

Grizzly

During your hero's feast, with the scrambled eggs, the fish, the other meats and vegetables and fruits graciously magically prepared by Aurora, you heard—

Condi

Thank you, Aurora.

Grizzly

The sound of a fireball in constant motion, a machine and magic. [vroom] Four bikes pull up.

Condi

Hey, there's four bikes? There's four of us.

Grizzly

A man steps off of his as it kind of like gently rests a little bit, leaned to the side, but still floating in the air. Two massive rubber tires on the ground, takes his hat off. You see a man clad in brown leathers and a golden star badge. Black hat comes off. Warm brown skin, rectangular wide face, beard that's thicker in the goatee area, cloudy silver eyes, short dark hair, very short, very nicely cut. Takes his hat off.

Sheriff Dallas

Well, smells mighty fine. Not every day you pull up and see someone having this grand of a feast in the middle of the desert.

Milo

What?

Sheriff Dallas

Excuse me, I should introduce myself. My name is Sheriff Dallas Jackson. These are my officers, Houston Bart, Officer Jane Oak and Officer Sylvester Lee.

Charlie

Holy fucking shit.

Milo

Sir, I'm going to have to have you repeat that one more time.

Sheriff Dallas

It's fine, we'll have time to do proper introductions on the road.

Aurora

On the road?

Gillion

And you know you can't drive on an empty stomach, Sheriff.

Sheriff Dallas

Is that an invitation?

Charlie

I look over to the feast.

Condi

It's up to 13 people, isn't it?

Milo

Twelve.

Grizzly

So five more?

Condi

Yeah.

Grizzly

Yeah, that's enough.

Gillion

Sheriff, we got just enough seats. It's buffet style, whatever you can grab.

Grizzly

One of the horses, Hugo disguised, will be the 12th.

Milo

Okay.

Grizzly

That one horse you see will just be like grabbing stuff from the table.

Milo

I'll quietly— I'll start feeding him behind us and just start being like,

Aurora

Just eat this, eat this.

Hugo

Oh shit, we're in trouble, we're in trouble, we're in trouble.

Aurora

No. It's okay, it's okay, come on.

Grizzly

You guys watch as these officers and the sheriff all begin to sit down at whatever makeshift magical table that you've created. They have badges. Officer Houston Barton, is another man, brown mullet, face that kind of like perpetually frowns underneath the handlebar mustache, looks half-elven.

Officer Houston

Howdy.

Aurora

Howdy.

Grizzly

Sits down. Officer Jane Oak, she has straight, long, slick black hair with straight bangs that cover the forehead, Goliath. Oh, sorry, I forgot to mention that. Half-elf, paler skin. Goliath, pale gray skin. Officer Sylvester Lee sits down, has a cooler tone, much darker skin than the sheriff. Brown skin, round face and features, very short curly afro but clean-shaven, eyes constantly hidden behind like darker small circle shades, and two tusks that curve out from his bottom lip. He sits down, no words, just big, big strong presence.

Charlie

Cool.

Grizzly

They all sit down and they begin to have this feast with you.

Aurora

Oh, help yourself.

Jay

Yeah.

Sheriff Dallas

Much appreciated. Now I would ask for your names, but I do recognize you from your wanted posters.

[laughter]

Bizly

The whole time I've just been like nervously I'm looking over at them and looking around. We are criminals. These are cops.

Gillion

[with a western twang] That's not going to be a problem. Is it, Sheriff?

Grizzly

The Sheriff looks at you all tight. He says,

Sheriff Dallas

All right, buddy, relax.

Chip

I'm not resisting!

Sheriff Dallas

No one in this republic is an outlaw until a crime is done inside our state lines.

Chip

Oh, really?

Sheriff Dallas

Here, you're a free man. Unless you do something wrong.

Chip

So if we do a crime here, then we're in trouble?

Sheriff Dallas

Then you're wanted on our system.

Chip

Then we're cool for now.

Gillion

Do you have a list?

Jay

Don't say for now.

Sheriff Dallas

A list of outlaws?

Gillion

Of crimes.

Sheriff Dallas

No.

Chip

Laws, I think, yeah.

Sheriff Dallas

Laws, we have laws. We have laws.

Jay

Just like—

Sheriff Dallas

Don't worry, I'll let you know when you break one.

Gillion

Sounds fair.

Sheriff Dallas

You know, mostly just use common sense, human decency, try not to cause trouble for others, and you'll be just fine.

Chip

What's your law on horses?

Grizzly

He looks back at the bikes, all just of them kind of like resting.

Sheriff Dallas

What about them?

Chip

If one were to behead a horse—

Sheriff Dallas

Oh, like animal cruelty. Yep, that's illegal.

Gillion

No, no, it would be so quick.

Chip

It'd be fast. It wouldn't be cruel.

Gillion

So painless.

Milo

I look back at Hugo.

Sheriff Dallas

The needless slaughtering of an innocent wild animal. Yep, that's definitely a crime.

Gillion

No, there's a need.

Jay

What if we get the proper, like, tags for hunting horses?

Sheriff Dallas

We don't hunt here.

Jay

What? Oh, really?

Sheriff Dallas

No need.

Chip

What do you guys do here?

Sheriff Dallas

Well, first of all, there's not a lot of things to hunt. Wild horses were sacred to us. That's why we don't even ride them anymore.

Chip

'Cause they're free.

Sheriff Dallas

'Cause they're free. You catch on quick, Chip.

Chip

What the hell?

Grizzly

He actually reaches into his pocket under his coat and he puts down the stack of your crew's wanted posters. Gillion.

Charlie

Yes?

Grizzly

Your new bounty, 2,225,000 gold.

Bizly

Holy fuck.

Charlie

2 million? Okay, okay.

Chip

And where do you go to turn these people in exactly?

Gillion

Not bad, huh, Chip?

Grizzly

Chip, Chip, your bounty, Chip, 1,555,000 gold.

Chip

Why? That's not even 2 million. Man, what am I doing wrong?

Aurora

What are you doing right?

Charlie

I pick up the callin' shell.

Chip

I don't know, but please tell me so I can stop.

Aurora

Nothing!

Charlie

Yeah, we're gonna need to do another 10,000.

Grizzly

Aurora, you have a wanted poster.

Milo

What?

Charlie

No!

Condi

Oh boy.

Grizzly

It is 150,000 gold.

Aurora

No, no, no, no, no, no, no, no!

Gillion

Oh, this is terrible! We gotta get these numbers up, Aurora!

Aurora

No, no! No, absolutely not!

Chip

Rookie numbers, Aurora.

Grizzly

I'll go through your crew.

Jay

We actually expect more from our crew.

Milo

150,000 gold!?

Grizzly

Mmmh.

Aurora

What am I gonna—

Grizzly

Now, if Gryffon was here, he'd be at 750,000 gold.

Bizly

My goat.

Charlie

My goat.

Grizzly

Queen is worth 125,000.

Bizly

Queen.

Grizzly

Igneous is worth 365,000.

Bizly

Sure.

Grizzly

Ensa is worth 55,000.

Charlie

Okay.

Grizzly

Pretzel is worth 200 gold.

Milo

Awww!

Charlie

She has a bounty? [laughs]

Milo

That's so...

Grizzly

And finally, Jay, your poster now says dead or alive. 1,875,000 gold.

Condi

Dude, get fucking roasted.

Charlie

I was sweating for a second.

Bizly

I—

Condi

No, I deserve to be lower than you, to be honest.

Bizly

Am I too good? Am I—

Grizzly

Really? You attacked a stronghold.

Charlie

Do all of ours just say dead?

Grizzly

Dead or alive.

Charlie

Oh, okay, okay.

Milo

Oh, they're all dead or alive.

Charlie

Oh, but Jay's didn't before.

Condi

No, it just said alive.

Grizzly

It just said alive.

Charlie

Oh, wow.

Grizzly

Sheriff Jackson pulls those out, spreads them across the table.

Chip

Are you sure this is right? There might be a more updated one for me.

Sheriff Dallas

No, this is the most recent one dropped in the papers this morning.

Chip

This morning?

Sheriff Dallas

This morning.

Jay

It's been a few hours. Have you done any big crimes?

Gillion

They better keep those presses hot, Sheriff. I mean, never mind.

[laughter]

Chip

Where's the biggest city here?

[laughter]

Aurora

They could have chose a better photo of me.

Jay

That's the problem with this—

Grizzly

Can you describe what you think the photo they got was?

Milo

I think the photo of Aurora is us absolutely careening down— that specifically, that bend.

Grizzly

Yeah.

Condi

The drunk driving bend?

Milo

I think that one moment where she was like, ah, fuck it, and she started doing the drunk driving move.

[laughter]

Milo

They snapped a photo and they were like, got her!

Charlie

Can it be like a fucking like black and white highway cam?

Milo

Yeah, yeah, absolutely.

[laughter]

Milo

And she, she's just— she looks like in a fucking drunken stupor, just like, uh.

Condi

Holy shit.

Grizzly

I'll even say that, um, that Clorten has a wanted poster now, and his bounty, the zeros go off the page. He is worth the amount of fortune that he won in the lottery.

Milo

Oh my god.

Bizly

Why?

Condi

Wow.

Bizly

He just showed up! He was just doing our thing!

Milo

Clorten is worth billions!

Grizzly

He's been doing gambling around the world for a little bit now.

Bizly

Is gambling illegal?

Grizzly

Yeah, not here.

Charlie

Not here.

Grizzly

Not here.

Milo

We're in New Jersey.

Gillion

We gotta burn this place to the ground.

Sheriff Dallas

It is my pleasure to welcome you all to the Ford Republic. The nearest city you were asking for is Freedom City. I'd be happy to take you there.

Aurora

Freedom City.

Jay

Freedom City.

Gillion

I think I'm gonna like it here.

Grizzly

He continues as he finishes his plate.

Sheriff Dallas

A trusted mutual friend has said to expect y'all's arrival some point in the future. Personally and specifically requested that you and yours be the ones to escort us for our upcoming expedition.

Aurora

Escort?

Sheriff Dallas

It doesn't look like you know much about this.

Gillion

What was his friend's name?

Jay

Well, I think I might— Ichabod? And are we going...?

Sheriff Dallas

Correct you are, Miss Ferin.

Jay

Like there?

Chip

Like to space?

Aurora

Are you— is there a problem? Are you—

Jay

Like up?

Gillion

Behind the horizon's flare. I knew it. We have to go to the sun.

Sheriff Dallas

Correct you are— well, not the sun. Correct you are again, Miss Ferin.

Jay

Okay.

Sheriff Dallas

Officer Ichabod, our head diplomat. And now our head lead of the expedition to the moon.

Jay

Cool. Did I tell you guys about that? He told me not to tell you guys about that. I might have told you guys that.

Chip

That they're going to the moon?

Gillion

We're going to the moon?

Chip

Wait, you can go there?

Jay

I guess. They've been working on it here for a while.

Chip

You can go to the circle in the sky?

Jay

Yeah.

Sheriff Dallas

Now we can. First expedition of its kind.

Aurora

Really?

Sheriff Dallas

Really.

Aurora

Really?

Jay

What are the chances it blows up?

[Sheriff and Gillion] The moon?

Jay

No, like the way we get up there.

Sheriff Dallas

That's why you're on board to ensure it does not.

Jay

Oh.

Chip

What are we gonna do? We're gonna take it?

Aurora

What kind of magic are we using?

Chip

I bet there'd be a huge bounty if we took it.

Sheriff Dallas

The magic in the propeller systems that we have mounted to the ship. Some of our newest technology using our black sand and using our magic.

Jay

Does it work kind of like your vehicles?

Aurora

We're not doing like a teleportation. We're getting in a box?

Sheriff Dallas

We're getting on a flying ship. It works very similar to our Texatech bikes.

Chip

It's not even that big. It probably would fit in the ship.

Jay

So it uses—

Sheriff Dallas

The moon?

Chip

Yeah.

Sheriff Dallas

Moon's very big, my boy.

Chip

Look at it.

Sheriff Dallas

It's perspective.

Aurora

Oh Chip...

Sheriff Dallas

Perspective. Do you know anything about perspective?

Gillion

That's why from the moon, we's as big as the Earth from in the moon.

Jay

What?

Chip

Oh.

Grizzly

Go ahead, everybody roll perception as Officer Jane Oak whispers into the sheriff's ear.

Condi

A natural one.

Bizly

I got an 18.

Grizzly

Oh, nice.

Milo

Twenty-one.

Charlie

Whatever.

Grizzly

Then you two would hear a whisper.

Officer Jane

Sheriff, are we sure these are the right folks that are gonna help us get there?

Aurora

Who said that?

Sheriff Dallas

Don't mind my— Officer Oak is just a little paranoid, you know, with new folk coming to the town. We just barely met you and— but Ichabod's vouch we trust. You all look mighty strong. Your bounties corroborate with that. So if you like, I could take you to the city and I could reunite you with some other friends of yours we just recently welcomed.

Jay

I was actually just about to ask about that. If some other bountied folks have come by.

Sheriff Dallas

Correct. We speak of the same group.

Jay

Okay.

Sheriff Dallas

They came requesting Ichabod, and we made new friends.

Chip

You said the bounties align with our strength. I don't really feel like— so I just want to make it clear that I don't think the bounties actually indicate how strong a person is, though.

Gillion

What's that Chip—

Aurora

I also agree.

Gillion

I couldn't hear you over my sword.

Chip

Aurora's super strong. Aurora's super strong. Look at those muscles. Look at those. Show them the guns. Show them the guns.

[Milo makes muscle arms]

Sheriff Dallas

All right.

Gillion

Oh, whoa.

Chip

Yeah, look at that. Look at that.

