Grizzly

Hello, one and all. Fun fact: I stole that intro! Welcome back to Total Monster Kill. Can everybody give me your best monster roar on three? One, two, three-

Grizzly and Milo

Meow~

Bizly

(Coughing and choking)

Grizzly

Bizly didn't even try.

Milo

Did we both meow?

Grizzly

Bizly shoved a cucumber in his throat.

Condi

I just - maybe - maybe there's a monster out there that sounds like there's a cucumber in his throat, okay? Like-

Grizzly

Yeah, yeah, sure. A monster out there. Bizly sounds like a frog.

Bizly

(cucumber inhaling noises)

Grizzly

That's nice.

Condi

(cucumber inhaling noises)

Grizzly

Okay, so right now-

Condi

Actually. No, I have a new one.

Grizzly

Okay.

Condi

(visceral eating sounds)

Grizzly

What the fuck, dude??

Milo

Ewwww! Ew!!

Condi

Now I'm eating the cucumber. (More eating sounds)

Grizzly

Chill the fuck out! Go sit down!

Milo

Dude, what kind of freak eats a cucumber like that? It's crunchy!

Grizzly

No he actually like, chomped it. He didn't even cut it up and eat the slices, he chomped it.

Bizly

I' a train monster. (blowing sounds)

Condi

Yeah, I just straight up, like. (visceral eating sounds)

Grizzly

Okay, alright.

Milo

Oh,

Grizzly

Milo, you got any new monster sounds? I meowed. That's what I did last time.

Milo

I also meowed.

Grizzly

Oh my God! We're twinning. Alright, you want to meow again together?

Milo

Yeah.

Condi

(Laughs)

Bizly

Uh oh, here comes the train. (Choo choo)

Milo

On three.

Grizzly

One, two, three.

(Dog barking, train sounds, cat screeching)

(train crashes)

Bizly

Train crash! Train crash! (Train explosions)

Condi

There's, like, two different bits going on at once here dude.

Grizzly

An eagle passes by. (Eagle cawing)

Bizly

Fuckin' animals are dead. There's fires everywhere.

Grizzly

There's a dog barking, checking on a cat. It's a dude just eating cucumber on top of the train, crashes.

(Jumble of sounds)

Bizly

There's another train comin'! (Choo choo)

Milo

There's a mosquito buzzing by.

Condi

My cucumber!

Grizzly

There's another train. (Choo choo)

(Mosquito buzzing)

Condi

Say it ain't so.

(Explosions)

Grizzly

It's a fucking mosquito. We zoom in on the mosquito. (Buzzing)

Condi

No! My cucumber got hit by another train!

Bizly

I'm picturing this, like, that scene from Spider-Man one where he gets-

Milo

(Laughing)

Bizly

-his spider sense for the first time, and you can see, like, the hairs raise up on his arm. Kind of moves slowly through the room. You can see the bug and the spitball in the air.

Grizzly

I was just - that's awesome. That's - yeah, I imagine-

Condi

That's sick.

Grizzly

Yeah, I can see that. I was imagining, like, the ending of Bullet Train. Where like, shit just explodes.

Bizly

God what a fuckin' movie.

Condi

I love Bullet Train. I fucking love - can we talk about how I know this isn't, like, part of the podcast, but I can't believe Charlie fell asleep to that shit, dude.

Grizzly

Holy shit, dude. We can't let that go.

Bizly

Falling asleep during Bullet Train...

Condi

Like, I can't let it go. It's like-

Bizly

That's a riveting movie with multiple plot lines that all converge at good points, and feel like-

Milo

I never watched it.

Grizzly

I think we should fire him and we should never talk to him again.

Bizly

Continuously amps up the energy, like, throughout.

Condi

And he fell asleep, like.

Grizzly

I'll call him right now. I think I'm gonna call him right now-

Milo

He was eepy!

Grizzly

-and tell him that he's done.

Condi

Can you call him? Can you call him?

Bizly

Is he in another country?

Grizzly

He's not gonna answer it.

Condi

Yeah, he is.

Grizzly

Dude he never answers my FUCKING calls.

Condi

I can call him. He'll answer me.

Grizzly

Fuck! Yes he will. God FUCKING damn it.

(Laughter)

Condi

I'll...

Grizzly

No please-

Condi

If you want me to?

Grizzly

-please don't. No, don't. I'm gonna cry.

Milo

That's a fucked up flex, Condi.

Condi

Okay, well- (Laughs)

Bizly

Dude, I'd love to see - I'd love to see - Grizzly, you call him. And then Condi, you call him.

(Laughter)

Condi

That'd be fucked up!

Milo

Hey, what's up, man?

Grizzly

Dude, please! Stop!

Condi

Listen, if he doesn't answer Grizzly, I don't think he'd answer me.

Grizzly

No, dude.

Bizly

I would like to see. I would like to see. No, because that is a test to your friendship.

Grizzly

I already know what's gonna happen, dude! I asked him to play Chained Together with me, and then he said no. But then he went live-

Condi

No, no - hey-!

Grizzly

The same night, playing Chained Together with someone else, dude!

Condi

No, that was already - this - that was already planned. That was, like, already pre-planned.

Bizly

That is fucked up. And you know why that's fucked up? Because I didn't get asked by anybody. It never came up for me. Like, it never once got brought into a conversation with me. And that's crazy.

Grizzly

Yeah, that's fucked up, man. Sorry.

Bizly

Dude, you didn't bring it up to me. You brought it up to the two of them and not me!

Grizzly

I didn't know it was four players!

Condi

We're all falling apart now.

Grizzly

I thought it was three players!

Bizly

It's four players!

Grizzly

You were sick, you were sick. I thought you were sick, dude. I don't know-

Bizly

I'm fine!

(Laughter)

Grizzly

You said you were still sick, you needed some to yourself time.

Condi

Guys, do we need to, like... Do we need to get, like, couples therapy? Like, what's going on?

Grizzly

Milo, please help.

Milo

Girl, what am I supposed to do?

Bizly

Dude Milo and I had a show and I abandoned it, Milo's not helping me with shit.

Milo

You did!

Milo

Milo's not helping me with anything.

Grizzly

You - we were supposed to open up a merch company and you abandoned that, too.

Bizly

We did, dude! We did. Well, the thing is-

Milo

I remember that.

Bizly

I did a lot for that merch company and then I didn't want to do anything anymore.

(Laughter)

Bizly

I didn't feel like it.

Milo

I got tired.

Condi

I was just tired of - being.

Bizly

We had a meeting. We sat down, we were like, alright, these are the designs. You went, I don't know about that. And I went, I also don't know about that. And then-

Milo

I'm tired.

Bizly

Never touched it again.

Grizzly

Okay, so-

Milo

I want to eat my animal cracker crumbs.

Grizzly

I'm uh - that was cathartic. Got all those feelings out. Happy about that.

Condi

Yeah, good job everybody, yeah.

Milo

I spilled my animal cracker crumbs...

Bizly

Milo didn't get many feelings out. Milo, what are you holding in?

Milo

I spilled my animal cracker crumbs...

Bizly

You have stupid problems.

Condi

You have dumb problems.

Milo

You're a fucking BITCH.

Condi

Nobody cares about your problems.

Bizly

You're stupid. See? And your comebacks are lame - as fucking basic as hell. You could have said that to anybody, that has no affect on me-

Milo

Shut the fuck up, tubby.

Bizly

Wow.

Milo

Tubby!

Grizzly

Oh my God, don't call him tubby.

Condi

Woooow. Wow, true colors are coming out right now.

Bizly

-really struggling with like, you know, losing weight and now just...

Milo

Girl.

Bizly

And now this.

Grizzly

I kind of, like, hurt. I'm hurting with you right now. You hurt my feelings and it's not even-

Condi

Yeah, that's like. That was like a reflection, like, reflected off of-

Bizly

There's this bag of chips in front of me and I've just been thinking about it the whole time-

Milo

You! You! I literally-

Bizly

And I fights the urge, and I fight the urge to eat them.

Milo

No! Shut the fuck up.

Bizly

And then, you know what? You just call me tubby!

Milo

I literally joined the call-!

Bizly

You know what? I might as well eat them!

Milo

We joined the call. I was eating chips and you said, wow, that's bold of you. I wish I was brave.

(Laughter)

Milo

It's brave of you to be doing that when you look like that.

Bizly

(Laughs) So brave for going outside like that. (Laughs)

Milo

Oh my God.

Grizzly

I would like to start the recap with you guys for what happened last session. Total Monster Kill.

Condi

I don't know if I want to anymore.

Grizzly

Episode two. No, please, guys, can we please play the game? I mean, I stood up. I didn't stay up, but I was, like, writing for a few hours yesterday and it took me a long time because, you know, I didn't know what to write down. And I really tried my best.

Bizly

Boo hoo.

Grizzly

I try not to write a ton, but I did write a ton on accident. I don't know why. I just feel like I'm nervous for today because I haven't DM'd in a while and-

Milo

Don't be nervous.

Condi

Do you need to talk about it, man?

Grizzly

And and and and and can we do the recap?

Milo

Yeah.

Bizly

Yeah, man.

Grizzly

Okay, so.

Bizly

Last time on Total Monster Kill.

Grizzly

Team Sigma!

Condi

Killed a monster!

Bizly

Team Sigma!

Condi

Team Sigma!

Grizzly

Okay, we're procrastinating-

Bizly

Against all odds!

Milo

Alright campers.

Grizzly

We're putting it off, we're putting it off.

Condi

One! Are we?

Grizzly

Yes. Last time you guys did your first hunt. I want you guys to tell me what you remember from that hunt and how it went.

Condi

We killed a bull monkey.

Bizly

And we tracked down the bull monkey.

Milo

We didn't kill him!

Condi

We captured a bull monkey.

Bizly

We got surprise on it, right? Didn't we?

Milo

He had - he had three - no, we actually didn't.

Bizly

Oh. We tried to get surprise on it, but we didn't.

Milo

Yeah, no.

Bizly

We fought it for a good while and then uhh... We got it pretty low.

Condi

So well, let's talk about what happened before then. We did find an almost dead guy.

Bizly

Oh! I forgot about that. Yeah I mercy killed somebody.

Grizzly

Last time on Total Monster Kill: you found a dead guy!

Bizly

Yeah.

Milo

We found a dead teen.

Bizly

We found like a horrible-

Milo

Two of them were already bones.

Bizly

Actually sickening pile of viscera. And just one half alive, man.

Milo

Half - actually half guy.

Bizly

Yeah. Who was just absolutely-

Milo

His legs were gone.

Bizly

-shredded to bits.

Milo

Yeah, no.

Bizly

And I take a weapon from the fallen and shove it into his throat.

Condi

Yeah that was kind of fucked up that you did that, like.

Milo

The throat, the throat was a crazy - a crazy kill.

Condi

You did it in like a crazy, like, that's a kill you tell your child about one day.

Bizly

Why would you tell your child?

Milo

Why would you tell a child?

Condi

To traumatize - to traumatize him?

Grizzly

Yep, you found a - you found Jackal on the verge of death, he warned you about the necrotic-

Bizly

What was your upbringing like?

Grizzly

Warned you about the necrotic, the necrosis that the - the aura, of the monster and that they tried to get away from it, but they killed them. And you got a - some sort of memorabilia, I think? At least you let - you were planning to let them know about the team so that they could get proper burials.

Condi

Yeah we did let them know, we did let them know.

Grizzly

And then - then you guys found... I don't even think - oh, right. It was the horned primate. That's what I named it and was calling it during the session. This massive monstrosity gorilla plus bull lower half with the horns and it swaying around and fucked you guys up quite a bit. But in return,

Condi

It did fuck us up.

Grizzly

You guys fucking with your teamwork, put up a really good fight and stayed alive long enough for it to start running away. But as it did... Who showed up?

