

Grizzly

For a moment, we pull out of the dark depths of the undersea as you on an ancient druid bear taking the form of a whale, travel to a leviathan. Above the surface, at the whole of the world, chants shouts Freedom not force. Freedom, not force. Absolute justice will unite us. Absolute justice will unite us. Crowds gathering in the streets of every port town in Allport. Protesters gather in the Golden Circa market. They shout at R.A.F.T. as much as they shout at each other. These two groups of people split by a line. Rows of soldiers. Some who frantically try to keep the peace, others just waiting for a chance to release their own inner aggression. A third, quieter group peers from the safety of their homes and wonders when this will pass, as all things are bound to do. Some issues, however, never pass, but are forgotten or ignored. The glow of her horn is dimmed by the dark skies and black rain. A man punches another. Emotions and tensions escalate. Kira swoops in between them, her voice booming by thaumaturgy.

Kira

Relax. Violence born from anger will hasten us to hate.

Grizzly

The man preaching on the side of absolute justice says

Man NPC

Those pirates think they're some kind of vigilante heroes standing up for us, saving us. Look at the sky, Captain. They are radical anarchists. They want to ruin our lives.

Grizzly

On the other side. Shouting for freedom, not for force. A young woman says in retaliation.

Young Woman NPC

Look at how we live. You may be comfortable with complete subjugation, what with your easy life in the Silver Port, but some of us are just barely surviving. Why are there more rumors of pirates saving people, liberating islands than there are of R.A.F.T.? The government sworn to protect us, to guard and shield the world. They're hiding things. Why else would those young rookie pirates risk their lives to send a message?

Grizzly

The groups go back and forth, shouting at each other until a torrential blast of wind and heat, a pillar of spiraling flame erupts in front of R.A.F.T. HQ at the very top of Allport and the Admiral steps out. This pillar, clearing a hole in the sky, allowing a beam of light to shine on her, her golden scales glittering. When she speaks quietly, the entire city seems to hush.

Admiral Faye

My people. There is no easy way to say this. The darkest times are approaching. Now more than ever, we must look to our left and our right and protect those people next to us. The recent attack on the stronghold is only a small part of a larger evil. Evil born from pirates and their desires. Evil that will be eradicated. For some time now, myself and all of R.A.F.T. have been working on a solution. And after many, many years, we have finally found allies among the people of the Undersea. Together we prepare for a war against evil. I ask in this desperate and dangerous time incoming, each of you willing to fight for us to join us and all unwilling seek shelter and give us your patience and your grace. I swear, no matter what you believe, I will keep you and this city afloat, as R.A.F.T. swears to do. Unity, Justice, Prosperity.

Grizzly

She says that one more time.

Admiral Faye

Unity, Justice, Prosperity.

Grizzly

She turns around, begins to walk back up to the building of the headquarters. And absolute panic breaks out in the streets. Kira, forced to fly up or be trampled, flies to the top and approaches the Admiral.

Kira

Mam. What is-

Grizzly

She gets cut off.

Kira

Kira, congratulations, you're being promoted.

Grizzly

And we move out of Allport. Diving back into the waters. The waves. Deep into the undersea, as a day, or many days pass as you travel along the currents to your destination of the .CRA'BCR'AB'CR'ABCR'CRAB.

[laughter]

Charlie

Okay.

Bizly

CRA'BCR'AB'CR'ABCR'CRAB

Grizzly

I just want to be sure, is there anything in that time you guys wish to do?

Bizly

I'd like to walk over to Gillion and say,

Chip

Wow, Gillion, really like that coat you put on.

Gillion

Thanks, Chip.

Bizly

Say that again.

Gillion

Say what again, Chip, that the Undersea Merch Drop is available now at JRWIshow.com?

Bizly

Ooh and this is the last day that you can get it. It is gone after today. You gotta get it right now JRWishow.com. It's this hoodie, there's a shirt that I'm wearing underneath it. And you can get the official Riptide Pirates trading cards only available at JRWishow.com and only available today. Tomorrow they're gone. Get them now.

Grizzly

Look at how beautiful these are. Can you even see that?

Charlie

I got another Old Man Earl.

[laughter]

Charlie

His market value has gone down to a quarter of a cent.

Bizly

Back into the scene. I do actually want to go up to Gillion and ask him a question. And I did try this once before and I did get stabbed for it. But I'm gonna try again.

Charlie

What?

Chip

Hey Gillion.

Bizly

And I look at him and make sure he's him.

Charlie

What?

Bizly

Look at your skin.

Chip

What do you-

Condi

Oh, right. Dopplegill...

Chip

Can you tell me about the Leviathans?

Bizly

Chip, I don't see the need for this action.

Chip

Just tell me, sorry. I just. What do we, what should we be expecting here?

Gillion

You should be expecting something unlike what you've ever seen in your life. The Leviathans are, it would be like meeting your one true god for you, what meeting them is for me.

Bizly

OTG.

Charlie

OTG.

Condi

OTG.

Chip

I know little about this one. I've never been in this part of the Undersea. I only know of its great shell and massive limbs. It said it could hold an entire civilization on its shell. But I've only seen drawings, interpretations. It's impossible to capture the might of such a beast in just line and ink.

Chip

Wow.

Jay

Makes you wonder how they're going to kill it. It sounds massive.

Gillion

I wouldn't have thought it was even possible.

Chip

Is there anything we should be careful of? Any way to interact with it?

Charlie

I think I would have been taught a lot about how to respect them. But I mean how much was I taught about how to respect them in their presence? I don't know that it's super like, even thing that people expect to be in a situation where you are in front of them.

Grizzly

Go ahead just roll history, advantage.

Charlie

I try and think back to my-

Grizzly

DC 12

Charlie

Training. If there was any sort of, I don't know, like information or preparation that I was given for this. Sixteen.

Grizzly

Much of the details on how it would be to approach Leviathans and communicate with them were left vague so that when it was in the next steps before you were banished to visit them and undertake their trials and earn their blessings to power your weapon, that would have been gifted to you had it not been stolen by Caspian.

Charlie

Oh shit.

Grizzly

Either way, this was meant to be a part of the training. And you know that once you completed a trial, you would reach the Leviathan's heart. And that would be the only way you could truly communicate with them directly. Otherwise they communicate in vague visions.

Gillion

Well, when we approach it, we won't be able to communicate with it until we're...we've been deemed worthy. Until then, it's best to be respectful and maybe appear harmless.

Chip

Like look small?

Gillion

Yeah, look small. Don't get big. Whatever you do.

Chip

You think something's gonna go wrong if I just go like this? [puffs out chest]

Gillion

Yeah, I think, which is it? Do you play dead for Pelagus or do you get big for Pelagus?

Chip

I don't know.

Chip

CRA'BCR'AB'CR'ABCR'CRAB, I think you play dead.

Chip

[puffs out chest again] Aurora, do I look intimidating?

Aurora

Not really. [also puffs out her chest]

Chip

Do I look intimidating?

Aurora

Do I look intimidating?

Chip

Yeah, you look pretty big.

Aurora

Really?

Chip

Very big and scary.

Aurora

Really?

Chip

You should do that to the Leviathan.

Gillion

Maybe you curl up ball.

Chip

No, not really.

Gillion

I can't remember.

Aurora

I don't know.

Chip

I'm kind of a jokester.

Gillion

Just don't do anything that it would perceive as a threat. Don't worry. I think you could do what you just did and be fine.

Chip

He's kind of a jokester too cause I know I look real threatening or just non scary?

Gillion

Are we joking?

Chip

All right, well, be small. I'll be super small or I guess, big and it doesn't matter. Whatever.

Aurora

Kind eyes.

Chip

I feel intimidating. But anyways, kind eyes. Oh, that's a big sore subject for us.

Gillion

Bust out the kindest eyes you have, yes.

Chip

Okay.

Gillion

It is also a creature and a force. It will do what it takes to survive.

Chip

And when we find them, you're gonna do these trials?

Gillion

Yeah, I didn't really get that far.

Chip

Is that what the plan is?

Gillion

Like, allegedly. I don't know if it's like, math or, like, what it is.

Jay

How do we even, if we can't even really communicate with it before-

Gillion

Yup.

Jay

How do we know what the trial is?

Grizzly

You're not supposed to know because if you were able to prepare for the trial, you wouldn't be fairly tested.

Gillion

Right. You're not allowed to study for the test. That's the first rule of the test.

Jay

Okay, but how does it communicate to us what the test is when we get there?

Chip

Do you know if we can help you with this test?

Gillion

Chip, truly, I mean, this is something few undertake, and those that do are sworn not to speak of it. I don't know if it will test just me or all of us or maybe it will just decide it wants to test you. I don't know how it works.

Chip

Here's another question. If we can help you, do you want us to?

Gillion

I never would have gotten here. I never would have come back to this place if I never met you. And if I never met you. You seem pretty cool, too.

Aurora

Thanks.

Chip

We're just not there yet.

Aurora

Yeah, no, it's alright. I'm not expecting to be.

Chip

It's gonna take a sec.

Gillion

I don't know if I am not strong enough to hold up the weight of the expectations or if I am just tired of doing it alone, but you've always been by my side, and I want you there again. I don't know if that's selfish or if it'll even be allowed, but if there's an option. I know that I have a lot of shortcomings, but together, I think we can do anything.

Chip

Okay. I just didn't want to step on your toes if you didn't want it.

Gillion

It's okay.

Jay

But now we're gonna be stepping all over those toes.

Chip

Oh, we're stepping on those toes.

Jay

Oh, we're gonna be on those toes.

Gillion

Oh. Ooh. Haha.

Chip

Hehe.

Gillion

Hey, that's the webbing. Hey, that's the webbing. Stop, stop.

[laughter]

Grizzly

Then my final question for you is, Chip, how hard will you try to stay awake? We're coming back to this.

Bizly

[groans]

Condi

Oh, god.

Grizzly

And you feel with your heart. You have a natural resilience to not needing to rest as often.

Bizly

Yeah.

Charlie

I feel like I would bring this up.

Gillion

Hey, so I don't know if you've told the others yet, but, like, how are you doing post eating that heart? I never thought you would do something like that.

Chip

Oh, yeah, super good.

Gillion

Yeah.

Bizly

Super good.

Aurora

Really?

Jay

Really? Just like, great?

Chip

Super good.

Gillion

It was super impressive. You just, like, unhinged your jaw like that. You, like, I'm just saying your jaw was super loose.

Bizly

No, I'm pretty sure we retconned that to be he put it in my chest.

Grizzly

You retconned that to put it in your chest.

Chip

Yeah, I'm pretty sure I remember it differently.

Gillion

Oh, did you?

Chip

Yeah.

Gillion

You looked at it hungry for a second then or something.

Aurora

I wish I could have seen it.

Gillion

Blood all where it's supposed to be.

Chip

Oh, yeah. I got all the blood. Got all the blood, it's pumping fast.

Jay

Have you checked your pressure lately?

Chip

I'm pretty sure it's like one billion over a million right now.

[laughter]

Bizly

Oh.

Charlie

I like-

Chip

[puts hand over heart] Feel that, feel that right there.

[Aurora puts hand on his chest][thump thump thump]

Aurora

Ooo! It's not supposed to do that.

Jay

Can I, like, give you little prick here and like...

Chip

Sure. [gets pricked][whooooosh]

[laughter]

Charlie

Put my hand over it.

Ursus

Oh, you're gonna attract the sharks.

Jay

Wow, yeah. That's really effective heart.

Chip

Okay, I'm gonna say something. No big deal.

Gillion

Okay.

Chip

Okay.

Jay

Okay.

Chip

No big deal.

Gillion

Alright, I don't feel like it's a big deal.

Aurora

I do feel like it's a big deal.

Chip

Okay, but don't feel that way, cause it's not a big deal. And if you get weird about it, I'm gonna get mad.

Gillion

Understood.

Aurora

I won't get weird.

Chip

So when I sleep, my soul goes to the depths of hell and I see the Queen of Death.

Jay

Okay, cool.

Gillion

What's new since the heart?

Bizly

And she, well, that's the-

[laughter]

Chip

It's the heart. It's the heart. There are thousands of souls fighting to claim my body. And my willpower will determine whether I wake up.

Gillion

Is this about the night light?

Chip

Is this about the nightlight? Kind of.

Aurora

Oh, I'm sorry.

Chip

Kind of came up.

Aurora

I'm sorry, Chip. I really didn't mean it.

Chip

No, having that, it was just, it was semi relevant. It was adjacent to what happened.

Aurora

All right.

Jay

Okay, so wait, pause. Is there anything we can do to help?

Chip

Well, I could become the champion of death.

Gillion

Haha, do that! That's awesome. Are you kidding me?

Aurora

Are we sure that's a good idea?

Gillion

Are you kidding me?

Chip

I don't know! I don't know! I` feel like we're going on this whole journey where you're trying not to be somebody's weapon, and then I just pull up as somebody's weapon. We're just kind of-

Gillion

Well, do you want to do it?

Chip

Yeah, a little bit.

Gillion

Well, fucking do it.

Aurora

Wait a second!

Jay

Pause, pause. Yeah. Wait, what does it entail exactly?

Gillion

Who cares?

Grizzly

[laughs]

Chip

Well, I mean, I don't know-

Grizzly

That's the spirit.

[laughter]

Chip

She basically just said and she's really cool, by the way.

Jay

Yeah, okay.

Chip

She basically just said-

Jay

Wait, who was it?

Chip

Oh, it's the Dread Queen.

Jay

Oh, yeah.

Chip

She doesn't want to have eternal life anymore. She just wants to rule over death and all that that entails.

Gillion

Chill.

Jay

Oh, cool. Yeah, chill.

Chip

Yeah, I thought so.

Jay

That's totally fine.

Aurora

You say these words very fast as if they're not incredibly shocking.

Chip

I just do that. It kind of lessens the blow.

Aurora

The blow has not been lessened.

Chip

All right, all right. No, that's fair. That's fair. Aurora, you're new to this I'll-

Jay

You'll get used to it, you'll get used to it.

Aurora

Are you sure this is a choice you'd like to, I'm...

Gillion

It would be weird if he said he was, like, having dreams that, like, weren't him getting, like, I don't know, sucked down into a dark hole or, like...

Chip

Look-

Aurora

Do you need a therapist?

Chip

Yeah.

[laughter]

Chip

It's not gonna happen, though.

Aurora

Oh, all right.

Chip

She's building an army of undead and is going to invade other planes of existence I think?

Gillion

Oh, no.

Jay

Does that include ours?

Chip

That's what I...she was unclear, but I think that means yes.

Jay

That's not a good sign. Yeah, that's a bad sign, huh?

Gillion

Well, how does she get these members of her army?

Chip

They just die. I would have to kill them.

Gillion

So, wait-

Chip

It's no matter if they die or not, but if I become the champion-

Jay

So, like, let's say, okay, you're not the champion. You kill somebody, she still gets them.

Chip

Yeah.

Jay

And if you are the champion and you kill them, she gets them. And you don't die every night, almost.

Chip

Yeah.

Jay

Well, if you're gonna do it anyway...

Aurora

I would prefer you alive.

Chip

Me, too. Thank you.

Gillion

Hey, Chip. Do you like this girl?

[laughter]

Chip

Yeah.

Gillion

Hey, man. Go get her.

Aurora

Go get him, tiger. I'm cool with this.

[laughter]

Jay

Listen, I mean, we're already kind of, like, dealing with the end of the world anyways. What's the worst that could actually happen?

Gillion

I think maybe you should get a little clarity from her, communication's good, on whether or not she's going to...well, shit, I don't know that it's good. She's invading anyone.

Chip

That's what I was thinking.

Gillion

But if they're gonna die, well, what are you gonna do?

Chip

I just don't know if I'm ready for this type of commitment.

Gillion

I get that, man.

Aurora

That's all right.

Gillion

That's okay but sometimes-

Chip

She has a wife, too.

[laughter]

Aurora

Wait, I'm sorry-

Gillion

And where's her wife's heart?

Grizzly

Not in there.

Bizly

It's not. Oh.

Charlie

Oh, is that, oh, I got it wrong.

Grizzly

No, it's not in there.

Charlie

Okay, whose heart is that?

Grizzly

His heart was in her body.

Charlie

Oh, got it.

Aurora

So maybe that's why you like her so much.

Gillion

She gave you her heart.

Aurora

She's probably a narcissist.

Chip

True and her wife stole my heart. So maybe we can have like a...

Gillion

That's crazy. Yeah, you got a triangle.

Jay

That's insane. Chip, that's insane. You cannot. You can't even handle one woman like-

Chip

What do you mean I can't handle?

Jay

The last one you actually tried to get with died horribly. This one's already dead, so actually, it might work. Yeah.

Gillion

So, dude, I mean, now you got a chance with her too.

Grizzly

How did the conversation get here? They're lesbians, man.

Charlie

I don't know.

Milo

I really don't know.

Charlie

Like, they don't love men.

Chip

As a team, okay, I just want to make sure everyone's cool if I become the champion of death.

Jay

Yeah, sure. I mean, that's pretty cool.

Gillion

If that's what you want.

Chip

Yes.

Jay

Yeah, just like, stop, what's your, like base instincts?

Gillion

What are your hang ups?

Aurora

Well, it's just kind of a bad vibe that I'm getting honestly.

Jay

Sure.

Aurora

I, oh...

Jay

He's always kind of had a bad vibe about him, though.