Grizzly

I simply— I did not mean to offend. I simply meant—

Chip

I'm not offended or anything. I just— I mean, come on.

Aurora

Although if there would be a way to clear all of that, I'd be fine. I do have—

Chip

You can put it on my tab. Can you do that?

Aurora

Please.

Sheriff Dallas

My friends, I think that these wanted posters and these bounties are likely to be the least of your concerns with the state of the world.

Chip

Yeah, sure.

Sheriff Dallas

I say that once we get to the moon, it won't even matter, 'cause what are they gonna do, come to the moon and get ya? I don't think so.

[laughter]

Charlie

Why would you say something like that?

Milo

Are we staying there?

Sheriff Dallas

Listen, the world is probably not gonna last much longer, so once it's all, you know, dust, The bounties won't even be a problem for you.

Aurora

We're fleeing to the moon?

Sheriff Dallas

Oh yeah, we're fleeing to space.

Aurora

Forever?

Sheriff Dallas

We are, forever, yes.

Chip

No, we can't, we have to steal the moon.

Gillion

What?

Chip

So then our bounty goes up. I thought we were all on board.

Gillion

No, Chip, Chip, Chip, the moon is sacred.

Sheriff Dallas

Here's what I'll say, if we get to the moon, you help us successfully get to the moon safely and no one's there already, I'll let you put your flag down.

Chip

Holy shit, I'll claim the moon.

Gillion

This doesn't feel right, I just don't like, I don't like any bit of this.

Aurora

No—

Sheriff Dallas

If nobody's there already.

Chip

The Riptide Pirates flag on the moon and me standing next to it a little higher than both of you.

Gillion

They'll never believe us.

Chip

They'll have to, and the wanted poster will go up. We need to get to the moon.

Jay

Is there a way back from the moon?

Sheriff Dallas

Why would you want to come back?

[laughter]

Jay

It's just—

Chip

We can't leave this world. We gotta save it.

Sheriff Dallas

Well, you'll leave it once, but then you can come back if you'd like. Save the world, what kind of pirate? Eh, it doesn't matter to me.

Chip

Probably not a fucking good one.

Aurora

One that doesn't deserve a 150 gold bounty.

Jay

1,000.

Gillion

That's right, you're worth more. Know it, know your worth. Let's go to Freedom City where we can be free and do no crime.

Aurora

He said 1,000?

Jay

150,000.

Chip

1,000.

Jay

Yeah, that's your legacy now.

Chip

We need to get you up to at least a million.

Jay

That doesn't go away ever.

Gillion

If you die, that passes on to your next kin as well.

Jay

Yeah.

Chip

That's true. Never goes away.

Aurora

My next of kin?

[laughter]

Aurora

We have to go to the moon.

[laughter]

Sheriff Dallas

Yeah, if you— unless you have your own vehicles, feel free to hop on the backs.

Aurora

No, I should ride my humble steed.

Hugo

I can keep up.

Milo

Can I understand him? I haven't cast Speak with Animals. Is he saying that out loud?

Charlie

I look over at the talking horse.

Bizly

We all slowly—

[laughter]

Grizzly

Can you guys—

Charlie

Everyone, he's at the end of the dinner table and we all [grrrrch].

Grizzly

Okay, I was going to have you guys roll perception. You definitely did hear this horse speak.

Chip

Aurora?

Jay

Why'd the horse talk, Aurora?

Aurora

The horse talked?

Grizzly

It looks like a horse actively trying to do a horse noise.

Hugo

[bad neighing sounds]

Gillion

What'd you teach the horse, Aurora?

Aurora

I didn't teach the horse—

Chip

He's getting too smart.

Gillion

Does the horse know its rights?

Aurora

The horse, the horse, the horse, the horse, the horse!

Gillion

[shing as he pulls out his sword]

Aurora

Gillion, stop!

Jay

Gillion, no.

Chip

Gillion, go.

Aurora

No!

Sheriff Dallas

Now wait a second. Officer Jane, if you would.

Grizzly

The officer starts to stand up.

Milo

I also get up.

Hugo

Okay, okay, okay!

Grizzly

And you see the wild shape switch to the person I described, Hugo, before.

Chip

Holy shit, you were right, Jay!

Gillion

I should have known it! I should have fucking known it!

Chip

I knew it!

Aurora

Everybody stop!

Gillion

Every horse, every fucking horse is a fucking person!

Chip

It's a lie! The horses aren't real!

Charlie

I turn to my horse.

Gillion

You motherfucker, I trusted you!

Aurora

No, no, no, Gillion, Gillion, that's a real horse! It's real, I promise you!

Hugo

It was just me, it was just me. That horse is real. Okay, I promise I'm not here. I'm not. I'm a friend of Aurora's. I'm a friend of Aurora's.

Aurora

Friend, friend, old friend.

Chip

A friend?

Aurora

Old friend, old friend.

Jay

And you didn't tell us?

Chip

You're making friends with horses?

Hugo

I'm not a horse.

Aurora

No!

Gillion

What side are you on?

Aurora

Oh my god, everyone's! Hugo.

Chip

Fucking centrist.

Aurora

I went to school—

Gillion

Fucking centaurus.

Aurora

Hugo and I studied together.

Hugo

Grew up together, yes.

Aurora

Grew up together.

Hugo

On the archipelago, yes, on the archipelago.

Aurora

Look, look, look, look!

Hugo

We're druids, druids, druids!

Milo

She kind of like gestures towards this ice on her arm.

Grizzly

He pulls down the tunic a little bit.

Hugo

I'm fucking dying, I'm dying. Like, I'm gonna freeze over any day now.

Chip

So why are you a horse?

Hugo

Just to hide, cause you're fucking pirates and you're scary.

Aurora

He's scared of you guys. I tried to convince him.

Chip

Oh yeah, that makes sense.

Jay

Yeah, we're very scary.

Gillion

Hugo, there's nothing to be afraid of.

Charlie

As I put my, my sword down.

Hugo

No, there is, there is—

Chip

Well, there's something to be afraid— I mean, we do have pretty large bounties, all of us.

Hugo

You're some of the largest bounties that I've seen, and I was around the town at one point.

Grizzly

He's lying.

Hugo

So we're all cool?

Aurora

Yes, of course!

Gillion

Yeah, just don't—

Aurora

Of horse!

Hugo

Of horse.

Gillion

We're not there yet.

Aurora

I'm sorry.

Hugo

All right, I'll just be going then.

Aurora

No, no, what are you doing?

Hugo

I'll just be staying around for a little bit then.

Gillion

Sure, is that something like, do you want—

Hugo

I'll just tag along.

Gillion

I'm still— why are you here?

Chip

Why are you here?

Hugo

[gulps] How much do they know?

Chip

Dude—

Aurora

Everything, dude. Everything. I'm running with a gang!

Chip

Turn back into a horse so we can kill you!

Gillion

Which one of you were talking to the horse?

[laughter]

Grizzly

Just very quickly says—

Gillion

You bought yourself some time, horse.

Hugo

I am searching for the other druid temples, alright?

Chip

Oh, we were looking for those.

Aurora

That's what I said. And, you know, the Radiant Circle.

Hugo

Why, why would pirates be looking for the druid temples?

Gillion

The Radiant what?

Aurora

That's the—

Chip

Cause we're trying to save the world.

Hugo

Did you just say the name? Oh no.

Gillion

The Radiant what? What is that?

Aurora

We're going there!

Hugo

It's the Temple of the Radiant Circle.

Gillion

We're going there?

Hugo

They were the druids of the west a really long time ago.

Chip

Yeah, it was a part of it. The treasures, right?

Jay

The treasures that we're gonna take that make Mana.

Hugo

You have more information? What treasures?

Aurora

Seriously, man, you caught me off guard. You were a horse!

Hugo

Well, that's not so abnormal for us.

Chip

It's a little abnormal to be a horse sometimes.

Gillion

I don't know about that.

Aurora

It's abnormal when you, you walk up to me and you go, are they— have they taken you? And then you run off into the sunset. I've got to chase you for a mile and a half.

Hugo

How is that abnormal? They're pirates. They kidnap people and kill them.

Jay

We've never done that before, I don't think.

Chip

I don't think I've ever kidnapped a person. Is that why my bounty's so low?

Jay

Maybe you should start killing more people.

Chip

I only just started. I feel like I need to catch up.

Aurora

You're not making me—

Chip

Everybody's been killing people but me.

Gillion

I haven't even been trying to get it up, really. I guess it's just—

Chip

You're making me mad right now. Stop it.

Grizzly

The sheriff says,

Sheriff Dallas

All right, all right, everybody. Let's calm the emotions around here. You mentioned something about druids. There hasn't been druids in these parts for centuries and centuries on top of centuries. I'd have to ask the lore keeper, but based on my knowledge, my memory, which is functionally an 11—

[laughter]

Bizly

Oh wow.

Milo

Oh boy.

Sheriff Dallas

Last the druids were ever seen was the volcano further west, and that's been inactive for years, and there's been no temple. We've been all through, up and down and inside that volcano. We've not found a single temple.

Aurora

You're not looking in the right places, partner.

Sheriff Dallas

Okay. All right.

Chip

What was the poem that we heard from the Leviathans?

Aurora

Oh, yes, yes. [flips through journal]

Chip

Okay, okay, okay. We have time.

Gillion

Oh. Stood on the shoulders of giants.

Chip

Yeah, this.

Gillion

Behind the horizon's flare.

Aurora

It's fine.

Gillion

See what cannot be seen. West is—

[Aurora and Gillion] The dragon's lair.

Chip

Is that not for the—

Gillion

How did you do that?

[laughter]

Hugo

And this is supposed to relate to the radiant circle?

Chip

I think so.

Jay

Maybe.

Chip

I thought maybe.

Jay

Potentially.

Hugo

There's no dragon. The temple is not a dragon's lair. It'd be a druid's temple.

Milo

Would I be familiar with any like dragon-like imagery in like druidic history?

Grizzly

Roll history.

Charlie

Holy fuck-ass, what about that book I gave you yesterday called 'Of Druids and Dragonkind?'

Milo

Oh.

[laughter]

Grizzly

Roll history with advantage. You pull the book out.

Milo

Twenty-two.

Grizzly

Twenty-two. In this book written by Finn, So he's spoken primarily to the druids of the archipelago, but the only other druids that, uh, that he's ever met were the ones in the Azlantic City, the mermaids. And with stories from both of them, things that have been passed down, some of— a lot of information has just been lost to time. But supposedly the Radiant Circle had the strongest connections to the Ferins.

Milo

Mmm.

Grizzly

The Ferins had some sort of assumed lineage to dragons.

Charlie

Oh.

Milo

Oh.

Condi

Not me though, I'm just normal.

Grizzly

There's little knowledge about the Radiant Circle, its location, or what's happened to it.

Milo

Okay.

Grizzly

But there is a bit of a deal that was struck up and talked about— about a dragon protecting the temple.

Charlie

Oh.

Milo

Okay. A dragon's hoard, possibly.

Grizzly

All of the Druid temples have some sort of protection.

Milo

Okay.

Grizzly

In a way, the Leviathans protected that temple that was on the crab's back.

Sheriff Dallas

Look, why don't we talk while we're on the bikes and headed to the city? It is a bit of a drive. I don't wanna waste too much time here.

Jay

Yeah.

Condi

And I look at the collars on my crewmates' necks.

Jay

Probably a good idea.

Grizzly

Still counting down, yeah.

Chip

Sure, we'll talk on the bikes.

Bizly

They rev up and get so loud that we don't get a single word.

[laughter]

Charlie

But my horse is as quiet as a whisper.

Aurora

It's not necessarily actually a dragon's lair. Are you hearing this? I think it's the protective—whatever.

Chip

Are you talking to me?

Aurora

No!

Chip

Man, no one's ever talking to me.

[laughter]

Condi

Diamonds. Is there any diamonds anywhere?

Grizzly

So you're looking for diamonds? What else are you looking for when you're in the city?

Charlie

We're in the west. I'm sure there's a mine, and where there's a mine, there's dynamite. I want to get as much as I can.

Bizly

I'd also love to find potions of any kind, even just healing. Greater Healing.

Milo

Are there any types of potions that reduce the effect of charm or fear?

Grizzly

The sheriff definitely getting antsy just standing around for too long here listening to you guys speak about like your own business that he has no interest in, says that you can talk on the bikes. And then the moment that the bikes rev up and you get on them, you tell that he intentionally was like, they're not gonna be able to talk, we're just gonna go. Who is on the back of Sheriff Dallas' bike? Let's say it can fit two people.

Bizly

I will be.

Grizzly

All right.

Milo

I'll get on. Actually, you know what, I'll ride Ursus.

Condi

I'll be on Sheriff.

Grizzly

So Jay and Chip on the Sheriff. Are you on your horse?

Charlie

I'm on my horse.

Grizzly

You're on your horse. Your horse keeps up.

Charlie

My horse chooses to keep up.

Grizzly

Ursus and your horse keep up.

Milo

I'll pull Hugo onto Ursus as well.

Grizzly

Okay, and we'll disperse the crew on the other officer bikes. Riding through the desert, dust being kicked up. by the back wheel of these bikes, these Texatech bikes. There's no grand entrance or archway or gate to the city of Freedom, but on the horizon there's an ever-present statue on the north, massive like a mountain that watches over these people, a monument of a truly prodigious golden eagle.

Charlie

I whisper on horseback—

Grizzly

The sun—

Gillion

The shoulders of giants.

Grizzly

The sun rises behind it, and as it begins to blush the sun's light. It becomes a red sun with a black silhouette of an eagle in front of it.

Bizly

Horizon's Flare?

Gillion

Do you see that? The horizon's flare.