Condi

Alflee Alpha-

Milo

Alf the Alpha elf-

Condi

Elf.

Grizzly

Alf the Alpha elf showed up.

Milo

That motherfucker. He made fun of my cheese habits and it really - I'm still mad about it.

Bizly

I just don't fuck with him. You know why? 'Cause Sigma's always going to rise up above Alpha. Can I get a fucking awo?

Group

Awoo!

Grizzly

Yeah.

Condi

Yeah. Awoo.

Milo

The most uninthusiastic- (Laughs)

Grizzly

He showed up. Alf showed up, he was planning to kill steal. Take all the credit for this, not knowing it needed to be captured or there would be consequences.

Milo

Fucking moron.

Condi

Fucking dumb ass bitch.

Bizly

Typical Alpha.

Grizzly

(Laughs) I feel like the only all three of you survived was a mix between some good plays from Jin, healing from Lucia, and surprisingly Everett losing control going into a frenzy.

Bizly

Yeeeah.

Grizzly

Nearly killing the monster, but didn't.

Milo

Dude, three hp.

Grizzly

Yep.

Bizly

Also, I did realize I basically just stole the feral thing from Dakota.

Grizzly

Nah, this is a little different. It's okay.

Bizly

Okay.

Milo

And then I threw the tranq ball on the ground and (Wheezes) made myself pass out-

Condi

Passed the fuck out.

Grizzly

Oh yeah, that's right. That's right.

Milo

Because I was too close.

Bizly

Did we at one point hold down Alf and put the tranq ball in his mouth?

Condi

Yes. Yeah, I had - I put him in a fucking chokehold.

Milo

Yes, yeah.

Grizzly

That's how you took out Alf. Oh my fucking God, okay. Then you managed to-

Condi

Then it was really funny and I was like, go to sleep fuckin' idiot.

Milo

He was doing damage too.

Grizzly

After the horn primate you - you blew the horn on Master Hawk and a few other hunters showed up, the ones that kind of do like reconnaissance and stuff. They showed up. They took a bunch of the ore that Jin also pocketed as well from the kind of hide or armor of the horned primate. And with the giant eagles sent you guys on your way back as the sun was setting towards the dragon's egg. And that is where we pick up.

Jin

(Inhales) Ughh... ugh-

Milo

Cool.

Grizzly

So.

Bizly

What are you on today?

Milo

Stop!

Bizly

You're making so many nasty noises. Stop!

Grizzly

You guys-

Bizly

What is going on?

Condi

No, dude, I'm just trying to - I'm trying to purge all like the-

Bizly

(Heaves)

Condi

-necrosis from - from that monster. I just felt like I was really close. It was really close proximity. (Heaves)

Bizly

(Laughing) How can you do that just now?

Grizzly

Okay, okay you gotta stop man 'cause I got some mucus buildup in the back of my throat. It's making me a little nauseous.

Bizly

I have the same thing!

Condi

I'm sorry I'm sorry I'm sorry I'm sorry-

Bizly

I have the same thing. And you know how I get it out? I go. (Heaves)

Milo

Stop!

Grizzly

Stop! I told you to stop, please please no more.

Bizly

(Laughs)

Grizzly

Listen, listen- (Laughs)

Bizly

(Laughs harder) Listen, listen, l-listen~

(Laughter)

Grizzly

This is a trigger warning guys, please stop.

(Laughter)

Condi

Oh man.

Bizly

I love you guys.

Grizzly

Timestamp that, put it in the description. Skip past that part everybody. Okay, so... You guys do short rest, because as you're flying on these giant eagles, it is about 30 minutes, 45 minutes, maybe closer to an hour before you guys will get back to the top of the dragon's egg. On your way back during this short rest you guys, the three of you, are in close enough proximity to conversate. If you would like to open up a scene together in the beginning here where you get-

Condi

That's what I was doing, man.

Bizly

No, no! That is what you were doing to start it off?

Condi

No, I mean, kind of yeah. I mean, did you not like it? I mean-

Everett

Heh. Knew you didn't have the stomach.

Jin

(Heaves)

Milo

Oh my God.

Everett

I knew you didn't have the- (Heaves) Stop, dude, stop.

Jin

Dude, it's just- it's just, like, I like really- I really inhaled that thing, like, really a lot-

Everett

No see, you can't do that, Jin. If you start doing that, then somebody else is probably gonna start gagging, too.

Jin

What do you- what do you mean-? (Heaves)

Everett

It's a contagious thing. Don't you- (Heaves) Don't you know?

Lucia

Can you guys stop? I'm gonna throw up.

Condi

(Laughs)

Everett

Don't throw up.

Grizzly

This is at probably the worst time.

Jin

I think I - I got it under control-

Lucia

I can't, I-

Everett

Don't throw up right now, 'cause if you throw up, I'm gonna throw up.

Jin

I'm gonna throw up if you throw up, okay? So don't do-

Lucia

No, please stop. Stop even saying the words.

Everett

Stop, stop. Stop.

Lucia

Stop saying the words.

Grizzly

I'm gonna have to put it in the description of this episode an amp amount of times.

(Laughter)

Milo

So much gagging.

Everett

Everybody- (Heaves) Everybody stop, okay?

There's a lot of gagging. Just skip past it. (Wheezes)

Condi

It's not worth it.

Everett

What's the matter, Lucia? Feeling-

Lucia

I'm good.

Everett

(Heaves) Feeling queasy?

Lucia

No!

Grizzly

No, but seriously you guys, they just like, find dead people and kill a monster. If you want to talk, this is now the time.

Bizly

We're talking.

Grizzly

I'm gonna sit down.

Condi

We're talk- (Laughs)

(Laughter)

Everett

Don't have a stomach for what just happened?

Jin

No, I truly don't. I also, like... Listen, I know I, like, shoved that thing in Alf's mouth. But like a lot of that powder got on me, too. And it does not taste good. Or smell good.

Everett

Hmm. What does it taste like?

Milo

I think I'm covered in it.

Bizly

I scoop up some of the powder off the Lucia and put it on my tongue.

Condi

You are covered in it, Lucia.

Lucia

I - I wouldn't-

Everett

Whoa. I'm seeing colours.

Condi

Are you awake?

Grizzly

It tastes like battery acid.

Lucia

Oh!

Grizzly

You know, when you lick one of those big batteries? It tastes like that.

Milo

Yeah, I'm sorry-

(Laughter)

Milo

You lick a big battery?

Bizly

Yeah, dude, you don't lick batteries?

Grizzly

You've never done that before?

Bizly

I lick batteries.

Condi

You've never done that before?

Milo

No!

Grizzly

When you lick the battery and your tongue tingles and you do it with your sister or your brother or something?

Bizly

Milo, have you seriously never licked batteries?

Condi

You've never licked batteries? That's crazy.

Milo

No! I swear, you - do not gaslight me right now.

Condi

I'd like, putting them in my mouth.

Bizly

It's not! No, it's not, it's not.

Grizzly

It's seriously not. It's seriously not. I seriously did this and so did they.

Condi

I did. Like actually unironically.

Bizly

This is not a bit. It's like, lick- it's like the taste of a coin. Like, you know what a coin tastes like?

Grizzly

Yeah, you've put coins in your mouth right?

Milo

I've never put coins in my mouth. I've probably, like-

Bizly

No??

Milo

Accidentally, like-

Bizly

Dude, it's crazier when you put multiple.

Milo

Tasted, tasted-

Grizzly

It tastes like sour copper. Does that help?

Milo

Well, no. Yeah, I mean I've like - I've like - accidentally, like, touched my hand and my tongue after handling coins before. But I've never intentionally-

Condi

Oh, but you've never like, actually-

Milo

-put a coin in my mouth.

Condi

Really?

Milo

No!

Condi

Oh my God.

Grizzly

You weren't a choking hazard child?

Milo

No, no actually-

Condi

Dude, I was a choking hazard child.

Milo

I genuinely, like. I refused to put many things in my mouth.

Condi

I got a penny stuck in my nose when I was a child.

Bizly

I was a flight risk.

Grizzly

Alright alright alright, I am begging you guys.

Condi

I'm sorry, I'm sorry, it's just like-

Grizzly

Jump into a scene, or I will move it on, dude.

Milo

Uh, Lucia takes a couple coins out of her bag and starts licking them.

Grizzly

Yeah, okay.

Condi

Yeah, okay.

Everett

What are you doing?

Jin

What are you doing? Nobody does that.

Lucia

I'm trying to get the taste of this powder out of my mouth.

Jin and Everett

Does that work?

Lucia

I mean...

Milo

Yeah. She hands you, like, a really warm handful of coins. Like, I've been holding them and they're like a little bit sweaty.

Bizly

Split them with Jin and I put them in my mouth.

Condi

I just, like, touch it to my tongue.

Jin

(Chokes) What?

Everett

Actually pretty good.

Lucia

Yeah.

Grizzly

Absolute fucking freaks, dude.

Lucia

I mean, it distracts me from the taste. That's how.

Jin

I guess that makes sense.

Lucia

You know what I'd really like right now?

Jin

What's that?

Lucia

A grilled cheese.

Jin

Ohhh, I would kill for a grilled cheese after that one. And you know what? I'm just hoping that maybe Alf is a little bit more permanently tranquilized, because, like, I just don't think I could see his face right now.

Lucia

Jin that's called being dead.

Everett

Would that be such a bad thing?

Condi

(Laughs)

Lucia

I mean, I don't want him to die.

Everett

If he were passed on to another plane. I think about it sometimes, looking up at the stars. Where do they go when I send them there? Where am I truly sending these creatures?

Jin

Have you ever talked to a therapist?

Milo

I look over to Jin.

Everett

The look in their eyes... The way the light leaves...

Jin

No seriously, like, therapy. I mean-

Everett

Surely the light goes somewhere.

Jin

It comes for free. Like, it's part of the benefits of being a hunter. You know? You can just, like, go talk to somebody about these things.

Everett

Or maybe, like, a flame. It just... (Blows out)

Jin

So, grilled cheese? Yeah, I mean...

Milo

Lucia's just, like, tuned out.

Everett

We made a mistake luring Alf there.

Lucia

How did he even get there?

Jin

That's a good question, honestly.

Everett

Clearly he finished his hunt-

Lucia

Did he, like-?

Everett

-and joined us on ours.

Milo

I'm trying to remember if we saw him before we hopped on.

Bizly

We told - we literally told him like where we were going, kind of.

Condi

We did, yeah.

Milo

Did we tell him?

Bizly

Dude, we showed up into his room and beat the shit out of him with cheese or something-

Condi

And we were like 'Hehe, show up to ours! 'Cause we're gonna-

Bizly

And we were like 'we're gonna be there.'

Condi

'We're gonna be there. Show up, dude.'

Bizly

Yeah. We fucking told him.

Lucia

I'm just wondering how he got there.

Condi

We threw some fucking cheese at that motherfucker, dude.

Everett

It's no matter how he got there. What matters is he showed up. I'd hope to use him as bait, but he was simply a distraction from our goal.

Jin

Yeah, I mean, it could have been funny. But, uh - I don't - I don't like to think about what could have happened - if he actually killed that thing - to us.

Everett

Or if I had.

Lucia

What happened back there.? I mean, like, what - what makes that happen? What you did, Everett.

Jin

That's a good question.

Lucia

Because that was dangerous.

Everett

I understand, Lucia.

Jin

You also, like, attacked me the one time.

Milo

Lucia like, kind of shivers thinking about it.

Everett

I understand that I wield a power unlike anything else.

Lucia

Ugh.

Everett

That coursing through my veins is a strength unparalleled. And sometimes that strength... Gets the better of me. But today, it allowed us to accomplish our goal. A fact I hope the hunters will see, finally recognize the true way.

Lucia

I just hope you can control it better.

Jin

Yeah.

Everett

I can control it just fine.

Lucia

Really?

