Transcript of Dust and Blood Episode 38 - Breaking Baddies

Transcribed by Gale Parker.

[*Dust and Blood* by Arne Parrott plays: *Dust is in my eyes, my blood is on the ground. A quiet little chuckle, and the shuffling of the boots of the coward that shot me down. He turns toward the sunrise, and I hear him softly say I guess you've met your match, old man, as the colors fade to gray…*]

Keith: Howdy Pardners! Dust and Blood is a rabble-rousin', rootin-tootin', bronco-bustin' podcast, not suitable for the ears of youngins! Take a gander at the content warnings and listen with care.

Blake: Welcome to Dust and Blood, a narrative-play podcast set in the wild, weird fantasy west. I'm Blake, your GM, and our players are Keith Curtis as Jasper Graves, Corinne Hill as Myra Sting, Zach Parker as Moz Copernicus Prior, and Gale Parker as Bonesaw.

Last time on Dust and Blood, our heroes raced against time to stop Moz's family, but were captured by Captain Faraday and her gunslingers, including Ernie the transfer!

[Faraday's theme plays.]

Blake: Captain Faraday is sitting at the front end of the conference table. She has her arcane crossbow set down on the table, looking at all of you from behind her gleaming blue glasses. The wall behind you is cracked and still bleeding. Not sure where this blood is coming from, it's coming from somewhere, but…

[Laughter.]

Blake: …concerningly, don't know exactly where. Moz, you're upstairs in a box. The door and everything in the room has basically swapped sides using your Major Image. So, it looks exactly the same except mirrored. And two of the drow gunslingers who were in the building just came up the steps looking for Ernie.

[Gale cracks up.]

Blake: You having fun over there?

Gale: Fuckin' love Ernie!

[Laughter.]

Blake: Important note, also, on that top floor, you blocked up the vent that was there. That super suspicious large fucking, like… circular vent that was in the middle of the floor?

[Laughter.]

Corinne: Ah-huh.

Zach: Yeah, I put a big heavy box!

Blake: Yes, you did!

Gale: [laughing] From–from below, Moz just hears a—[*thump!*]— 'Ow!'

[Laughter.]

Blake: Okay, let's start off with the crew in the conference room. Faraday just looking at all of you and say—

Blake (as Faraday): So, you've come to warn me about a heist… by coming in, trying to break in with a heist… of your own?

Gale (as Ash): All we did was knock on the door.

Blake (as Faraday): [done with this shit] Okay. *You* were disguised as me.

[Sniggering.]

Blake (as Faraday): She was climbing up the wall—

Blake: —pointing at Myra—

Blake (as Faraday): —and *he…* I don't know where you came from. You were… You just melted out of the wall.

Gale (as Ash): We thought we'd get farther with some.. help.

Blake (as Faraday): Uh-huh.

Keith (as Jasper): We have run into considerable resistance while trying to do the right thing many times in our past. We've gotten into… perhaps an unfortunate habit of trying to control events uh, a little too much, perhaps. Maybe we could start over.

Blake (as Faraday): I would agree with that. Now, you understand that this is probably one of the most protected places outside of Galloway's pocketbook in this town, right?

Keith (as Jasper): Understood.

Blake (as Faraday): I also would like to know why that wall is bleeding after I asked what your name was? That spell isn't that powerful.

Gale (as Ash): Names are powerful things… inherently.

Blake (as Faraday): Oh gods, you're one of those people… [sighs.]

[Laughter.]

Keith (as Jasper): All right, I'm going to–I'm going to put some cards on the table here, but uh, I'm trying not to get some people hurt. Uh, we were asked by an unnamed person who's going to continue to be unnamed, 'cause they ain't in this room, to try and stop this heist, but uh, this person who hired us has a desire not to see the… they want to foil the heisters, but they don't want no one to get hurt. We had a feeling that if this heist went on as whoever it was had planned, that folks was going to die. And uh, we wanted to avoid that at all costs, being as we are civic-minded persons. Uh, so yeah, we uh, we–we tried to come in perhaps just a little bit too much uh… a little bit too high on the subterfuge, I would guess.