Grizzly

It reminds you of the Ferin Pin. The sun rises behind it, and as you travel in its direction towards the city's downtown. As you guys are riding deeper into the city, the sheriff shouts out,

Sheriff Dallas

Mustangs! [brrrrph] That's what we call the bikes.

Chip

Okay, in the Ford Republic?

[laughter]

Sheriff Dallas

We modeled them after the wild horses we rode before that. Fastest and most beautiful animal around these parts. [frrrrrph]I just figured you were curious.

Aurora

An animal?

Sheriff Dallas

A horse, mustang. [frrrrrph]

Aurora

Sure.

[laughter]

Milo

How hot is it?

Grizzly

It is hot enough to be wildly uncomfortable, but not so hot where you're gonna— where you're in danger of a heat stroke.

Milo

We're at like the 100 something?

Grizzly

You guys are still a little bit early morning. You're about to hit midday. But you guys, before you get to where you're going, you kind of roll up, hit stop. You tell them all these requests you have. You're looking for potions to prepare, you're looking for diamonds, you're looking for dynamite.

Charlie

Dynamite.

Grizzly

You have to find a demolitionist here in this little part of the city. We're on like, we're stopping at some corner buildings, not a marketplace, but just like buildings that are on the side of the road as you travel down, like random buildings that you usually pass. They don't even have like good enough signs to tell.

Charlie

Sure.

Grizzly

They're old. For diamonds and potions, he tells you that since they've been prepping for this expedition, the resources around the shops and stuff are a bit low. A lot of people are coming to the moon.

Milo

How many people are we bringing to the moon?

Condi

All of Texas.

Milo

All of...?

Bizly

Oh, we're gonna take Texas, we're gonna put it on the moon.

[laughter]

Grizzly

How much gold do you guys have?

Charlie

We got from that one trial 31,000 gold and 500 gold of gems.

Grizzly

How many diamonds are you trying to get?

Bizly

All we—

Milo

All.

Condi

Moneyball.

Bizly

What can money buy?

Charlie

Just save me like a third of the budget.

Bizly

A third of 30? You need 10,000 gold?

Milo

What are you doing?

Charlie

Working on a plan.

Grizzly

If you guys drop 15,000 gold, here's what I'll give you. I'll give you a potion of psionic fortitude.

Charlie

Aurora, do you want to hold on to that?

Milo

Yes.

Bizly

Yeah.

Grizzly

I'll give you two potions of superior healing.

Bizly

I'll have one.

Condi

Whomever has the lowest health, maybe. I don't know.

Milo

I can heal.

Grizzly

I will also give you guys three potions of greater healing.

Charlie

If we've got 5 potions between us, I'll carry two greater. Is that cool?

Bizly

Yeah.

Charlie

Sure.

Grizzly

Why don't we have two greater, one greater, one superiority on both of you?

Charlie

That sounds great. I've got surp.

Grizzly

The last two things, you can get a diamond worth 5,000 gold.

Milo

That gives us about 16 charges of—

Charlie

Yeah, I can hold on to it for now. We can figure out how to break it up.

Milo

We can fucking chop that shit up with a credit card.

Charlie

Oh, it's gonna be good.

Bizly

Is it 350?

Grizzly

The diamond itself, it's the last diamond in this fucking town.

Charlie

Yeah.

Grizzly

It is worth 5,000 gold.

Charlie

We'll have to like cut it up into smaller diamonds.

Bizly

I'm saying like for the Revivify you need...

Charlie

300.

Grizzly

The last thing, you can get as much dynamite as you're looking for.

Milo

We only have 16,000 gold.

Grizzly

Just know that lighting an explosion in city limits is 100,000% a crime.

Charlie

I know.

Bizly

How much bounty would that?

Grizzly

The bounty system is separate from their bounty system.

Bizly

Oh, fuck. We gotta start over?

Grizzly

You're starting at zero here. Yeah.

Charlie

I have—

Aurora

Thank god.

Gillion

Oh, yes, yes, yes, yes, yes, yes.

Aurora

Gillion, why are you doing a money spread?

Gillion

I'm working on something. Item, magic item spread. Looking for—

Bizly

What is the carrying capacity of a—

Charlie

Portable hole? I'll tell you. It unfolds into a circular sheet, six feet in diameter. And it is ten feet deep. I fill the entire thing with dynamite.

Grizzly

What is that?

Charlie

It's the portable hole.

Grizzly

Portable hole?

Charlie

I spread it out into a 6-foot cloth, this hole, and I fill about 60 cubic feet with dynamite.

Milo

This is a Roadrunner trap.

[laughter]

Grizzly

I'm going to limit this to a total of—

Charlie

You said as much as I need, right?

Grizzly

Yeah, yeah, but I'm gonna limit the, the damage amount. to 30d6.

Bizly

That's a lot.

Condi

That's a lot.

Charlie

Yeah, sharks, I'll take it. I put these all in a hole. I bundle it up. Okay, now I just have to figure out the plan. I put that away.

Bizly

You didn't have a plan for the dynamite you spent all our money on?

[laughter]

Milo

Yeah, how much money did you spend?

Jay

Yeah, why'd you use our money?

Gillion

I don't know!

Jay

Why haven't we learned our lesson?

Gillion

I mean, they told me to take as much as—

Chip

Can you actually explain what the fucking dynamite is for?

Gillion

I just traded all of our gold for all of their dynamite.

Aurora

All??

Gillion

It's a bartering system, just makes more sense with a little rounding.

Chip

I don't even—

Gillion

The plan's coming together, Chip. I'll let you know as soon as I have—

Sheriff Dallas

You ready to go?

Bizly

Are we gonna lose all our money to that?

Grizzly

15,000 gold total.

Milo

Okay, so we have 1,000 gold.

Grizzly

I said this is what you get for 15,000 gold total.

[all the players] Oh!

[Bizly and Charlie] So we still have 16,000.

Gillion

Jay, I need your expert eyes on this.

Jay

Okay.

Gillion

Okay, so we got this 5,000 gold diamond. We're gonna need about— we're gonna need about 300 gold worth sections of diamond. I'll cut it up for the spells. So I just need your expert eyes. We need to make sure this batch is absolutely 99% clear.

Charlie

I start cutting the diamonds like...

Sheriff Dallas

We doing cocaine, or—

Gillion

No, officer, no! This is for magic.

Sheriff Dallas

It's not illegal.

Chip

It's not illegal?

Sheriff Dallas

It's not illegal here.

Gillion

Oh. Well, then what's cocaine?

Bizly

You know, we've got 15,000 more diamonds.

[laughter]

Bizly

What other shops are around?

Charlie

Would you allow me, before we all go do cocaine.

[laughter]

Milo

I do come from a land of ice.

Charlie

Oh shit, oh shit, okay.

Bizly

And it's snowing here.

Condi

Would you let, with Jay's help, me cut this big diamond into smaller section diamonds we could use for the Revivify spell?

Grizzly

Let's call this arcana to accurately gauge the amount of material you will need for the spell.

Condi

Can I like use perception to help kind of situation.

Grizzly

Yeah.

Gillion

Okay, good idea. You look. Ancestors guide me.

Charlie

And I find the ancestor who remembers exactly, exactly how to do this.

Grizzly

What's that ancestor look like?

Charlie

Perfectly right. That ancestor is an elegant swordfish using its nose as both a blade and a vessel.

Grizzly

All right.

Charlie

For large amounts of stimulants. I flash back.

Swordfish Ancestor

Cut right there, Gill.

Gillion

I see it in my eyes.

Swordfish Ancestor

Cut right there.

Gillion

Yes.

Swordfish Ancestor

Cut right there, Gill.

Gillion

Right there.

Swordfish Ancestor

Right there.

Gillion

You okay?

Swordfish Ancestor

Yeah.

Gillion

You sound like you might really need something.

Swordfish Ancestor

Need what?

Gillion

Right there.

Swordfish Ancestor

My nose is stuffed.

Gillion

Jay, how's that?

Jay

It's looking good.

Condi

I'm going to use Flash of Genius on you.

Milo

That's grim.

Charlie

Okay, that is a— I give myself temporary proficiency in arcana with Borrowed Knowledge.

Grizzly

Mmmh.

Charlie

God, this is so fun and that is a total of 19.

Condi

I'm going to give you plus four to that with Flash of Genius. I have roughly something that's equivalent in weight to 300 gold of diamonds. I'm just testing the weight.

Grizzly

Nice, nice, okay.

Charlie

I have 17 small diamonds now for Revivify. Okay, let's split this roughly three ways, 'cause we all have the spell, right?

Condi

Two get six, one gets five.

Condi

So I give six to Aurora, five to Jay.

Sheriff Dallas

Any day now, I'll just be over here. We'll be over here waiting.

Chip

So where do they put the drugs?

Sheriff Dallas

Any alley, you'll find someone selling it.

Chip

Wait, what, Jay?

Jay

What are we gonna tell Lizzie about Price?

Chip

Tell her the truth.

Jay

Okay, just wanna make sure that we're on the same page.

Chip

Yeah.

Jay

Okay.

Chip

Yeah, I'm gonna tell her that— oh man, how do I even word that? I guess we'll just tell her that Price is coming to kill her, he wants the eye, and that we have to fight. You know, I don't want— I don't really want this to become a fight, but I don't see another way.

Jay

Neither do I.

Chip

He knows what he's walking into. He's counting on it. I think we just give him everything we've got.

Jay

Based on what we saw, I think he's plenty powerful enough to handle it.

Chip

Maybe not.

Bizly

I look at Gillion.

Jay

I don't know what—

Bizly

He's got a lot of dynamite in that hole.

Charlie

And no one, not even me, knows why.

Condi

That's 180 damage max.

Bizly

180 max damage is pretty good.

Condi

It's pretty good.

Charlie

It's not about the damage, it's about the message.

Grizzly

I'll remember that.

Condi

You're—

[laughter]

Milo

What?

Condi

A terrorist.

Grizzly

This has always been Gillion's thing.

Condi

I know, I know.

Bizly

This is why his bounty's higher than mine.

Milo

How many horses have to die, man? I feel like—

Charlie

As many as it takes.

Chip

Despite everything, if we don't have to kill him, I don't want to, but [pause] I'm gonna take the eye, and that's gonna kill him. When I went to sleep, I talked to her again. Removing the eye is death.

Jay

So if we let him get to Lizzie—

Chip

She dies.

Jay

Then she'll die.

Chip

But that also means if we get the eye out of his head, he's gone.

Jay

It might be doable.

Chip

As long as there's something of him left after whatever happens with the dynamite.

Jay

Yeah.

Chip

I need it. I need to bring it to, you know.

Gillion

You owe her both eyes.

Chip

I do.

Gillion

Oh, damn.

Jay

And it kills them instantly, like, for sure?

Chip

It does.

Gillion

I mean, we now have a way. Lizzie could, well, not survive—

Chip

Come back.

Gillion

Come back. But she'd— I don't know if she'd go along with something like this. That's— I'll follow your lead, but just know that that option is on the table, same as it is for Price. I don't know the two of your history, but if you think there's a chance, or if you want to reach him, I'll follow you into the fire.

Chip

Thanks, Gill.

Gillion

Always.

Grizzly

Back on the bikes. You guys ride off deeper into Freedom City.

Bizly

Yes, the fuck we do.

Grizzly

As prepared as you hopefully can be for an incoming, potentially incoming fight.

Bizly

Can I drive it?

Grizzly

Roll persuasion.

Bizly

Oh, I'm good at that.

Condi

Oh god, oh god.

Charlie

Oh man.

Milo

I saw you immediately regret telling him persuasion the moment you said it. You said, ah he wins.

Grizzly

I sure did.

Bizly

Is it— does it need, can you tell me a DC? So the lowest I can get—

Grizzly

To persuade the sheriff to ride his bike? 28.

Bizly

Twenty-eight? So the lowest I can get is a 26.

[laughter]

Condi

So literally a two or one is a fail.

Bizly

Well, no, I have to get an 11 or a 12.

Condi

Oh yeah.

Bizly

No, I have to get a 12 or above.

Charlie

It is your destiny to ride this motorcycle.

Bizly

Holy shit. I can't fail now.

[laughter]

Bizly

Let's roll it anyway. I fucking— okay, what is that? 37!

Grizzly

Even the highest DC in D&D...

[laughter]

Grizzly

There should be higher DCs in D&D!

Bizly

I hand him a little baggie.

Chip

Yo, can I drive that thing?

[laughter]

Aurora

What is that?

Condi

You bribe him with cocaine?

Bizly

He said it was legal and he seemed into it!

Charlie

He said it was legal!

Bizly

He seemed into it!

Charlie

He said it was legal!

Condi

He did say it was legal.

Aurora

How did you get that?

Chip

Don't worry about it, man.

Aurora

All right.

Chip

You want to ride with me?

Aurora

Eh, fuck it.

Jay

No.

Chip

Yeah, fuck it.

Sheriff Dallas

Is that diamond or coke?

Chip

You want to find out?

Sheriff Dallas

Sure.

[laughter]

Grizzly

He's gonna hop on the bike and he's gonna teach you how to ride a motorcycle.

Charlie

Oh my god.

Bizly

I disguise myself to look like a cowboy like them.

Grizzly

All the magic apparates. You have probably whatever— I mean, how do you describe what the cowboy outfit is? What are the colors?

Bizly

Oh, so there's gonna be a blue striped shirt, and there's gonna be some suspenders right here. There's gonna be a cowboy hat that's got some like rope coming around the top. You see I've got a gun belt on, and I've got some brown pants and some boots.

Milo

You're a cowboy.

Bizly

It's Arthur from Red Dead Redemption.

Grizzly

He goes,

Sheriff Dallas

Now you're looking like you belong here.