Jin

I don't - frankly, I don't believe that.

Lucia

'Cause you looked completely out of control. Were you in control when you ran at Jin?

Everett

Were you in control when you did nothing? When you stood there and watched?

Lucia

Did nothing? I'm sorry, but-

Jin

Actually, I'll have you know that-

Everett

Did you even land a blow on the beast?

Jin

She's the one who - knocked the monster out, thank you.

Everett

Yes. You came in and cleaned up. Real hero. A real hunter, you are.

Milo

Lucia just shuts down.

Jin

Nice one, Everett. Good one. We wouldn't even succeed that hunt without her. I was getting fucked up out there too-

Everett

She questioned. My control.

Jin

I'm questioning your control, too! Right now! 'Cause, you know, the facts are the facts! You - you did jump at me the one time you attacked me on our first trial mission together.

Everett

That was different.

Jin

Why? How? How is it different?

Everett

I don't know.

Jin

You almost killed the monster this time. I'm not convinced that you have full control when that - that shit happens.

Everett

Look, did we accomplish our mission?

Jin

Yes. Just barely.

Everett

Then that's all there is to it. We did what... More seasoned hunters than us could not.

Jin

Hmph.

Grizzly

The wind is kind of blowing past your ears when you're hearing the flap of multiple giant eagles and hawks flying through the sky. They're pretty spread out, keeping the different hunting parties separate in this moment and also just giving themselves enough space to fly. But I'm gonna have each of you roll a Perception check.

Condi

That's an 18 for me.

Milo

9, 9.

Bizly

I got an 8, but it's because my hair is - and the way that it's blowing and flowing. It just looks super stoic and serious and cool, but it's covering my eyes so I can't see a lot. But I look cool while I do it.

Milo

A plus five, and I got a fuckin' ten.

Grizzly

Oh my God.

Milo

Yeah, I'm also - I'm - I'm sitting there, but I'm like - I look really cool, but I'm just like - I'm kind of sad, so I'm just looking down.

Bizly

Why are you sad?

Milo

Shut the fuck up! (Laughs)

(Bizly giggling)

Grizzly

So, with your Perception checks... I mean, Everett... With the hair blowing in your face, you can really only notice that both of your party members have kind of turned away from you. Lucia and Jin... Lucy, you are looking down, so... You would kind of notice this, but not really. You're, like, conscious. It's just something you subconsciously notice, passively.

Milo

Mmhm.

Grizzly

But Jin, you are acutely aware that - while there's a bunch of giant eagles flying, the hunting parties that have finished all their hunts - you know you're not seeing hunt Master Hawk returning with you guys. And the sun is fully set by this time. It's a beautiful night. You start to see the giant dome of glass, the dragon's egg, come into view just below you as the eagles descend. And above you, clear skies. Beautiful numerous bright stars, some different colors. Red, green, yellow, purple, blue stars in the sky. And a giant fool moon with a small, little, tiny second moon of golden hue right next to it. Eventually, you guys descend and (several vwoops) that's the sound you guys hear as you pass through the glass, some sort of magical barrier. And one by one, the giant eagles land here at the very top of the hunter's spire, the hunting parties return. Team Sigma returns! Has made it back home.

Condi

We are back! I pose with a flex.

Grizzly

You guys all land kind of together again in this huddle. And as you are seeing the rest of the parties land, a few things happen kinda all at once.

Condi

Uh huh.

Grizzly

First things first. Jin, you notice that one of these giant eagles is carrying some sort of stretcher made from a simple cloth tied to wood with rope and resting in it, covered in bandages, soaked an extreme amount of crimson around the nub of a lost leg... You see Trey.

Condi

Fuck! What? Does it look like - is he being ushered off?

Grizzly

They just landed, he has not yet been picked up to be carried down to the infirmary. So if you want to do something, you can.

Condi

Yeah, I probably just like look over and my eyes go wide and say,

Jin

Shit, is that Tr-Trey? Hey!

Grizzly

Scream out.

Condi

I run over.

Grizzly

You rush over real quick. You get next to him and both of his eyes are closed but as you shout his name, they begin to kind of weakly open up. And he flashes you like a, you know, the only kind of like smile he can muster. He says,

Trey

...hey, man. (Coughs) (Exhales)

Jin

Dude, Trey - what - what happened to you?

Trey

I... (Shallow breaths)

Grizzly

And then he just kind of like falls unconscious again and two people picking him up, they say - they look to you, they say - like two other kind of hunters that kind of like wrangle up and take care of the giant eagles here on the top. They look at you as they're picking up his stretcher and they say,

Hunters

If you want to talk to him more, meet us at the infirmary. We gotta get him to Artery.

Jin

Yeah take care of him, please.

Grizzly

And then they start to hurry off with him. Second thing that is happening at the exact same time here is a giant eagle lands and riding on this one, fully awake. (Wheezes)

Bizly and Condi

No.

Milo

No...

Grizzly

Risen from the slumber...

Milo

Ughh...

Grizzly

From the sleep that did not last long enough through the short rest.

Condi

Dude, I wanted to be part of that.

Grizzly

He jumps off the fucking eagle before it even touches the ground and you hear a (thuds). The big thud as his feet hit the ground and he points. He points directly at you, Everett, he says,

Alf

YOU, dude!

Grizzly

I'm totally making the Wonderlust reference, but he looks at you. (Laughs) Dude, you guys need to watch Wonderlust that first episode just fucking dropped. He goes,

Alf

YOU, dude!

Grizzly

And he rushes over to you, Everett. He gets real close to your face immediately pushes - smacks his forehead, right in your forehead. He says,

Bizly

I'm unmoving.

Alf

I've had e-fucking-nough, dude. You... Cheated, alright? You, me, dude? Mono e mono. We're settling this in the fucking pit. One v one right now dude!

Bizly

I just stare at him. Right into his eyes.

Everett

I pity you, Alf. I couldn't imagine living with a brain so small, with a resolve so weak.

Alf

So, is that a yes, dude? Or are you chickening out? Bawk bawk, bawk bawk bawk bawk bawk~

Grizzly

He starts, like, flapping his fucking elbows.

Alf

Bawk bawk, bawk bawk bawk bawk bawk~

Jin

Yeah Alf, bawk bawk. Come on, man. Face him.

Grizzly

People are starting to notice.

Everett

I wouldn't dare lower myself to face you, but I will honor your challenge. In my stead, Lucia will stand.

Lucia

What?

Jin

What? Wait-

Alf

No, dude! Fuck! That! If you don't challenge me, you don't have the right to fucking be here, because that means you're not only physically weak, you're mentally weak! Dude, I'll accept no challenger other than you.

Everett

If I remember correctly, I stood victorious over the beast, and you. You did nothing but endanger our mission.

Jin

Yeah, just so we're clear, I wasn't lying. We were trying to capture that monster, and you almost fucked it all up, Alf.

Alf

I don't give a fuck, dudes! All I know is something weird happened down there, and you. You're out of control, dude. This isn't just a battle of strength. I'm putting my fucking hunter's mark on this battle. If you beat me, Everett? I'll fucking quit.

Jin

Oh, shit.

Bizly

I look over to Lucia.

Alf

I'll fucking call - you'll be the alpha. This is the alpha fucking battle, dude.

Bizly

I want to, like, give Lucia a look of, like, you should do this.

Milo

I should do this?

Bizly

It would be bad if I did this.

Grizzly

At the same time, though, as you're looking at Lucia. Lucia, one of the actual - I've described her before, but never went into full detail, which I can right now. The half elf that is a part of Team Alpha, starts to, like - she's looking at this, and she's kind of, like, rubbing her fingers together nervously. And then she kind of, like, catches your eye contact and looks away, but then tries to muster up a little bit of courage. She starts to walk up towards you, and she calls out to you, like, very sheepishly. She's like,

Half Elf

Uh, L- L- L-Lucia.

Grizzly

And then that kind of gets your attention as - as fucking Alf is trying to get you to accept this duel. And when she's walking over to you, she's pretty thin, like a gymnast, a bit broader shoulders. Like, pale ivory skin, cool bluish undertones, deeply dark blue hair with front bangs that cover the eyebrows. And it's also - she's also got, like, a short ponytail tied with, like, this light colored sinew or rope. And she's wearing - she's got, like, this oversized monster hunting bow strapped to this fitted dark leather armor. She looks dressed to blend into shadows and shoot monsters from afar. And her eyes peek - like, her eyes are bright silver. Like they almost look like two moons.

Milo

Oh, wow.

Grizzly

She kind of walks up to you, she goes,

Half Elf

L-Lucia, um, uh, um... I just - sorry, I just wanted to... Wow, you don't look hurt at all. No, I mean like - other than like, the fear in your eyes. No, no, no, I'm not saying that it's, like, noticeable. It's just that I kind of, like, read people really well? Okay anyways, I just wanted to apologize - sorry, I'm Raven.

Milo

(Laughing) Lucia is like - the longer Raven keeps talking, the further down Lucia's jaw drop.

Raven

(Inhales)

Grizzly

She takes a deep breath.

Raven

Um, I'm sorry about Alf. Obviously, we couldn't stop him when he rushed off when we killed our monster. But uh - and I don't really know exactly what his goals are here, but I just wanted to say I'm really sorry. And...

Grizzly

Do you say anything back?

Lucia

I- T- Uh- (Stutters hard)

Milo

Lucia just kind of starts nodding faster and faster and faster as she's talking to her. And she, I think, kind of instinctively just holds out her hand.

Raven

Uh, um... Okay.

Grizzly

She, like, smacks a high five.

Raven

Cool. So that means, I think we're all... You guys aren't gonna come-

Milo

(Laughing) Smacks??

Raven

You guys aren't gonna come to our room and, like, put a bunch of cheese in it? Or something? Or... Like, is-

Lucia

Oh, was - was that your room?

Raven

We all kind of, like, share - every hunting party shares a room together, same as you.

Jin

Oh, you have to share a room with that guy? That sucks, I'm sorry.

Raven

We all kinda did - we kinda took our hunter's exam together, and-

Lucia

I'm so... I'm so sorry.

Jin

Ohhh. Yeah, sorry. I actually - really, I didn't think about, like, the breadth of our actions beyond how it affected Alf. So I'm really sorry about the cheese.

Grizzly

The third to their hunting party is just kind of like hyping up Alf in the background. Like, jumping out-

Condi

['hype bro' voice] Haha, dude! Yah!

Grizzly

Yeah, they'll say-

Condi

['hype bro' voice] Fuck 'em up Alf!

(Laughter)

Grizzly

I want to make that canon. Okay there's actually like, a fourth guy also hyping him up and that's what Condi just said. The third guy that's hyping up is a lot, lot shorter. You kind of recognize it's the small gnome Pebble from the hunter's meeting.

Milo

Fucking-

Bizly

No!

Condi

No...

Milo

No. He's on the enemy line.

Condi

He's literally on the enemy team. We should kill that guy.

Everett

Pebble, what are you doing over there?

Pebble

I survived, motherfucker! You gotta beat him. You get beat up - he's the strongest guy in the world!

Lucia

Listen, uh... It's all good about Alf. We kind of started it, um... Well, he started it, but then - then - we started, like, another thing and - y'know. And I threw the cheese, and then that turned into the other - anyways.

Jin

Yeah.

Raven

Oh, uh - good. Then, yeah, that's-

Lucia

How do you know my name?

Raven

E-Everyone knows your name. You have... Well, you're blessed by the stars, so... Everyone knows.

Lucia

I wouldn't - say that...

Raven

I mean, um-

Milo

Lucia kind of, like, looks around. Is anybody else looking at her?

Grizzly

I mean, uh - some. A lot of the hunting parties - some are, like, already exiting the top - the peak of the spire here and going down, because everyone's tired. Everyone is hungry. Mostly hungry, not tired, but... But, you know, there are people that - that stare. Especially Alf making a scene. And you catch a few people that look at you, but then look away quickly. Raven just says,

Raven

Yeah, um... Well magic is so rare, I mean... I'd say it's a blessing.

