want just get a sense of what do I see on the other side of the portal.

Anthony: On the other side of the portal, you see... three men in hazmat suits who are currently holding onto Taylor. Behind them you can see—what looks to be transparent, but purely by the thickness and the metallicness of the door that separates it—two big old glass walls that seem to be rounded at the sides, and then beyond that, you see the FBI agents that came to your home—

Will: [gasps]

Anthony: —and told you that if you didn't put this bracelet on Taylor that they were going to kill your dad. Or not kill him, but get rid of him in some way.

Matt: Yes.

Anthony: You see them sitting there with their arms crossed. With a bunch of scientists who are looking at a bunch of different monitors and stuff. With your natural 20, you can tell that this seems to be some sort of prison or observation cell.

Will: *[gasps]*

Matt: I look at Taylor...

Taylor: Don't let go, you son of a bitch!

Matt: ...who I betrayed. I'm going to hang onto Taylor as they pull. I'm not going to let go.

Anthony: Okay.

Matt: But as I'm getting pulled, I'm going to look at Norm and Scary, and I'm going to say—

Link: Tell my dad to run.

Scary: Wait, I'm not letting go!

Anthony: Okay, are you going to try to jump in with him?

Beth: *[in character voice]* I guess!

Anthony: They're pulling Link in pretty hard, but you have a not amazing grip on Link's leg. It is the most natural thing physically for him to just sort of come out of your hand. So if you want to actually follow them in, you're going to have to jump for it. And Normal, you could hypothetically make this same choice—

Will: Okay.

Anthony: —but you're further away from the—

Will: Well, yeah. I got a 5, so I feel like I biffed it on the ground.

Anthony: Yeah, so you'd have to sort of get up and run and jump and it might be hard. It might be a higher difficulty roll for you to make the leap through the thing.

Beth: *[in character voice]* Yeah, I'll give it a shot.

Anthony: Okay. Go ahead and roll Acrobatics or Athletics.

Beth: *[dice roll]* A natural 1.

Freddie: No!

Anthony: You push him further into it.

[laughter]

Will: Oh no!

Anthony: As far as Lincoln knows, you literally pushed him into the portal, intentionally. Normal, what are you going to do?

Will: Normal locks eyes with Link and Taylor and sees Scary and realizes he doesn't want to abandon Scary in the room with the fucked up monster. And then he looks, and he sees the only sigil of hope that he knows of in the world on the ground. And it's that dummy of Teeny the Teen.

Anthony: Nice!

Will: And he grabs it and he gives it a kiss on the forehead...

Freddie: On the lips.

Will: ...and he throws it through the portal and says—

Normal: Go Teens!

[chuckles]

Anthony: *[laughing]* And then- nd then Taylor's like—

Taylor: *[fading out]* Give us the gun...!

[group laughter]

Taylor: *[yelling]* No, no, not that one! Not that one!

Normal: *[yelling]* Aw, shit. The gun!

[laughter]

Matt: Oh, shit.

Anthony: They just pulled you and Taylor in, and the portal closes behind you, but Tiny Teeny manages to go through the portal with you as it closes.

[a buzzing electronic sound plays and fades out as it shuts]

Beth: The mayor's still in here?

[laughter]

Anthony: The mayor's still- the mayor's still here.

Matt: *[laughing, quietly]* No!

Beth: I say—

Scary: Your mommas so dead her driver's license is a junkyard.
[whispered]...Fuck.

Anthony: She—

[group laughter]

Anthony: She leans down and she kisses you on the forehead, Scary, and she goes—

Mayor: I'll see you at the debate.

[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 myself, 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. Jimmy Wong and Sapphire Liou handle our merch, and Robin Rapp is our transcriber. By the way, we're available on Amazon Music as another podcast platform that you can listen to us on.

Freddie: We are supported by the coolest Patreon in the game, and some of these fine patrons are folks like Cavan O'Connor, Ya Boi TimTam, Kailee Warren, Epik Asia, Phineas Lammer, Brian Kinney, BattleD4d, Robert Pedroza, The C-roth, Nicole Nielsen, Alexis Gillenwater, Minette the Magnificent Magikarp, Matt Higgins, Alex Da San Martino, Azrael AsItGets, and Jake Leffler. You too can directly support the show and get ad free episodes at patreon.com/dungeonsanddads.

Freddie: It's a very special week for the Patreon because this week we're going to be releasing episode one of Sons and Sonsability, our Regency romance one shot mini-campaign where we all play as eligible bachelorettes looking to score a hubbo in Regency era England. Jane Austin, eat your heart out. This was a Patreon stretch goal and here's a little sneak peek of what I think might be the funniest thing we've ever done.

[background outro music fades out]

Fanny: *[an attempt at an accent]* I think what we should do is we all on the count of three say the name of the most eligible bachelor we are all going to be going for, and we are bound to that choice no matter what.

Eunice: *[an attempt at an accent]* Forthwith. One... two... three...

Eunice: Collin Wilson—

Fanny: Theodore Stampler—

Cynthia: *[Just Matt]* Anybody who will have me.

[all laughing]

[music fades back in]

Freddie: As a reminder, every patron that every level gets access to this as well as our other one-shot mini-campaigns. So if you're looking for some very funny and very entertaining self-contained tabletop campaigns, I highly recommend you check out At the Mountains of Dadness and Gungans and Daddies: All That Jizz, and that is just a fraction of what every patron gets access to. Stuff like the Rocks Rock EP, a geologically-themed rap album done in character by Henry Oak. Stuff like Talking Dad or this season it's called Teen Talk, where we answer listener questions and dive into the record process of every episode. You don't want to miss out on these, and at this point there are hours upon hours of extra content available on our Patreon and you support this podcast directly by joining up.

Freddie: So, yeah! Give it a shot. [Patreon.com/dungeonsanddads](https://patreon.com/dungeonsanddads). There are other ways, of course, to support this show. Our merch is at store.dungeonsanddaddies.com. Our website is dungeonanddaddies.com. Twitter, give us a follow, Dungeonsanddads. Our subreddit is DungeonsandDaddies. We're spinning up a TikTok now, like all the cool cats. That's going to be DnDadsPodcast. Our next episode comes out May 17th, we will see you all then.

[outro music finishes]

Freddie: Typical group project vibes.

[laughter]

Freddie: Two people just...

Beth: It really is, yes...

Freddie: ...straight up peacing you out. Peacing out the night before it's due, and then two people have to do the whole thing on their own!