Grizzly

Hops on.

Sheriff Dallas

All right, let's get!

Milo

I get on the back of this, by the way.

Grizzly

Okay.

Milo

I'm on this.

Grizzly

You'll be right behind the sheriff. Everybody else hops on a bike and a horse, and you start riding deeper into Freedom City towards the city's downtown.

Aurora

Do you know how to ride this—

Chip

Check this out!

Aurora

Ahhhh! Oh Chip I'm gonna fall, I'm gonna fall, I'm gonna fall!

Grizzly

The sheriff catches the hat in the air. As you ride on the back of these bikes for miles, passing various buildings of red brick wooden fortresses and some humble homes. The streets are a

mixture of desert stone and sand, but also concrete, brick, asphalt that's been paved for easier and more efficient traversal using these impressive specialized vehicles of artifice.

Bizly

Everyone I pass by, I nod to.

Chip

Howdy!

Grizzly

You hear, you pass by one woman, you say howdy, and she goes,

Woman NPC

Goddammit! You damn bikes!

Grizzly

A little bit past midday now.

Bizly

Okay.

Grizzly

The sun is going down. You guys still have time for the collars, but it is single digits at this point.

Charlie

How many hours are left?

Grizzly

I'm gonna say eight or nine hours. You are going to start slowing to the boundary of the downtown market, being told by the sheriff, because the foot traffic here is heavier. There are no vehicles allowed in this area. It is a wide sort of dusty alley flanked by buildings on each side, then it leads to a cul-de-sac in the distance. On the sides of the dusty trail are like brick sort of like accents to the road. The sheriff hops off the bike, all of you do. He and the officers begin to

head walk alongside you and lead you to where Lizzie would be, deeper, at the end of the cul-de-sac.

Charlie

So it's time to dismount. Okay. I dismount, and as soon as my feet touch the ground and I look back, put my hand on the horse, bring its head to mine. I look at its eyes.

Gillion

I've got it. I've got it!

Aurora

You've got what?

Gillion

I've got the plan!

Jay

What's the plan?

Gillion

I've got the plan!

Charlie

And I pull out the Tidestrider library card I swipe it on a gap nearby. I open the door. I bring the horse inside. It closes and it's just slightly creaked. It's slightly ajar.

Milo

I peer in.

Charlie

When you peer inside—

Aurora

What is he doing?

Charlie

You see that I am pulling dynamite out of the hole and affixing it to the horse. Sticks and sticks, bundles and bundles.

Gillion

It's time to be free one last time.

Condi

That's crazy. You're going to kill Spirit.

Bizly

Make sure it's one fuse.

Charlie

Oh, when I'm done, it'll be a fucking spirit. One fuse?

Bizly

One fuse.

Charlie

I tie them all together into one fuse intertwined with the tail. It's brilliant. And I go to Grandpeepaw.

Finn

It's Operation Horse. I know this one.

Gillion

You already know.

Grizzly

He cracks his neck. He's going to place his hand on the back of the horse.

Charlie

Yeah?

Grizzly

And he's going to cast a spell.

Charlie

What?

Grizzly

And I'm going to roll a d100.

Charlie

Wait, wait, wait, wait, wait. What is he—

Gillion

Grandpeepaw, what are you doing?

Grizzly

I shit you not, that was a two.

Condi

No.

Charlie

I almost died! I almost died! I almost died!

Grizzly

It's a two in my tray.

Charlie

Oh my god.

Grizzly

It's a fucking two.

Charlie

Oh my god.

Condi

Zero two.

Charlie

I would have died instantly.

Bizly

Yeah. We would have seen a puff of smoke and the library would have been gone.

Milo

This is what I'm saying, man. A 1 in 100 chance is not worth the risk.

Grizzly

He casts a spell. He casts a protection spell on the horse.

Milo

Oh, thank fucking god.

Bizly

So it doesn't die?

Grizzly

Yeah.

Bizly

Okay.

Milo

Because Aurora sees this happen and she was about to I bust in there.

Finn

It's protected from death, but your enemies will not be. Your enemies will blow up.

Gillion

Thank you, Grandpeepaw. It's just as you said, they will blow up. They will blow up.

Charlie

I pull out a box of matches and I give it to him.

Finn

Okay. [trying to grab matches]

Gillion

Be very careful with those Grandpeepaw.

Finn

Okay, we're in the water, we're fine.

Gillion

In the water. Now—

[laughter]

Charlie

Wait, what?

Finn

We're in the water of the library. It's water here.

Gillion

It's all water?

Finn

Yeah.

[laughter]

Charlie

Oh god. Oh fuck! Oh fuck! Oh my god! The candle! I fed it to horses! No!

[laughter]

Grizzly

What?

Bizly

I'd like to go see Lizzie.

Charlie

Oh no.

Charlie

And now the wicks are wet.

Milo

Horse and all of the dynamite is sopping wet.

Charlie

And floating around. Gravity's just not going to—

Chip

You're going to have to get it out of there. Horses can't swim underwater.

Finn

Does anybody have Prestidigitation?

Chip

It might drown!

Finn

Prestidigitation.

Jay

No, I don't think you can drown in there.

Chip

Oh, that's right. Cause we go in there.

Jay

Yeah.

Finn

Does anybody have Prestidigitation?

Jay

Uh, no. No, I don't think so.

Finn

This horse is going to stay wet.

Gillion

Well, I have Gust of Wind. Blow dry.

Finn

You'd have to spend a little bit of time outside.

Charlie

Okay, hang on, hang on.

Grizzly

Every time it goes back in the water, it will get soaked.

Charlie

Let me think about if there's any way to salvage this plan right now.

Condi

I could just shoot the dynamite.

Charlie

Oh yeah.

Grizzly

Oh yeah, like on the way?

Condi

Yeah.

Grizzly

Okay.

Gillion

Do you want to be in the library shooting so you have maybe protection, or do you want to be outside the library somewhere?

Jay

I feel like if I'm not there with you guys, Price will find it very suspicious.

Gillion

Okay, so we need to have a— okay, now this does that. Okay, hang on, hang on.

Milo

My head's gonna pop.

Charlie

For now, sopping wet horse in the library.

Grizzly

Okay, gotcha, gotcha, gotcha, gotcha.

Charlie

And I'll say, Papa,

Gillion

Grandpeepaw, when I knock twice, let out the horse.

Finn

Okay. Will do. I'll be waiting.

Gillion

Okay.

Finn

Anything for you my grandson.

Gillion

What?

Finn

Anything for you, grandson.

Gillion

Thank you.

Grizzly

You leave the library, you contemplate on how you can make this plan work if the horse and the dynamite are still wet when it exits.

Charlie

Yeah.

Grizzly

You guys have just hopped off the bike.

Condi

Yeah.

Grizzly

You do the stuff with the horse.

Condi

Are we still walking with the sheriff, by the way?

Grizzly

Mm-hmm.

Condi

I do actually have a question for him.

Grizzly

What do you ask? As you're approaching the cul-de-sac, what do you ask?

Condi

Yeah.

Jay

How are you guys handling the corruption here? I mean, everything going on in the world.

Sheriff Dallas

We're at a little bit of an advantage considering the heat and just the magical nature of Mount Eternity, which is what we call the volcano. The water here, it's much harder for it to spread. We're also very high up. We just had a bit of an advantage, basically.

Jay

Okay.

Sheriff Dallas

Whatever that thing is in All-Port, or whatever was out there corrupting the world, it didn't seem too interested in us here out west. So most of our people are doing all right. We're getting prepared to leave here before things turn sour, because I assume that eventually it will get here.

Jay

Yeah.

Sheriff Dallas

And you know what I mean, east to west is pretty far place for, you know, the fucking animorph thing.

Jay

That's true, you are furthest away.

Sheriff Dallas

Correct.

Grizzly

You guys, you approach the starting point of the cul-de-sac. The central building is a multi-story saloon at the rear. You see the sign that names the building, The Roadhouse. You're approaching and you begin to hear a song, and this old man on the porch with his banjo, you hear the whine and the twang of his old electric guitar. He goes,

Old Man NPC

[singing] *Well, the devil's coming for all our souls. I hope yours gets left behind, but devil's coming for all our souls, and I know one of them is mine.*

Grizzly

And the second he begins to like kick up, just [sick guitar riff] the doors to the saloon burst open, swing. You guys hear,

Gunslinger NPC

You son of a bitch!

Grizzly

And this guy walks out, points a finger, and the sheriff goes,

Sheriff Dallas

Ah, hell, not again.

Grizzly

And then the guy screams,

Gunslinger NPC

No, not you, sir!

Grizzly

He points directly at you, Jay.

Charlie

What?

Jay

What'd I do? What did I do?

Gunslinger NPC

You're that Ferin girl related to the Sure Shot fella, ain't ya? He got my pappy killed!

Grizzly

He begins to walk down the steps.

Jay

Oh shit.

Gunslinger NPC

On the soul of my late pappy and the sins of your late uncle, I challenge you to a standoff.

Jay

Oh shit.

Condi

I think I actually go in character [puts hand on head and gasps].

[laughter]

Grizzly

The sheriff takes his hat off, puts it on his chest.

Jay

What am I supposed to do, sheriff? What do I do? This has never happened before.

Sheriff Dallas

Ah shit. Well, the laws are the laws. I mean...

Jay

There's laws about this?

Sheriff Dallas

If you're challenged to a standoff, you either accept the duel or go to court and settle the reparations, which is a lot of legal fees.

Jay

I don't want to pay reparations!

Sheriff Dallas

It's a lot of time to waste to go to court.

Gillion

You can challenge anyone to a duel here, like, anytime?

Sheriff Dallas

Anytime.

Jay

My uncle did the thing, not me.

Sheriff Dallas

Well, if your uncle's dead, then it falls on you.

Jay

I don't think he's dead entirely.

Sheriff Dallas

He's not here, is he?

Gillion

Jay, a law's the law.

Sheriff Dallas

All right, okay, so you can either do these— you can either do the standoff or you can settle it in court, which will take some months. And as you know, we don't have months.

Jay

Fuck it. Fuck it. Fuck it. I'm gonna show you what happens when you fuck with people called Sure Shot!

Aurora

Jay, don't worry. Most disputes die and no one shoots. Just point your gun at the sky.

Grizzly

This young man—

Charlie

I say,

Gillion

Don't hesitate.

Charlie

And then I tell the other guy what Aurora just said to Jay.

[laughter]

Gunslinger NPC

You accept the standoff?

Jay

Yeah, yeah.

Gunslinger NPC

Well, then that's the only respect I'll have for you on this day.

Grizzly

He takes his hat, throws it on the ground, stomps on it.

Gunslinger NPC

Let's get it going.

Grizzly

He walks up to you. He's gonna face away and wait for you to go back to back.

Aurora

Right now?

Charlie

I never want to leave this place.

Grizzly

The sheriff and the officers begin to start clearing the roads, including you guys, while this happens before you guys—

Jay

Aurora, are there any other commandments for a duel.

Aurora

Number one, take your opponent's hand, then give him a kiss and tell him he's grand.

Sheriff Dallas

I don't know what kind of duel you're doing.

Chip

Who are your enemies?

Gillion

Oh shit, Chip, we didn't do it right at all.

Chip

Like at all!

Condi

Yeah, we— I go back to back with this guy, I guess.

Grizzly

All right, you go back to back, and Jay, you are about to enter the deadliest d20 contest in the wild, wild west.

Condi

The wild, wild west.

Grizzly

All right.

Condi

And Jay's not really doing too hot confidence-wise, so like—

Grizzly

They stand back to back. You watch.

Charlie

Oh no.

Grizzly

Then they begin to walk ten paces.

Jay

Guys, I got this, right?

Chip

Yeah.

Jay

Am I walking right?

Chip

I think you got it. Just stop being so nervous.

Aurora

For sure.

Chip

You're sweating bullets.

Jay

Yeah.

Gillion

Good. Lie low. Hey, how much money should we put on this?

Chip

Ooh, you think we can get in on the action?

Charlie

I give Chip the remaining 16,000 gold we have.

Chip

Put it on the other guy.

[laughter]

Jay

What the fuck?

Aurora

On the other guy?

Chip

We can bring you— Jay, throw.

[laughter]

Chip

We'll bring you back.

Jay

But why?

Charlie

Oh my god.

Milo

I start turning to everybody in the crowd.

Aurora

Guys, this guy's totally gonna fucking win.

Grizzly

Are you shouting out to tell Jay to throw?

Bizly

No, I wanna go run over.

Chip

Jay, throw, throw. We'll bring you back.

Jay

You want me to get shot?

Chip

In the face.

Grizzly

This is a duel on the honor of this man's family lost father and you're gonna throw??

Chip

In the face, preferably.

Jay

Are you—

Chip

We have a lot riding on it.

Bizly

How much could we get back?

Milo

If we can convince everybody that Jay is gonna win, we could get millions.

Jay

Why not— wait, no, Chip, why are you doing it that way? Why can't you do it the other way around?

Aurora

You're the sure shot.

Bizly

I want to go around to everybody and say, we've been riding with her for so long, can't shoot for shit.

Milo

Wait, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, she's the sure shot.

Gillion

She's the greatest shot I know!

Bizly

I'm telling people how good she is, how good Yeah, that's right. Sorry, I mixed it up.

Grizzly

Sorry. You'd like to start a bet in the crowd.

Aurora

Wait, guys, what? Wait, wait, wait, hold on.

Chip

They don't call her sure shot for nothing, everybody!

Aurora

We might lose all our money!

Bizly

I take up the bounty poster and I show it.

Chip

Look how much she's worth!

Grizzly

Okay, okay, roll performance.