Gillion

Can you convince her to, like, pick up a different hobby?

Chip

Maybe?

Aurora

I mean, like, as long as-

Chip

Maybe. I don't like that you said that. What were you gonna say?

Milo

As long as you're being safe.

[laughter]

Gillion

As the champion of death.

Chip

All right, I'm gonna do it. I'm gonna do it.

Aurora

Just don't get any tattoos. Don't you know, like-

Chip

I already got em. I'm covered in webs and stuff.

Aurora

Oh, I mean, like, from her.

Chip

Oh, these are from her.

Aurora

Wow, you guys move fast.

Gillion

Yeah, that was quick.

[laughter]

Bizly

Okay. Okay, I'm gonna take a little nap.

Grizzly

Okay, rest of you, everybody rests. I assume as you travel on your first night of rest, just roll your death saving throws. When you close your eyes and fall asleep, I'd say you're in the same position as you were before.

Bizly

I would just be screaming,

Chip

I'll do it! I'll do it! Stop it, I'll do it!

Grizzly

I want you to roll with them anyways. Roll with advantage.

Bizly

Good advantage. Good advantage.

Milo

You needed that.

Bizly

All right, that's one pass, one success.

Grizzly

Okay, one more.

Bizly

Natural 20.

Grizzly

All right, easy enough. You this time, even though you're screaming out you yourself, pull yourself up. Your will stronger than the souls that keep you alive.

Bizly

Sure.

Grizzly

And the door is already open.

Chip

[screams as he pulls himself up]

Bizly

I walk in, like big, and I stand at the door.

Calypso

Welcome back.

Chip

[arms crossed] Sup?

Calypso

I heard you screaming, but I'd like to hear it from you.

Chip

Wasn't me, I didn't say scream.

Calypso

I assume you've made up your mind.

Chip

[snaps and points finger guns at Calypso]

Milo

Oh, my god.

Chip

Yeah, I'll do it.

Calypso

Wonderful.

Chip

Well, can I ask questions first? I already said it. Wait.

[laughter]

Milo

You didn't do anything that we said to do. You actually crawled your way on your hands and knees, backwards.

Charlie

And said, take me back.

Condi

Please, please, please, please.

Charlie

I hope for her it was like no time passed.

Milo

I'm crying.

[laughter]

Calypso

To summarize one final time, and I'll clarify the nature of our relationship.

Chip

Sure.

Calypso

As the champion to me, the Lady of Death, now ruling after conquering the previous manifestation of this world's fear of death, just so you know that I fought for my position, I grant you my power-

Chip

Oh.

Calypso

To stay alive, whatever else you might need, and you do the things that I ask of you.

Charlie

Ooh. Okay, so that's oooh.

Condi

That's vague. That's a little-

Charlie

That's an umbrella.

Chip

Wait, no. You didn't say that.

Calypso

I said that you would kill people.

Chip

You didn't, no. No.

Calypso

There may be specific ones that I am looking for.

Chip

Calypso.

Calypso

Captain.

Chip

Captain. No, you don't get the Captain. You lied, or misled the truth.

[laughter]

Milo

He sounds like a kid. You lied.

Chip

I need to, I need to get, I'm so sorry. I need to get it together. What the hell?

Calypso

So I withheld some information but-

Chip

Why do you guys always do that? Why can't you just tell me upfront? I might have been okay with it at first. I wouldn't have been just. But to let you know, in the future.

Calypso

Call it old habit. That's the nature of being a pirate.

Chip

All right, listen. I'll do this. And I'm a really powerful pirate, so it does benefit you a lot. We're gonna have to be 50/50 on it, or like 60/40, at best. You can have ten.

Milo

You're talking down before she responds.

Chip

[claps hands together] 50/50 final offer.

Calypso

Chip, I'm afraid we're just not there yet.

Chip

[sighs]

Calypso

Perhaps with some time for our relationship to grow, you could have more say in this. But I hold the power. Power that I've earned. You're the one who is in need of souls quelled. And I am in need of some certain deaths and possible other tasks.

Chip

This is a lot worse and I talked with my friends about it already, and now I feel like I misled them because you misled me. And so I pro have to talk to them about it again later.

Calypso

I suppose I'll see you tomorrow night.

Chip

Okay. All right, we'll talk later.

[laughter]

Grizzly

Cord yanks you back. Next day, everybody wakes up.

Jay

Okay, so what happened?

Bizly

We'll resolve that later. We're going to move on to a different plot right now.

[laughter]

Condi

I just kind of wanted a montage of like giving you a relationship advice.

Charlie

Hey, good morning, master of death. How'd it go?

Grizzly

That's so funny.

Aurora

You can't let her walk all over you, man.

Gillion

You have to stand up for yourself.

Jay

Stand up for yourself, yeah, I mean, like-

Grizzly

I re-looked at my notes. Allows Chip immortality any power he asks, delivers a number of souls, delivers a number of specific powerful souls.

Charlie

Fuck, couldn't be like bugs.

Bizly

Yeah, that's what I'm saying like...

Charlie

A thousand bugs.

Bizly

We'll get back to it. I wake up and I'm like-

Grizzly

It's a packed situation.

Bizly

Yeah, I get that. But I tell them, they say, what's up, champion of death? And I'm just kind of like,

Chip

Hey.

[laughter]

Charlie

I put a hand on his shoulder.

Milo

Wait, are you not gonna tell us?

Bizly

No. No, we'll get to it later

Condi

Before we sleep next.

Bizly

We'll get to it later.

Grizzly

So in time, you start to approach the approximate location of where CRA'BCR'AB'CR'ABCR'CRAB, who I have put in my notes as King Crab. Perhaps it's some sort of translation.

Bizly

I'm writing it, that's way easier.

Grizzly

English kind of thing. CRA'BCR'AB'CR'ABCR'CRAB. King Crab-

Charlie

It's CRA'BCR'AB'CR'ABCR'CRAB.

Condi

It's Crabaker, Abacar, Abaca, crab.

Grizzly

Synonymous. I don't care. I'm not going to try anymore.

Condi

It's not that hard dude.

Grizzly

You see a vast rising of land. The sandbar, dark colored, not quite black, but just sort of muddy sand. In the distance, the underwater horizon. A swirling massive shell poking through it,

leading up to that incline. On the slope of a sand dune, you see both embedded in the sand and floating. Weapons, guns, corpses, R.A.F.T. uniforms. You see small shells, shells of all different types of crabs. Blue crab, snow crab, Undersea, abyssal crab from the depths, hermit crabs. All of these corpses floating and sinking into the sand, lifeless. It's still. There is very, very minimal bioluminescence that sort of drifts on floating algae in the vicinity. When you dismount, Ursus who lets out this.

Ursus

Oh no.

Grizzly

You step onto the sandbar and you hear a scurry.

Ab'acra'ba

Ahhhhh!

Gillion

God?

Bizly

I get small.

Grizzly

This small pip squeak, high pitched voice shouts beneath your feet. Aurora, does a 16 hit your armor class?

Milo

Yes.

Grizzly

You feel a pinch as a fork shaped weapon is embedded into your ankle.

Aurora

Ow!

Grizzly

And then you see a small, weak little crab begin to float.

Ab'acra'ba

I can't do it anymore. I can't fight. I can't.

Aurora

What's wrong, little guy?

Gillion

What happened?

Ab'acra'ba

You can't kill him. You can't kill him.

Gillion

We're not here to kill him.

Aurora

We're not here to kill him. Could you remove that fork from my ankle, please?

Ab'acra'ba

Uhuhhhhh.

Grizzly

It begins to, like, float up.

Aurora

Oh, no.

Grizzly

It's like claws are weak.

Milo

Can I just gently kind of, like, pull it back with the water?

Ab'acra'ba

Don't kill me.

Aurora

No, it's all right. Oh, gosh.

Grizzly

It's two little stalks look out.

Ab'acra'ba

You're not soldiers.

Aurora

No.

Ab'acra'ba

You're not enemies.

Gillion

No.

Ab'acra'ba

I'm sorry. I, we tried.

Grizzly

And you see this village, a vast town in shambles of small crabs that lived as a civilization on the back of this shell that now has burrowed deep into the sandbar.

Ab'acra'ba

Our whole village destroyed, our number small. They're gon. They're gone. They're gone.

Jay

Are the people who did this to you still here?

Grizzly

It just sort of, like, moves its claws.

Ab'acra'ba

The battle is over. We lost. We lost. The king is weak. The king. His breath weak. I feel it. The heart, it slows. I feel it.

Gillion

How can we help?

Grizzly

It looks towards you.

Ab'acra'ba

I don't know. Why have you come from? Where do you hail?

Gillion

It doesn't matter. We're from all over and we just want to help.

Ab'acra'ba

We guardians meant to protect the entrance to the crab's heart, waiting for a hero. A test we would provide. A test we no longer can. The temple. The temple entrance is at the peak. But it opens for no one. And it protects the heart of the crab. It weakens.

Grizzly

Don't laugh. It's not funny.

Milo

Not laughing. I'm actually really close to crying right now. This is so sad.

Charlie

It is really sad. He's just that funny little crab though.

Bizly

It was funny that you were doing this.

Grizzly

You hear a very deep, bassy vibration within the sand.

Ab'acra'ba

He speaks. He says, come to my heart. The entrance opens for no one. We can't. We can't.

Grizzly

He just sort of, like, begins to close the stalks of his eyes.

Gillion

Oh, Aurora, can you make this one not die?

Aurora

Oh, I, yes. I mean...

Condi

Is he dying or is he exhausted?

Milo

I'd like to cast. Yeah. Is he hurt?

Grizzly

Go ahead, roll animal handling.

Milo

Eleven.

Grizzly

This small crab warrior is exhausted. There are other small crabs in the sand that are not dead, but are asleep, are unconscious. You can just tell with your knowledge of animals in connection to them. But many of them are gone.

Milo

Fuck.

Gillion

I'm sorry we didn't get here in time to stop this.

Aurora

It calls for somebody to come help. Surely we can still try. I know you say it opens for no one, but maybe it'll open for you.

Gillion

Maybe.

Ab'acra'ba

There is no other choice. It is the last hope. Lead you is the last thing I could do.

Grizzly

And it just swims down, grabs the little fork, pulls it out of your little ankle.

Ab'acra'ba

I'm sorry.

Aurora

It's alright.

Grizzly

And then it begins to scuttle up in this small path up this slope towards the massive shell, the very top of it, a spiraled mountain, it appears.

Bizly

Do we eat crabs on the surface?

Grizzly

Yeah.

Bizly

I look at Jay like...[raises eyebrows]

Condi

I look at a snow crab. And like, for a second I'm like, [shakes head]

Grizzly

Even sharks eat crabs and fish, or even other fish eat other.

Bizly

I know this is really fucking sad.

Condi

They're like civilized.

Grizzly

It's so much sadder when they speak, yeah.

Bizly

I've, I don't know.

Charlie

They all talk by the way.

Bizly

It's what I'm seeing.

Condi

Like every single one? Like, it's not like a situation like in-

Grizzly

Yeah, even the ones you don't understand, they all speak.

Milo

You guys understand that, like animals in real life, like, feel things and like this is the same thing.

Bizly

Yeah, but-

Condi

Yeah, but-

Bizly

They don't have villages that get destroyed by the Navy.

Milo

I mean, low key, they do.

Charlie

They don't talk to us in our language.

Condi

Yeah, they don't talk to us.

Grizzly

They have simpler ways of life, but still, it's their way of life.

Condi

Yeah, but they're fucking delicious.

Milo

Are you gonna go vegan?

[laughter]

Charlie

I'm also like wondering.

Bizly

This is different, right? This is different.

Condi

It's different, like-

Charlie

No, it's not.

Bizly

Yes, it is.

Charlie

No it's the same.

Bizly

Yes, it is.

Grizzly

The difference is that the cows don't talk to us. But if they could, it would be different.

Charlie

If they could this is what they'd say.

Grizzly

Ignorance is bliss, I suppose.

Bizly

Anyway, I have a moment where I consider veganism and we move on.

Grizzly

You follow this small crab warrior up to the very top of the king crab shell. And as you do, you arrive to the peak. It is some sort of entryway, a curved wall that has a small sliver that allows you to walk into the cylindrical hollowed out cone essentially of the top of the shell. And in this you see on the ground of its shell some sort of circular depression. And there are symbols, symbols engraved and drawn on the walls as well. They're familiar to you, Aurora. This is a language, a language that you know. A language that I've put in the back of your notebook.

Bizly

Whoa.

Milo

What?

Charlie

Woah!

Milo

Holy shit, Nate.

Condi

Wait, can I see? Is this a cipher?

Milo

Its two pages.

Charlie

That's crazy.

Milo

It's a fucking cipher.

Grizzly

I have put druidic in the back of her notebook.

Charlie

That's so cool.

Grizzly

You see symbols in Druidic writing around the room. You can see on the depression of the door is a glyph that is one of protection and sealing. It will not be opened by force or power. And any attempt to do so, you know, would result in outwards destruction of the interior of this chamber.

Milo

Right.

Grizzly

You also see symbols for sacred ruin or temple interchangeably. And on the far side of the wall in the center, there is a grid of six squares repeated by four rows covered in moss and shells, as is the rest of the walls.

Aurora

I can read this.

Grizzly

You can tell that this entryway was sealed and this architecture, however long ago, built by druids. This heart of this leviathan protected by them.

Gillion

It's all right. I already know what it says.

Aurora

You speak-

Gillion

[holds out hand] In my heart.

Aurora

Oh.

Gillion

Wow, wow, wow.

Charlie

I put my hand to the stone.

Grizzly

The grid squares?

Charlie

Yeah.

Grizzly

You put your hand.

Charlie

My hand to it.

Grizzly

On, I put in front of you now-

Charlie

What?

Milo

Oh fuck.

Grizzly

Four rows, six squares.

Charlie

Oh my god, it's Guess Who.

Grizzly

You know that this glyph, it is opened and unlocked by a word. Imagine this. 1, 2, 3, 4 total rows.

Charlie

So like four words?

Condi

Four. No, I think it's four attempts to get it right.

Grizzly

Correct.

Charlie

Is this fucking wordle?

Grizzly

This is ancient wordle.

Condi

We're doing wordle.

[laughter]

Condi

No fucking way, dude, that's so funny.

Aurora

Okay. Plate is a good starter word because it has a good mix of like very common consonants and very common vowel.s

Gillion

There's just one problem.

Jay

What?

Gillion

Plate is five letters.

Jay

Oh, this is a six letter wordle.

Aurora

Shit.

Chip

Chosen.

Jay

Wordle.

Chip

No.

Gillion

Okay, well, hang on there's four of us, so why don't we each take a turn?

Jay

Well, no, I don't think. Listen, I feel like it might want it in the same language that everything else is written in on this temple.

Aurora

There's like a whole-

Gillion

Then I'm just not gonna even bother.

Aurora

Yeah, there's a whole alphabet and the symbols and grammar.

Gillion

Oh, well, what if we take turns in saying what word we think and then Aurora can interpret.

Grizzly

If you would like to take a closer look at any other symbols or writings on the wall, you can roll perception.

Milo

I would love to do that.

Grizzly

One person can roll investigation. If you guys help, it'd be with advantage.

Bizly

I'm good at that.

Condi

I would actually really like to see if there's any signs that this has actually been opened recently.

Grizzly

Oh, yeah, sure. Investigation for you.

Milo

Okay, so I'm gonna help Chip cause I know this Language. And I'm looking around with him for these symbols.

Charlie

Chip, it is your destiny. [he throws a dice at Bizly]

Bizly

Nice.

Charlie

Add a two to that.

Bizly

Twenty-eight.

Grizzly

In your roll for investigation.

Condi

I got a nine plus nine, eighteen.

Grizzly

Eighteen. Super clear to you. This thing is sealed almost to the point where you can barely tell that it will move.

Condi

Okay.

Grizzly

It's not been opened, it's been defended. There aren't even markings of people having walked around here.

Charlie

Wow.

Grizzly

Whatever they did during that battle, they got what they needed without coming up here.

Charlie

Oh.

Grizzly

What you guys find there's much writing. Two symbols are repeated. It's a pattern. And I'll give you one hint to start with.

Milo

Oh, okay. Oh, that's really sad.

Grizzly

Why?

Condi

Why?

Milo

Crab is alone. That's what it says.

Condi

Awww.

Grizzly

Correct. That is what it says.

Bizly

I thought it was guy with horns. No.

Milo

Crab alone.

Charlie

I thought it was. Yeah, I thought it was happy guy. Guy with hat off.

Milo

Oh, he's really cool.

Charlie

Crab alone.

Milo

The crab that greeted us.

Aurora

Hey, little guy. I'm sorry, that's probably rude of me to say. What's your name?

Ab'acra'ba

I am called Ab'acra'ba.

Aurora

Ab'acra'ba, okay, well, it sounded like you were casting a spell, but sure.

Charlie

Ab'acra'ba.

Milo

Ab'acra'ba.

Grizzly

It's a total different language.

Charlie

Lonely crab.

Milo

It's a lonely crab.

Charlie

Six letter word.

Bizly

Six letter word for lonely crab.

Condi

Now can they be...is it a six letter word or is it like a six word phrase?

Grizzly

Six letter word.

Milo

Lob

Bizly

Crab.

Charlie

Tur.

Milo

Tur.

[laughter]

Gillion

A lonely crab is just a shell, 'L'.

Charlie

I put another I at the end.