Grizzly

And she, like, puts her arms behind her back.

Milo

I guess Lucia doesn't really - I don't know how to respond.

Lucia

It's just kind of... What I do.

Grizzly

Yeah. Um... Well, anyways, I'm glad that we're all good, and it's nice to meet you as well.

Grizzly

She kind of, like, puts her hand up and gives you a high five, Jin. And then she looks back at you, Lucia.

Raven

Um... Well, I don't know if they're gonna fight, but if you wanted to-

Grizzly

And then she gets cut off as someone else approaches you, Lucia, at the same time.

Milo

Oh God.

Grizzly

And by the way, in the background you just hear, you hear Al,

Alf

This guy's a fucking- he's a bitch, dude! He's not gonna fight me because what? Because- (yapping)

Grizzly

He's just, like, going off. (Laughs) Someone else approaches you at the same time. And it's this, like, tall, slender - it's Slenderman. No, it's this tall-

Milo

Oh! (Laughs) (Lucia scream)

Grizzly

It - kind of looks like a bookworm of a guy. And he's wearing this sort of, like, tapestry hat, I guess? That kind of, like - I don't know how to describe it. He's very covered up, okay? So a lot of his features aren't showing, and he's got really round glasses that are kind of shaded, but you hear his voice as he kind of approaches behind you very silently, 'cause you just feel like a tap on your shoulder

Milo

Lucia like - turns like lightning.

Grizzly

Yeah, I figured. (Laughs) And he uh.

Slender Man

(Clears throat) Excuse me, Miss Lucia. I am standing in as representative while Huntmaster Hawke is finishing her duties. I wanted to let you know, now that you've returned from a successful and dangerous hunt capturing the monster, that Guildmaster Rock would like to see you in his quarters just a floor below. As soon as possible.

Lucia

Oh, um... Okay.

Milo

I look towards Jin and Everett to kind of, like, signal them to come with me.

Condi

Yeah, I'm more with you than with Everett at the moment.

Milo

Is Everett? Are you - are you preoccupied, or are you-?

Bizly

I - there's a lot going on right now I'm not really sure what I should do, uh...

Grizzly

Yeah.

Slender Man

The Guildmaster just only requested your presence specifically and not your party members, Lucia.

Lucia

Oh, um...

Jin

Okay, so we shouldn't come with - that is what you're saying?

Lucia

Oh - okay.

Slender Man

That- [unintelligible]

Lucia

Yeah. Yeah, sure.

Milo

I turn back to Raven and I kind of just like, nod my head at her as a way to be like, 'Thank you. Nice to meet you.' And uh...

Grizzly

This tall, indescript, unknown man walks behind you as well. If you let him usher you. And you guys are following the people that just took Trey off and Jin and Everett, it would actually just be you guys standing up here as all of that has just kind of happened at once. Sorry. I know it was a lot.

Jin

Um. I mean, I can take this guy Everett if... You really don't want.

Alf

(Out of breath, panting) Fuck you...

Grizzly

Fucking Alf's out of breath, he's just been screaming at everybody the whole time.

Jin

I mean, he really just hasn't shut up this entire time. But, like, I feel like somebody - I almost feel bad not beating the shit out of him, you know?

Alf

Why don't you wanna fight me dude?

Milo

(Laughs)

Jin

It's, like, a little pathetic, right?

Alf

Scared you'll fucking kill me? Monster boy?

Crowd

(Gasps) Oooooh...

Jin

Dude, he just called you monster boy.

Everett

I heard him. Jin.

Jin

Okay, I just wanted to make sure you were, like, paying attention. You were kind of like it - you - you're - you had, like, a stare going on.

Grizzly

It does kind of cause, like, an unsettling silence.

Everett

If you wish to move up your funeral. Alf. I will oblige.

Alf

Let's fucking go then, dude.

Grizzly

And then awkwardly, he just turns around, starts to walk down the ramp like a normal person. What do you two do?

Everett

Jin. If I face Alf in combat, if I start that fight, I will surely end it. Whether I intend to or not.

Jin

You think you'll... I mean, lose control?

Everett

That... Creature causes a rage to simmer in me unlike any beast could.

Jin

Just to be clear, the creature in question is... is Alf?

Everett

Yes.

Jin

Okay. I - I mean, I understand. I mean, is there a way you can do this... Without - killing him? Maybe? I mean... I don't know, it feels a little different when we're not using him as bait and just putting him into the line of fire. Just doing it, you know, you're just doing it yourself.

Everett

I'm unsure that I will be able to contain this rage.

Jin

Okay.

Everett

This wild fire within me.

Jin

Do you want me to do something about it? If- If it seems like-

Everett

Alf has signed his own death warrant.

Jin

(Nervous laugh) Okay, man. I mean, yeah. For sure-

Everett

Perhaps he deserves it. But it would compromise my position here.

Jin

Yeah, that's what I was thinking. They've already kind of got you on a little bit of a tight leash.

Everett

Where the fuck did Lucia go?

Jin

Oh, um... Yeah, I mean, Guildmaster Rock, his name was, right?

Grizzly

Yeah, that's Guildmaster Rock. Yeah.

Jin

Requested her. Um, I actually have somewhere I need to go as well.

Everett

What? Did everybody just get missions?

Jin

No, no, I mean... Well, it's - it's my co-disciple. Yeah, he's injured. I gotta check on him.

Everett

Tend to your wounded. I will... brood.

Milo

(Giggles)

Jin

You do what you do best.

Bizly

I go and find, like, an overlook to fuckin' stand on and look out.

Grizzly

(Laughs) Okay.

Condi

That's fucking awesome.

Grizzly

Are you going to go to the training pit where you've been challenged, or will you not do that?

Bizly

After a time... But not right away, no.

Grizzly

Not right away.

Condi

Needs to brood first.

Grizzly

But will you wait for anything in particular or just, like, pass some time brooding?

Bizly

I definitely want to pass some time brooding. I think I'll wait until at least one other person can be present.

Grizzly

Okay.

Condi

I'll probably be pretty quick.

Grizzly

Sure, okay. Alright.

Bizly

I don't want to just, like-

Grizzly

No, that's totally fair. Totally fair. So in that case as you're walking, being ushered away, Lucia, you look back. You see Raven looks a little disappointed by getting cut off by someone, but then quickly kind of erases that expression and then waves at you as Jin does as well when you are being kind of ushered off. You get down... You kind of walk down the spiral ramp that kind of - that wraps around the outside of the hunter spire, and just about a floor or two before you get to the entrance of Guildmaster Rock's sort of inner quarters here that you've been to once before when you first met hunt Master Hawke, or spoke about the horned primates mission or hunt. And the man behind you, his name is Wackelschmore.

(Laughter)

Grizzly

He just sort of-

Condi

(Laughing) He's named - what, sorry?

Milo

(Laughing) Sorry, you cannot drop a fuckin' name like that-

Condi

His name is Wackelschmore?

Bizly

What?

Milo

Wa- Okay. Can we spell it?

Grizzly

So regrettably, I was writing descriptions last night, and then I realized that I forgot Wackelschmore, so I only came up with his name just now and nothing else.

Milo

No, I love it.

Grizzly

But, yeah, no, Wackelschmore is-

Condi

It's a perfect name.

Grizzly

W-A-C-K-E-L-S-C-H-M-O-R-E. Wackelschmore.

Bizly

Were you just listening to thrift shop and got a fucking revelation in your mind?

Grizzly

No, no- But I- (Laughs) I was thinking of-

Bizly

[singing] I'm gonna pop some tags~ [Speaking] Oh my God, I've got the perfect idea!

Grizzly

Okay, so-

Milo

I love it.

Grizzly

As you're kind of walking down here, he explains you that he's normally, like, the head researcher here. He writes down all of the information on the monsters and stuff like that and then passes it to the other guilds or delivers it to the other guilds through, like, the traders and merchants and stuff. He says,

Wackelschmore

I'm (mumbles) Wackelschmore.

Grizzly

Buh buh buh buh buh, and then just talks about all that stuff. But then you guys get to the door, and he just kind of stands behind you and waits for you to enter yourself. After a second, you walk in, and... The room is still familiar. It's very warm in here. The lanterns hang from, like, the

ceilings, some are attached to the walls. It's like a cozy cabin, almost, with how, like... Not prehistoric, but just simple things are made, like, the furniture. Y'know, wooden table, circular, covered in, like, leaves or hay. Log couches with a little bit of, like, stuffed - feather stuffed fabrics for pillows and stuff like that. There isn't, like - really - like a ornament bed in here or anything like that. It's not necessarily where he sleeps. This is just kind of like, his... Study, his private-

Milo

His, like, main office.

Grizzly

-place, yeah. This is where he goes to get away from it all. And in the back corner, you see him. That hulking, massive man. I actually have a sketch for you that you can look at just to get an idea of what.

Milo

(Gasps) Oh my Glob. Woahhh.

Grizzly

Mr Guildmaster - he's a really big dude.

Milo

He's big-big.

Grizzly

And you just see his back in the corner and you hear slicing and chopping, him preparing some sort of meal as you walk in.

Milo

Lucia kind of pats down her dress and her cloak to get whatever crumbs or dust has accumulated on her.

Grizzly

(Laughs) Yeah, you kind of brush off, clean up as best as you can to look a little bit more presentable. Especially dusting off of that sleep powder bomb, whatever didn't get blown off by the wind. And he's just silently preparing some sort of meal. And the door closes behind you and makes you jump for a second. You realize you're here with the man at the top of this guild.

Milo

I like whip my head behind me, look at the door, look back.

Grizzly

But... We are actually going to switch over and come back to you later, Lucia. Jin, you said you were heading to see Trey?

Condi

Yeah, I'm going to see Trey. I need to know what happened.

Grizzly

Of course, of course. And the infirmary, I believe... Let me just check the floor so I got a good idea. You get a good idea of how high up you are.

Condi

We have been there once before.

Grizzly

You have, you have. Yeah, I know. Yeah, the infirmary is actually the third floor out of, like, 50. 50 being the very top, 49 being where Lucia is right now. So you walk around all the way down to the fourth floor. I'd say that there are some ways to get down faster like, kind of like - like the net ropes that you can climb down like you would on a pirate ship or a big ship. With, like, the nets that attach to the sail - that kind of stuff. Um, so it isn't like you have to walk down the ramp all the way down if you don't want to. You can get down quite faster if you have the strength and most people do. So you, uh, get back to the infirmary. It's quite busy, even with Artery, whom you've met before. And I'll redescribe in a second because I didn't give her a big description on first meeting because it was a bit- (Laughs) Even with Artery rushing, dashing from patient to patient, she has to have a few assistants to cover the new injuries from the recent hunts.

Grizzly

It seems that everyone kind of goes out and hunts at the same time, with only a few people that stay back in the dragon's egg.

Grizzly

And you kind of immediately clock the bed that Trey is sitting on, and he is pretty worse for wear. Being attended to a bit by Artery, she does enough to bring him back to consciousness. But when you get closer - to describe Artery a little bit more, Artery the apothecary or the doctor. Being in her presence is immediately comforting for you, for everyone. She has this warmth and vibrance to her that brightens the room and kind of makes you sleepy in a good way. You know, like, when you step outside and the sun hits you and it's, like, just hot enough to feel good but it's not too hot to where you're like 'this sucks.'? That's the warmth that she gives off. Uh, she is a halfling like I said, so she's naturally shorter. Kind of a wider lower half to her - her body shape. She shows a bit of age in her face, forehead wrinkles, freckles near the eye. But her attitude, even with all these sick and injured people, she has more energy than most, than most young people.