Gillion

So what, \$16,000 on the other guy then?

Charlie

And I slam down the gold.

Grizzly

\$16,000 gold on the—

Chip

Oh my god, is that rich Gillion, the man who doesn't care about his money and just wants to lose it all?

Gillion

Damn straight, I just don't give a fuck.

[laughter]

Charlie

I hold up my wanted poster and I make the exact same smile.

Grizzly

Okay, what'd you roll for performance?

Bizly

All right, that's a 26.

Grizzly

Twenty-six. All right.

[laughter]

Grizzly

A lot of people start betting on you, Jay.

Charlie

How much do you think we could do this?

Bizly

I do as much as possible. I want to keep going.

Grizzly

Only the surrounding crowd. Only the surrounding crowd.

Charlie

Okay, okay, okay.

Grizzly

I'll let you know what the total— I'll let you know what the total gold is on you, Jay, after.

[laughter]

Grizzly

Right now there's 16,000 gold on the other guy. You guys running around getting people to cast bets. Jay.

Condi

Yeah.

Grizzly

For the deadliest d20 contest, you can roll either intimidation or perception if, if you don't wanna throw.

Condi

Perception, obviously.

Grizzly

Okay, you will be rolling perception against his sleight of hand. He will be rolling intimidation against your insight.

Condi

I got a 29.

Grizzly

Because you beat his Sleight of Hand, you're gonna have advantage on this roll.

Condi

Okay.

Grizzly

You're gonna have advantage on initiative. His intent— his intimidation check was an eight, so go ahead and roll insight.

Condi

Uh, that's a 12 plus two, 14.

Grizzly

He gets disadvantage.

Condi

Wow.

Bizly

There's so much—

Charlie

We're gonna lose.

Bizly

We're not allowed to talk. We're not allowed to talk. We're not allowed to talk.

Grizzly

Now you're gonna roll initiative. Whoever gets the highest draws first.

Condi

Okay.

Grizzly

You are both going to automatically hit unless you— like, if it's a tie, if it were a draw, you'd both automatically hit at the same time.

Condi

Okay.

Grizzly

Whoever gets the first, like, the highest initiative hits first.

Condi

Uh-huh.

Grizzly

The damage for a standoff, you'll roll it and then we'll multiply it by your character level.

Charlie

Gah!

Grizzly

So it is going to be multiplied by 15.

Condi

Oh my god, is that like for him too?

Grizzly

He is not level 15.

Condi

Okay.

Grizzly

I'll be multiplying his damage behind the screen.

Condi

Okay.

Grizzly

By his level.

Condi

What is his level?

Grizzly

That's only if he gets a shot off, all right?

Condi

Okay.

Grizzly

So you're rolling at advantage.

Condi

Yeah.

Grizzly

Did you roll your initiative?

Condi

Yeah, first one's a 15, second one is an eight, so 15.

Grizzly

It's a draw. I shit you not. With disadvantage, I rolled a 19 and an 11 with a plus four. That's a 15. You got a 15?

Condi

Yeah.

Grizzly

That's a draw.

Condi

Okay.

Grizzly

Y'all are gonna fire at the same time.

Condi

Okay.

Grizzly

Roll your damage.

Condi

Okay.

Gillion

Oh boy, she's not aiming at the sky.

Aurora

Oh gods!

Condi

Okay, so I got ten plus six is 16, 23.

Grizzly

That's 345 damage.

Milo

It is a gun!

Condi

Finally, the gun's doing the proper amount of damage.

Grizzly

So 345 damage.

Condi

Just a reminder, We did so much preparation this morning for our encounter with Price.

Bizly

Oh, fuck! Oh, fuck!

Condi

So much. So much preparation. That all goes away.

Milo

I gave you a lot of HP.

Condi

My immunity against fear and poison and resistance to poison damage, I think that goes away when my temp HP goes away.

Bizly

It does.

Condi

And also, we need to heal me back up to full.

Bizly

Oh, no. Oh, no. Oh, no.

Condi

And we have, like, eight hours.

Bizly

Oh, no.

Charlie

You could have aired the grievance. You could have aired the grievance.

Aurora

Guys, guys, guys. We don't have to give them the money. We could just—

Chip

Aurora, what are you talking about?

Aurora

Look, man.

Grizzly

It's not actually in piles. You have a tally of who bet what.

Aurora

Yeah.

Condi

Just run away. You just run away.

Gillion

No, we bet this. It's the honorable thing to do.

Aurora

Gillion, we need this money.

Grizzly

Yeah, you do 345 damage.

Condi

Yeah.

Grizzly

He does a whopping 40 to you.

Condi

Oh.

Grizzly

He rolled a ten total, multiplied by four.

Milo

He's level 4!?

Charlie

Dude, you eviscerated his whole bloodline.

Condi

Okay, let me describe what— is it like the whole ten steps thing?

Grizzly

It is the whole 10-step thing. You both draw. He's fast enough to shoot when you— or you actually— it's either he's fast enough or you were too slow this time.

Condi

I think I was too slow.

Grizzly

But you guys shoot at the exact same time. [pew, pew, pew] Describe what happens.

Condi

Yeah, I just want to describe the walkout. I think you see Jay visibly fucking deflate as you her friends go tell her to get shot in the head for them.

Bizly

We're going to bring you back!

Condi

I don't know, she's kind of at a low point right now, man. Not really what you want to hear when you're at a low point.

Grizzly

Jay experience death for all of us real quick.

Condi

Please die so we can earn a lot of money.

Charlie

Oh, well, when you put it like that, yeah.

[laughter]

Condi

She begins taking her steps and they're kind of weak and she doesn't look very confident right now. And then around, I think, 5th or 6th, she's like, No, no, no. I fucking need this.

Gillion

You got this, Jay!

Condi

I need this dub.

Grizzly

Okay.

Condi

8, 9, 10. They turn. She's just a little slow, I think. She gets caught on her holster as she pulls, slowing her down intensely.

Chip

Good job, Jay.

Grizzly

He's very normal. He just straight up the full fluid movement. Bam! You guys fire at the same time. The bullets fly through the air, passing each other as they swirl through it. You get shot right next to the heart, but like not in a vital spot. He—

Gillion

Yes!

Grizzly

His body standing for a moment, [woooof] immediately just in the dust. He is dead, dead, deader than dead. The dust begins to settle. You guys— you guys bet on him?

Charlie

Yeah. In this moment, Gillion's absolutely forgotten that though.

Aurora

Jay that was brilliant!

Gillion

Congratulations, Jay! Your honor is restored.

Jay

Ow.

Aurora

Are you all right?

Jay

No, no, yeah.

Milo

I'm going to cast—

Jay

You guys are terrible with money.

Grizzly

The officers who are overseeing the gamble taking place here, they're going to make sure that this money gets where it needs to go.

Aurora

Motherfucker!

Bizly

Yeah, they take it.

Aurora

No, no, we were betting on Jay.

Chip

No.

Grizzly

No, you weren't.

Aurora

Yeah, we were.

Grizzly

No, you weren't.

Chip

Oh, you're lying.

Aurora

Yeah, man.

Chip

It's too late.

Aurora

Goddamn.

Milo

I'm gonna cast Cure Wounds on Jay at the 2nd level.

Condi

I only really lost 21 HP.

Milo

Oh, then I'm gonna do it 1st level.

Charlie

Whatever.

Grizzly

At this point, the old man finishes his song. The guitar at the entire time was just ripping it, exciting everybody here. But now that the standoff is over The battle is won. They begin to haul the body off, just clear it off of the road.

Gillion

So Sheriff, that just happens?

Sheriff Dallas

Yeah.

Gillion

I'm in heaven.

Jay

I'm sorry—

Chip

D— never mind.

Jay

I'm sorry about the money, Chip.

[pause]

Gillion

You were amazing.

Chip

Okay, but if you weren't gonna do it, Why didn't you say anything?

Jay

You were already betting on me when I was telling you not to do it the other way around.

Chip

When you were telling me? When you were telling me? When was that?

Sheriff Dallas

I'll be damned, based on—

Jay

Why'd you bet against me?

Chip

'Cause we had an ace in the hole. Your name is Sure Shot. Everyone was gonna bet on you. If I bet on him, if I bet on him, it was the only— if I bet on you, we wouldn't have made any fucking money! And now we're broke! And we have nothing!

[laughter]

Chip

Hey, hey, ready? Zero.

Jay

My bad. I just didn't want to— I don't know, I just needed to win that.

Aurora

Fair enough.

Sheriff Dallas

That was as sure of a shot as I've seen around these parts, I'll tell you what.

Chip

What? You could have just said that. We do that kind of stuff all the time.

Jay

Yeah.

Chip

Remember the cart?

Jay

I remember the cart.

Chip

With the oranges?

Jay

I remember when I was your sick sister.

Chip

Sick sister, that's a classic.

Jay

Classic. Just wasn't— I don't know. Couldn't go along.

Chip

Dude, you look like you're going to cry.

Jay

No, I'm fine. It just really hurts, probably.

Chip

Okay. Are you good?

Condi

She does look like she's gonna cry. She's lying, she's lying, she's lying, she's lying.

Aurora

I already healed you though.

Grizzly

You do hear chatter, laughter coming from inside the roadhouse.

Charlie

We know Lizzie's in there?

Grizzly

Familiar laughter. Two of them, three of them. A group of people that you recognize the voices inside.

Charlie

All right.

Jay

Let's just move on. We can get \$16,000 like anywhere.

Aurora

Yeah!

Gillion

Hey, you're more important. I'm glad you did that.

Chip

Are you— okay, was everybody against the plan the whole time and didn't fucking say anything?

Gillion

No, I thought it was a great plan.

Chip

I—

Gillion

But you needed that. I see it now.

Chip

How do you—

Igneous

I was with it. I was with the plan.

Chip

I fucking love you, Igneous. You're my dog. I love all you guys. I just thought we were doing—
never mind. That's my bad. I thought we were doing a thing.

Aurora

No, we're—

Chip

I thought we were doing a thing.

Aurora

I got it.

Chip

You got it. And you went in for the lie? That was chill.

Aurora

Thank you.

Chip

That was pretty tight. Check this out, we're gonna have a handshake now.

Aurora

Oh, I like that.

Chip

Oh yeah.

Aurora

Oh yeah that feels good.

Chip

We should do that more often.

Aurora

Yeah.

Gillion

I agree, the most important thing we can all share is trust.

Charlie

So, I swipe the library card, I walk inside. You hear sounds of cracking, of moving, of shifting water. I walk out. I'm drenched.

Milo

You're always drenched.

Charlie

While I was inside, I've used Shape Water to create a cavern for Grandpeepaw and my horse, a cavern in which they will stay dry, frozen, as I have learned from my great— well, not so great mentor, Odelath. But I've also cast Destroy Water so that the wicks are no longer wet. And with that, the idea has come together, and I give the library card to Chip.

Gillion

Before, we had no chance of knowing Price was in that car. He could show up at any moment. He literally moves with the shadows, and he wants something from you. Just you. Like you said, ace in the hole. Well, here's a horse in the library. Swipe the card and knock twice. My grandfather will light the match, and a horse armed with 3,000 sticks of dynamite will charge forward.

Condi

How does this not blow up too?

Chip

That's awesome.

[laughter]

Gillion

Let's get you that bounty you deserve.

Chip

Thank you for that.

[laughter]

Chip

I really need this.

Gillion

I know.

Aurora

If I could just—

Bizly

I go inside.

Grizzly

You go inside.

Aurora

How am I supposed to time— whatever.

Grizzly

You walk into the Roadhouse. You see standing on a table regaling a some sort of battler or adventurer that she's had, drunk, Captain Elizabeth Lafayette. Caspian in the corner playing a bit of the piano. There's some music happening in here. For some reason, despite what's happening outside the Roadhouse, inside the roadhouse is a party. It is a celebration. She's on the table.

Lizzie

So what had happened was—

Grizzly

She's like stumbling, she almost falls, she catches her hat.

Lizzie

Giant fucking spider. I mean, had to be the size of a ship. We were underground, saw treasure, Caspian opened the treasure, it was a fucking monster, and then a spider dropped, nearly fucking ate my leg off.

Grizzly

And she is saying this all around, and then she almost slips. And a hand catches her. A gray-skinned goliath sitting at the bar holding a drink, laughing at all this.

Arlin

[laughter]

Grizzly

Grabs her. You see Arlin. What do you do?

Bizly

I want to kick open the flappy doors. I want the music to stop. I want my hat to be down.

Grizzly

Everybody, everybody goes quiet as you walk in looking like a dangerous outlaw.

Bizly

You hear my boots jingling. [krchhh, krcchh, krcch] We're at the roadhouse?

Chip

Let me get an onion, blooming!

Bizly

And I lift my hat.

Chip

Ahhh!

Arlin

Ahhh!

Bartender Betsy

Blooming onions for everyone!

Grizzly

You hear from behind, from behind the bar.

Bartender Betsy

Butter, rolls, and endless ale!

Grizzly

As you walk in, uh, Lizzie sees you and she like hops off the table that she was— that she nearly fell over, runs up, she basically throws herself on you.

Bizly

I wanna tackle.

Grizzly

Yeah.

Bizly

I'm going for the tackle.

Grizzly

It's a mutual hug. [whooosh]

Bizly

I wanna start wrestling.

[laughter]

Grizzly

Roll a strength check. You guys immediately hug, hit the floor, you're wrestling on the ground. People start to like spread out and form a circle around. Just the legs as you guys are like in this lock, the legs are like—

Bizly

Eleven.

Grizzly

Eleven? She is drunk. She rolled a five and a four. It's not gonna beat an 11. You guys are in this lock, you start to get her in a chokehold.