Condi

A shell?

Charlie

Aurora, I think it's probably best if you use your big starry brain and try and solve this one with your nugget.

Condi

Lonely crab, lonely crab.

Milo

A lonely crab.

Gillion

If it's wordle rules, and I don't know what that is, then one of them will be like. It'll be like yellow or green.

Milo

Why don't I just test something out? Maybe I'll just start slapping some letters in there and see if any of them glow green.

Grizzly

Okay, what word are you going for?

Milo

Any six letter word. Wow, they're all leaving me right now.

Condi

Bucket.

Milo

Why don't I just try...

Grizzly

Swish.

Condi

Swish.

Charlie

Buckets.

Milo

Sacred.

Grizzly

Sacred?

Milo

Sacred.

Grizzly

Okay.

Charlie

Oh, I like that one.

Grizzly

You could use a different rock that you pick up to sort of carve in scratchings into it. As you do, they illuminate the color white. You write the word sacred, two letters glow yellow and they move magically down to the next row.

Milo

Re.

Charlie

Who wants to go next?

Milo

We only have four chances.

Grizzly

Three left.

Bizly

I'm so bad at wordle.

Charlie

Well, we might as well, knock it out then.

Milo

Lonely.

Grizzly

If you'd like to look around again, you can roll investigation again.

Bizly

Yeah, sure.

Milo

If we could.

Bizly

Yeah.

Charlie

Bahahar!

Bizly

Destiny. Okay, add two, so it's 25.

Grizzly

That beats the DC of 18. You translate more writing. After taking some time to ponder, that word was incorrect. And not in any particular order because it's scattered around. You put together three phrases. All alone I am, no company required. Safe in solitude.

Gillion

Chip, it's all you. I think this is starting to make sense.

Chip

Oh yeah, elaborate? [laughs]

Gillion

No.

Bizly

So for my investigation, I basically just go to Aurora and I point the stuff on the wall.

Chip

What does that mean?

Aurora

Oh, uh-

Chip

What does that mean?

Aurora

Okay. No-

Chip

What does that mean?

Aurora

Okay, give me a moment. I'm not-

Chip

What does that mean?

Aurora

Okay. No company required.

Chip

Okay.

Aurora

Safe in solitude. All alone I am. Kind of weird grammar.

Chip

Okay, okay. A lot of pressure on me. We only have three left.

Aurora

Oh! Huh!

Chip

What? What?

Aurora

Hermit.

Grizzly

You, are you writing that?

Chip

Hermit.

Aurora

Hermit.

Jay

Yeah, that's good. Yeah, that's good.

Chip

Hermit.

Aurora

Wonderful.

Gillion

Hert.

Aurora

Hert.

Gillion

Hertum.

Jay

Hermit.

Aurora

Oh, hermit.

Gillion

What the hell does tim ram mean?

[laughter]

Grizzly

I'm certain you read normally in the past. You write the word after rearranging two of your correct letters, 'hermit'. The stone depresses into the wall. They glow white and you begin to hear [bssssh] sound of that depression in the ground moving and sliding open, revealing an entryway into this old temple. Inside, the shell of an even older leviathan.

Ab'acra'ba

Ahhhh!

Grizzly

Passes out.

Aurora

He's never seen somebody so good at wordle.

Charlie

Can I take him with us?

Grizzly

These?

Milo

Yeah.

Charlie

No, the little crab?

Milo

Yeah, I'd like him to live.

Grizzly

Oh yeah, if you want to just hold onto him.

Charlie

Yeah, we'll bring him with us.

Grizzly

Totally can.

Milo

My friend.

Grizzly

Sure.

Condi

That's probably gonna kill him actually.

Grizzly

He's never met his king.

Condi

That'd be crazy.

Charlie

I think he deserves to.

Condi

Okay.

Charlie

I'll put him in the thing with Pretzel and I'll say,

Gillion

Play nice.

Grizzly

One of your tentacles just sort of like spins him around.

Bizly

Just spinning him endlessly.

Gillion

I'm sure that's fine.

Aurora

Oh, don't hurt him.

Grizzly

Wonderful. The four of you enter a temple much older than your time. Whatever makes the architecture of this shell, whatever reinforces it on the inside, is lost to moss. You peer through hazy dark green liquid and floating seaweed as if inside an unclean unfiltered tank. You descend into the first chamber of this multi level, multi tiered shell. You see through the haze a compressed cylindrical shape, a massive pillar of sea stone poking through the bit of foggy water on the flat top surface, jammed into it, a molded, rusted, moss covered trident. The pillar itself extending 30 feet down to the floor level. You will, as you descend, see more things. Although it's quite hard to see detail with the foggy water. Jay, I'll have you roll a perception check.

Condi

Abso-freaking-lutely.

Grizzly

But this is the one thing that stands out among this chamber.

Charlie

I rolled bad, but it's a 19.

Grizzly

Nineteen.

Milo

Holy f.

Charlie

Holy.

Grizzly

Nineteen's higher than what you needed.

Condi

Bet.

Grizzly

You all also see dull, glowing green light in the shape of what you recognize Gillion as sharks. With their spectral almost like spirits, spirit guardians perhaps.

Charlie

Ooh.

Grizzly

And they just move slowly around the perimeter in some sort of calm pattern. They don't seem to be disturbed by your presence yet.

Charlie

Ghost shark.

Grizzly

With your perception. You notice in the lower part of the room, sort of blending in well with the walls and the moss hiding under some larger shells that have sunk into that corner. You see a small grateful. Something slightly glimmer is behind it. And you see in the walls very tiny holes carved throughout. And around those holes, around the walls, embedded with the moss, you see just a quick glance, as observant as you are, thirteen or so shells, starfish.

Condi

Okay. I look to Chip and I say,

Jay

Chip, in that corner, there's a little grate. I see somebody shiny behind there. Go get it.

Milo

Like, he's a dog?

Bizly

What the fuck?

Condi

He's usually all over this shit. What's going on?

Grizzly

I'm actually on Jay's side.

Condi

Yeah, like, what's going on? You're usually like, totally on top of the stuff.

Charlie

No, man, I'm with you. What the hell was that?

Chip

What the hell was that?

Milo

That's a tad disrespectful.

Condi

Just like put your hand in the grate and grab the shiny thing. You're a changed person. I don't think I like it.

Milo

It's probably cause he's like the master of death.

Condi

My bad, I forgot you're the champion of death. You have more important things to do.

Bizly

Yeah, Champion of Death now I am.

Condi

Okay, fine. I guess I'll, I mean, Gillion?

Gillion

Yeah.

Chip

Use the hook.

[gasps from Milo and Charlie]

Charlie

Oh, it's gonna be, it's gonna be so bad. I'm gonna be there for a while. I'm gonna go over to the grate-

Bizly

It'll fit through the grate.

Charlie

And like, fishing for car keys. Fall down, I'm gonna put my hook in. Try and like, get the.

Gillion

Gotta get the loop. It's the loop. I got it, I got it, I got it. Oh, shit, the bar. Hang on.

Grizzly

As you swim past the trident. It hums and rings at your presence.

Milo

Ooo.

Charlie

Oh, this would probably be so good to have. I'm gonna take it.

Grizzly

You try to lift it.

Charlie

Yeah.

Grizzly

It doesn't budge.

Charlie

Oh, well, I'll go to the grate.

[laughter]

Bizly

What do you mean, I'm normally all over this kind of stuff. What do you mean by that?

Charlie

Yeah, Jay, it just felt a little weird and neurotic.

Condi

Listen, DM is on my side. What more is there to say?

Charlie

Can I get in there? Can I get in there with my meaty fingers and my meaty hook?

Condi

I'm saying if you had spotted that, you would have been crawling towards on all fours.

Bizly

Yeah, okay, but you not getting pointed out like a dog.

Grizzly

Roll dexterity.

Charlie

Oh, yeesh.

Bizly

You just went 'boy, something in the grate?'

Charlie

Yeah.

Milo

Go get it. Go get it.

Charlie

Okay, thirteen.

Grizzly

I'll say that with that in some time you're able to fish out a wooden, small wooden box within this grate. And you fish out. [he pulls out a small chest]

Condi

Whoa.

Milo

Oh cute.

Charlie

Whoa.

Jay

Good job, Gillion.

Gillion

Thanks, Jay.

Grizzly

The chest you fish out has a really old, intricate, small lock. It is not a simple lock by any means. The exterior of the chest is magically, you can just feel it as you hold it. It's kept it from decaying through the age. As much as the barnacles and moss have grown over it, still the chest remains intact.

Gillion

[shakes chest] Chip, what do you think? Got a scent?

Chip

[He sniffs it]

Gillion

Here, boy. We got a lock.

Chip

Something in the box.

Chip

We got a lock. Come on, solve it. Come on, solve it, boy.

Chip

[He keeps sniffing it]

[laughter]

Grizzly

What the hell?

Gillion

Solve it. Come on. Come on, get in there.

Chip

[He takes the box and sniffs it more]

Gillion

Here you go. He's got a scent. Everyone stand back. He's got a scent.

Milo

I'm crying.

Chip

It's a lock.

Jay

It is. It is.

Gillion

Solve it. You're so smart. Come on.

Aurora

Oh you've got it boy.

Bizly

How many hands have touched this?

Grizzly

You're unsure.

Aurora

No, Chip, bad.

Bizly

I don't know?

Grizzly

You can roll investigation.

Milo

I thought you were gonna say you can roll lick.

Bizly

Good at that. Good at that. Seventeen.

Grizzly

Maybe only a few. But the fingerprints, they have all but washed away. You do know with your expertise of being a rogue and pick locking many, many, many locks, this one would prove to be maybe impossible.

Charlie

It would be, but I'm going to reach into my bag with a really small like implement and a little bit of peanut butter and I'm gonna put it-

Condi

What?

[laughter]

Charlie

I'm going to reach through the crack of the box and spread the peanut butter a little bit on the inside when Chip isn't looking, and then I'll pass it back to him.

Milo

I thought you had like a magical of showing.

Gillion

How's that smell?

Bizly

I start gnawing on it.

Milo

This is not how you solve this problem.

Charlie

I'll give you guidance if you lick it. I'll give you guidance if you lick It. It's your destiny boy!

Bizly

It's my destiny.

Charlie

It's your destiny boy.

Bizly

My destiny. Okay, that's max.

Charlie

That's four!

Bizly

I'm gonna try and lock pick it.

Grizzly

Yeah, roll at disadvantage.

Charlie

Oh, shit.

Bizly

Okay.

Milo

Wow.

Charlie

Was it good or bad?

Bizly

Twenty-seven.

Grizzly

Twenty-seven.

Milo

What the fuck?

Charlie

Yeah, dude he just does that.

Grizzly

Even with a 27, your tools aren't able to adjust the pins within this lock in such a way that it would unlock it without a key.

Condi

Yeah.

Bizly

Okay. I scratch at it for a while, I guess.

Milo

You said there were 13 shells...

Grizzly

Along the wall.

Milo

Along the wall.

Grizzly

Among tiny, tiny holes. Looking around, there's no other way to descend any further.

Milo

Yeah.

Charlie

Yeah.

Grizzly

There's the cylindrical pillar and on the top of it, jammed into the top-

Jay

You know you couldn't get it Gill, you didn't really try this. Like maybe you just pull it harder.

Gillion

Oh, yeah. I didn't think of that.

Grizzly

Sure. Yeah. Jay, if you wanna try, go ahead and roll athletics.

Condi

That's a nine.

Jay

Eurgh!

Grizzly

You try your absolute hardest to pull this out. As you do, you notice the spirit guardian sharks. They move, they look at you like, blood in the water. They swim closer. I am keeping track of

how many times you fail the different sort of barriers, puzzles, trials, tests, things that prevent you from progressing. You're pulling a lever in the wrong way. It's disturbing the guardians.

Charlie

We've got. I just want to make sure we've got all the pieces here. We've got 13 shells on the walls.

Condi

Did anything happen with them when I-

Milo

Small holes in them I believe.

Grizzly

What I described is exactly what happened. It doesn't budge. You disturb the sharks.

Milo

I'd like to get a closer look at these shells in the wall. Peer into one of the holes that are...

Grizzly

You see a small little goldfish and it just freaks out as it sees you and swims back into its hole.

Aurora

Oh, hello.

Grizzly

Back into the shadow of the darkness.

Charlie

I really like that.

Bizly

I also like that.

Milo

Can I peer into the next one?

Grizzly

There's another fish. When you make eye contact, it swims away.

Milo

Oh, fuck.

Condi

Are they just like spectating us?

Grizzly

They're watching.

[Charlie and Condi in unison] Oh.

Gillion

We need to use our heads.

Charlie

I'm going to walk up to the trident.

Condi

Okay.

Charlie

And I'm going to produce a rope and I'm going to tie it around the tip of the trident.

Condi

Wait, is the trident facing up? Like the sticky end up and like the pole up?

Grizzly

Imagine a sword in the stone, but with a trident.

Milo

So I'm assuming prongs down.

Charlie

Prongs down or prong up?

Condi

Yeah prongs down.

Grizzly

Prongs embedded into the stone.

Milo

Are there any engravings? Is there any symbols, any lettering?

Grizzly

Yeah. Roll perception for me.

Milo

Yeah. Seventeen total.

Grizzly

Not written in your personal notes of druidic, symbols that declare a very simple message about this pillar and this room. The message is force. Dangerous. Precision. Safe.

Milo

I would look up at Gillion as he's...what are you doing right now?

Charlie

Break the pillar and take it with it.

Milo

I see Gillion pulling out like a jackhammer.

[laughter]

Aurora

Oh, Gillion.

Charlie

I have a little chisel.

Aurora

Oh, um, these symbols, they've left a message. It tells me that we have to be precise.

Gillion

Precise.

Aurora

I presume we should be removing this, but force won't work.

Charlie

Put just a couple fingers on it with a loose grasp. And I say,

Gillion

Come to me.

Charlie

And I very lightly initiate an upwards brush. And I try and coax it.

Chip

Dude.

Gillion

No, because force is not the answer sometimes, it's understanding. [whis[ers] I see you.

Grizzly

What ability would you think you would be using to accomplish this?

Charlie

Strength.

Milo

Oh, my god.

[laughter]

Charlie

I think probably arcana.

Grizzly

Go ahead and roll, arcana.

Charlie

Unless DM, this is persuasion.

Bizly

You were asking pretty nice.

Charlie

I asked.

Grizzly

I'll allow persuasion if you'd like.

Charlie

Oh, cool.

Condi

Okay.

Charlie

It is my destiny. A 15.

Grizzly

You guess that if it's a trident as old as Destiny's blade, perhaps it too has a consciousness that could respond.

Charlie

Ooh.

Grizzly

But your words don't reach it in a way that causes it to move.

Charlie

Okay.

Grizzly

Good attempt, though.

Milo

That's interesting phrasing.

Condi

Do the sharks react to that?

Grizzly

Nothing happens, you didn't touch the trident.

Charlie

I know. We've got someone on our crew that's very convincing. I take out some peanut butter.

Chip

[looking at chest] I think there's peanut butter in here.

Grizzly

You can't be certain if it just doesn't have a soul or you aren't persuasive enough.

Charlie

Who does Chip want to convince most in this world? Like, be free or be with him or something?

Bizly

Be with me.

Charlie

I don't know. I figure, like, maybe I could make an illusion, like rub peanut butter on it. I don't know. I should probably just ask you. I should probably just ask you like a human being.

Bizly

I think you can just say you can get the peanut butter if you pull this. I don't need more. I got peanut butter.

Grizzly

You guys are doing the fucking butter bit where you pull peanut butter out of thin air and underwater.

Gillion

Right, Chip? I know where the peanut butter is. And I'll give you a whole jar if you can convince this trident to come out of its hole. How does that sound, boy?

Chip

You have a whole jar?

Gillion

Whole jar.

Chip

The whole thing?

Gillion

Just waiting for it.

Chip

Is It a normal size or a bigger size?

Gillion

Ah, you'd need a spoon.

Chip

Good Lord. Okay.

Bizly

I go over to the trident.

[laughter]

Bizly

I go over to the trident.

Gillion

Hey, buddy. Crunchy or creamy?

Chip

Creamy.

Gillion

I'll see what I can do.

Chip

All right. Hello. Trident, sir? Or ma' am or trident? My friend Gillion is the chosen one and he needs this, you. I don't know how all this works, but I know this is important. I'm sure it's been a long time since you've talked to anybody, but we made it this far. That's gotta mean something.

Grizzly

Yeah, you can roll persuasion.

Chip

And there's peanut butter on the line.

Bizly

Twenty-six.

Grizzly

There's like a hum, slight vibrato, as if hitting the side of a tuning fork, but not as loud. And it rests stationary. You get the sense that this is not a trident that speaks. But as you take a closer look at it. Trying to talk to something that doesn't talk back. Go ahead just roll perception for me.

Bizly

That is a 22.

Grizzly

When you insert a screw or something that has carvings on the exterior into something else, it creates, like the divots carved into it. There is a very precise way to remove this trident.

Charlie

Ah!

Milo

Mmh.

Charlie

Ahhhh.

Milo

Ahhhh.

Grizzly

Like a way to orient it, twist it in such a way that it will just lift up. You think.

Bizly

So I'll grab it and...[mimes twisting the pole]

Milo

I'll do it with you, bro.

Grizzly

God damn it.

Charlie

I'm joining.