Grizzly

She's very cheery. Uh, her skin is dark brown with cooler undertones. Her hair is bundles of dark curls, some white and silver curls mixed in.

Grizzly

And her hair is, like, nearly the size of the rest of her body, growing outwards, pulled back out of her face with, like, a yellow fabric headband. She wears this nice, thick, protective shirt made from animal hide. A decorative shoulder cape with some flowers and scales, belts - her vials and tools wraps around the arms and like, this long apron dress. She sees you come in, and she smiles real wide, super bright.

Artery

Oh! It's good to see you again. I assume that you're gonna visit-

Grizzly

And then she kind of, like, gestures over to Trey.

Jin

Yeah, um... Is he doing okay? I mean...

Artery

Uh - well, you know what? I'll let him tell you himself, yeah. He... He's alive, which is good. He's breathing normal, all the vitals are stable, however he is-

Grizzly

And then just kind of, like, flexes his uh, his leg a little bit. And he goes,

Trey

Agh-

Grizzly

Like, winces.

Artery

-missing a leg! So - that's-

Jin

Yeah...

Artery

That'll have to be dealt with at some point.

Grizzly

And then she kind of-

Jin

Yeah, so is that like- l-like, that's like a fixable thing, right? Like, you can just reattach legs?

Artery

Oh no. I mean, most of us can't really do that here, but I guess if we were able to get in touch with - he could probably get sent back to the mainland where all of the magic healers kind of, like, correlate into one spot, and there's not a ton of them. But if he could get there and he could get them to heal him or recreate his leg or something like that, they kind of have that kind of power. I don't know, I've never been there. I've been here for, like, most of my life-

Grizzly

And she's just, like, going off.

Jin

Yeah, yeah...

Grizzly

You get the idea that he would have to leave.

Condi

He would not be able to continue being - not right now, at least.

Grizzly

Mid conversation-

Condi

I pull up a chair.

Grizzly

For sure, yeah. She actually just rushes off to the next patient while talking to you still, and then-

Condi

Is still talking. I just, like, tune her out I think. At some point.

Grizzly

(Laughs)

Jin

Hey man, I mean... Must have been a crazy monster to get you, huh?

Trey

(Weak laugh) I guess so, man. It was uh... Like a - crocatreese? Some weird alligator, chicken, bird. Is it...

Jin

A crocatreese? That's...

Trey

It was swampy and, like, you know...

Jin

Yeah. I mean... Hard to move around in conditions like that. How'd it... I mean, how'd it get you? I mean, did you end up getting it? Like, should I see the other guy kind of thing? Like...?

Grizzly

Stares off for a second, like, kind of past you.

Trey

Man, all I can think about right now is how disappointed the master is going to be.

Jin

She's not going to be disappointed. She's just going to be - happy you're okay. At the end of the day, no matter what the hunt is, our lives are still important.

Trey

Shit, dude, it was... I mean, it's a blur, but like - my first hunt, the first one and it's not even - it wasn't supposed to be dangerous. And it wasn't, it wasn't hard. It's not like it was above my skill level. She's gonna be disappointed. And you know what's worse, man? I... I was thinking about it on the way here. She'll be disappointed. Sure, she'll be mad. The worst part is, is I...

Grizzly

He kind of like, looks down at his leg.

Trey

You remember when we'd fuck up and she'd send us on those long runs?

Jin

Yeah, 10 km, sometimes 20 if it's really bad. How could I forget?

Trey

I won't even be able to do that.

Jin

It's okay man, I mean... There's always a thousand push ups. And uh, I mean, from the sounds of it maybe... You know, there's - there's magic users out there who can help you with your leg or, you know, prosthetics have come a decent way. They've - they've learned how to shape wood into the shape of a foot. That's incredible, right?

Trey

That heavy ass wood against these swift monsters? And the materials, the cost. The resources for... Conjuring up a leg, not to mention the travel if I even survive that. Worst of all, I would ever to - I won't be able to be here doing what we trained for, you know?

Jin

There's - I mean, there's nothing you can do about that now, right? Um... The most you can do now is just do your best to get back on your feet.

Trey

That's funny, man.

Jin

I'm sorry, that was like... I didn't mean it like that, um...

(Laughter)

Jin

Dude, that was like really... That was really insensitive of me, I'm so sorry. Dude, I-

Bizly

Some random guy in the background.

Jin

Fuck dude.

Grizzly

He like - he slowly raises his hand and just kind of very softly backhands your chin.

Jin

No, but seriously, I mean... You know, maybe the first hunt was a little rough, but... Doesn't mean it needs to end here. It only ends if - if you really give up hope, man. You can fight without a leg. I've seen - honestly, we've - we've done worse. Master had us tied together fighting things. I'm sure you can find a way to make it work. Just, uh... Just don't want you to give up here.

Trey

Yeah. You're right man, I... it's me who's disappointed. So that's what you would do, huh? Just... If this happened to you, you wouldn't give up?

Jin

I'd find a way to keep going. Unless like, I don't know. Like the second two limbs disappear, then it becomes a problem but, like... one limb I think is manageable enough, okay? I think y... We grew up together. I know you're strong enough to get through this.

Trey

Hope so. I was thinking about those runs, and I remember asking you why you were doing all this. Why you work so hard, never give up. To really - just to... Show me up? It's all about the competition for you?

Jin

No, man, of course not. I mean... You remember what happened to our hometown.

Trey

I do.

Jin

I mean, it was never that shallow. I mean... But in that moment, um...

Condi

He pauses for a moment and thinks about it.

Jin

I just felt so powerless to do anything that was... To stop anything that was happening. Everybody I knew and grew up with either dying or losing their homes. I mean, it's hard to see that and not want to do anything. Especially...

Condi

He kind of cuts himself off there, actually.

Jin

I just - I just knew I had to. Had to do something. The truth is, I don't want to be up here doing something and not have you there with me. You're like my rock, man. No matter what kind of training she put us through, I mean, you were always there doing it with me. And I don't want that to change.

Grizzly

He, like, raises his bandaged hand up to cover his eyes. But you can just kind of see the lip tremble.

Trey

It's so fucking embarrassing. Stop being so cool right now, man. Fuck. (Sniffles) I hate that my first thought wasn't about the people that would need me to carry on. My first thought was, I really don't want to fall behind. I guess... Training with you, that's - that's been my first thought for years.

Jin

Hey, I mean... I know I get competitive sometimes man but it's never really about who's ahead or behind or anything like that. At the end of the day, even if I do get a little bit ahead, I'll be there waiting for you. And, you know... Maybe - maybe there to help motivate you a little bit to keep catchin' up, huh?

Trey

Thanks, man. I try to keep it, you know... Stay optimistic.

Jin

I know it's hard. Especially with something like this.

Grizzly

It's just silence for a moment.

Trey

Come in a little closer, Jin.

Condi

I get a little closer.

Trey

You asked me what happened, and... I gotta tell you, it was strange. I didn't even want to talk about it 'cause like... I didn't... Even now I'm, like, questioning it.

Jin

What do you mean?

Trey

It caught me off guard. I wouldn't have lost my leg otherwise. Looked like just a normal monster, now. Tail of an alligator, head of a chicken, some wings.

Jin

Uh huh. Standard crocetreese.

Trey

Middle of the fight, I had a vision. This is gonna sound crazy. I - so I think... When the monster was weak, it's the one that gave it to me. I saw... I saw the volcano, and then I saw - hybrids.

Jin

Hybrids?

Trey

Between monster and man, dude. Not just intelligent monsters that can speak the languages. I mean like... A new species. A different species.

Condi

Does this sound any familiar to me at all, by chance?

Grizzly

Roll history, sure. Yeah. With advantage.

Condi

That's good 'cause I have a minus one. That's a 14.

Grizzly

Cool. Yeah, sounds... It sounds familiar because... There's a memory that pops up in your head. Two memories. First you think about Everett and what he looks like when he loses himself. Then... You think about a long time ago as a kid, a friend you had. Young, like you. Your size,

pretty human face, skin was kind of covered in scales. It's that... Friend you hung out with a lot. And then he continues a bit while you're remembering these things.

Trey

Yeah, not just the intelligent ones. Like... I saw one. Why, I felt one. This dominating, terrifying presence. Like I was so far beneath it. Felt like I... Was tearing my mind apart, man.

Condi

He's, like, clenching his fists.

Condi

I think as like - as he's like recounting it and I'm like remembering things, my breath probably gets like a little... What's the word I'm looking for? Almost panicked.

Grizzly

Yeah, I know exactly what you're saying.

Condi

And it's almost like - like Jin starts going pale, basically, like he's...

Jin

Yeah, um... And you said it was... H-Human-like, right?

Trey

I think, yeah. Yeah. Hey, man I don't know if what I saw was real, but you have to promise me something man. If it is... You'll kill it.

Jin

Yeah, yeah um... Of course. Hey, um... I uh... I've got to get goin', okay? Um...

Trey

Yeah. Yeah thanks for stopping.

Jin

Yeah.

Trey

Letting me talk with you man, I appreciate it. I, uh... Hope I'll see you again before you ship me off.

Jin

Of course, yeah. I'll try to - try to visit sometime, okay?

Condi

And I think I kind of, like, rush out at this point.

Grizzly

Yeah.

Condi

And then I probably, honestly? (Laughs) You can switch back to whoever, but I think I want to just show up where - where Everett is in his brooding corner.

Bizly

I want to not have moved, dude. I want to not have moved. I've been brooding for 45 minutes.

(Laughter)

Bizly

My hair has been flowing in the wind. There is no wind at certain points, and it still continues to flow.

Condi

That's just weird. That's weird, dude.

Bizly

And it does it angrily, almost like a flame like, whipping around, you know? (hair whipping) Mad. My hair's mad. And I speak to myself, but it's out loud. If anybody walks by, they could totally hear it.

Everett

Has my fate been sealed? Am I destined to lose control? Alf, the alpha elf thinks... Thinks this will be a fair fight, but he knows not the power I wield. The darkness. The pit in my chest. And that when I reach into that chest, what I pull out is nothing short of an abomination. A necessary one, vital to human survival. What's one life lost in the grand scheme? Especially one as vile... as Alf.

Bizly

I crunch my knuckles, I close them.

Everett

No. Our species will evolve, grow stronger in his absence.

Bizly

And I'll walk down to the training pit.

Grizzly

Okay.

Milo

Da da da~ You just start, like skipping down.

(Laughter)

Grizzly

While - when you, as soon as you finish, you look over. Nobody is up here anymore. You're just kind of with some giant eagles and one of them looks at you, turns its head blankly and then just-

Giant Eagle

(Caws)

Everett

Me too.

Grizzly

And then you head down. (Laughs) We cut as Everett finishes the monologue and gets down to the training pit. When you are down here walking around, you can see that - with all the merchants and traders on voyage - the ground floor is packed with hunters, both fresh and veteran alike. Salt and Pepper have the lesser house cats acting as waiters, delivering trays of food to every group or individual. There are some doing physical challenges, tests of strength, push ups, climbing on each other, doing weird acrobats. Others are just kicked back and relaxed, regaling their latest hunts, expeditions or their favorites. But! The focus of this scene as we move through and just kind of like, smoothly transition through Everett's back as he's walking through this crowd of people, to him being in this pit of raw earth, encircled by stone and a cheering crowd. Alf and Everett you, the two of you, oppose each other on either side, walking the perimeter of the circle, waiting for the first to move closer or break eye contact.

Grizzly

And I'd like to just reintroduce Alf with a proper description in this moment as well. (Laughs) Please tell me if you don't want to be here by the way. At any point, you just want to leave? It's totally okay, dude.

Everett

I have to be here.