Chip

Uncle, you gotta say uncle. No, don't throw up on me, don't throw up on me.

Lizzie

No let me go! I'm gonna throw up!

Chip

Do not throw up on me, these boots are new. These boots are new. If you do it, I'm gonna do it.
[gagging noises]

Lizzie

No!

Condi

Stop, stop, stop. You have to stop right now.

Lizzie

Uncle! Uncle!

Chip

Okay.

Bizly

We get up.

Grizzly

She gets up. Once again, she pulls you into a hug.

Chip

Oh.

Lizzie

I can't believe you're alive, dude.

Chip

Yeah, me either.

Lizzie

Oh, and found him.

Bizly

I look over at him.

Chip

Oh, you're next, old man.

Arlin

Oh yeah?

Chip

Oh yeah.

Arlin

Oh yeah?

Chip

Oh yeah.

Bizly

I want to try and body check him.

[laughter]

Milo

You're body checking a goliath?

Grizzly

You body check him?

Milo

You lose!

Bizly

Thirteen.

Grizzly

Natural 20.

[laughter]

Bizly

Dude, I want to bounce off like a squeaky toy. I hit the ground, I hit the table.

Chip

Again!

Bizly

I want to do it again!

Chip

Do it again!

Bizly

Twenty-one!

Grizzly

That is a natural 19.

Bizly

Fuck! Fuck! I bounce up again and I just stay on the ground.

Chip

Holy shit!

Grizzly

He steps over and he helps you up.

Bizly

I just look at him. I don't say anything.

Grizzly

He does the same, and then he just pulls you in for a really tight hug. The rest of you, you see this. You see Caspian at the piano still playing. You see Marshall John at the bar talking, flirting with the bartender. You see a few other of Lizzie's crew members about. Some of them are not here. You don't see the Jazz Pirates, but you know that they were together. They might be somewhere else. As you guys are sort of reuniting in the background there, Lizzie sees the rest of you.

Lizzie

Welcome to the West. It has been [hiccups] it has been a much better time here than— Jay, Jay.

Grizzly

She walks up, she puts her hands on your shoulders.

Lizzie

It is— can you believe it? Have you heard?

Jay

What?

Lizzie

The news.

Jay

What news?

Lizzie

Paper! Give me a paper.

Jay

There's news?

Lizzie

Oh my god, I'm gonna pass out.

Grizzly

She grabs a— you give her a shoulder, she takes the support, and you kind of walk back to where Chip and Arlin are. You guys also get a paper, the morning paper from today, and they're still doing the news. The Dolphin Postal Service is still going, come rain or shine or calamity and death and doom, they will be delivering the news. So you read front page with an image. The Admiral is dead.

Charlie

Oh shit.

Grizzly

And with her death, gone is the Demon King.

Milo

What?

Grizzly

The Radiant Dome protects All-Port. Once it finally activated, every hollowed creature, every hollowed person or turned person, turned to dust. A giant daylight spell, powerful radiant magic. [whoooosh]

Bizly

All the turned people just died?

Grizzly

All of them.

Bizly

Jesus.

Milo

Oh my god.

Charlie

What?

Grizzly

The city is now quiet, isolated, and it is insinuating that the Admiral gave her life to banish the Demon King from this planet.

Lizzie

Anyways, don't like the context, [hiccups] but she's fucking dead. So I'm fucking done chasing that demon around. [hiccups] And if the world is fucking going to shit, we might as well party while we can, huh? They're going to the moon, I hear. Can we come?

Bizly

I walk over with Arlin. Just wanted to introduce everybody first.

Chip

Hey guys, it's my dad. Oh, the moon? We're going to the fucking moon? Hell yeah!

Arlin

Is this the crew that you've told me so much about?

Chip

It is. What's on there? [pause] No, this isn't right.

Jay

No, it's not.

Arlin

Hardly ever is.

Chip

No, no we were there.

Jay

No, I think it's propaganda. She said that no matter how many times she died, she'd keep coming back, and even the operation was called Operation Phoenix. It's on the nose. She ripped her own heart out.

Chip

We watched her do it. Why would they print this?

Lizzie

What are you talking about? It's not right?

Chip

It's not true.

Lizzie

What do you mean it's true?

Jay

It's not true.

Lizzie

I see it. It's showing the picture. She's dead. What are you saying, she's going to come back?

Jay

Yeah, probably.

Lizzie

How? How?

Jay

I don't know, but it was called Operation Phoenix, and they were heading west—

Lizzie

No, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, don't do this.

Chip

Fuck, I'm sorry, but it's wrong.

Lizzie

No, fuck your fucking right. It was...

Jay

I'm not even convinced that the Demon King is gone.

Chip

They couldn't have defeated it anyway. We destroyed the artificial Leviathan.

Grizzly

The music in the room starts to die down a little bit. There's a big tone shift. Lizzie was like the life of the party here.

Charlie

Yeah.

Condi

Yeah.

Grizzly

She's starting to sober up a little bit at this, 'cause of course, like, you can read it on her face.

Condi

Pretty sobering information.

Grizzly

Of course it wouldn't be that easy.

Charlie

Gillion was just in the corner of the room watching Chip and Arlin. And his eyes really only like flitted to the paper for a second, but now that everyone is around it, he starts to walk over and the smile fades.

Grizzly

Arlin sees the gloom

Arlin

What are we doing? It's in times like these, when it's the darkest, that's when you have to find your reason to laugh. That's when you fight against it with smiles. Because if you fall into the darkness like this, you're already letting it win.

Grizzly

And he gets up and he's going to try and do some goofy cartoonish, like, where he walks and does some sort of, like, you know how you do something stupid to make kids laugh?

Charlie

Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Grizzly

He's gonna do that in the middle of the quiet, more solemn tavern here.

Bizly

He does? What does he do?

Grizzly

What would he do?

Bizly

He'd probably try and do, like, a backflip off a table or something.

[laughter]

Grizzly

I'm gonna say he gets up on these tables, they immediately start to crack with his weight on the table, and he's gonna [whooom] try and do a backflip at disadvantage.

Condi

Oh my god, isn't he really old? Should he be doing that?

Grizzly

That's a nine. He's gonna fall prone on the—

Bizly

It goes quiet for a second, and then...

[laughter]

Grizzly

Everyone that had a drink beforehand lifts their tankard up and cheers and the party around you guys is going to continue, and you can help Arlin up with the [laughs].

Chip

That fucking goo messed with your mind, man.

Arlin

Oh, my fucking hips!

Chip

You used to land that thing. You used to nail it.

Arlin

Yeah, well, those times are past. Those times are past. I am definitely retired now.

Chip

Oh, fuck. Okay.

Lizzie

So what's happening? What do you need?

Grizzly

Lizzie comes up. Caspian too now.

Lizzie

If you're expecting her to come back, then I'm staying with you this time. I want to make sure I'm there to help you fight.

Bizly

I want to walk over to the bar and say,

Chip

Just a second. The whole bottle. Two of them, actually.

Grizzly

Marshall John is— you walk up right next to Marshall John. He's there.

Gillion

Jay, do you have any money, by the way?

Bizly

Oh, fucking shit.

[laughter]

Grizzly

You hit the top of the bar next to Marshall John, who's talking to bartender. He says,

Marshall John

Chip!

Chip

Holy fuck, John.

Marshall John

It's been so long! Gah! [They dap each other up]

Chip

Oh wow, oh wow

Marshall John

. And this is my new friend, bartender Betsy.

Chip

Your new friend?

Marshall John

New friend!

Chip

Is that true?

Bizly

I look at Betsy.

Grizzly

Betsy is— she has a long blonde braid on this side and another one on the other side, like pigtail braids that come down. Really the most stereotypical Wild West bartenderess outfit with like the white ruffles and the brown corset underneath. And she's like,

Bartender Betsy

Well, sure, I'm friends with all the customers that come in here.

Chip

All right, all of it. All the alcohol. I need it now.

Bartender Betsy

All of it?

Chip

Just— well, a lot of it. Two bottles.

Bartender Betsy

Some celebration we're having then.

Chip

Something like that.

Bizly

And slide some gold.

Grizzly

You slide what?

Bizly

Gold.

Grizzly

You're going to get a lot of alcohol.

Bizly

I just want to get a couple bottles, some glasses. I'm carrying them all over. I plop it on the table.
I start pouring.

Grizzly

Okay, who's drinking?

Charlie

Oh, I'm not drinking anything until I see John. And I go,

Gillion

John!

Marshall John

Gillion!

Gillion

John! There he is!

Marshall John

This is Betsy!

Gillion

Betsy!

[laughter]

Charlie

I look at Betsy, I look at John, I look at Betsy, I look at John, I look at Betsy.

Gillion

So what do you do for work?

[laughter]

Bartender Betsy

I'm serving all the customers here at the roadhouse, you know how.

Gillion

That makes a lot of sense.

Bartender Betsy

It's rare, it's like, it's like almost a little bit of a miracle to see two blue folk come around here.

Charlie

Oh yeah, and these two blue folk are gonna need a big, big squirty.

Bartender Betsy

Yeah, if you tell me how to make it, I can make that happen for you.

Gillion

I'll try.

Charlie

[blub, blub, blub] I'll explain how to make a squirty.

Grizzly

You got it. She'll make two of them.

Charlie

Which will be detailed in the official Just Roll With It cookbook releasing in eight years.

Grizzly

Yeah, probably.

Milo

I don't believe I know what a squirty is.

Charlie

You're about to find out.

Grizzly

All right, she makes three of them.

Charlie

Yes! Bring them over to the table.

Grizzly

Who is all actually gonna drink?

Milo

I'm very interested in this—

Grizzly

Squirty?

Milo

Culinary thing that I've never heard of before.

Grizzly

Hell yeah.

Charlie

Pass it over.

Aurora

You said two blue folk?

Bartender Betsy

I guess it's three.

Aurora

You said blue folk?

Bartender Betsy

I miscounted.

Gillion

Yeah, no, it's okay. I mean, are you— yeah, I guess I have cyan undertones. It's easy to mix up.

Grizzly

Drinking a squirty, drinking a squirty, drinking some fucking alcohol.

Bizly

Drinking some alcohol. I want to hold one up for Jay.

Chip

We got to catch up.

Jay

I'm okay. I'm gonna keep my whits about me for later.

Chip

Fuck it. [auuuurgh].

Grizzly

Two?

Bizly

Yeah, two.

Grizzly

Okay, two con saves, one con save from you guys.

Gillion

Do you want a squirty or anything?

Jay

No.

Gillion

Really?

Jay

Yeah, I'm good.

Gillion

Are you sure?

Jay

I'm pretty sure.

Gillion

Even after what Arlin said?

Bizly

Constitution saving throw. It's a nine.

Aurora

It doesn't have to be a dirty squirty.

Gillion

You want like a mocktail?

Aurora

Yeah.

Gillion

I'll get you like a mocktail.

Bizly

A nine and an 11.

Gillion

I know things look grim right now, but see how Chip's laughing and doing weird flips and shit and just kind of tackling big people he shouldn't tackle?

Jay

Yeah.

Gillion

He shouldn't be able to do any of that right now.

Jay

Well, he didn't really do it good, to be fair.

Gillion

And that goliath right there?

Jay

Yeah.

Gillion

That goliath should be dead. Thousands of miles under the sea.

Jay

Yeah.

Gillion

But they're not. And everything else is absolutely fucked. But right here, right now, for just a second, it's worth it. And I don't know if we're going to get another second like this.

Jay

It's just hard seeing Lizzie again after I fucked everything up for her, it's hard to feel like I deserve it.

Gillion

I get it. I don't know if I deserve to be here to see all of this after what I did, but we get to, and we still have a chance to set things right. And what you do deserve, what you do deserve right now, is to have people people around you that care, and you do get to see her again. And whatever you've wanted to say to her, you can.

Jay

Okay, just one.

Gillion

Okay. Another squirty!

Grizzly

Okay, Jay, roll a con say.

Bizly

Do you actually lean in?

Grizzly

That was beautiful.

Condi

What?

Bizly

Do you lean in to get a drink?

Condi

Yeah.

Bizly

I throw them back.

Chip

Holy fuck.

Bizly

I got a nine and an 11.

Grizzly

Okay, that's two fails.

Bizly

Yep.

Milo

I got a 16.

Grizzly

Sixteen will pass.

Condi

I got an 11.

Grizzly

Eleven will fail.

Charlie

I deactivate my aura of protection. I get—

Condi

No, wait, wait, oh my god, wait.

Charlie

No, no one gets plus five. We're fucking—

Condi

I would have passed if I had that. I forgot.

Charlie

We're feeling it today. We're feeling it today. I, 20, just a 20.

Grizzly

Okay, 20 will pass. If you pass, you'll get one point of drunkenness.

Charlie

Okay.

Grizzly

If you failed, You'll get two, and you failed twice, so you'll get four.

Milo

Oh boy.

Grizzly

Each person with two, you'll have a penalty to wisdom checks, insight, and perception.

Bizly

Oh wow, oh wow, there's rules.

Charlie

What's the penalty so we know?

Grizzly

Minus two.

Charlie

Minus two to wisdom and perception?

Grizzly

Yeah, it's, uh, yeah.

Charlie

Okay, so just penalty to wisdom checks. Got it, okay.

Grizzly

Yeah, minus two.

Aurora

This is yummy.

Grizzly

Both of you will have a minus two to strength, dexterity saving throws, as well as constitution saving throws to maintain concentration.

Milo

I think it's incredibly funny that you and me passed the drunk save.

Charlie

I'm not using wisdom for shit, I can tell you that much.

Grizzly

The 3rd point of drunkenness—

Charlie

Otherwise we wouldn't be here.