Bizly

You can't go opposite.

Milo

Oh, sorry. No, I didn't mean that.

Charlie

You gotta do opposites.

Bizly

That's not how it turns. You're just doing it. I turn it.

Grizzly

Okay. Roll sleight of hand.

Bizly

Sure. I'm good at that.

Condi

You are good at that.

Bizly

Natural one.

Condi

Dude.

[laughter]

Condi

Can we be helping? We were all doing the motion.

Charlie

Can we all hands on it?

Milo

We all did it.

Chip

I need hands on.

Gillion

Not a problem.

Chip

I need hands on.

[All the players put their hands in center and mime twisting this pole]

Grizzly

I will allow you, cause they're helping-

Charlie

Come on, everyone.

Grizzly

You're covering my camera you [inaudible 00:50:38]

[all the players] Twist, twist!

Grizzly

Okay, you get one. You get another roll before I mark down that you're pissing the sharks off.

Bizly

Twenty-seven.

Grizzly

You twist it in such a way it-

[laughter]

Charlie

Excuse me?

Bizly

There's a lot of spit.

Milo

I really wasn't expecting it.

Grizzly

Come on. Ancient temple! Dying crab!

[laughter]

Grizzly

That's the fucking tone.

Milo

I'm really sorry. He just said he twisted it in such a way and I-

Charlie

You knew this would happen. He must have.

Grizzly

I didn't!

Charlie

You must have.

Grizzly

I must have not

Bizly

You started the episode by going, no. [mimes grasping trident]

[laughter]

Milo

You planned it.

Charlie

You must have known.

Grizzly

Okay, I admit I fucked up.

Charlie

You must have known when you gave me that jar of peanut butter that this was how...

[laughter]

Grizzly

I didn't, I didn't!

[laughter]

Condi

Oh my god.

Bizly

Man, we can't get it out.

Grizzly

So we need to move on. So as you lift the trident gracefully out of its very intricately carved slots, this invisible glyph around the pillar sort of glows through the green mist and then deactivates itself, signaling to you, Aurora, and even to you, Jay, that had you forced us out, it was possible, but it would have been bad. [Finn voice] It would have blown up.

Charlie

[Finn voice] Blown up!

Condi

[Finn voice] Good thing, that would have fucked it up.

Grizzly

You move it like a screw. The pillar begins to twist, turn and lower. It stops about halfway. And on the far end, a wall that was just flat before. Slightly, very slightly a small gap opens. You see a bit of light coming through.

Gillion

If only there was a creature small enough to scuttle under.

Grizzly

Two things, it is big enough for the small little guy. It's big enough for the trident. It's not big enough for anything else. Passive perception, Jay, as you approach, you guys could see something vaguely, but you just kind of pierce through. There are three similar slots in the distance, on the wall, on the far wall.

Gillion

Hey, Chip.

Jay

There's more slots in there.

Gillion

I'm so glad I'm not doing this alone.

Chip

Why?

Gillion

This wouldn't have happen.

Chip

No, probably not.

Gillion

I'd be dead.

Condi

I'm a paranoid motherfucker. By the way, as this door opens and I know we're not able to go through it right now, I do want to look behind us and just see and make sure that nobody's following us perhaps.

Grizzly

You would see that entryway has shut.

Condi

Just like a small kind of doorway that's big enough for the little crab and maybe the trident.

Grizzly

Yeah.

Condi

And three little holes in there.

Grizzly

Yeah, matching, sort of-

Condi

I put the trident in and like, stick them in the holes.

Charlie

Makes sense.

Condi

Yeah, like a key.

Charlie

Yeah.

Condi

Yeah.

Charlie

I'm gonna take the trident. Maybe use it on the box first before I, yeah.

Condi

Yeah.

Grizzly

Yeah, yeah. You-

Charlie

I know. I don't know. I don't know. I put it in the holes.

Grizzly

You make this motion. It almost looks like you're about to throw the trident through the gap, and then you just kind of stab the box with it.

Charlie

Now I'll throw it through the slot. I'll just do it into the three, and I'll target those three prongs so that the three prongs of the trident are exactly-

Grizzly

Yeah, roll a ranged attack.

Charlie

Actually, I'm not even gonna throw it.

Milo

Precision.

Charlie

I'm gonna say,

Gillion

Chip, brush the stone.

Chip

What?

Gillion

Brush the stone in front of it so it slides further.

Chip

Oh. [shhh, shhhh, shhh]

Jay

Precision, kay

Grizzly

Unless you can justify something else, I'm still gonna say ranged attack.

Gillion

What if, I know we're on this whole precision thing, but...

Jay

No.

Gillion

What if-

Jay

No.

Gillion

And hear me out.

Jay

Wait.

Gillion

Instead of throwing it very delicately and precisely,

Jay

No.

Gillion

I just throw it really hard.

Grizzly

Okay.

Charlie

Yay!

Milo

It literally says force is-

Charlie

That part of the puzzle is over.

Condi

No, it's still the same puzzle.

Charlie

It's the whole part.

Milo

It's the same...

Charlie

Well.

Grizzly

You can add athletics if you're throwing it hard.

Charlie

Oh, baby.

Grizzly

Like a javelin toss.

Charlie

Yes, I would like that very much. 22.

Condi

Oh, god.

Grizzly

Three away from the DC I set in my brain.

Milo

Fuck.

Charlie

Fuck.

Grizzly

Easier if you do it precisely. You only get two in, and the trident [ffff] disappears. Appears again in your hand. The sharks, their eyes glow. They get closer to you.

Jay

Yeah, they're, like, really pissed off at us.

Aurora

I do not want to be shark bait.

Gillion

Yep, that's fair.

Gillion

Hoo ha ha!

Chip

So how-

Milo

Yeah, that's what I wanted.

Bizly

Hoo ha!

Milo

Hoo ha!

Charlie

Hoo ha! Hoo ha!

Condi

I grab it. I, like, throw it up and just flip it quickly aim.

Grizzly

Roll a ranged attack.

Condi

Twenty-nine.

Grizzly

Jay with your natural affinity to being a marks person, marksman?

Milo

Markswoman?

Bizly

Marksman.

Grizzly

You throw it with grand precision into the three slots. The wall [grrrrt] begins to drop steadily. The trident [voop] peers back in your hand.

Condi

Oh, that's awesome.

Milo

Dude, that's sick.

Condi

Is that just, like, natural? Is that, like, its ability?

Milo

I like that.

Jay

You should have this.

Gillion

Why I still have to throw it for that to happen?

Jay

Would you never throw it?

Charlie

I try to throw.

Gillion

Gah!

Charlie

It just misses, appears back in my hand.

Grizzly

It, like, spirals like a football and then appears back in your hand.

Gillion

Oh, that's cool.

Aurora

That's cool.

Grizzly

This wall drops down, revealing a tunnel getting darker as it declines deeper, spiraling alongside the outside perimeter of the spiral of the shell. You begin to push through, and you see more of these little holes in the walls. A little bit of light kind of glowing through them. Does anybody want to look inside of it?

Charlie

Yes! Is it those little fish? [shoves face against wall]

Grizzly

You see a tiny little goldfish glowing some sort of dull bioluminescence. And this one, it does immediately back away out of fear. But in its mouth, you see a tiny little key, rusted and antique, and it disappears.

Gillion

Wait, wait, wait.

Aurora

Come back, little swimmer.

Gillion

That fish, that little swimmer.

Chip

Get it!

Gillion

It had what we were looking for.

Aurora

Down, boy.

Grizzly

It's gone.

Charlie

Oh, it's just gone, gone?

Condi

Maybe it will-

Grizzly

It appears to be gone.

Milo

Did it go in any...?

Gillion

It must be in another hole.

Milo

Discernible direction?

Grizzly

It seems like they have little tunnels that allow them to traverse themselves through that they've carved out over time.

Milo

Wicked.

Bizly

I'm waiting for-

Jay

Gillion, how much lung strength do you have?

Gillion

A lo-you're not thinking what I think.

Bizly

Oh my god.

Charlie

You ever played the pool noodle blow game?

Bizly

Yeah. I love that game.

Charlie

I beat everyone at the pool noodle blow game.

Bizly

Me too.

Charlie

Really?

Bizly

Yeah. We should get a pool noodle, you and me.

Charlie

I'm serious.

Bizly

Yeah, I'm down.

Charlie

We will probably kill each other.

Bizly

Probably.

Charlie

All right.

Gillion

Plug up all the holes you can to maximize my firepower.

Grizzly

There's hundreds of holes.

Charlie

I'm going to cast shape water. I'm going to freeze the spaces in the holes. All except two.

Grizzly

Okay.

Condi

There might be some further that we don't see though.

Charlie

And then I'm going to go to one of the holes and I'm going to go [blows]

Grizzly

Gotcha. Is there...

[laughter]

Grizzly

Okay. Are you, like, whack a mole? Start to, like, freeze all the insides until two are left?

Charlie

Yes. And then I pool noodle this fucker. I pool noodle him.

Grizzly

Roll constitution. It will roll to resist the force of air.

Charlie

Absolutely.

Bizly

I wait at the other hole like [mouth agape slightly]

Charlie

It is my destiny to blow this hole. That is a-

Grizzly

God damn it.

Charlie

Eleven.

Bizly

What if you squeeze him really hard and you help him?

Charlie

Can you take the help action on me?

Grizzly

It rolled a nine. No need.

Bizly

Okay.

Grizzly

You blow just hard enough.

Condi

I was about to squeeze really hard.

Milo

Can I also prepare myself to catch this thing? If it absolutely fucking flies, I don't want it to hit a wall and splat.

Grizzly

Are you contesting against Chip, who's looking like he's gonna do something as well?

Milo

Oh, are you about to eat it?

Bizly

I'm gonna get it.

Milo

Oh, yeah. I'm contesting against him, actually.

Grizzly

Okay.

Bizly

What if we just help each other?

Milo

I don't want you to eat it.

Bizly

I'm gonna get it. I'm not gonna eat it.

Milo

What does get it?

Bizly

Catch it with my teeth.

Milo

No!

Bizly

It won't die.

Milo

Yes, it will.

Bizly

I'm very precise.

Milo

I know you jaw-

Charlie

It's going right down your throat.

Bizly

Work with me.

Charlie

It's going right down your throat.

Bizly

Work with me, not against me.

Milo

Fine, fine.

Bizly

Yeah, it is.

Milo

Just be very, very careful.

Grizzly

Sleight of mouth with advantage?

Bizly

Yeah.

Grizzly

That's what I'm saying. You roll.

Bizly

Yeah. Oh, okay.

Grizzly

It shoots out of the hole.

Bizly

With advantage.

Grizzly

Three of them do. We'll say three of them shoot out of the hole.

Bizly

Twenty-three.

Grizzly

Natural. One dex save. You can catch it with a high roll. I'll say. You don't pierce its fragile-

Milo

Oh, my god.

Grizzly

Exterior.

Charlie

Yay!

Grizzly

It wiggles in your mouth. It looks frightened.

Bizly

I just kind of hold my mouth closed.

Milo

I'd like to cast speak with animals.

Goldfish

Help!!!

Aurora

Hey, it's all right. It's all right. I'm sorry, my friend. He's very interesting character. I wish I could have caught you myself.

Goldfish

Let go, let go, let go!

Aurora

Okay.

Jay

Grab the key first. Grab the key first.

Grizzly

It swallows the key as soon as you go to-

Goldfish

Mine! Mine! Mine! Mine!

Aurora

I really need that key.

Goldfish

Mine.

Aurora

Please spit it out.

Goldfish

Trade?

Aurora

Trade what?

Goldfish

Trade.

Aurora

Trade what?

Goldfish

Trade.

Aurora

What would you like to trade?

Jay

A coin?

Chip

[talking through his teeth] I'm not gonna bite.

Grizzly

It can only speak simple words.

Aurora

Uh, trade. Yes.

Goldfish

Let go.

Chip

Nuh uh.

Aurora

Chip, drop it.

Chip

Nuh uh.

Aurora

Chip, you have to drop it.

Bizly

I start running away.

[laughter]

Aurora

Chip!

Grizzly

You start swimming. You just hear the screaming from the small goldfish.

Goldfish

Wah!! Wahh!!

Aurora

Everything I do. Get back here Chip!

Chip

Nah uh!

Condi

You're just, he's just a dog.

Bizly

You chose this for me, I didn't ask for this.

Condi

You've always been a dog.

Bizly

Okay, then all right. I'm just being what I am.

Condi

I'm proud of you.

Bizly

Thank you.

Grizzly

So you're not gonna let go? Are you going to threaten it at all?

Bizly

Nu uh.

Grizzly

Okay.

Bizly

Oh, sorry. No.

Grizzly

All right.

Charlie

Where are you right now?

Bizly

I'm losing it, I don't know.

Charlie

Where are you?

Grizzly

Okay. We won't get anywhere unless you guys try something different.

Bizly

I'm in the backyard. I'm chasing a bone.

Milo

Fuck.

Bizly

I'll try and catch it so I can hold it in my hand.

Grizzly

You can hold onto it.

Bizly

Yeah.

Goldfish

[muffles screaming]

Bizly

I come back.

Chip

Don't take him.

Aurora

What do I trade with this thing?

Jay

Maybe, like, a gold coin or valuable?

Aurora

Does it care about, like, material things?

Jay

I don't know. It has, like, a shiny key in its motuh.

Goldfish

Shiny.

Aurora

Ooo, shiny, yes.

Chip

Give him something shiny.

Milo

Yeah. I'll give him a piece of gold.

Charlie

I can communicate with simple ideas with fish.

Aurora

Could I trade you for this gold coin?

Goldfish

Deal.

Aurora

Bet.

Grizzly

It spits out the key, and it goes to bite onto the gold coin.

Goldfish

Let go.

Aurora

Put it back.

Chip

[holding fish to his face] Remember this day.

Milo

Does he understand him?

Grizzly

Basic intention on the face.

Milo

Oh, man. Chip.

Chip

Remember me.

Jay

Dude, you're telling your goldfish to remember you.

Grizzly

It's two eyes-

Goldfish

Ahhh!

Aurora

You're scaring him!

Chip

No I'm not!

Gillion

Let him go Chip.

Chip

I love you.

Aurora

Awww. Well, that's sweet.

Gillion

Give him a kiss, if you mean it.

Grizzly

Here's the key that it gives you.

Bizly

[smooch sound] I kiss the fish, and I'll let him go.

Charlie

That's so fucking beautiful.

Grizzly

It swims back into the hole. The only two holes that aren't frozen.

Aurora

[holding key] Would you like to do the honors?

Chip

Yeah.

Aurora

Ooh, There's a lot of peanut butter in there. It might take a little...ooo.

Chip

Oh, it's not gonna take long at all. Oh, it's open.

Charlie

Just ride the rim, bro.

Bizly

It's open. It's open. It's open.

Charlie

This could be the Leviathan's boon.

Milo

Boob.

Charlie

It is-

Milo

Sorry.

Bizly

Blurry.

Milo

Whoa.

Charlie

Whoa.

Milo

What the f.

Chip

Gemstones.

Bizly

It was blurry. Here's what it looks like. Oh, god.

Jay

There's a note in there.

Aurora

There's something in there.

Chip

No peanut butter. All right, here you go.

Gillion

Allow me.

Grizzly

You open this small wooden chest. Inside, there are gems. There are moon pearls. There are tiny black pearls, shiny and clearly magical.

Gillion

We're not gonna need all this shit. [dumps out chest]

Aurora

Whoa, no.

Grizzly

You dump out about 100 gold pieces worth of pearls, amethyst, etc.

Milo

Do they just go away before we can pick them up?

Grizzly

No, they start floating around.

Charlie

Goldfish start coming out of the-

Bizly

Greed.

Jay

Just like need savings buffer before you throw it all...

Gillion

There's also-

Milo

You know what honestly, what am I gonna spend money on?

Bizly

It's a hundred gold.

Milo

Eh, whatever.

Charlie

The other thing in here is a chain of beads of force, which are eight beads. It says a failed save traps creature and a bubble of force. And there's eight of them. Can I give two to each of us?

Grizzly

Sure. It does 5d4 damage as well.

Charlie

Cool. I'm just gonna put that right there. So you guys all know that we all have a cool bead of force that anyone can use and there's eight of them.

Bizly

I will take one to be my bead of force.

Charlie

Oh, that's a great idea. Yeah. Take some gems to be your bead of force.

Condi

Bead of force.

Charlie

I want green ones.

Milo

I like the pink ones.

Grizzly

You guys have opened the chest. You've acquired beads of force and a bit of riches, whatever you could grab handfuls as they sort of permeate through this water space. You descend deeper until the chamber that you emerge into is much wider. You think that you have gone deep enough to be at least midway into the great crab's shell. On the right side, you see this tunnel sort of extruding from the curvature of that wall. And inside, you can see there are small groups of fish. You're not sure what kind yet until you inspect closer, but they just rest. And they fill that tube maybe like a home or a shelter. On the left side, you see there is more Druidic markings and language and drawings. These look more like drawings to you than it does symbols and words of different animals, creatures, stars, constellations. And that all leads up to this intricately built arc hanging from it, chains, and connected to those chains, a bowl filled with something you'd have to get closer to to inspect to see the contents of what's within in the very center. The first thing you would probably notice on a raised dais to be eye level with you as you swim in sitting, two dark, lightless, bulbous eyes. A flat, basically a mouth that is a line. You see somewhat gray, very light, milky fish flesh. [blomp] you see a blobfish resting.