Grizzly

I know, yeah. Okay, so, Alf guys, Alf is basically Chad Legolas. Or elf Thor. He is thick in every department. Huge legs, yolked pecs, pretty light skin but naturally tanned with, like, warm, orangey undertones. His hair is long and blonde and messily tied up. He's got faded scars all across his torso and an abstract tattoo on his forehead and his nose. And before stepping in the ring, he was wearing pretty minimal protection. A loincloth of rope covered by animal fur, pelts around his waist. A single shoulder pauldron with bone spikes that also doubled as the leather strap for his great sword. But for this, he's casted off all of his armor, including his shoulder

armor, his forearm guards. He's bare-chested. And as he walks, he just kind of, like, both of his pecs flex and pop as he looks at you.

(Laughter)

Grizzly

And, like, the fucking bicep vein is bulging.

Milo

Eww...

Grizzly

He is, uh, it also looks - he's like sweating too - he's oiled up. He does look like a fucking body builder.

Milo

(Laughing) He's oiled up - he's oiled up!

Grizzly

He's like shaking both his forearms like a fucking Henry Cavill scene. Just need you to know exactly who challenged you and what you're up against now so you have the perfect visual. And scrawny Everett, you're on the other side. You can describe yourself if you want.

Bizly

(Exhales) The room gets slightly darker when I walk into it.

Milo

(Laughing) Oh my God.

Bizly

The cheering crowd looks down into the pit and I look up at all of them and I just say,

Everett

Quiet.

Grizzly

Roll Intimidation.

Bizly

Twelve.

Grizzly

Okay. About half the crowd kind of like stops, but a few of them are just like, once you say quiet? Actually, a few of them like start going,

Crowd

Booo! Booo! Fuck this guy! Bah bah bah bah-

Grizzly

You know, they actually turn on you.

Bizly

You see as Everett starts to get filled with these black veins and turn into a more beastly form, his eyes glow a green and he yells once more,

Everett

[monstrous] QUIET. Okay. I take no joy in what must be done here today. Are you prepared Alf, for your final moments?

Alf

I was born for this dude. You know why?

Grizzly

Turns to the crowd.

Alf

'Cause I'm a fucking monster hunter. You... Are a fucking monster.

Grizzly

The crowd was silent when you - when you yelled at them the second time. He says that and they all just cheer.

Everett

[monstrous] I'm what I need to be!

Grizzly

(Laughs) Everett! Roll initiative.

Everett

[monstrous] I'll show you. I'll show you all!

Bizly

19.

Grizzly

Okay. You will be going first, but I need to tell you exactly how this works.

Condi

Get his ass!

Grizzly

This is not a normal combat where you are going to fight until HP drops to zero. Got it?

Bizly

Okay.

Grizzly

This is a combat - a battle of strength. But according to Alf, it's a battle of ideals as well. Because whoever wins this is the true alpha. Or sigma. Or whatever. At the end of every round, the two of you are going to roll Constitution saves. Whoever hits five levels of exhaustion first is going to pass out and lose the one v one. Got it?

Bizly

Okay.

Grizzly

So every round you can do whatever you want. You can describe any action, you can say any dialogue, and you can attack as normal if you want to do actual damage and I will track it if you'd like. But you can do anything. Depending on what you do every round will depend on if you have a bonus or a detriment to your Constitution saving throw. Got it?

Bizly

Right.

Grizzly

Cool. So, in that case, the first round. You are the first to act and you guys are currently encircling each other and you just said your little intros to the crowd and to one another. What would you like to do, Everett James Petalbridge?

Everett

[monstrous] You're about to see what happens when an alpha stands face to face with a sigma.

Grizzly

(Laughter) Oh my God.

Milo

Holy shit.

Bizly

And after saying the cringiest thing I could possibly think of, I'm going to lunge at him and try and dig my claws into him and poison him.

Milo

Ope!

Grizzly

Okay, you just want to poison him. You say that out loud. Let's see. Would you like to roll attack or roll one of your skill checks?

Bizly

I'll roll to attack to hit him.

Grizzly

Okay.

Bizly

'Cause it's basically just the draconic strike.

Grizzly

Yeah, gotcha, gotcha. Okay, go ahead.

Bizly

Need my Just Roll With It dice for this fucking moment, dude. To hit... Natural 1.

Milo

Ope!

Grizzly

Natural 1.

Bizly

Wooow, if only I was using the Just Roll With It dice that I'm not using right now that I'm not. These aren't the Just Roll With It dice that rolled a natural 1, because it couldn't be.

Grizzly

Describe to me how you miss Alf after exclaiming to be, I'm assuming, the sigma. Dude, this campaign sucks.

Bizly

Um. (Laughs)

Grizzly

Yeah.

Bizly

I go to lunge at him but he's so oiled and greased up that I slip like right off of him and I like, like swirl around and I'm oiled up and I'm covered in oil. I'm greased up and I get really slippery and I like,

Condi

Dude, how'd that happen?

Bizly

-flop around. I don't know. I don't know but now we're both oiled up.

Grizzly

You slip right past him, kind of land in the dirt. And as you do, there's so much oil it turns into mud. It's all slick. You get so dirty.

Bizly

So much oil. And my, and my shirt comes off.

Grizzly

And your shirt comes off. If it didn't come off right there, he was gonna rip it off anyways. Just-

Milo

(Laughing) Uh - oh! Oh!

Grizzly

Not like that! Not like that! Oh no! Oh no guys, I fucked up! No - they're gonna draw that now, oh no!

(Laughter)

Grizzly

Oh no! Oh no, not-!

Bizly

Dude. I don't know what else it could have been. Why is it at this point, you're realizing what's happening? Why at this point?

Milo

Alf wants you naked, oiled up, in the ring.

Grizzly

That's not what this was supposed to be dude. Oh fuck!

Bizly

I didn't know what else this was supposed to be!

Condi

And I think I like it.

(Laughter)

Grizzly

Holy shit - okay, you - you fall. Alf just kind of like, glanced at you out loud to everybody and he goes,

Alf

This is what I mean, dude. You're too weak, too lazy to rely on your own physical strength that you would have to FUCKING EARN. And this is what happens.

Grizzly

And then he picks you up and he fucking goes to suplex you. Just gotta roll a Strength saving throw.

Milo

Oo!

Condi

Dude, it's gonna be so embarrassing if this guy kicks your ass.

Milo

It actually - I think that you would genuinely have to, like, let Everett die and make a new character.

Bizly

All right, that's a 13.

Grizzly

All right, 13. You're just going to take a flat six points of damage here. And - but the thing is, is he's going to roll... Okay, he actually did not roll super great, so he won't get a bonus. But as he says that people are, at least right now, the crowd around you guys. The hunters, the people that you work, eat and sleep with are, unfortunately, on his side for the moment. And he suplexes you into the ground. And now is the end of the round. I need you - you rolled a natural 1. So, unfortunately, this Constitution saving throw is going to be at disadvantage.

Bizly

What the fuck? Okay. That's two 8s. So that's a ten.

Grizzly

Okay, a ten. Gotcha. So, you take one point of exhaustion, and Alf passes. So at the moment, he is currently in the lead. It is now your turn. You've just been picked up, suplexed, and embarrassed in front of the people around you. What would you like to do?

Everett

[monstrous] You had a lucky start, Alf.

Alf

Luck schmuck, dude.

Grizzly

He flexes his fucking biceps.

Alf

I worked hard for these, man!

Everett

[monstrous] You think you're so strong with all your muscles?

Alf

I fucking know I'm so strong, dude. These are pure fucking rocks underneath my skin, you twig!

Everett

[monstrous] Well I'm gonna show you real strength!

Grizzly

Alright. Show him real strength.

Bizly

That is a... 18 to hit.

Grizzly

18 hits him, dude!

Bizly

I want to poison the fudge out of him.

Grizzly

He's not wearing armor! Which is a power move! Alright. Is it a Constitution save?

Bizly

I actually don't - well, you just said I could, like, do things. I can only do - I can do poison damage, but I figured it would just-

Grizzly

I'll let you for this, because this is a pretty open ended fight. It's not meant to be just you know, roll to hit, blah, blah, blah, blah. You can really just do anything. If you want to poison him with your poison damage, then I'll have him roll a Con save. Just go ahead and roll, like a d6 for me.

Bizly

D6? Okay.

Grizzly

Yeah, roll a D6 and then roll your damage as well.

Bizly

That's a 6.

Grizzly

Cool.

Bizly

Damage was also max damage. And that's ten damage on both D6s. I rolled a 6.

Grizzly

Shit. Okay, cool. So he'll take the ten poison damage, and then he'll roll DC 16 Con save. He rolls a natural 13, so he is going to pass. He won't be poisoned on this turn.

Bizly

He passes?

Grizzly

Yeah, yeah, yeah. Yeah,

Bizly

Motherfucker.

Grizzly

He rolled a natural 13.

Bizly

Motherfucker, okay.

Grizzly

DC 16, as you rolled the 6. So, there you go. 'Cause you don't have, like, magic. And you're not able to usually poison people, anyways. Okay, do you say anything as you do this?

Bizly

He - was he grappling me?

Grizzly

I mean, you broke free. He, like, suplexed you. Like, so he grabs you and then-

Grizzly

Okay, okay.

Grizzly

-back, like, back bended - fuck, man. No, he didn't fucking back bender. You know what I'm saying, you know what a suplex is.

Milo

He arched his back.

Condi

Seems gay dude.

Bizly

Alright so - alright so my back - so my back was arched and bent as he was suplexing me. I get up-

Grizzly

Stooop, dude.

Bizly

-and I go.

Milo

Aw- (Laughs)

Bizly

And I go.

Everett

[monstrous] Only a weakling would attack from behind. When I'm pounding you, I'm gonna look you in the fuckin' eyes.

Bizly

And I go. And I just try and, like, I stare him in the eyes, and I stab my claws into his chest. And I'm looking right at him, and I'm on top of him and I'm oiled.

Milo

(Laughs)

Grizzly

Okay, okay, okay. Fucking... Awesome. (Laughs)

Milo

[disgusted] Eughh-

Bizly

You set the fucking stage, I'm just dancin'.

Milo

(Laughs)

Grizzly

You successfully knock him down with your punches and it, like, you can see some of the serum that's kind of coating your claws sink into his skin. People see this as well. You're like snarling and compared to him, who's doing a mix between fighting you but also kind of like - he's trying to turn people against you, but your focus is on beating him in this fight with your strength. And you do, and there is a f- there's people that cheer whenever you land your strike, but there's also people that wince. It becomes his turn. Kind of gets up and brushes himself off. He says,

Alf

(Spits) Gonna look me in my eyes, huh? While you're pounding me, dude?

Everett

[monstrous] Yeah, dude.

Alf

Does it feel good... To hurt another human, dude? To feel good? To put my life in danger, to smell my blood, dude?

Everett

[monstrous] Yeah.

Alf

Does it feel good to be a monster, dude?

Everett

[monstrous] It feels FUCKING GREAT.

Alf

Yeah. [calling out] This guy Everett is a fuckin' traitor to humanity, dude. And I'm gonna to prove it here once and for all, dude!

Grizzly

And then he's just going to, like, rush up. Kind of ball his fists up like he's going to hit a volleyball and then swings back and goes to uppercut you.

Alf

I'll show you you don't fucking belong here, dude!

Grizzly

Bam! That is a 17 to hit.

Milo

Oo.

Bizly

Yeah, that does hit.

Grizzly

Again, you just take six points of damage.

Bizly

Okay.

Grizzly

Okay, cool. You take the damage, and before I have you guys roll the save do you say anything back to what he's saying to you?

Everett

[monstrous] I'm what humanity needs to be. There's a reason we're at the bottom of the food chain... 'Cause we're not willing to do what it takes.

Alf

And what exactly is that, dude?

Everett

[monstrous] Anything!

Alf

Anything? Explain it. Explain it, dude. What are you doing that makes you so fucking special? So much better than the fucking rest of us, dude? Explain it! 'Cause apparently my brain's too fucking tiny to understand, dude.