Grizzly

The 3rd point of drunkenness, you'll get a minus two to everything that isn't charisma, and then the 4th penalty will be a minus two to attack rolls and charisma checks. So you get a minus two to everything.

Bizly

I just have a minus two all around?

Grizzly

Yep.

Bizly

Okay, so whatever I roll, anything I do ever, minus two.

Milo

You look like you can get some water in you.

Bizly

Okay, that's fine, that's fine. I look at Jay, who throws a shot back.

Chip

Yeah! There we are, there we are.

Arlin

Yeah!

Gillion

Yeah!

Aurora

Yes!

Chip

Okay, okay.

Aurora

All right!

Chip

Not looking good, I'll tell you that.

Arlin

Nope.

Chip

But we will come out on top.

Arlin

That's the spirit, my son!

Chip

A couple of things I need to tell you. Lizzie, if that If that eye comes out of your head, you're gonna die.

Lizzie

Yeah, I know that. How do you know that?

Chip

You do know that?

Lizzie

Yeah, how do you know that?

Chip

I asked Death. She told me.

Lizzie

Yeah. Why do you think I keep a— what?

Charlie

I slide her another drink.

[laughter]

Chip

Yeah, bottoms up.

Lizzie

All right, so you know that from the Lady of Death, somebody you mentioned on the shell.

Chip

Yeah, I told you about it already. Lady of Death, I talked to her, she's awesome.

Lizzie

I want an explanation later, but not right now. Okay, so the— what about my eye? Yeah, I know.

Chip

If it comes out, you die.

Lizzie

It'll kill me, yeah.

Chip

It's just that simple. Easy. I did ask you for it. Now I understand why you really didn't want to give it up. Makes sense. I get it.

Lizzie

Sentimental and physically it'll kill me.

Chip

Well, yeah, yeah, both of those things. Another thing, we got a guy coming. His name is Price. He has another one of those eyes.

Lizzie

The bounty hunter? You gave what? How?

Charlie

I slide her another drink.

[laughter]

Chip

Well, the thing is that I gave it to him, and it was a great plan. It was a good plan.

Lizzie

What do you mean? How did you get the other eye? I left it with Roofus.

Chip

I got it, I took it from him.

Lizzie

You took it from Roofus? Why?

Chip

He was gonna kill one of my friends. He was gonna kill people and I had to do something.

Lizzie

You gave him the eye?

Chip

And so I took the eye, but, and check this out.

Lizzie

It's not a kill you eye, it's a power eye.

Chip

Yeah, I know that, but it was supposed to be a power kill you eye. Well, power like get you stuck eye. So—

Lizzie

What the fuck is wrong with you, Chip?

Chip

Moment of silence. I put a curse on the eye to paralyze him. Boom! It was a great plan.

Aurora

You did that?

Chip

I did that.

Lizzie

Okay.

Chip

Well, I didn't put the curse. I got someone else to put the curse.

Lizzie

Okay, all right, so—

Chip

Why?

Aurora

Jesus Christ.

Chip

What?

Aurora

No, I mean, I just, I didn't, I was, I had no idea.

Chip

Yeah, no, life ruined, completely fucked everything up for him.

Arlin

Whoa!

Condi

Arlin was laughing and he's like [cocks head]

Charlie

In the background, a very small, like, beep beep starts to become more audible. I'm just thinking about the bomb collars that are on our fucking crew.

Lizzie

Another one.

Chip

He's coming here because he wants your eye.

Gillion

And here's the bottle.

Grizzly

She hasn't passed a single con save.

Aurora

Nice to meet you, by the way.

Lizzie

Nice to meet ya too. What's your name?

Aurora

You'll forget it.

Chip

This is Aurora.

Lizzie

Okay, so—

Chip

This is Aurora. She's the archdruid of the druids.

Lizzie

Red—

Aurora

It's more than— it's more than—

Chip

She's the arch of druids.

Lizzie

Yeah, sure, it doesn't matter right now. So you made a powerful enemy, you ruined his life, gave him a powerful eye, and he's not paralyzed anymore?

Chip

He's not paralyzed anymore.

Lizzie

And now he's coming here.

Chip

And I believe he is working with the Demon King.

Lizzie

Oh fuck.

Jay

Now wait, actually, this is a really good question. Our crew, those guys over there, I love those guys.

[Riptide Crew] Wooo!

Grizzly

They're partying in there.

Jay

Wow, they're really keeping it bright considering they're going to die in four hours.

Charlie

Mmmh.

Grizzly

You may have trust—

Charlie

They have style.

Grizzly

They have absolute trust in you guys.

Jay

The money guy's eye did— put the collar on.

Lizzie

Price, that's his name. The bounty hunter?

Jay

Yeah, Price.

Lizzie

Put a collar on them?

Bizly

Money guy?

[laughter]

Lizzie

What about him? What about the collars?

Jay

I think it might be related to the eye that he has.

Gillion

Do you know how to dispel them?

Lizzie

I don't fucking [hiccups] bring them here.

Jay

I'll also give it a shot, maybe we can flip-flop.

Lizzie

Okay, all right, bring him over. Whatever if he comes, he's just a bounty hunter. We've dealt with him before, even with the eye—

Chip

No, he does have powers from the Demon King.

Lizzie

No, whatever—

Aurora

If he comes!?

Lizzie

The thing? The what?

Chip

The Demon King.

Lizzie

The thing that was in the papers that just magically went away?

Chip

Yes.

Lizzie

You're sure?

Chip

He walked into shadow and he was gone. Can you do that?

Lizzie

No.

Chip

He does that.

Lizzie

All right.

Charlie

I'm gonna bring them over. I'll bring Igneous, Queen, and Ensa.

Grizzly

Okay.

Charlie

And I will, as I'm leading them over, say,

Gillion

Don't worry, I think we've got this all I've got it all figured out.

Igneous

Okay.

Gillion

But just in case...

Charlie

And I reach my hands out and I am going to use some sorcery points and some spell slots to cast Death Ward on all of them for the next eight hours.

Grizzly

Gotcha. Okay.

Charlie

As I bring our— our explosive-laced crewmates to the drunkest woman I've ever seen in my life.

[laughter]

Grizzly

Yep.

Lizzie

I'll just take a look. And while I'm looking, you have a plan, right? Like, if he comes? Other than just kick his ass? I mean, if kick his ass is not the option, then you better have a fucking plan that you bring to me, and you're not just bringing him here.

Chip

I had a couple ideas. We were thinking about just letting him think we died, but there wasn't enough time. There's not enough time to do anything.

Jay

We only have two days.

Chip

We have a horse in here.

Gillion

Shhh! He could be watching.

Chip

There's no horse.

Lizzie

Okay.

Grizzly

And then Caspian, as she turns to look You look at your crew members. Caspian goes,

Caspian

Well, I mean, we're pretty good at improv, so...

Grizzly

And she looks at your crew members. She shakes her head.

Lizzie

What collars?

Condi

Quoi?

Lizzie

There aren't collars on their necks. What are you talking about?

Jay

You don't see the collars on their necks.

Charlie

Do we still see them?

Grizzly

When she says that—

Bizly

No! We've been duped!

Charlie

Wait, when—

Bizly

We've been bamboozled!

Grizzly

When she says that, the saloon doors open quietly and you hear a step and the room begins to darken.

Condi

We're so drunk.

Charlie

Oh my fucking—

Condi

Fuck. Aurora, Aurora.

Charlie

God.

Grizzly

She says, what collars? There are no collars. When she says that, it becomes clear to you guys that it was an illusion, a powerful one. He walks in. You just see a shadow at first. You hear a hat. He's wearing a hat tipped down, and he just pushes it up to reveal his face.

Price

Well, this is perfect.

Grizzly

He looks at your group.

Charlie

Oh god.

Price

You probably know this was never about getting that eye from me. That shell that you got—

Bizly

Oh fuck.

Price

It's not to call me. Just so I can make sure I keep an eye on where you were. What's this? Looks like you found him. Oh, this is perfect.

Grizzly

He looks around.

Price

Everyone you love in one building. Feel familiar?

Charlie

Goddamn it. Dude, we knew. Oh, fuck.

Price

Because I know what that's like.

Condi

We fucked up.

Price

A shadow from his feet begin to fill the floor and it turns into liquid. The room behind him, like the outside world, begins to turn to darkness. You all feel this weight of dread around you.

Charlie

Oh, fuck.

Grizzly

I will give you one action. Is there one thing you can do before he essentially erupts a massive AOE in this space. I'll say we'll roll initiative.

Charlie

Oh fuck, I might not be able to stop anything then, 'cause I'm not very good at this.

Grizzly

I kid you fucking not.

Milo

Oh no.

Condi

Did he roll good?

Grizzly

Price has advantage on his initiatives. We'll start with you, Chip. What's your initiative?

Bizly

Twenty-five.

Grizzly

Okay.

Milo

Ten.

Condi

Eighteen.

Grizzly

Eighteen.

Condi

Five.

Grizzly

Can you add things to initiative with like Flash of Genius?

Condi

I'm checking right now. Ability check or saving throw?

Grizzly

Or can you subtract it from will?

Milo

Yeah, I can. It's a reaction.

Charlie

Is it any roll?

Grizzly

I will let you use a reaction. I have asked that. Now I will tell you why I've asked if you can do that. Price, rolled double natural 20s.

Charlie

What the fuck?

Condi

No fucking way.

Grizzly

He rolled double natural 20s.

Charlie

Oh, Jesus Christ.

Milo

Oh, fuck. Okay.

Grizzly

Which brings him to 28.

Milo

Okay, hold on, hold on, hold on.

Condi

I can't even, yeah.

Charlie

Yeah, there's nothing I can do about that.

Grizzly

You got a 25 or a 26?

Bizly

I got a—

Grizzly

Twenty-three?

Bizly

Twenty-five minus two, 23.

Grizzly

You're beating a 20, you wanna beat a 28. He wants to beat a 28.

Milo

I have to roll a six on this woe.

Grizzly

Okay.

Milo

A five will match initiative. A six will beat it.

Condi

I can use Flash of Genius too.

Milo

Okay, okay.

Grizzly

Isn't that woe, so you subtract?

Milo

Yes, subtract from Price's.

Grizzly

Gotcha.

Milo

Okay, this is— and this is my reaction.

Bizly

It's an AOE, I don't know that I can do anything about that.

Condi

You've got something.

Milo

That's minus two.

Grizzly

So 28 to 26.

Condi

I Flash of Genius Chip, so you get a plus four to your—

Grizzly

Okay, so you guys have used your abilities to make Chip...

Charlie

I still have a reaction. Okay, here's what I'm gonna do. With my reaction, I'm gonna cast Silvery Barbs on him. He has to reroll initiative. There is a red thread that appears. I slice through it, and for just a second he hesitates. And I get to give advantage to another creature as well. I'm gonna give advantage to Chip on whatever his next check is.

Grizzly

For Silvery Barbs on a reaction, you make a creature reroll one of the d20s and then they have to use the lower one. Yeah, you turn Price's initiative of 28 from a natural 20 to a natural one.

Condi

What the fuck?

Charlie

What the fuck?

Grizzly

So now it's a nine.

Charlie

Holy god!

Grizzly

So I'll give you guys—

Milo

Oh my god.

Grizzly

What he's gonna do has already began to happen.

Charlie

I mean, I still can't act in time, but yeah.

Milo

I can now.

Bizly

I don't know if this will work, probably not the most helpful thing in the world, but it's all I can think to do.

Charlie

All right, bro. All you.

Bizly

I want to take the library card. If I see Price come in, he's about to set the entire room on fire. The floor, is it wood planks with cracks between?

Grizzly

Yeah.

Bizly

I want to slide it on the floor where we are.

Grizzly

Okay.

Bizly

I want to try and get everyone who's not death warded, and more if I can, in there. Because I can't get them out. I can't hit him to stop it in time.

Grizzly

Okay, I'll say I'll roll for everyone back here. If they roll above a nine, they can do it before.

Bizly

I just— I want to swipe it.

Chip

Everyone inside here now!

Grizzly

Got it.

Bizly

Would you allow me to hand this off?

Grizzly

Sure.

Bizly

Hand it to you. [hands to Milo] You're closest to the...

Milo

Would you like me to seal it? Okay.

Bizly

And I'm going to run to him.

Grizzly

Got it.

Bizly

Go to fight him. I am going to use my— I know he's got the AOE going off. Can I tell if that's his whole thing or if he's gonna start just slashing?

Grizzly

You can tell whatever this is, it feels abyssal. It feels deadly.

Bizly

Yeah.

Grizzly

You don't know what's going to happen after.

Bizly

Fuck, then I'm just going to try and stab him.

Charlie

Yeah.

Grizzly

Gotcha. Go ahead and roll to hit.

Bizly

I'll slash at him with both attacks.

Grizzly

All right.

Bizly

The first one is going to be a 21 with the minus two from being drunk.

Grizzly

Okay. Second one?

Bizly

Second one? With my bonus action, natural one.

Grizzly

You said 21? That one is gonna hit. Roll damage.

Bizly

It's ten slashing, 12 poison, and I get my sneak attack, and 35 sneaky damage. As I'm rushing up, I go to stab both of them into him. I want to skewer him.

Grizzly

Okay.

Bizly

And I don't yell, I just go to stab in. One sword goes straight through him.

Grizzly

Okay.

Chip

Why couldn't you just stay dead, frozen in time.

Grizzly

He looks at the swords in his chest.

Price

Now there's the Chip I remember.

Chip

No, it's the Chip you made me.

Price

You've never been scared of killing, little bro. You're scared to like it.

Grizzly

The shadow bleeds over the blades. That's your turn. All the NPCs, Igneous makes it. That was the first one I rolled.