Charlie

Oh!

Milo

Is he like the deflated version or what they look like when they're in the deep sea?

Grizzly

He's the fucked up one. He looks like big, flat, big flat nose. [a picture of a blobfish appears on screen]

Milo

Melting ice cream.

Blobfish

Womp, womp.

Charlie

Oh.

Condi

Oh.

Aurora

Hello.

Gillion

Hey.

Jay

Hi.

Gillion

How long you been here?

Blobfish

Womp de womp.

Jay

Can you understand him?

Gillion

Simple thoughts and ideas.

Jay

What's he thinking?

Gillion

I don't know, to put it simply...womp stuff.

Grizzly

Yeah, simply. He's thinking about the dread of existence, the fate of the world.

Bizly

Simple.

Charlie

I don't know if that's simple.

Condi

Those are complex thoughts.

Milo

I mean, it's simple, but it's heavy.

Grizzly

The meaning of life and the cycle of death and rebirth.

Milo

Okay, maybe not.

Grizzly

The possibility of ascending to godhood.

Gillion

Aurora, I'm just getting his simple thoughts. You don't want to communicate on the real level with this guy.

Aurora

Yeah?

Gillion

You don't want to.

Aurora

Yeah, getting the vibe.

Grizzly

In this mind of this ancient blobfish, philosophical questions that remain unanswered throughout time. It ponders on these things simply.

Charlie

Simply.

Grizzly

The three points of interest in this chamber. Jay, roll a perception.

Condi

I'm on it, say less.

Grizzly

You being the most classically and-

Condi

Twenty-six.

Grizzly

Casually observant. Twenty-six. You see, looking around the walls of this chamber, there are shells and coral that jut out of the walls. Moss as well. And it's harder to notice, but you are able to count a number of starfish and small shells.

Charlie

Do they have symbols on them?

Grizzly

You count 15 of the small little guys on the wall. You also would recognize that these three different routes all converge at the very back of this, made of brass and some dark material. An open mouth of a sea bass, massive. It has bars like a prison cell that are thick and bare. They bar literally the way forward.

Milo

To the left, I'd like to take a look at those Druidic marks. Anything in particular I might be able to glean?

Grizzly

Yeah, no words, no symbols. Just different animals and shapes. Starfish, like clams, like snails, even the little hermit crabs and blue crabs and stuff. Are you getting closer to the bowl?

Milo

Yeah, I'll take a look.

Grizzly

Okay. You walk around the blobfish, it just stares off, thousand yard past you, doesn't really follow. You do notice that there are still guardians, sharks. You get closer to the bowl and behind

it, on the inside, you see this bizarrely colored, vibrant sand with some shells scattered in it. And behind it there is a pedestal, a flat, I'll call it a small sort of platform on the top of the pedestal. It yearns to hold something, a shape of some kind. But it is empty. And looking into the bowl, you see [pulls out a bowl].

Milo

Whoa.

Charlie

Woah! Kinetic sand.

Milo

I love that.

Condi

I love kinetic sand.

Bizly

I wanna touch it.

Milo

What is the shape of this plate?

Grizzly

It doesn't seem to be anything specific. It is just surrounded by drawings of small creatures.

Milo

Ah.

Charlie

Can I check out the fish?

Grizzly

You go to the right tunnel filled with fish?

Charlie

Yeah.

Grizzly

You see similarly goofy looking pufferfish. But they orient themselves in a formation like points on a grid. They don't move. They are very static and positioned intentionally. And it looks like you would know that traversing this room, getting close to a pufferfish, it will be like going through a room full of lasers.

[laughter]

Charlie

Gotcha. So do the pufferfish like it's not like a wall of them, like they're spread out through the whole room.

Grizzly

They're spread out through the whole room. But they are close enough to be like, it's gonna be difficult to maneuver in such a way where they don't all [pfft] like chain reaction puff up.

Charlie

Gotcha. Gotcha.

Grizzly

Build this tunnel with spikes.

Charlie

I guess I was just wondering if they were in a specific pattern that matched with the shells that we saw.

Grizzly

No, they don't.

Charlie

Okay.

Condi

And they all lead to the, all these paths lead to the same place right?

Grizzly

They are connected by tubing or arcane, sort of like runic tubing that connects to this basically-

Condi

So we have to solve all three basically.

Grizzly

Yeah.

Jay

I'll take the pufferfish, I guess.

Gillion

Yeah, of course.

Jay

What are you thinking?

Chip

I really want to stick my hands in the sand.

Jay

Me too. But I got a different, I'll do this.

Gillion

Do what makes you happy, both of you.

Chip

Do you mean that?

Gillion

I mean that.

Jay

Let me handle this hallway full of pufferfish first and then you can touch the sand, okay?

Chip

Thank you so much.

Jay

I'll leave it all to you.

Chip

Thank you for that. Thank you.

Jay

I believe you could do a great job.

Chip

Yeah.

Jay

Yeah, just like call it back.

Condi

DM, what do I do?

Grizzly

You can roll a dexterity saving throw unless you have some sort of way. You want to describe how you maneuver through the pufferfish without getting hit?

Condi

No. I mean, that's probably my best bet.

Grizzly

Without spooking them.

Condi

I could do stealth. Could I stealthily do it?

Grizzly

Sure. Yeah, roll stealth.

Milo

Are we gonna get eaten by sharks?

Bizly

We're gonna get eaten by sharks.

Charlie

Probably.

Condi

That's actually a 19 that I landed on.

Bizly

Oh, wow.

Grizzly

Nineteen.

Condi

Plus 14, 33.

Grizzly

You get through a third of the tunnel without spooking them. They just look forward, eyes spaced out two different directions. Their fins just slowly flap, keep them afloat.

Charlie

They're alive?

Grizzly

They're alive, they're moving.

Milo

This is their nine to five, man.

Condi

I'd like to avoid all of their vision cones. Like there's a space in between them. There's a blind spot and I get in between every single one of those as I move through this room.

Grizzly

All right, roll a second stealth check.

Charlie

The blind spot is directly center.

Condi

That's a natural 20.

Grizzly

Natural 20?

[all the players] Hey!

Condi

Natural 20 baby.

Grizzly

We'll count that bitch as two successes like we would two successes for death saves.

Condi

Let's fucking go.

Grizzly

Maybe it's the subtraction of weight that allows you to just swim. You stay quiet, you stay considerate of these creatures. Perhaps through your time learning to track, learning to hunt within the forest of your home island, you are able to. You pass through these creatures as if you are one of their own. And you make it to the very end where you see there is some sort of, it is a flat lever that is connected to arcane tubing at the end of this tunnel. And it goes and connects to the door that you can pull and activate.

Condi

Yeah, I go pull it down.

Grizzly

Okay.

Condi

Okay surely that disabled all the pufferfish and I walk back out.

Grizzly

They're still there so...

[laughter]

Charlie

Disabled the pufferfish.

Grizzly

As you pull the lever, you guys hear a spark of magic that lights up the right side of the wall, connects to the open fish mouth. One of its eyes lights up on that side and all the pufferfish [pfffft] puff up. And it is now a full, you see a wall of spiked up pufferfish with extremely tiny spaces to squeeze through.

Jay

Guys? How do I get back?

Aurora

Funny sand, hehehe.

[laughter]

Chip

Yeah!

Jay

Guys? Chip?

Gillion

Come on-

Jay

Gillion?

Gillion

Stay out my third of the sand. This is my third.

Chip

I made a tower.

Grizzly

For now think about how you're gonna get out of there.

Condi

Okay.

Grizzly

Who's next? There's two more things in this room.

Milo

I know I have them in front of me. Is one of them noticeably bigger than the other one?

Grizzly

The drawings?

Milo

The shells that are-

Grizzly

The shells are decorative. They have fallen in-

Milo

Oh, they're decorative. Oh. Oh, I see. He, he, he. [reaches into bowl of kinetic sand]

Grizzly

Yeah, you can-

Bizly

Don't hog the sand.

Milo

Hello.

Milo

Well-

Condi

I think I get the idea here.

Milo

[hands in the sand] All of the creatures that are carved on this wall, do they seem like they would all be of an equivalent weight?

Grizzly

They would all approximately be small, lightweight, tiny creatures. Yeah.

Milo

I'm going to try to recall the weight of these creatures. I've done a lot of reading on the size and density and mass of sea creatures and I'd like to get that amount of sand and place it in the plate?

Grizzly

I would suggest without having to roll, you can approximate the size of one of these creatures with the sand, place it on the pedestal. There doesn't seem to be any active change if you just place a round ball.

Milo

Oh, I have an idea. Okay.

Grizzly

Gillion, what are you doing? As they are messing with the bowl of sand.

Charlie

I don't know. I think I just sit there laughing. They're so happy.

[laughter]

Chip

I'm making a fish.

Grizzly

You're watching them enjoy this moment of serenity. You hear a simple message communicated to you as the blobfish thinks out loud.

Blobfish

But what is happiness?

Grizzly

It thinks simply.

Gillion

Dude, it's just playing with sand.

Aurora

This is really hard, actually.

Chip

Yeah, it's not...

Grizzly

Simple answer for a complex question.

Gillion

Excuse me, can I just get a little pinch?

Chip

Yeah, of course.

Gillion

Thanks, man.

Grizzly

You hear,

Blobfish

But why?

Bizly

Careful with it. Hang on. I'm gonna have to...

Milo

I have made the shape of a starfish.

Grizzly

Okay.

Milo

I'm going to take this starfish. I'm going to place it down on this, what I assume, weighted plate.

Grizzly

You do so.

Charlie

Now, it's a little hard to parse, but if you look, I have made.

Bizly

That's a blobfish.

Charlie

A Blobfish.

Milo

Awww.

Charlie

I'm gonna make a blobfish. I'm gonna give it to the blobfish. I'm gonna say

Gillion

Play with it.

Milo

Oh.

[Charlie holds out sand blobfish to Grizzly]

Grizzly

[laughs] It's mouth, it's falling apart.

Milo

Oh, no! Oh!

Grizzly

New hand. Oh, no.

Bizly

That has never come out of the table.

Milo

That's gonna get everywhere.

Grizzly

Oh no.

Condi

Oh, god.

Grizzly

Oh, no.

Charlie

And I guess that's what happiness is.

Bizly

Sea snail.

Milo

Snail!

Condi

Nice.

Grizzly

I see it.

Bizly

Yeah?

Grizzly

All right. Yeah, I see it.

Bizly

Snail.

Grizzly

Yeah.

Charlie

Nice.

Bizly

Here ya go.

Charlie

Gig.

Grizzly

You create the shape of a starfish. You, the shape of a small sea snail. Place them together on this pedestal and you watch a line, a tubing of arcane runes, druidic light up the left eye of the fish.

Charlie

Yeah!

Jay

Guys, stuck back here still.

Aurora

Sorry, what? I was really into the sand.

Chip

We were super into the sand, man.

Gillion

Do you want some?

Jay

Yes?

Charlie

All right. I say,

Gillion

Sweep the stones.

Charlie

I'm going to take the bowl. I'm going to curl it down the hallway so Jay can play with the sand.

[all the players pretend to curl the bowl down to Jay]

Grizzly

What are you throwing exactly?

Charlie

The bowl of sand.

Grizzly

The bowl of sand?

Charlie

Yeah. I'm curling it.

Grizzly

The bowl itself is connected to two thick metal chains.

Condi

Damn it.

Milo

You could ball up the sand and then, like, bowl it.

Charlie

Right, I'm going to ball up the sand.

Grizzly

You create a bowling ball of sand,

Charlie

And hope it makes it all the way down without crumbling.

Grizzly

Just roll strength, acrobatics, or athletics.

Charlie

Nineteen.

Grizzly

You like knocking down a bunch of pins. As they're hit with the soft weight of sand, [psssssh] they expel air and they slowly start to wiggle and deflate. And the way becomes clear for you to go.

Jay

How did that work?

Aurora

Strike.

Grizzly

There is a singular unlit tube connecting to the doorway to the next level. And a blobfish that sits there and ponders simple thoughts.

Charlie

So did it not like my answer of sand?

Grizzly

It had more questions than resolution after that, he said-

Charlie

Oh, right.

Grizzly

But why? And then I think you said you brought him the blobfish.

Charlie

Yeah.

Grizzly

It ponders it for a second, watching it crumble away.

Blobfish

How does one reach the destruction of self?

Bizly

I want to go up to the sand that has, like, fallen down in front of him and I want to make it into, like a little tower.

Grizzly

Why?

Bizly

And I go [making a little tower with the sand] and I make it into a little tower. You see the smile on my face?

Grizzly

Not philosophically, why?

Bizly

I go.

Chip

Happy.

Grizzly

Yeah. Okay. You say happy as you make a little tower.

Bizly

Yeah.

Charlie

And he said, how does one reach the destruction of self?

Grizzly

Yep.

Bizly

Joy.

Gillion

Well, I guess...

Jay

Like ego, death? I don't know.

Gillion

No.

Jay

Oh.

Gillion

I think you just blow up.

Blobfish

But why?

Milo

Oh, man, this is like talking to like 6 year old.

Gillion

We blow up.

Chip

Cause happy.

Blobfish

But why?

Gillion

Why happy?

Chip

Happy.

Gillion

Cause the talent makes you happy.

Chip

Cause I made it and it made me happy.

Gillion

Yeah.

Blobfish

What does it mean to make things? How can happiness be created if happiness is not substantial? If it is not physical to touch? Can it truly ever be made? Can it truly ever be reached?

Charlie

Yeah, I think I'm gonna shake it.

Milo

Guys, I'm kind of getting sad.

[laughter]

Grizzly

You just like shaking the blobfish?

Gillion

[shaking blobfish] Let us through. I don't have all the answers. What do you like to do? Let me make you happy.

Grizzly

You pick it up.

Charlie

Yeah.

Grizzly

You start shaking it. You notice underneath it, it's just a small button. [laughs]

Condi

No way. Are you serious? Is that actually the solution?

Grizzly

I'm so serious.

Condi

You had that written down?

Bizly

I start building a little prison out of sand for him.

Condi

I was ready to actually philosophically debate him-

Grizzly

That would have been awesome.

Condi

And talk about how creation is the purpose of life.

Grizzly

And you still can.

Condi

No, I don't want to anymore.

Aurora

Guys, I'm kind of just sad. He's just kind of making me sad.

Gillion

Jay, can you figure this out?

Charlie

I give her the blobfish and I just sit down on the thing on the button.

Chip

Don't let him harsh your vibe. Don't let him harsh your vibe. Play with the sand.

Aurora

I don't want to play with the sand anymore.

Chip

Play with the sand.

Aurora

He made me sad.

Grizzly

The runes light up. The bars underneath the lips of the open great bass they begin to twist, screw unscrew like the cylinder tower in the very top chamber they lower. And a new way to go even deeper is revealed.

Gillion

We should bring him.

Chip

The fish?

Gillion

He seems like he's got a lot of questions.

Jay

Yeah, okay and I'll answer them all.

Blobfish

Huhhhhh.

Jay

Eh, nevermind.

Chip

We can't-

[laughter]

Grizzly

It makes that sound cause it's not thinking, that's just the sound it makes.

Blobfish

Huhhhh.

Bizly

Okay.

Gillion

Guys, come on. We can't do this with just the four of us.

Jay

No, but we totally can. We totally can.

Chip

He's bumming Aurora out. She's not even playing with the sand right.

Jay

I've never seen her this sad. [whispering to Gillion] Her parents are literally frozen, like and she looks sadder now.

Gillion

I know, but look how sad this blobfish is too.

Chip

I don't care.

Aurora

Every time I try and pick up the sand, it just kind of falls through my hands.

Grizzly

It communicates a simple idea.

Blobfish

Death comes for us all.

Aurora

Yeah.

Jay

Yes, but that gives life purpose.

Blobfish

How?

Jay

If we were to live forever, then everything we did wouldn't be meaningful. It's the fact that we have a time limit on our life that makes everything we do meaningful.

Blobfish

Why?

Jay

No. Shut up and die.

[laughter]

Charlie

I think I want to kill it.

Bizly

You gotta squeeze it. You gotta squeeze it.

Jay

Why? Why don't you find out yourself?

Condi

I shoot it 17 times.

Chip

Guys, what if instead of being vegetarian, we just eat animals that act like that?

[laughter]

Charlie

Wait, wait, wait. I know what I want to do. I know what I want to do. I have a torch that can light underwater. It's like an everlit torch. I want to start preparing a spit in front of it so it sees its own life flash before its eyes. And I want to get big bibs and put them on all of us.

[Grizzly's head in in his hands]

Bizly

And I sit there looking hungry.

Grizzly

It starts singing.

Blobfish

This is the end.

Jay

Do you understand now?

Milo

Maybe the solution was to fucking kill the fish so it would just die.

Condi

So we could find the button underneath it.

Charlie

Does it find meaning in its life as it's watching its death approach it so suddenly? Does it have any moments like that?

Blobfish

What does it mean to understand and what is understanding worth?

Charlie

I'm gonna eat it.

Milo

Guys, I honestly, I think it'd be worse punishment to leave it alive.

Charlie

I agree.

Bizly

Yeah, we eat it. We eat it.

Charlie

I want to-

Condi

It's suffering. It's literally self inflicted.

Charlie

Yeah. I want to say.

Gillion

Do you want to live?