Everett

[monstrous] Well that's something we agree on.

Alf

It's not small, dude. My brain's fucking massive. My brain's fucking massive!

Everett

[monstrous] It's tiny.

Alf

Yours is tiny 'cause you can't explain what the fuck you're doing and why, dude! And how. And who. Where are you, dude? Who are you, dude? You're a fucking nobody. You're weak, dude. I'M the peak of humanity, dude! I'm the alpha!

Bizly

We can keep going, we can roll it now.

Grizzly

(Laughs)

Bizly

I'm just saying that I just want to kill him.

Grizzly

Okay, okay, okay. Have you - actually roll either a Persuasion or Intimidation, he's going to do the same. I rolled a natural 20.

Bizly

16.

Grizzly

Alright. Go ahead and roll your Con save straight.

Bizly

Okay.

Grizzly

So you did good. But the bonus is going to go to Alf.

Bizly

I do have exhaustion. Does that give me disadvantage?

Grizzly

Nope, roll your save only. Nope.

Bizly

Okay.

Grizzly

You would have had disadvantage on the Persuasion or Intimidation, I just forgot.

Bizly

Alright, that's 20.

Grizzly

20? Oh, fuck yes, dude. And he has the advantage here. So... Okay, both of you pass your exhaustion checks. It is a new round here. You've got some missing HP. He's got missing HP. One of you is going to drop either from exhaustion or you're going to kill him. So... It's your turn. What would you like to do?

Bizly

Okay, I'm going to...

Grizzly

At this point, by the way, people are riled up and whatever he's saying, they believe him.

Bizly

Okay. Can I use bonus actions, too?

Grizzly

Yeah yeah yeah. You can do anything.

Bizly

I've been doing one attack and nothing else.

Grizzly

That's fine.

Bizly

So I can attack twice and then do flurry of blows as a bonus action?

Grizzly

Yeah.

Bizly

That's crazy.

Grizzly

Can do whatever you want.

Bizly

Alright, so I'm going to go for a strike on his chest. Nineteen to hit.

Grizzly

Hits.

Bizly

I'm going to go for another slash on his chest with my other hand. That one is a twelve to hit.

Grizzly

Uhhhhh twelve, twelve actually probably just hits, 'cause he's not wearing armor.

Bizly

Okay. And then I'm going to jump over and then scratch down his back with flurry of blows. Nine to hit.

Grizzly

Nine does not hit, actually.

Bizly

So first one does eight damage, second one does nine damage.

Grizzly

Seventeen.

Bizly

And I'm using necrotic damage.

Grizzly

Ooh ho, fuck. As you land these blows and you flip over, you try to scratch him, it's not that you miss. It's that the pain from the necrotic damage that enters into his bloodstream sends him to his knees, his hands and knees in that moment. As he kind of like coughs up a little of this black ichor mixed with his own blood. Yep.

Alf

(Coughs up ichor and blood) (Coughs) (Pants)

Grizzly

And you can tell that this - this damage really fucking - is killing him, basically. And you flip over. Do you say anything else?

Bizly

No.

Grizzly

Okay. As this happens, he sits there for a moment, getting the stuff out of his system as best he can. But he's like panting. And he just says,

Alf

(Panting) ...see what I fuckin' mean? What's wrong, monster boy? Lost so much of your humanity... You can't even stand up for yourself? It's all about the... (Coughs) It's all about the kill now, isn't it, dude?

Everett

[monstrous] I don't have to say a word. I'll prove it through my actions. I'll SHOW THEM. Real. Strength.

Alf

All you're showing them is that I'm right, dude, you're a fucking monster. You spit on the ones who've trained hard, you spit on the ones that have died hard dude.

Grizzly

He stands up, warily.

Alf

If I have to die for them to see that... I'll fuckin' die right here, dude.

Grizzly

He stands there and he just like, looks at you and he's gonna take whatever you do. It's now your turn. I need you to roll a Wisdom save.

Bizly

Right now?

Grizzly

Right now.

Bizly

That is a 19.

Bizly

19. Good, good good good good good. So... He's standing there and you immediately feel something pull at your gut, your stomach, every - there's like an instinct that pulses within you. This prey has left themselves wide open for a strike, a kill strike. And this moment? You smell the blood coming out from his wounds that you have put there and it's almost intoxicating. But you're able to steel your mind while your vision becomes... It was about to be coated with red, sucks back in and you're still in Everett's mind. So you can do whatever you'd like to do. But he just stands there.

Bizly

He is pissing me off. I am going to take the dash action and the charger bonus action.

Grizzly

Uh huh. Yeah, gotcha.

Bizly

I'm going to move back and then run, charge straight for him with both of my hands pushed out to impale him.

Grizzly

Okay, okay.

Bizly

Which gives me a plus five bonus to the damage roll. Do I still have to roll to hit or does he just take it?

Grizzly

You do not have to roll the hit now.

Bizly

Okay.

Grizzly

And you're trying to impale him? With both of your hands?

Bizly

Yes. Yes.

Grizzly

Do - you do want to kill Alf?

Bizly

Um...

Grizzly

In front of everyone?

Bizly

Hmm. I don't really want to kill him, but I want to like... I think what might be better, okay, is if I were to like stab one hand into his arm and other hand into his leg and lift him up above my head. So there'd be, like, impaling parts of him but like, not the vitals.

Grizzly

Okay, gotcha. He'd be quite heavy, so to lift him up, you'd have to succeed on another check for that. What do you want to do?

Bizly

I want to stab him. I rolled a five plus five, so that's ten damage.

Grizzly

Okay, ten damage. Gotcha. Still necrotic damage?

Bizly

I don't want to kill him, non lethal. So no.

Grizzly

So you notice that you're killing him with the necrotic damage, and you - you stop?

Bizly

Yes.

Grizzly

Alright, so just so I'm on the same page here, how do you want to actually impale him, strike him? What do you want to do? You can do whatever you want. I'll even let you grab him over your head if you want.

Bizly

I wanted to run towards him, stab one hand into his arm, another hand into his leg, and lift him up and just kind of throw him.

Grizzly

You just throw him? Okay. (Laughs)

Bizly

Yeah.

Grizzly

Alright, cool. And no - no words, correct?

Bizly

No words.

Grizzly

Okay. You stab through him, you pick him up, and you toss him and he goes tumbling onto the other side, smacks into the stones. And like a bunch of dust kind of like gathers around him and covers up where - very, like, animated - covers where he landed, so no one can see him through

the smoke and the clouds. And you're just kind of standing there. It is at this point that Jin, I'd say you were able to make it to the - the crowd that's surrounding this pit. And you hear, as you're walking through, you definitely hear cheering. There's some shouts of like disapproval whenever Everett, you know, does some serious damage. Like piercing damage, like drawing a ton of blood, and just whenever he makes an action but doesn't speak. People are, like, disapproving and people are murmuring. You actually catch this as you're hurriedly panicking, trying to get to the edge to actually look in. Whispers of, like, just why Everett is here and why he looks like that and like why he sounds like that.

Grizzly

And they're - they're basically talking about this. The stuff that alpha is - or not alpha, Alf. The stuff that Alf is shouting out, trying to convince people that there's this, like, imposter among them.

Condi

Ahhh, dude.

Grizzly

They are getting into that kind of, like, controversy going on in the fight here. You make it to the edge and it is Alf's turn.

Condi

I probably would have been here a lot sooner, but I did probably have a panic attack on the way. So, like...

Grizzly

That is... Yeah, that's totally fair. You um... Get to the edge and you see Alf walking through the dust, just covered in fucking sweat, blood, little bit of black liquid coming from some of the wounds dripping down his chin. The hair now is completely no longer tied up, it's just kind of like messily flowing. It kind of matches the grangliness of - is that even a word?

Condi

Grangliness.

Grizzly

It matches the feral aesthetic that Everett's hair has.

Condi

Heh.

Grizzly

And he just walks forward. He's also jacked, you're pretty jacked too. You realize that Alf is omega jacked. I mean, like...

Condi

Dude, he's more jacked than me? Don't say that.

Grizzly

He does kind of look like an Olympian as he walks through, but he's very... Slow. And he looks kind of weak. And he gets centre and he just kind of like faces off. They're just like staring each other down.

Condi

Ooooo... I don't even know what I do in this situation. Um, I want to see what happens first so let them keep going for now.

Grizzly

Okay. He walks up, stands. Spits out some blood, shouts out to you, Everett.

Alf

Is that all you fuckin' got, dude? (Heavy panting) (Coughs)

Everett

[monstrous] You... Lack the courage. You all lack the courage! You've seen what those monsters can do, yet you still throw yourselves at them like bags of meat. Prepared to die. I'm the only one who's been willing to do what needs to be done to win this fight for good. You need me!

Alf

(Coughs) (Panting) Look at yourself, dude. I don't know much, but you gotta admit you're out of control. And I know one thing, this world doesn't need more monsters.

Condi

Aw shit. I can't even like, argue with him.

Grizzly

Then... He's gonna charge you, just tackle you to the ground. Go ahead and make a Strength save. Actually, sorry, opposed Athletics or Acrobatics. You can do Athletics or Acrobatics.

Bizly

Acrobatics, way better.

Grizzly

You do have disadvantage with the exhaustion.

Bizly

That's eight.

Grizzly

He rolled a natural 9. So you could have won, but rolled just a little lower. He tackles you to the ground and in like a Brazilian jitsu kind of movement puts you in a hold and starts to choke you out. You are restrained and... like restrained by - sorry, never mind. Let me just back up. Not going to describe it like that. You are just restrained. Being choked.

Condi

(Laughs)

Bizly

You really trying to make this heterosexual.

Grizzly

Dude. I'm not, I'm not, I'm not, I'm not, I'm not, I'm not, I'm not. There's nothing wrong with it if it isn't, think about it like that. You guys asked me no romance, okay? This is not romantic. This is serious.

(Laughter)

Grizzly

Back to it. You're restrained, you can't breathe. He's choking you out, you're both on the ground. That's his turn. Restrain grappled. And you guys have this exchange. It's now the end of the round so go ahead and make a Constitution saving throw at the end of the round here.

Bizly

Is that disadvantage?

Grizzly

I would say... Yes because you are currently grappled - in being restrained. But Alf is also just gonna roll straight because he's taken a lot of damage.

Bizly

Okay, that's a 12.

Grizzly

He... rolled a natural 1. You got a 12. So he's going to take two points of exhaustion, you'll just take one.

Bizly

So I take another point of exhaustion?

Grizzly

Yeah. Which puts you guys kind of even at the moment. And now at the top here, as you're being choked. Restrained. Put in such a, like, vulnerable position that you're stuck at? Going to have to have you once again roll another Wisdom save.

Bizly

Okay. That's a... 16.

Grizzly

16? Okay, you...

Bizly

I only got plus one, so it don't get much better than that.

Grizzly

No no no no, look, it's a good roll. You are still in your right mind. But once again that kind of like red begins to cloud your vision before it goes back away. You feel yourself about to lose control because you're almost trapped, cornered in the way. But you steel yourself. You're still in your right mind. But again, these things are kind of like echoing in your brain about being a monster, being out of control. What Jin and Lucia were saying earlier, the danger, and you shouting at all these people that this is what's necessary. Just being completely overwhelmed by Alf's strength. It's your turn, what do you want to do?

Bizly

Um... I'm gonna use Breath of the Dragon and I'm going to open my mouth and a bunch of fire is going to come out.

Condi

(Laughing) You're doing a great job at proving his point.

Bizly

He has to pass a Dex save.

Grizzly

Yeah, he fails.

Bizly

Takes two D6 fire damage. That is 10 fire damage.

Grizzly

Okay, at this point, you just - both of you squirming and struggling. He's yelling out, squeezing your throat.

Alf

This is fuckin' it for you, dude. Last chance you have, man. Pick a fucking side!