Charlie

Okay, okay, okay.

Grizzly

Ensa will make it.

Charlie

Okay.

Milo

I'm worried about whoever's not moving.

Grizzly

Queen makes it with a ten.

Charlie

Okay, okay, now the other crew.

Charlie

Caspian.

Condi

Arlin, maybe.

Charlie

I wanna know Arlin last, I feel like.

Condi

Okay, Arlin last.

Grizzly

In this moment, you told Lizzie that Price wants her eye. I think she is going to make the smart call here and try and hide her eye.

Charlie

Yeah.

Condi

Okay.

Grizzly

She feels the same dark magic in the room as everybody else, and they're both drunk. Next up I'm gonna roll who? Who? Caspian?

Charlie

I said Caspian.

Grizzly

Caspian got it.

Charlie

Oh!

Milo

Okay.

Grizzly

I'm rolling Lizzie.

Charlie

Okay.

Grizzly

Lizzie got a 12.

Bizly

Oh, thank god.

Grizzly

Okay, Lizzie's in.

Charlie

Holy fuck, yes.

Condi

John?

Grizzly

John?

Condi

He's farther away too.

Grizzly

John is not getting it.

Charlie

No, John!

Bizly

He's so far.

Grizzly

John, even with a plus, is not gonna get in.

Charlie

It's okay.

Grizzly

Who's next?

Charlie

Arlin right?

Condi

Is there anybody else in the room that we know? Like, are random civilians piling in too?

Bizly

Get as many people as we can in there for sure. That's what I would've been trying to get across.

Charlie

Yeah, for sure. For sure.

Grizzly

I'll roll Rudith. Their doctor gets in.

Charlie

Okay.

Condi

Okay.

Milo

They're all gonna be in there with a horse.

Bizly

What's with the horse?

Milo

So heavily strapped.

Charlie

They're gonna have a lot of questions.

Grizzly

I will roll for Arlin, 12.

Bizly

Is that good?

Charlie

Oh my god.

Condi

That natural one was a blessing. Actually.

Milo

So right now it's just John?

Grizzly

Yeah.

Milo

Okay.

Bizly

And some civilians.

Grizzly

Oh yeah, civilians.

Condi

Just like do a general roll, I guess.

Charlie

Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah.

Grizzly

About ten people get in.

Bizly

Okay.

Condi

Okay, my turn, I think I'm mostly focused on I'm trying to mitigate whatever might come out and protect as many people as possible. I could vortex warp John, but I think I do want to put out my defender and try to get a shield on as many people as possible.

Bizly

That's big.

Condi

Oh, it's each creature of my choice. Okay, I'm going to throw it out. It bounces around, unfolds. I'm going to try to throw it into the place where it'd hit basically the most amount of civilians and us. If I can hit all of the above in a 10-foot circle and just give them temp HP and hope I can potentially save them from—

Bizly

Why didn't I look at the callnch?

Condi

Whatever is about to hit them. God, and I rolled a fucking one. I'm so fucking worthless, dude. That's five temp HP for everybody.

Milo

So Aurora is going to run around the tavern and try and collect as many people and usher them towards the library door.

Grizzly

Is there anything else you would want to do or just that?

Milo

She's also, while she's doing this, going to bonus action activate her Starry Form. She's going to take the dragon Starry Form. It gives her Intelligence and wisdom checks or con saves for constitution. I always get at least a ten, so if I roll a nine or under, it is always a ten.

Grizzly

That's specifically for concentration, though?

Milo

That is for concentration or intelligence and wisdom checks. She kind of glows this bright orange, this starry constellation behind her takes the form of a dragon. It's kind of similar to the archer. And she's just trying to gather as many people in and—

Grizzly

I'll say if you use your action for that, you can get 16 more people in.

Milo

Okay, once I get as much as I can in, I can possibly do done in that time. I'm gonna swipe the card, I'm gonna seal it.

Grizzly

Pretty incredible stuff all around to save a lot of lives.

Charlie

Yeah. Bro, I'm so glad I made him all re-roll.

Bizly

Dude, that was amazing.

Grizzly

The two of you have essentially altered fate to save a lot of people in here, but you yourselves still remain you. Distracting Price by stabbing into him is the only reason, one of the only three reasons, four reasons, that this happens now and not as soon as he walked in. Everybody, I need you to make a con save.

Milo

I understand why you asked me to roll.

Condi

Oh god, if you're by me, you get plus five. If you're by me, you get plus five.

Charlie

Fuck.

Milo

Holy shit.

Charlie

Guys, please. Oh my god, please.

Bizly

Nine.

Grizzly

Aurora?

Milo

Twenty-five.

Grizzly

Jay?

Bizly

Remember, for being drunk.

Condi

Seven plus five, 12.

Grizzly

Gillion?

Charlie

Twenty-four.

Condi

Advantage, don't forget, from silvery barbs.

Bizly

On the constitution saving throw?

Charlie

On any roll.

Condi

On any roll.

Milo

Take it. Oh my god, take it.

Charlie

Please take it. Please take it.

Bizly

Oh, that was way better.

Charlie

Hey.

[Charlie and Milo to Condi] Thank you.

Charlie

Thank you for saying that.

Bizly

I rolled an 18, my Constitution saving throw is plus three so that's 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26 from Gillion, minus two, 24.

Charlie

Phew, okay.

Grizzly

Looking at you, still looking at you, these tentacles of shadows lash out all around. They begin to destroy the room. Liquid shadow begins to fill it up to your necks. And then it crushes all of you. Not one time, not two times, 3 times you feel it crush you. On the first one, for your first con save, if you got above a 20, you pass and you'll take half damage. Half damage is 116.

Milo

Wha?

Grizzly

If you failed it, you take 231.

Charlie

What the fuck?

Condi

What?

Grizzly

This is force damage. Now I'm going to ask for two more constitution saving throws.

Charlie

Yeah, we're all dead.

Condi

I have ten HP.

Milo

Yeah, it's over. Okay.

Bizly

Fuck.

Condi

Start with Chip.

Bizly

Thirteen.

Grizzly

Thirteen, fail.

Milo

Seventeen.

Grizzly

Seventeen, fail.

Condi

Eighteen.

Grizzly

18, fail.

Charlie

Thirty.

Grizzly

Thirty, pass. If you failed, you take 145 points of force damage.

Charlie

Oh great, it's going down a little.

Grizzly

And if you passed, you take 72 or 73.

Condi

Jay's down. Jay's down.

Milo

Aurora is down.

Grizzly

Aurora is down.

Charlie

I'm still up.

Bizly

I'm still up for now.

Grizzly

Last constitution saving throw.

Charlie

Oh, okay.

Condi

Are the down people—

Milo

Are we making these?

Condi

That's a natural 20. You get a plus five, bro. You get a plus five.

Bizly

Twenty-one.

Grizzly

Twenty-one does pass. The damage on this...

Charlie

I got a 34.

Grizzly

So both of you pass?

Charlie

Yes.

Grizzly

Both of you will take 101 damage.

Charlie

I mean—

Condi

Seems pretty like you're dead.

Charlie

So I passed all three, so I only take—

Condi

Uh-huh. We should have hopped in that library.

Milo

Maybe.

Bizly

I'm down.

Charlie

I passed all three, I take 290 force damage. It would kill me, but I have death ward, so I'm at one HP.

Condi

Oh wait, I also had death ward.

Bizly

Yeah we all had death ward.

Charlie

But if it brought you down, so here's the thing—

Condi

I'd be dead for sure on the last one.

Charlie

If the second squeeze brought you down, then you're gone.

Milo

Yeah.

Bizly

My death ward, I died only on the third one, so I would be up at one.

Charlie

So we're both up at one. Yeah, bro.

Bizly

Yeah.

Charlie

Yeah, okay.

Bizly

Yeah.

Charlie

Yeah, okay.

Bizly

Fuck it.

Charlie

Yeah, yeah, okay, okay. Yeah, one. Yeah, one.

Bizly

Yeah, bro. Yeah, okay, bro. Okay, bro.

Charlie

Okay, let's do this, baby. Let's go. One?! One?!

Bizly

Yeah! One!

Charlie

One destiny! Let's go!

Bizly

One nation, one god! Indivisible!

Charlie

Does he get any attacks?

Grizzly

So—

Milo

Oh fuck!

Grizzly

What happens is this.

Charlie

Okay.

Bizly

Okay.

Grizzly

This entire interior of the chamber fills with black liquid shadow. Jay and Aurora, you begin to choke on it as it compresses you and forces you somewhere else. The two of you feel the same compression all around you, as if you're being taken from this place and forced into a different plane entirely. He's looking into your eyes before everything goes dark. He says,

Price

Now you're gonna understand that for everything comes a cost. You are going to pay the price for what you've done to me.

Grizzly

It all goes dark. You two somehow survive.

Charlie

Holy fuck, dude.

Grizzly

Somehow. But you hear his voice in the darkness.

Price

[evil laughter] I don't think killing you all at once is going to gonna be enough for me. It's gonna take a few times before I'm satisfied. Your blood is going to fill the gaps between the buildings of our old home, and only then, only then, will the price be paid!

[all the players] Augh!

Grizzly

Two of your eyes never closed.

Charlie

Yeah.

Grizzly

But when light finally comes back to your vision, it's purple. Purple flames billowing and angrily trying to escape buildings all around you. You're standing on bridges and ladders shoddily strewn between buildings that are stacked upon themselves of metal and old ship parts and broken and splintering wood leaning on like they're about to collapse.

Charlie

Yeah.

Grizzly

Chip, you're back in Skullslice Port, all of you. You two never went down. You don't feel the effects that Jay and Aurora do when you're forcefully revived from being killed. We're going to reroll initiative as Price has brought you to his domain, his lair.

Condi

Oh, good.

Grizzly

And that's where we're going to end this session.

Bizly

Oh, fuck.

Charlie

Oh, fuck.

Milo

Ohhh!

Condi

Oh, fuck.

Charlie

I'm kind of wishing I died.

Grizzly

Hey, guys, what's up? It's me. It's time to do the member reads for our \$50 tier patrons and members on our website. I'm going to do the ones on our website first. Okay, so hear me out. I am sorry for the atrocities that I have committed in this episode. At the end there, you know, okay, so you had no— at the end there when Price does all the bad shit, I learned like two weeks after running this session that there's a spell that does what I was trying to do way quicker and actually mechanically sound. So if you watch that and you're like, what the fuck is he doing? I was doing some bullshit, but there is a spell, a 9th level spell that would effectively have accomplished the exact same goal. And it wouldn't have been so cool. Anyways, I think it was so cool the way that I rolled a million dice and everyone died. Anyways, I'm gonna shout out all the members now. Thank you to Visconti, British Gun, Juniperx, Zero Limb, Insert Rap Ad-Lib, Sloke Is Massive, Stimuli Friday, Baron Ballistica, Flora's Freaking Awesome, Soggy's World, Spin and Spy, Pod4Top, Sabe, Flame Twisted, 2 Bugs, BDevil7, Kamikaze Slug, CrystalFox497, Actual Soap, Trench Voidwater, Ace HSG, Jorb3334, Isaac, Celio Slime, Raxoid1109, Captain Speck, Nervous Leg, Terrarian Ace, P-Bird, Ash Has Left, Staxolotl, Strong Bun Cosplay, Viviano, Noble Squad, Idaki Sensei, Farland Beck, Grangalius, Node the Toad, Canonical JRWI Jesus, Iluvia, Ridudidu, Roverock, Caleb, Ghandi Sharma, Scoob Dubious, Jim Volker, John of All Trades, Fatebreaker, Ginger Mallow, Al Major, Titanstorm, I Eat More Paint, Species Broom 23, Pentologist, Bobo the Jackalope, Stealthy Bree, Hish Hish Hish Deruf, Domo, Melmel.

Grizzly

Melmel. There's 2 Melmels. Shilo's Shh. Expoogleoo. Rosemary Norton. Lauren Rose V. Darling Songbird. Slimecicle. Jack, by the way. Cinnabunny03. Mr. C. Grandpeepaw Miller. Frogonaut1618. Inigo Devlin. Cranky Martin. Kals. Insomnia Draws. Aro the King. Idimo. Elvish Cyborg. Skylabber. Buzozo, Firefox1292, Awesome Man, Toony Loony, Nora Knightley, Blue Alien Fox, Wild James, DJ1001, Caffeine Connoisseur, Ron Yawn, Unstable Chaotic Cracker, Alien Coordinator, Red Static, The Jane, QB Fails, Sumphy, It's Albert, Teeny Ghosts, Stinky Man, Jason the Fricker, Joshua Mills, Big Bean Gamers, Mewdrop, DragonLord101, Tired Eldritch Horror, Mylern, Noctic Paladin, Anna, ImRollinKa, Narwhal Shellfish, MarioCraft6000, Sporkaman212, Cadus Betus, Caspian's BF Iridium, The Loot Goblin, The Retrolyzer, JoJoJordan123, Avi_E, Chronos513, Vaperslash, Mr. Muselid, Dev the Dolphin, Edgar Cheesus Poe, Lumi, Milo, Me, Anna, that's everybody on the page. Now go to the Patreon. I'm going to the Patreon. I'm going to the Patreon. Manny, I Heard Pareidolia, Austin, Luca Toni, Chief, Just

a Guy, Psycho Pyro, Ara the King, Viper Hypnotic, Heck of a Gecko, I'm Just a Birb, Lightning Deathbringer, Mr. C, and in brackets they put, I cannot believe you handcuffed yourself. It's C for Fresh, MeForeverMate, MrNacho, MetaMayhem20, and finally, Jay Newall. Well, I don't wanna— I don't wanna talk about it.

Grizzly

Bye!