Grizzly

Wow. This is the first time you've asked it a question?

Gillion

Do you want to live?

Grizzly

It ponders.

Charlie

What does it say?

Blobfish

Yeah.

Gillion

Why?

Blobfish

Why?

Gillion

Why?

Blobfish

I don't know.

Gillion

Why?

Blobfish

I don't know.

Gillion

Why?

Blobfish

I don't know?

Gillion

Why?

Blobfish

I don't know.

Gillion

Why?

Aurora

Guys-

Blobfish

I don't know.

Milo

I walk through the door, I'm done with this fucker.

Condi

Yeah, I'm gone.

Blobfish

I don't know and that's okay.

Condi

Thank god.

Charlie

Oh, wow.

Bizly

Wow.

Charlie

That's beautiful.

Condi

That's character growth.

Charlie

That's beautiful.

Condi

You've done it. You've sparked change.

Milo

I'm done with the sand. I'm done with the fucking blobfish.

Charlie

I still wanna kill it.

Condi

I do too. I do too. I think we should.

Bizly

I wanna kill it more.

Charlie

I put it back on the pedestal and I say

Gillion

Thank you.

Milo

You put it back on the pedestal?

Bizly

What if we put it in the box?

Charlie

Oh, right. We put it in the box.

Bizly

Put it in the box box, lock it, leave.

Charlie

With this box?

Bizly

Yeah.

Grizzly

It's bigger than the chest.

Charlie

Let's put it in a cage made of sand.

Bizly

Okay, we do that and we leave.

Grizzly

It's a blobfish. It's not gonna resist.

Milo

Poor guy.

Charlie

God, I don't know what else to do.

Bizly

I don't know. I don't know. No one should have to talk to him.

Condi

It upsets me.

[laughter]

Charlie

I can't do it. I can't do it. I can't save everyone. I can't do it.

[laughter]

Grizzly

That's fucking insane.

Condi

Dude. This blobfish triggered, like, serious character growth in you too, man.

Charlie

I can't save him.

Condi

That's incredible. I'm really proud of you, Gillion.

Charlie

I can't save him.

Grizzly

You see, walking into the mouth of this old, constructed great bass, you see four. Only big enough for one person to fit. Four sort of cylindrical tubes, lifts. They look like. Once activated, they will descend further, possibly separately. Above them, they have circular emblems. From

left to right. There is a shield, there is an eye, there is an open book, and there is a clam, a shell.

Jay

Okay, so you're the clam.

Chip

What?

Gillion

Wait, why is Chip the clam?

Jay

I just figure you're the shield and you're the book and I've gotta be the eye. So you must be the clam.

Chip

What is with you and projecting stuff onto me today? First I'm a dog, now I'm a clam.

Jay

Okay, are you not?

Chip

At least be consistent.

Jay

Hey, hey. Look at me in the eyes.

Chip

I don't want to.

Jay

Look at me in the eyes right now, Chip.

Chip

I don't want to do-

Jay

Chip, look at me. Have I been wrong?

Bizly

[angirly] I walk up to the cla,.

Milo

Okay.

Milo

Hold on.

Charlie

No, I think she's right.

Milo

Gillion's a fish.

Charlie

Yeah. I'm not a clam, though.

Milo

Yeah, but-

Charlie

That's Chip.

Bizly

I'm a little-

Milo

Why would he be a clam?

Bizly

I don't know.

Grizzly

You said it. You want to walk into the lift tube-

Bizly

Yeah.

Grizzly

Labeled clam?

Charlie

Well, okay. I walk up to it and I go,

Gillion

Shit, I guess clam's taken.

Charlie

And I'll go to the shield one.

Grizzly

All right, you walk into the shield one.

Milo

I walk up to the book emblem.

Condi

You'll see, and I go to the eye one. And it all works out exactly as I said.

Grizzly

Okay.

Charlie

How are you clam?

Bizly

I don't know.

Grizzly

You all walk in, you step onto the weighted plates that shut the doors. Once all the doors are shut, rapidly, [pfffft] these drop and descend through tubes, through darkness. And so you find yourself spit out, separated into these triangular rooms. And then you hear this bubbling sort of rising liquid somewhere. You are trapped in a cone shaped room. There's only a small sliver of light that you can see where you can look out and see only parts of the room closest to you. That is past these small, I'll just call them cells for now and I need you guys to roll initiative.

Condi

Oh, god.

Charlie

Okay.

Milo

Oh shit.

Charlie

Fourteen.

Condi

Dirty, stinky, 20.

Bizly

Natural one.

Condi

Doh.

Milo

Thirteen.

Grizzly

These tubes, these lifts, they descend, they spit you out into, imagine if an oval was separated by a cross.

Condi

Okay.

Charlie

Okay, got it.

Grizzly

In the center where those lines intersect, you guys will be able to see through triangular barred gateway. You can see in the center of the room. [a sketch of the room appears on screen]

Milo

Oh.

Charlie

Got it.

Grizzly

There are canals that join and meet in the center. They look like they would attach to some sort of device that is made out of open, I want to say, like conch shells. You know the door in Avatar?

Condi

Yeah.

Charlie

Yeah.

Milo

No.

Grizzly

At the air temple.

Charlie

Oh, where they blow into it.

Grizzly

Yeah, but the open areas of the shells are not lined up with the canals that converge into where it is, if that makes sense.

Condi

We're in an escape room.

Charlie

Imagine like a pipe puzzle, kind of, but like the pipes aren't lined up yet, except-

Grizzly

Yes!

Charlie

Yes.

Milo

Okay.

Charlie

It's shells, though. Yeah, okay.

Milo

Yeah, I did not get the Avatar reference. I'm sorry.

Grizzly

Correct. First up, Jay, in your separate individual chamber, you look around, you notice that the walls are covered in these bright yellow eyes that all stare at you. This blinding, radiant spotlight, basically, as they all watch you, eyes wide open.

Condi

So my like-

Grizzly

It's your turn. What do you do?

Condi

Close my eyes.

Grizzly

You close your eyes, and when you open them again, the eyes are still staring at you. You are surrounded by a bunch of light.

Condi

Is there any discernible light source...

Grizzly

Other than the eyes themselves that radiate sort of like that bright light? No.

Condi

Anything else in the room that I notice at all or just the...

Grizzly

Just the eyes that are perceiving you.

Condi

Okay.

Grizzly

No escape from their perception.

Condi

Okay. I was gonna say, anywhere to hide?

Grizzly

You could try.

Condi

Yeah, I'd like to. I'd love to.

Grizzly

Go ahead and roll stealth.

Condi

Bah, bah, bah 20. Dirty 20.

Grizzly

Hiding in plain sight will not beat the DC 30 stealth check.

Condi

Damn, hey.

Milo

Damn.

Condi

Well, I can pass that with ease.

Grizzly

So-

Condi

I just need a spell.

Bizly

You know what I would have been really good at?

Condi

What's that? I can have a plus 24 to this.

Charlie

Good, okay. You might be the clam.

Condi

No, no, there's no world.

Charlie

Yeah, I think you might be the clam.

Bizly

Just saying. I'm really good at that.

Condi

Yeah.

Bizly

Not very good at being a clam.

Condi

I don't know about that, dude.

Bizly

I'm pretty good at what you have right now.

Grizzly

You take 22 points of radiant damage,

Condi

Ouchie.

Grizzly

As you are burned by the light, and a spectral shark appears on the outside.

Condi

Oh, no way.

Charlie

Here we go.

Grizzly

Next. Next up, Gillion.

Charlie

Gillion! What, dungeon master is the puzzle that I face, in this very room in front of me, my blade in hand.

Grizzly

Let me say it!

[laughter]

Grizzly

In your individual chamber, you are flanked by two statues of great warriors. Similar armor to the knights. They both look to be triton. They flank you and they are swinging down at you. Heavy stones, heavy weapons.

Condi

You do have the highest AC.

Grizzly

That is a 21 and a 27 to hit.

Gillion

Guess, I'll just stand here.

Charlie

One hits, one does not.

Grizzly

Okay.

Charlie

Actually. Actually, I went into the shield room, so I'm gonna cast shield so that neither of them hit.

Grizzly

Neither of them hit.

Charlie

As I raise up my gauntlet and [pssst] it expands and this cloak, kind of like you see this shell pin, comes undone, revealing this now refurbished black and teal armor. And this sort of energy, this watery energy solidifies. And I will use Shield to bring my AC up to 28.

Grizzly

Neither of them are able to strike or pierce your magical shield nor your normal armor. And as they strike down, you hear one of the mouths open. The current closest to your room opens up for that moment, and they begin to raise their weapons and that current begins to close.

Charlie

Okay....oh. I think we have to time it.

Condi

Like, we all had to do it in the same turn like...

Charlie

I did a thing and it happened. The thing happened, but then it stopped happening. So I think maybe on like a three, we have to all do our thing. Once everyone knows what their thing is.

Bizly

How do we do that in initiative?

Condi

I think just in the same action.

Charlie

Just ready an action.

Grizzly

They look like they're resetting and will reset by the start of your next turn.

Condi

I think if we all in the same turn do it, you know.

Charlie

Maybe once we figure out how to solve our thing, we all do that.

Milo

Yeah.

Bizly

Okay.

Grizzly

Next up, Aurora. So in your chamber, Aurora, all around the perimeter of this interior is just similar druidic runesic writing. Similar to the arcane tubes that lit up ones activated to open up the great bass mouth. The end lines stretch to the top and they meet in the center, wrapping around a rod of sorts. It is a very sort of like innately magical chamber. Almost like a device that is awaiting to be powered.

Milo

Okay.

Grizzly

So imagine you're surrounded by arcane wires without a battery.

Milo

I'm going to attempt to hit it with a guiding bolt.

Grizzly

Okay.

Milo

Aim to hit it and fire directly at this thing to maybe charge it.

Grizzly

It is a stationary object, not hard to hit. I'll say you won't even have to roll for it.

Milo

Yeah.

Grizzly

Whenever you hit it with a magical spell. Is that a cantrip or a spell slot?

Milo

It's a spell, yes.

Grizzly

For a brief moment, two rows of the runes on the walls light up. And then they begin to dim. Not enough power. I'm giving you guys basically just one action every round.

Milo

Okay.

Charlie

I get it.

Grizzly

Next up, Chip. You find yourself in a room.

Charlie

Here we go.

Condi

Here we go.

Charlie

I'm so excited.

Bizly

I need to know.

Grizzly

There are a lot of shells, on the wall opposite of the barred exit. There is a circular board with numbers.

Charlie

What?

Grizzly

Around them, the top, 21, 18, so on. It is a tiered, almost like checkered pattern that spirals to a center dot. The board is covered in shells. There are a few shells in this room, brightly colored, more vibrant than the others.

Bizly

Is it darts? Are we playing darts?

[Grizzly pulls out a dart board]

Charlie

Oh, my god. Oh my god. Oh my god.

Milo

Oh my god!

Bizly

I'm the clam.

[laughter]

Bizly

Do you have darts? [Grizzly pulls out darts] Oh, yeah!

Charlie

Dude. Are they sharp?

Grizzly

They are sharp.

Charlie

This is so dangerous.

Condi

So dangerous. You should not be behind the DM screen.

Milo

Yeah, maybe you should move DM.

Condi

When he does this.

Grizzly

You would think so, you see sticking-

Condi

You're not gonna sit there, are you?

Grizzly

Sticking out of the board-

Bizly

He'll be all right.

Charlie

I think you should move it around.

[laughter]

Grizzly

Sticking out of the board there are these sharp, sort of like shark teeth. They don't look like that in real life. What do you want to do?

Bizly

What this got to do with a clam?

Grizzly

[shrugs] That's the puzzle.

Bizly

Okay. Okay. Okay. You said there are multicolored shells on the wall.

Grizzly

There are. The walls are covered in shells. But a number of these are brighter than the others in color, not affected by moss, even. Go ahead and roll perception.

Bizly

Twelve.

Grizzly

You count 17 of the vibrant shells.

Bizly

Okay, there's 17 of them.

Condi

Does that mean you need to score 17?

Bizly

Oh I just need to get 17.

Condi

That's hard.

Bizly

Okay.

Condi

I'm actually good at darts. I could have done...I could have been a clam.

Bizly

Now you want to be the clam?

Charlie

Oh, so you're a clam now?

Bizly

Now you want to be the clam?

Charlie

Oh, so you're a clam now?

Condi

Yeah, I actually think I am.

Charlie

Oh that's pretty crazy, huh.

Condi

I'm the clam.

Milo

I think he's the clam.

Charlie

That's a damn clam right there.

Condi

I did think he might be a clam.

Milo

I think he's the clam.

Condi

I think he might be the clam. But also I would have been happy to be a clam.

Charlie

Happy as a clam.

Bizly

I'm not actually that good at darts.

Milo

I'm sad as a clam.

Condi

Yeah, I played a lot.

Bizly

I need to get really drunk and then it's gonna be great.

Charlie

Give this guy a beer.

Bizly

[throws dart] That's just...[the dart misses]

Milo

Well, that's zero.

Bizly

Eighteen.

Milo

No, that's not how darts work.

Charlie

You hit the number 18.

Bizly

Oh.

Charlie

You're not-

Milo

You have to hit the, alright.

Bizly

That's one.

Condi

Now do you have to just get the 17?

Bizly

[throws dart again]

Grizzly

That's a miss.

Milo

Is that a redo? Oh, no.

Condi

Oh, man.

Bizly

[throws dart again, it sticks this time]

Condi

Oh.

Charlie

Wow, that was good.

Bizly

Six.

Milo

That's six.

Bizly

Are you adding?

Charlie

Oh.

Grizzly

You watch as a number of the shells on the walls bright color, they glow approximately 24. And you feel from the dart board or the board that you recognize as similar to darts, concussive blast towards you.

Milo

Oh.

Grizzly

16 points of force damage.

Bizly

Okay, I'm gonna uncanny dodge and take nine.

Grizzly

Back to the top of the round, it is you, Jay.

Condi

Yeah. I'm going to cast pass without a trace.

Grizzly

Okay.

Condi

Can I do a hide action this turn too?

Grizzly

Again? Yeah.

Condi

Yeah, absolutely. I'm going to-

Charlie

Do we all-

Condi

I have a plus 24 now. Yeah, it's going to be a fucking, what's 12 plus 24, dude, 36.

Grizzly

Describe to me what this looks like as you magically obscure these endless eyes and their perception.

Condi

You know when nobody was looking earlier back in that last room.

Charlie

Oh, god.

Grizzly

Oh, no.

Condi

I took a little bit of sand and put it in my pocket.

Grizzly

No way.

[laughter]

Grizzly

Don't tell me you solve this-

Bizly

Pocket sand the eyes?

Grizzly

With pocket sand.

Condi

Yeah.

Grizzly

[laughs] Okay.

Condi

That's exactly what I do.

Bizly

There's not a lot that pocket sand can't solve.

Condi

And you know it. And you know it. I throw it around and I lay down on the ground and I camouflage into the floor.

Grizzly

Swiftly-

Charlie

Oh, it makes so much sense. It would get in all the eyes

Grizzly

Like a tornado of vibrant colored sand. You basically distract all the eyes. The light in here, it is just covered by dust of sand particles. And you hide and you hear [whoosh] you hear a current open.

Condi

I'm stiff as a board on the floor. I don't move. I believe in you, Chip.

Grizzly

You hear all of the currents open.

Condi

All of them?

Grizzly

All of them.

Condi

What does that mean?

Grizzly

Next up, Gillion. Once again, two statues coming down. Heavy strikes.

Charlie

Check this out. I don't want to use another spell slot, so I'm going to take the dodge action. And I'm going to flavor it as trying to get my shield right under where they're going to strike. And they're moving really slow. So I get back and forth and I get ready to block and block it just right. So I block it so good. So they both roll with disadvantage.

Grizzly

Thirteen on one.

Charlie

Not gonna do it.

Grizzly

Eighteen on the other.

Charlie

Also not gonna do it. They're coming down really slow.

Grizzly

Sorry, I misspoke earlier I said that whenever they strike down, you hear a current, they strike down. The currents are already on this turn. Now their J has hidden. You hear the shell wheel on one of its axes. It does rotate all the way on the X axis, but it begins to slowly rotate. So it just misaligns within moments.

Charlie

And it's aligned when they're at the bottom of the thing.

Grizzly

When they're at the bottom of their movement, correct.

Charlie

Now the vibe I get is I have to hold it there.

Grizzly

Next up, Aurora.

Bizly

Have you read the runes? Can you read the runes?

Milo

I haven't read the runes.

Condi

Read the room.

Milo

Yeah, I'll read the runes.

Bizly

Read the room?

Condi

Yeah, read the room literally with like, runes in the wall.

Milo

Really? That is, you guys can't, cannot ask me to do that.

Grizzly

In druidic, it is the same three words repeated over and over. Magic, power, wisdom.

Charlie

Ah.

Condi

Ah.

Milo

Feels stupid.

Charlie

Would you like my opinion?

Milo

Yeah.

Charlie

Really?

Milo

Yeah.

Charlie

Am I allowed to give a hint?

Grizzly

I'll let you roll insight.

Milo

That's 14.

Grizzly

I can give a hint or you can give a hint.

Charlie

I mean, if I give a hint, I could just be wrong. So I'm gonna do that.

Grizzly

I'll tell you if it's wrong.

Charlie

You used guiding bolt and two of the things lit up right. Out of how many?