Grizzly

And as he says that to you, he's like choking you out and you just let loose this roar accompanied with flames that shoot up into his face. And then you feel his grip weaken as he falls limp behind you. And... The crowd goes completely silent.

Everett

There are only two sides, Alf. My side... Or death.

Grizzly

Wow, dude. Go ahead and roll Intimidation with advantage.

Condi

Dude, I... (Laughs)

Bizly

So that would be a flat roll then, right? 'Cause I have disadvantage.

Grizzly

Yeah, yeah yeah, sure.

Bizly

I should've just took it, fuck. Nah, that's six. That's a six, I got a six.

Grizzly

Okay, okay, okay, okay. People go silent. Jin, before I describe, what do you do? If anything?

Condi

Um, I don't... I don't think I do do anything.

Grizzly

Because what you see down there, Jin is...

Condi

Unless, like, it looks like he's about to kill him? Like...

Grizzly

No, I mean, he's... Uh, Everett, after you say that what do you do? Do you stand back up? Do you look out at everybody?

Bizly

I'd probably stand up and make eye contact with Jin, and like... My eyes would go back normal for just a second. I just look at him. I give you a look of, like... I'm here, it's me.

Condi

Okay.

Grizzly

You do see the eyes of a, like, a sane Everett in control. But the faces of the people around you looking in don't have expressions of relief, but one of... Just unsettlement. People - a few people start to move kind of back and Pebble the little gnome actually goes,

Pebble

Uhhh... Alright, Alpha! [unintelligible] Team Sigma!

Grizzly

Completely by himself, all silent. And then... Would you guys like to say anything else?

Condi

I don't...

Bizly

Wouldn't say anything else.

Condi

I think I just like give a little nod just acknowledging that yeah he is still there, but also there's a... I mean, fuck.

Grizzly

Bebo, anything?

Bizly

No, I just said the fucking hardest bar of my life, I'm good.

Condi

(Laughs)

Grizzly

So then, in that case, we switch back over as this is happening. Lucia, you just entered into the quarters of a Guildmaster Rock. When you walk in and you hear and actually see him prepping this super large fish. It's like a twelve foot long fish, it's like crazy big. He has a large kind of like wooden counter in the back there. You can smell it, too, but it doesn't smell bad at all. It's a very nice fish, just a really good fish and he's fileting it. And he hears you come in and he kind of looks back and you see there's a little bit of like rosiness in his cheeks, kind of blending in with that greenish undertone that I described before. And he smiles.

Guildmaster Rock

Ohh! Well, I hope you're hungry. What do you like to eat? Is fish okay?

Lucia

Oh! Uh, perfect.

Guildmaster Rock

Alright, well just take a seat if you don't mind and I'll... I'll get it on the grill in just a second.

Milo

Lucia's fucking confused, dude. She's like - she's checking corners, she's - like- (Laughs)

Grizzly

(Laughs) Go ahead. Just make, like, a general Perception check here.

Milo

Uh, 13.

Grizzly

13. You're looking around. Nothing seems like out of the ordinary. Uh, but you're starting to check and he notices, and he just chuckles.

Guildmaster Rock

(Chuckles) I know it's, uh, probably a bit nerve wracking to get called by the Guildmaster but I assure you, I just wanted to have a conversation and check in. You know? 'Cause, um... Well, first...

Grizzly

He's still cutting away.

Guildmaster Rock

How was that hunt, aye?

Lucia

It was...

Milo

Is there a window in this room?

Grizzly

There actually is. There is a very large floor to ceiling panel of windows towards kind of the right side of the chamber that overlook the ground floor of the dragon's egg. You can kind of just like barely see, like, this small circle where the pit is where the one v one was - would be happening.

Milo

I kind of glance over at it, and I go,

Lucia

Uh... Good. It went well.

Grizzly

Good, aye. You know, I have a few reasons I wanted to check in with ye, especially 'cause... Magic is one of the most powerful tools. So, during the hunt, was it stable? Have you had any sort of, you know, issues or visions or problems?

Lucia

Well... Um... I guess I just, um... I get nervous, but... That's about it. I, um... I can't do as much as I would like to and... I'll get better, though.

Guildmaster Rock

Aye... Aye, we all feel that way sometimes. Um... You know, it reminds me of the sentiment your parents used to echo. I knew them when they were here. Quite a set of hunters, really they uh... Super brave, strong. They got so close to that - that volcano that sits north of here, and they learned so much. They spoke of, you know the greatest wizard that ever lived also spoke of it but, just... The stars talking to them. Ever felt like the stars are talking to you? Or guiding you in some way?

Lucia

I feel like it's, uh... I feel like it's kind of the other way around. You know, I think I... I think I try to talk to them more than they could talk to me. I wish I could say I did have guidance, but... I feel like I've been... Solo a lot longer.

Guildmaster Rock

Aye. I'm sure that, uh, they'd want to talk to you too if they could. I'm curious, if you don't mind, Lucia. Also, I appreciate ya coming on short notice.

Lucia

Well...

Guildmaster Rock

I know it uh, this is a bit awkward, but... A lot of our hunters with the - the blessing. Well, to be quite frank they're gone now. A lot of them. And uh...

Milo

You can see Lucia's just kind of, like, anxiously shifting in her seat.

Lucia

Yeah.

Guildmaster Rock

Well... It happens you know, hunters... Hunters come and go. That's a bit of the way of life.

Milo

Is it... Is it just me? I mean... How many... How many magic users are here?

Guildmaster Rock

Aye...

Grizzly

He's just like - he's just, like, prepping food silently for a second.

Guildmaster Rock

Too little. Too little. What with the success of that hunt you just went on, you know, a lot more of us could quite possibly be outfitted with weapons imbued with magic. That'll turn the tides. Are you sure you want to be here, Lucia?

Milo

She kind of just whittles with the fabric of her cloak. Hasn't really looked up the entire time.

Grizzly

Yeah, he hasn't looked back either.

Milo

Talking into the floor.

Lucia

It's, um... it's not really about that. I think I just, uh... I think I have to.

Guildmaster Rock

What is it about, then? Because I smell, you know not the same kind of bravery that I normally would, but like a scent of... Fear ever since you walked in, arrived here in Sores. And, you know, I'm not in the business of sending young, blessed hunters out into the field if um... There's not good enough reason. If they themselves don't have the resolve. So I ask... You feel like I have to be here, why? If you don't mind.

Lucia

My parents. They were always doing the most that they could, and... I don't know. When I lost my sister, I just... Felt so... Out of control. I never... I never want to let something like that happen again. You know, if I was just... If I was just there. If I had just done my job like they did... Maybe it would have been different.

Guildmaster Rock

Hm.

Lucia

But I... I messed it up. So I'm gonna fix it.

Guildmaster Rock

Aye. I bet you want to see her again.

Lucia

More than anything.

Grizzly

During this, there's been some like... Searing. Eventually, he kind of finishes this like, platter he's making for himself and then there's like a small plate that he prepared just for you as well. Carries it over on a tray. He kind of walks and then there's like a moment of just... Like a sound. Kind of like trips a bit over, like, the table nearby in front of you as you're sitting down. And a knife falls off the tray that he's gonna use to cut things, but quickly like with like - for a big guy he's really fast. He catches it, catches it by the blade.

Guildmaster Rock

Oh!

Lucia

Oh my God, oh my God.

Guildmaster Rock

Sorry. No, it's my - my fault.

Lucia

No, no no no no-

Milo

Is he... Bleeding? Is he?

Grizzly

Go ahead and roll Perception.

Milo

Oh, God almighty. 7.

Grizzly

7? Uh, he actually sets the tray down and catches it so quickly that you don't notice if he starts bleeding or not. He just kind of like pulls it away and then puts the knife - like very swiftly puts the knife in like a little kind of like, pouch or sheath next to it? And then his hand is, you know, just quickly starts to wrap it up. And you can't tell if he's psych bleeding or not. He seems to be fine and he very like, assuredly asks you to keep... Like, you know. Stay seated, it's okay. That kind of stuff.

Milo

She - she's, like, already, like, halfway out of her seat, and then she slowly-

Guildmaster Rock

No need! I got it. 's alright.

Lucia

Whew...

Grizzly

Would you eat the food prepared?

Milo

Um...

Grizzly

Not in, like, a weird way. Just, like... Would you be hungry or not? 'Cause he's gonna, like, sit across from you and just kind of starts to dig in.

Milo

I think almost just out of, like, respect she would start eating it.

Grizzly

Good. Cool. You share this meal with Guildmaster Rock, and like during it he says,

Guildmaster Rock

I of course would like to have a meal with all the hunters that come in and get to know every single face and name, but um... I won't lie to you, I get tired when so many of them don't stick around. You know, this year especially as more... Hatchlings than there are veterans.

Grizzly

And, uh... You guys kind of finish it. And he walks over to that giant window, the set of windows where - kind of, like, overlooking the rest of the dragon's egg.

Guildmaster Rock

Come over here.

Milo

Lucia would... Very slow approach, but she - she kind of slinks over.

Grizzly

Yeah. (Laughs) You kind of just look out.

Guildmaster Rock

(Exhales) Even after all the losses, there's still a lot of them still here.

Grizzly

As you guys are kind of looking over and seeing the people gathered on the bottom.

Lucia

Don't you think that... The approach could be different? I mean, don't you think it could be...

Milo

She's unsure of how to phrase this because it's like, it sounds ridiculous.

Lucia

Less... Violent?

Grizzly

(Sighs) Like against the monsters, you mean?

Lucia

Yeah. Like, can't we just do what we did... On our last hunt... All the time?

Grizzly

You mean so no one has to die, not even the monsters?

Milo

Yeah.

Lucia

I'm looking towards the pit.

Grizzly

Yeah, sure. You actually start to, like, catch your own kind of reflection in it. He says,

Guildmaster Rock

(Sighs) Ohh... What do you think that would change? Genuinely?

Lucia

I don't know.

Guildmaster Rock

Well, let me ask you another question, then. An exchange. I have thought there could be different ways. You know, like... I ever just caught a good look at your reflection, say, in this

window or in the water. You ever, at that moment, just not recognize your own face? Start doing expressions, smiling? Fucking cruel - grumpy? And just...

Milo

Lucia focuses a little bit harder on the reflection in the window, and... Slowly it almost feels like her face has morphed into what her sister looked like.

Grizzly

Oh. Yeah.

Milo

And... You can kind of see her eyebrows just... She's trying very hard to look like, super chill, but um... Her nose starts to get a little hot. She kind of tries to refocus her eyes through the glass.

Lucia

Yeah.

Grizzly

He continues as you're doing that says,

Guildmaster Rock

Doing all these expressions and just thinking, why don't I look right anymore? And it had me thinking the same... What if there is another way? What if there already is another way?

Milo

I think it would... Lucia would like, look at him.

Grizzly

You look to your left and you notice that he's not standing next to you anymore.

Milo

Ope-

Grizzly

I gotta ask... Does an 18 hit?

Milo

Yeah. Dude, my stomach just dropped.

Condi

What?

Grizzly

(Exhales) You feel a hand, a large one, push you through the window. (Glass shattering) And you start falling forward through your own reflection, and you notice how far down it is below you.

Milo

Oh my God.

Grizzly

And then you just hear behind you,

Guildmaster Rock

What if we're all monsters?

Grizzly

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

Milo

Dude, what the fuck?!

Condi

What the fuck?

Milo

What??

Condi

What?

Bizly

Wh- Wh- Wh-

(Condi and Bizly start making stupid sounds)

Grizzly

Ha ha! That's where we end today.

Milo

You piece of shit, I was about to call that man papa!

(Laughter)

Grizzly

Oh my God. Okay, tune in next episode as Lucia falls through the sky and Jin and Everett are... gonna have something happen.

Condi

Something's going to happen.

Grizzly

Something's going to happen.