Grizzly

Out of, we'll say like ten.

Charlie

I think you just need a bigger spell, a more powerful spell.

Milo

Yeah, I was thinking that.

Charlie

Yeah.

Grizzly

You're gaging that the more magical power, the more you're going to light up.

Milo

In that case, I want to cast Crown of Stars and I want to shoot all seven charges.

Grizzly

Important about your magical artifact, you will expend the rest of its charges. At dawn, it does regain 1d6 plus four. Roll 1d6 real quick to make sure that I know how many charges you had total before you did this.

Milo

Six.

Condi

Oh, wow.

Grizzly

Ten. You're at full. You'll expend seven charges to cast Crown of Stars, a seventh level spell. Have three charges of your astrolabe left. You use that the crown of stars, the motes of starry wisps appear around your cranium. And you would normally send one of them out as soon as you cast it, which would, on hit, do a bunch of damage. I'll say just because you're using a high

level spell and expending the magical energy within the chamber and hitting it with it. When that star emoter hits the sort of conduit bar, you watch the room. The runes, the lines of them all light up to the very top. And you hear and see outside of your chamber the sort of shell channel pipes they rotate on their Y axis.

Milo

Got it.

Grizzly

It is charged up, but it begins to slow down slowly, go back down. Chip, your turn.

Milo

Don't biff this.

Grizzly

Go ahead, roll either history or insight or investigation.

Bizly

Investigation. Let's do that. Nineteen.

Grizzly

You recall as you guys were traversing the temple, Jay, taking note of a number of these similar small shells and starfish around the interior of the temple.

Chip

Jay, what was the number of shells?

Jay

So there's...

Chip

Do you remember?

Jay

Twenty-eight total. And then there was 13 in one room and 15 in another so...

Charlie

Oh, god.

Grizzly

There was 17 when you entered this room, that you counted more vibrant.

Grizzly

Are you trying to get 28?

Bizly

Oh, I see. I think I'm trying to get 73, which is all of them. Right?

Charlie

I think you should play darts really good.

Bizly

Yeah?

Charlie

And see what happens.

Bizly

Okay. I like that. I like that. I'm just gonna play darts.

Bizly

[He throws another dart, it hits]

Charlie

Oh!

Grizzly

What'd you get?

Condi

That's pretty good.

Milo

What is that?

Charlie

I don't know how to do dart points.

Milo

Is that 17 or 3?

Bizly

That's between 17 and 3.

Milo

I would say that's more 17 than it is 3.

Grizzly

Just count the number here.

Grizzly

Seventeen.

Grizzly

Okay, got it.

Condi

If you get one of those green or red lines, it's either a double or triple just so you know.

Grizzly

Yeah, don't worry about the actual rules of darts.

Condi

Oh, man.

Bizly

If I'm trying to get 45, I've got 41 right now.

Charlie

Just bullseye, bro.

Bizly

So I need four. I need four. No, not bullseye. I need four.

Grizzly

You just got 17.

Bizly

Yeah.

Grizzly

You need 28 now.

Charlie

Thank you.

Grizzly

Yeah.

Milo

Oh, all in one.

Condi

So it reset, it reset. Yeah.

Milo

Okay, it reset.

Charlie

Think about the clip, dude.

Bizly

Oh!

Condi

Yeah, okay go for the most points as you can, so bullseye.

Charlie

You need this.

Bizly

[He throws the dart, it misses]

Charlie

Bullseye. Ahhh!

Condi

Oh, no, no, no.

Bizly

You're getting, you're loud. You're so loud.

Charlie

[whispers] Sorry.

Bizly

[throws another dart, it sticks]

Condi

What is that?

Milo

Oh, that's 20.

Charlie

Nice.

Bizly

It's 37.

Grizzly

Thirty-seven.

Bizly

Not there.

Grizzly

Not quite.

Condi

So close.

Bizly

Guys, just stick it out for one more go around. I got this.

Charlie

Yes siree.

Gillion

Not a problem, Chip.

Milo

I used my one 7th level spell slot.

Condi

You get seven shots of those for free.

Milo

Oh, I do. I do have all of them, alright wicked.

Grizzly

So six starry wisps left, I think.

Condi

So as long as he does it within six turns.

Bizly

I got this.

Milo

Brother.

Bizly

Yeah?

Milo

I need you to do this.

Grizzly

Okay.

Bizly

Six turns, bro.

Milo

I don't know.

Bizly

Have a little faith.

Milo

I'm sorry.

Bizly

Have a little faith.

Milo

Yeah, you're the clam.

Bizly

Another go round.

Milo

He's a clam. He's a clam. He's a clam.

Grizzly

You take 28 points of force damage.

Bizly

Twenty?

Grizzly

We have five marks on the guardians of sharks.

Condi

Oh, god.

Charlie

Oh shit.

Milo

Does that mean they eat us?

Bizly

Uncanny dodge.

Condi

I hope not.

Grizzly

Back at the top, the sharks, there are a number of them outside in the chamber proper. They are not attacking. They are just gathering here in this chamber.

Condi

Okay, let's just-

Grizzly

Top the round.

Condi

Get through this quick, us three. I believe in us. Thirty on the dot.

Grizzly

You hide. Once again, from the eyes.

Bizly

[holding a dart] I'm practicing. I'm just practicing.

Grizzly

You're gonna kill me. You're gonna kill me. All of the fish, their mouths open. Up the currents, they blast towards the center. Through the canals, into what would be the pipes of the open face of the shell. But it's not aligned properly yet.

Condi

Okay.

Grizzly

Now, Gillion-

Charlie

Not yet.

Grizzly

They come down, they strike.

Charlie

And I hold my hands up and I hold my hands up and I get ready and I grab them and I hold them there and it's awesome.

Grizzly

Do you just want to take the hit?

Charlie

I grab both of the axes.

Grizzly

As they come down to hit you?

Charlie

As they come down to hit me.

Grizzly

29 and 21 to hit.

Charlie

The 29 will hit.

Grizzly

Go ahead and make an athletics check.

Charlie

Athletics.

[Milo and Bizly in unison] Athletics.

Milo

Sorry.

Charlie

So 16.

Grizzly

You hold them down. The rotation on the X axis, it rotates and it stays in the proper place. However you take 18 points of slashing damage from one of the strikes as it cuts into you. And you see a weapon on the bottom towards your feet swipe. I need you to make an acrobatics check.

Charlie

Oh ho!

Milo

What?

Charlie

Acrobatics. Oh, no. Oh, no.

Condi

[laughs] That's not good.

Charlie

Well, it's not a one, because it's a zero.

Grizzly

There's two options for you here.

Charlie

Yes.

Grizzly

You can allow it to knock you prone, and you'll lose your grip on the statues.

Charlie

Oof.

Grizzly

Or you can take double damage.

Charlie

I'm taking double damage. I have faith that the rest of my party can fulfill their tasks.

Bizly

[holding the darts between his fingers] I'm Wolverine.

[laughter]

Charlie

I'm going to die.

Milo

You're a clam!

Grizzly

You take 44 points of slashing damage.

Charlie

Plus the 18 from earlier?

Grizzly

Yep.

Charlie

Holy.

Grizzly

Okay, but you hold him down. You tank the swipe to your legs trying to knock you off your balance. You stand strong.

Charlie

Yes, I do!

Grizzly

Topple-able.

Charlie

Yes, I do.

Grizzly

Next up, Aurora. You're in the room. The magical uncharged battery, it has at this point, gone down. And the rotation on the Y axis has reset.

Aurora

Well, here we go again.

Milo

I'm gonna shoot another dart out of my crown of stars.

Grizzly

Okay. It charges up. This time, the magic, the runes, project into your mind. Make a wisdom saving throw.

Charlie

I don't know about-

Milo

That is an 18.

Grizzly

Twenty-three points of psychic damage. You're blasted with a vision you simply just cannot parse through as it comes suddenly and unexpectedly.

Aurora

Eughhhh! Sorry.

Grizzly

The magical energy begins to dissipate once more, slowly. Next up-

Aurora

Get out of my head!

Grizzly

Okay.

Condi

I believe in you.

Grizzly

We're on the same page that you're going for the number 45, right?

Bizly

Yeah.

Condi

Not exactly right. Please say not exactly.

Charlie

Hey, dude.

Grizzly

Yeah, the sum exactly 45.

Bizly

Yeah?

Charlie

You need to do this.

Bizly

I got a sneeze cooking right now.

Charlie

Hey, if you don't do this, by the way, I will die.

Milo

Sneeze first.

Grizzly

Why are you looking at me like that?

Bizly

[He pretends to sneeze and throws the dart, it hits]

Grizzly

You got 18.

Milo

Okay.

Charlie

Eighteen.

Bizly

[He throws another dart, it hits]

Milo

Oh!

Bizly

That's 20.

Charlie

Oh, that's red.

Milo

No, that's red.

Charlie

That's red.

Milo

Can we please, DM-

Charlie

That's totally red.

Condi

That's a double. That's a double.

Bizly

Forty.

Grizzly

You're already over.

Charlie

Just think dart.

Grizzly

Okay.

Bizly

I gotta hit the seven.

Grizzly

You just gotta hit anywhere in here, okay.

Charlie

No, no, no, no, no, no, no. He's lying to you.

Bizly

I can get it this time.

Charlie

Okay but you actually have to get this.

Bizly

[He throws another dart, it hits] 11.

Charlie

Dude, that's the number. Is that in?

Bizly

It's not seven.

Milo

It would be over anyways.

Bizly

It's over. Run it back, one more!

Charlie

Oh no.

Condi

I just really need to clarify with you. That's like zeroing out as something professional dart players do.

Charlie

Wait, so you have to get exactly 45?

Bizly

Forty-five.

Charlie

Oh no.

Bizly

Dude, don't make it easier. I got it.

Charlie

No!

Milo

I'm really.-

Bizly

One more.

Milo

Guys-

Bizly

One more.

Condi

Guys.

Milo

Guys.

Charlie

I took 62 damage.

Bizly

Can I do one more go?

Grizzly

Yeah.

Bizly

Okay. If I get a bullseye, I just win.

Condi

Bullseye is 50.

Bizly

Bullseye is, don't tell him that. It's 45 right now.

Condi

Okay, bet.

Bizly

[throws dart again, it sticks] One.

Milo

One.

Bizly

Okay, we're bad. We're bad right now. We're bad right now. [throws another dart, it sticks] Six. All right, so we're seven right now.

Charlie

Okay.

Milo

That's what you needed last time.

Bizly

Already can't get it. Already can't get it.

Charlie

[laughs]

Bizly

All right.

Condi

That's a double five.

Bizly

One more go around. We're gonna do three tries.

Milo

I don't think we're counting doubles.

Bizly

Three more tries, that's how it works.

Condi

Yeah.

Bizly

[throws another dart, it sticks] One. Okay.

Grizzly

No, no, no, no.

Milo

That's 18.

Grizzly

That's 18.

Milo

That's 18.

Condi

Okay.

Bizly

How much more? What's-

Condi

Twenty-seven, twenty-seven.

Bizly

Twenty-seven. I need 27?

Charlie

Dude, just go to sleep and become the champion of death.

Bizly

All right. [throws dart again, it hits]

Milo

Whoa.

Bizly

Five.

Milo

Five.

Condi

Five, 22.

Bizly

Five.

Condi

Twenty-two more.

Bizly

I need 22 more? I lost.

Condi

Twenty-two more, no, get a double 11 dude.

Bizly

[He throws another dart, it sticks]

Milo

What the?

Charlie

What?

Grizzly

That's a double 18.

Bizly

It's a double 18.

Condi

No, that's a triple 18 actually.

Bizly

One more try, okay.

Charlie

Hey, DM...

Bizly

That's a triple 18.

Condi

Yep.

Bizly

What do I need now?

Condi

That's double, that's double. 36. You need nine.

Bizly

I need nine?

Condi

Yeah.

Bizly

Five. I need four.

Milo

Five. You need four.

Condi

You need four.

Bizly

Please, [kisses hand and holds up to sky] JC.

Milo

JC.

Bizly

[throws dart and it sticks] That's closer to the four, yeah!

[all the players clap and cheer]

Charlie

Yes!

Grizzly

Jesus Christ.

Bizly

I feel like if you gave me one more go round, I could rip it.

Charlie

I just don't man.

Bizly

I could rip it.

Charlie

I just don't know.

Milo

Hey, hey clam. No.

Grizzly

Could I just confirm everybody has solved the puzzle that they were given?

Condi

Yes.

Milo

Yes.

Condi

In this turn?

Condi

Yes, I think so.

Condi

Yes.

Bizly

I mean, not really. I think if we rip it.

Milo

Stop.

Grizzly

The currents are all on.

Charlie

Dude, you gotta take some damage for that. That's crazy.

Grizzly

Yeah, you do.

Charlie

Dude.

Bizly

What the hell?

Charlie

I'm just being real. I'm just being real.

Milo

Teacher.

Bizly

All right. The puzzle doesn't count. We go again.

Charlie

Teacher. Teacher.

Condi

Teacher.

Milo

Teacher!

Condi

Teacher, give him damage.

Charlie

Teacher you forgot about the damage teacher.

Condi

Teacher he's not taking enough damage.

Bizly

I didn't win the puzzle. I think we gotta do it again.

Grizzly

What am I doing anymore? Say, flat 46 points. 45 points. Why not? 45 points.

Bizly

Forty-five?

Grizzly

I'll decrease it. It matches 45 points of force damage.

Bizly

All right, I'll take 24. I'll half it.

Grizzly

It's not really technically a dex save.

Bizly

No, it's just uncanny dodge.

Condi

You're allowed to dodge anything and half that damage.

Grizzly

Oh gotcha. Sweet man. All the currents are turned on. The wheel rotated on its X axis. The wheel rotated on its Y axis. A ring, a bottom ring under underneath rotates into place, clicking, putting it all together unlocks the mechanism that seals this final pathway shut. And it all [pffffff] spins, rotates upwards and reveals a path as it screws, unscrews itself, rotates upwards. The bars of your separate enclosure rotate and lower. And you are able to all reunite and join in the center. [looks at Charlie] Why are you crying?

Charlie

Oh, I just. I thought it was so beautiful how he got 45 like that.

Grizzly

Yeah.

Charlie

But no, I just, my nose was just itchy.

Grizzly

You guys reunite in the middle. You can descend into what you hope is the final chamber.

Aurora

You guys, I missed you so bad.

Jay

I thought I was never gonna be able to move again.

Aurora

I started seeing visions in there.

Jay

Who was it who wasn't completing their test?

Gillion

I had to hold it for 20 minutes.

Chip

I had a great time.

[laughter]

Grizzly

I thought this was such a great idea.

Condi

No, it's like, conceptually good, but it is, like, really, really hard.

Milo

This is really hard.

Bizly

I'm gonna ask you the question we asked him when he did the Rubik's Cube. Did you try it first?

Condi

Did you test it?

Grizzly

Yes.

Bizly

You did it?

Milo

You zeroed out.

Grizzly

Yeah I-

Bizly

You're just good at darts.

Grizzly

Well, I had it this close to me.

Condi

Okay well-

Grizzly

That's why I said you could move closer. You said, I don't want to.

Bizly

Well, that's like. I'm just putting them, I was wanting to play the darts.

Grizzly

I had it this close to me.

Milo

Could you have just put them in?

Grizzly

Originally-

Bizly

I guess...oh, shit.

Charlie

Wait, there was nothing making you throw, was there?

Grizzly

No.

[laughter]

Grizzly

Technically, with that information, I don't think this was unsolvable.

Bizly

Oh fuck.

Condi

Our only limitations were our own minds.

Milo

I thought about that when I saw it first come out, and then I forgot.

Grizzly

Two things originally. Originally the number was 40. I accidentally changed it to 45. It's just supposed to be 20, 18, 12, like this. And you could hit it at any point on those rows.

Bizly

I think what's important here is that we all had fun. I did.

Grizzly

You descend and this wave of such an old and powerful and great magic that should be endless and expansive, but in this moment, as it is fading, it is small enough to where you feel not overwhelmed, but saddened by a loss.

Jay

I just don't understand how they could have done anything to it from the outside.

Gillion

You saw the soldiers. Who knows how many they brought or what they prepared. They've been studying these things.

Jay

It doesn't help that Odelath was helping. I mean, he must know everything about these things.

Grizzly

As you take your final steps into the flat, wide, open chamber, it's dark green fog in this water. And in the center, this bright blue, even as it is fading, it is still like looking at a star. It rests in the center it slowly pulses in and out. From the murky expanse of this wide interior base of the shell twoo gargantuan stalk, eyes, [pssssh] kind as ever.

Condi

Kind eyes.

Grizzly

Peer through to meet the gaze of those that have traversed the temple that guards its heart. The King crab, CRA'BCR'AB'CR'ABCR'Collab Levithan.

Condi

That was close.

Grizzly

I try my hardest. Sees those who now approach it, visitors. It has not conversed with any mortal in some time. Not those who didn't want something from it. What would you guys like to do?

Condi

I step back and let Gillion.

Bizly

Oh, yeah.

Milo

Yeah.

Condi

Yeah.

Gillion

Great King Crab. Me and my companions have traveled far to meet you. It pains me to see you wounded like this. We come to your heart in hopes there's something we can do to help.

Grizzly

Massive eye stalk slowly swings toward you as to focus. Sort of a dull glow of a spotlight. Making it clear that it sees you. It speaks in this low vibrato. Full of vibrato, this low bass. But it speaks in primordial. And it speaks in feeling. Simple communication. Not direct words, sentences or phrases. But in a way that you can understand its intent. It says to you.

CRA'BCR'AB'CR'ABCR'CRAB

You say that you have come to help.

Grizzly

It recognizes you.

CRA'BCR'AB'CR'ABCR'CRAB

A familiar scent, chosen of Pelagus.

Grizzly

It says.

CRA'BCR'AB'CR'ABCR'CRAB

You have finally come. I have eagerly awaited, to meet, to observe, to understand. I am dying. This temple, my heart that it guards. I have cherished this treasure. This power for many, many, many, many centuries. To stand here near my heart. It is no simple or easy feat. And not one meant to be completed alone.

Grizzly

It looks around.

CRA'BCR'AB'CR'ABCR'CRAB

Younger than I imagined you would be. This place designed to test your wisdom, your grace. Your ability to adapt and communicate. To understand all things important. I cannot be saved. Much of my life drained. I ask one final question before I depart a gift.

Grizzly

The eyes which of look around. And then it turns towards the walls of this chamber to illuminate them and clear up a bit of the mist and the fog. And you all see a mural on the inside of this curved chamber. It is fully painted. It depicts a very long line of mortals. And that goes across all species in the world. But there's a pattern between them, weapons they wield, artifacts they carry, clothes they wear, features they sport. You see a repetition and then you see a gap. There were these items passed down through generations of history. And the first time they were needed. The power of these artifacts. These treasures, in a calamity, a war. They failed. This mural depicts some sort of silhouette, horned. Two horned silhouettes. They converse. They

forestall some sort of compromise. A great calamity. You recognize parts of this mural as a prophecy being written. Visions you've gotten in the past from a great tree. A united force from different walks of life creating this warning. And then you see a part of the story you have not seen. As it illuminates these paintings on this wall. You see four you assume to be druids. And Aurora can point out that the way that they're drawn, the horns, not the horns, but sort of the, like, I guess they are horns. They look more like deer horns. They're symbols that represent druids. There are four of them. They come together in secret. They devise a way to hide certain treasures, certain weapons in the world for a long period of time. So that over time, these weapons can absorb that time into greater power to one day be passed down to someones deemed worthy to wield them against an inevitable calamity that would return. The stalks again, the eyes return to your group. And they return to you.

CRA'BCR'AB'CR'ABCR'CRAB

Are you ready?

Grizzly

It asks.

CRA'BCR'AB'CR'ABCR'CRAB

Once you accept this destiny, there is no turning back. Whether you feel you are deserving or worthy, you are here. Are you ready to accept my blessing?

Charlie

It looks like it's asking all of us, right?

Grizzly

In a way, it is. But originally, its question was directed to you. Yeah.

Charlie

I'm gonna turn to the others.

Gillion

This has been something I've dreamed about my entire life. Being here, being asked, being told that it's real and I can take it. But I couldn't have done any of it alone. I couldn't have done this

alone. I couldn't have gotten back to the Undersea alone. This is not just my destiny to accept. It's ours now. So before I answer, do you three accept this? Is this what you want?

Jay

Gillion, if anything, the existence of this entire temple proves to me that it was never your destiny to take this burden alone. You already know I'm with you to the end. [puts a hand on his shoulder] So of course I do.

Gillion

Thank you, Jay.

Aurora

Could you just give me a second to think a little bit longer?

Gillion

Hey, Aurora, no rush. It's a really big decision.

Chip

You did just get here.

Aurora

I know that we may have a couple disagreements on what wording to use in situations like these and how our futures are determined. But I do know that what we've done today and what we'll continue to do is pushing us in the right direction. I think that does feel like destiny. Of course, I accept.

Gillion

Thank you for knowing us only this short time and forgiving so much. You are wonderful. And then there's you. [He looks at Chip]

Chip

Gillion.

Jay

Oh, no we already know you're not gonna do it.

Gillion

My little clown.

Chip

Oh, yeah right.

Jay

Yeah, you're the champion of death.

Chip

I'm gonna back out now.

Jay

You're champion of death. You don't really have time for this sort of stuff right?

Aurora

He's got a side gig.

Chip

Might be a bad time to say I didn't go with the whole champion of death thing.

Jay

What?

Aurora

Wait, what?

Gillion

What, really?

Chip

Sorry.

Jay

Seriously?

Chip

I'm not important right now.

Jay

No, I thought it was like a sure thing.

Chip

It was a whole...anyway, you know, you don't have to ask me that.

Gillion

But you know I'd never make that decision for you.

Chip

Of course but-

Gillion

Being a pirate's about being free, right? I just want to be sure this is what you want to do with your freedom.

Chip

I wouldn't say it's what I want to do, but I want everything to be fine. I want us to all be happy sailing the sea with all of our crew. We don't have that. There are people out there that need us. There are innocent people counting on us. It's not what I want, but it's what I have to do. It's what we have to do. So. In a heartbeat. I might not have said that a long time ago, but I think you jumped out of enough windows running straight towards the people who needed it. That I had a good example. I know who I want to be. And that's who I want to be.

Gillion

I think a lot of evil shit wants you, bro.

Chip

All the time.

Gillion

I think about that sometimes. And I think about why it takes a really bright light to cast a shadow that long. I think it sees that and it wants to creep in. But I know that for a while, the gold, the glory, the piracy. I think sometimes you just want to help people, too. Thank you.

Chip

This is your moment. It's our moment, bud.

Gillion

This is our moment. This is our moment. I'm a fish.

[laughter]

Chip

Yeah, man. Yeah, you are.

Jay

You sure are.

Gillion

But when you pulled me out of that sea, I was drowning.

Charlie

I turn back.

Gillion

We accept your blessing, your burden. It may be heavy, but I will not carry it alone.

Grizzly

It communicates.

CRA'BCR'AB'CR'ABCR'CRAB

There is a suffocating darkness that approaches. I feared briefly that it would find success in its attempts to strangle. But it is clear that not all hope is lost.

Grizzly

The light shines brighter and brighter and brighter until the this misty green is nothing but a bright light blue. All of you, your vision goes white. And you see in front of you. It's not so much that you see it, but more so that the message is given to your brain alongside, followed by a vision. The message from four voices, possibly more. Old voices echoed together in unison. They say,

Old Voices

We shall aid the future from the past. Each of us growing more and more from the last. A tree that is cut will still grow, if its seeds have been sown.

Grizzly

You then see one sort of section of what can only be described as some sort of druidic map. It's one line, and it just says, 'stood on the shoulders of giants'. You obtain this message. You obtain one part of some sort of secret direction, guidance. And when your vision clears, you are outside of the massive shell, its color slowly darkening as it hardens and solidifies into a leviathan passing.

Charlie

I'm gonna reach into the...this is a little stupid. I'm gonna reach into Pretzel's little fishbowl, pull out that little crab.

Grizzly

You pull out that little crab and its eyes, not in unison, but one at a time, open left and right as it blinks. And behind it, you see a village that is still in disarray. But corpses of small crabs that were once dead regain their life. They all slowly begin to wake and rise.

Charlie

Can I say something to him?

Ab'acra'ba

What happened?

Gillion

They were there. You went to his heart.

Ab'acra'ba

Oh.

Gillion

Did you sleep through it?

Ab'acra'ba

I needed it.

Gillion

It's okay. You need your rest.

Ab'acra'ba

It's gone now.

Gillion

Especially since one day you're gonna be just as big as him.

Ab'acra'ba

You mean it?

Gillion

He'd want you to eat him.

[laughter]

Chip

Slowly.

Gillion

Over the course of many, many years.

Jay

Very methodically.

Chip

Start with the lean.

Ab'acra'ba

I sense-

Gillion

I'm not kidding. I'm being really serious.

Ab'acra'ba

His aura within you, I sense. If this is his will, his wish, then so it must be.

Gillion

So it must be.

Grizzly

It swims to rejoin.

Gillion

The cycle must continue.

Grizzly

As soon as it rejoins-

Gillion

He lives on in you.

Grizzly

His people, spreads the word. They all together as a swarm, ascend towards the top of the shell once more. You all feel inside of you. After receiving this vision, a power granted to all four. You may increase either your dexterity or your wisdom by two.

Milo

Woah!

Charlie

What?

Bizly

What the fuck?

Grizzly

You can also increase the maximum by two. So it is now 22.

Condi

Oh so it would be 22, 000.

Charlie

What? That's crazy.

Bizly

Holy fuck.

Grizzly

Ursus, still awaiting.

Ursus

Ooh.

Jay

Hopefully we make it on time to the next one.

Gillion

I just hope we're not too late again.

Jay

Yeah.

Gillion

I feel like I'm watching the world fall apart.

Jay

We'll be there to pick up the pieces.

Gillion

Hey, Ursus?

Ursus

Whee.

Gillion

Have a snack.

Charlie

I'll throw that blobfish.

Grizzly

I swear, you left it in a cage of sand.

Condi

Did we?

Charlie

I secretly-

Grizzly

Roll a d20.

Charlie

I secretly took it with me.

Grizzly

Ten or higher, you can have it.

Aurora

Ursus.

Condi

Please, please, please.

Charlie

There's a natural 20.

[laughter]

Bizly

Ursus eats that thing-

Condi

That's fucking destiny, baby!

Bizly

That's destiny. Ursus gotta eat that thing.

Condi

Destiny is real and it wants Ursus to eat that motherfucker.

Bizly

Consuming animals is okay if their personalities are bad.

Charlie

I'm gonna say, you know what I say? You know what I say? I say,

Grizzly

Oh, my god.

Gillion

Destiny isn't a cage, it's a cycle. [throws blobfish]

Ursus

Ruh!

Condi

What are its final words?

Grizzly

In simple thoughts, it communicates. Gillion, you hear it.

Blobfish

What happens when we die?

Grizzly

It asks.

Gillion

Find out.

[laughter]

Milo

God damn it.

Grizzly

This ancient blobfish for centuries covered a button. And then when it finally met people that it could express all of its endless thoughts to. It was fed to a druidic whale.

Bizly

Yeah, because its thoughts shouldn't have been heard by anyone.

[laughter]

Bizly

Ever. It had bad thoughts.

Condi

It's too much. They're terrible thoughts.

Bizly

Some thoughts are inside.

Charlie

No, no it's not out of hatred. It's out of love.

Bizly

It is a little bit out of hatred.

Charlie

It's out of love.

Condi

A little bit of hatred.

Milo

Listen, he wanted to die.

Bizly

He said he didn't want to die.

Charlie

He didn't really know.

Bizly

He said-

Charlie

But, but-

Milo

Who knows what he said.

Grizzly

He said he wanted to live. He did say it. It's on camera.

Condi

He did, yeah.

Milo

And who could say?

Bizly

Who could interpret-

Grizzly

He said, no, I'll tell you. He said, yeah, you said why? He said, I don't know. He said, why? I said, I don't know. But he said, yes, he wanted to live.

Charlie

If he wants to live-

Milo

And who could say?

Charlie

If he wants to live, then he will.

Grizzly

Yeah, okay.

Aurora

Ursus, absorb.

Grizzly

He has inhaled the blobfish.

Bizly

Good.

Gillion

Guys, I really hated that thing.

Grizzly

With that, I assume that you guys once again board, mount the whale that is Ursus, the druidic bear, and leave this place. This now, was when you arrived a graveyard, a battlefield that has been laid to rest. This Leviathan passed on the power it held and information only it knew. Where are you headed next?

Condi

Next stop, Eldon.

Charlie

Man, I'm just worried if we keep going to them in order, we're just gonna keep...

Bizly

That's what I'm worried about.

Charlie

Getting there too late.

Grizzly

You have no way of knowing. You just know that the closest one would be Eldon.

Charlie

How recently did it seem like this happened?

Bizly

I mean, he was still like, trying to fight.

Charlie

He was still alive.

Bizly

In the beginning.

Milo

Yeah, it seems like it had just, unless he's really just into it.

Bizly

Yeah, these guys have been going for a while.

Charlie

Is there any way to tell?

Grizzly

Before you leave. I'll just say you can roll, we'll say investigation.

Condi

I have plus nine.

Charlie

I probably shouldn't roll this, but I'll do it anyway because it feels important to me. 11.

Condi

Can I use help and give him an advantage?

Grizzly

No, 11 is fine for me to tell you that there is evidence that this not necessarily was a recent battle, only that it was a long one. And perhaps that that lone crab was just one still awake and ready to protect any that came. But they had already left.

Condi

I mean, my thought about it is if we skip Eldon and he was safe, then that's basically throwing away our chance.

Grizzly

The other part of time with this is that when you arrived. King Crab. CRA'BCR'AB'CR'ABCR'CRAB was dying actively. So he was holding on as long as he could. And you did get here in time for that.

Gillion

We can't wait. They might already be to Eldon.

Aurora

I'd just hate to see more destruction like that. Could we prevent it?

Gillion

I don't know. But we have to try. Cause if we don't get there, much worse awaits. And now, officially, I feel a little lighter. Like, I know we were talking about fate, destiny. Maybe there was some truth in that. What you said. Maybe as I understand it, this isn't my destiny.

Charlie

I go grab Ursus, [pffft] like little reins and I'll go.

Gillion

Because this is-

[all the players in unison] Our destiny! Whooooo!

Milo

Ho, ho, ho.

[laughter]

Grizzly

Entering a current to head towards the next destination of Eldon, the interdimensional whale Leviathan. Perhaps this test, this trial of an ancient druidic temple built to guard this crab wasn't the trial meant to be taken because of the attack on this Leviathan's life. But it was one that together you all traversed and passed. You earned this Leviathan's dying power, dying wish. And you gave it hope that there can still be a future not clouded in only darkness. And you head to the next session, because this one's over.

Condi

Whooo.

Grizzly

But if you already want to watch that next session, it is on our website, JRWlshow.com right now. I already spelled it. I'll spell it again though. J-R-W-I S-H-O-W dot C-O-M. That's the full spelling.

Charlie

You don't have to or anything.

Grizzly

You should though.

Charlie

But it's your destiny!

Grizzly

That's right, everyone. We're back at the end of the episode. And I seriously hope you enjoyed. But it is that time. A time, as always. A time older than time itself. A tale I must tell of the brave, gracious, beautiful, noble warriors in our High Roller tier on our website JRWlshow dot com and

our Patreon. I will now shout all of you out because you deserve it and it is a big thank you. Let's do this.

Grizzly

Trench Voidwater, AceHSG, Jorb3334, Isaac, Sunny, Raxoid1109, The fox named Trinket, Captain speck, nervousleg, The Goopy Fox, Peber, Jinko, Scarlett and Dravy, Ashhasleft, Staxolotl, Strongbond_cosplay, Vivyainou, Dazeo, Sunny.q.light, IdakySensei, Condi-Non-Fiction, FallenBeck, Crangaelious, NoadTheToad, Canonical JRWI Jesus, OneAndAHalfKiwis, Mr Nacho, Iluvia, Reedodeedo, rovarok, Mini Big Boy, GhandiSharma, AsteriaNix, JamVolker, F8Breaker, GingerMallow, Almajor, Titan Storm, Roober, SpeciousBroom23, Hentologist, Pezza, StealthyBre, Grey Gaston, Domo, MoonsAlibi, melmel, Shilohs shhh, Expoogaloo, DarlingSongbird, beans, Jackbytheway, cinnabunny03, Mr_Cee-great Moss Deacon, Frogonaut_1618, Inigo_Devilin, Crankymarten, Calz, InsomniaDraws, AraTheKing, It_Demo, ElvishCyborg, Skylabber, Bazzozo, AWE50MEMAN, TooniLooni, NoraNightly, bluealienfox, Wildjames, DJ1001, AerynMoment, Bebs0n, JoyKey, Caffeine Connoisseur, Bran_Nyan, UnstableKha0ticCracker, TheJame, sumpfe, ItsAlbert, Teenie_Ghosts, Stinkyman, jasonthefricker Joshua Mills, mewdragonlord101, tiredeldritchhorror, NoctecPaladin, ImRollinCuh, narwhal shellfish, MarioCraft6000, Hiibiskus, Goonbleck, KatusBatus, Caspians-BF-Rhydian, thelootgoblin, Alastor Susi, TheRetrolizer, jojo_jordyn123, avii_e, vaporslash, MrMustelid, dev_the_dolphin, CHEESUS.

Grizzly

And now it's time for the patrons. Austin, Norimi, Lukatoni71, chief, Justaguy, Basic_Blurr, AraTheKing, Inferno, Viper_Hypnotic, ImJustABirb, Lightning Death Bringer, Oliverlollie, Mr_Cee [actually I have Jay's leg and Gil's hand], It's Cfr3sh, Me4EverM8, Dylan McNally, Shrimps is Bugs, Mr. Nacho, Kazarooni, AlienCorginator, Kronus513, and Jay Newell. Wow. I got through all of those without laughing a single time. That is. That's a new one for me. You know what Maybe. Maybe. Maybe I should talk to someone about that. Anyways, I hope you guys had a great two weeks, and I hope that you enjoyed the episode one. So this one was 126, 127, 128, 129. I think these are, like, some of my favorite episodes we've ever filmed, ever. Like, I had a blast designing these. I had a blast running them. I had a blast. You know what? I won't say anymore because I don't want to accidentally get you excited and spoil something. You don't get to know shit. All right? Just keep watching the episodes and goodbye.