Blake (as Faraday): I would agree with that.

Keith (as Jasper): My name's Jasper Graves1

[Laughter.]

Blake (as Faraday): Jasper Graves. Hm. Interesting. All right.

Blake: And she lifts up her glasses and rubs her eyes.

Blake (as Faraday): When is this alleged heist supposed to start?

Keith (as Jasper): What time is it now?

Blake: Captain Faraday pulls out a way-too-intricate pocket watch and like, flicks it open. It's almost as big as her hand, and she looks at it and says—

Blake (as Faraday): Uh, about a quarter till noon.

Keith (as Jasper): Uh, well, I would suggest that whatever precautions you have planned uh, to foil any would-be perpetrators, you best get them underway immediately. You got about fifteen minutes perhaps.

Blake: Faraday sits back in her chair, looks over at the drow gunslinger, and kind of gives him a little nod, and he exits the room.

Gale (as Ash): If you agree to non-lethal force, you can consider us at your service. We have… specialized skills.

Blake (as Faraday): Specialized skill—? [snorts]

[Gale laughs.]

Blake: She just laughs a little under her breath and just says—

Blake (as Faraday): You know, I'll give you credit for the ingenuity. I've never seen a heist pulled this way before. Mostly because it's the stupidest way to pull off a heist!

Keith (as Jasper): Well, ma'am, to be fair, if we had been intending a heist, this wouldn't be the way we would have gone about it. Uh, we are not thieves. Like I said, we're here to uh, reduce the amount of bloodshed.

Gale (as Ash): I had mentioned a peace offering, I believe…

Gale: Asherel will pull out the engineering notes that Bonesaw stole on the train—

Corinne: Oo!

[Keith laughs.]

Gale: —and scoot them over. They are of the arcane engine, and he will say—

Gale (as Ash): We have no need of pulling a heist ourselves.

Corinne: Nice!

Blake: Faraday is going to get up, grab the sheets, take a look, take a moment, give a whistle, and Alexandra Voltaire steps in, her goggles still up. Faraday holds out the papers and say—

Blake (as Faraday): This look any good to you?

Blake: Alexandra takes them, looks, flips through, her eyes going a bit wide as she says—

Blake (as Alex): Oh! This is…! I mean, this is an interesting approach. Um. Oh, oh, oh. Oh, no. Yeah, this would blow up the third time that it was used.

Gale (as Ash): Perhaps we should have left it with your competitors then.

Blake: Faraday takes a moment and then just laughs and says—

Blake (as Faraday): Oh, if that's what they're trying to pull up here on the surface. Then they can keep it.

Blake: And gives Alexandra a little wave. The three of you give me a Perception check as Alexandra steps out the door.

[Dice rolling.]

Keith: [laughing] Thirty-five!

Corinne: Oo!

Blake: Well, shit!

[Laughter.]

Gale: I got a twenty-three, Myra got a fifteen.

Blake: Jasper and Bonesaw, you see, just as the door is closing and uh, Alexandra's walking out, you see two new people enter the main corridor.

Gale: Oo!

Blake: Reggie and Chedders, as the door swings shut.

[Faraday's theme swaps for a sneaky tune.]

Blake: Moz, as you're sitting there, you hear the two drow gunslingers shooting the breeze of like—

Blake (as gunslinger 1): I thought you said the new guy was up here?

Blake (as gunslinger 2): Well, he's supposed to be.

[Laughter.]

Blake (as gunslinger 1): Gods, I hate the new guys! They always come up and then they disappear… I swear.

Blake: One of them sounds like they're striking a match, lighting up a cigarette.

Blake (as gunslinger 1): Oh, you get a chance to see what that new engine does?

Blake (as gunslinger 2): Yeah, it's pretty cool. I mean, it's nothing compared to the stuff we've got going down underground right now. I mean, this is base level shit.

Gale: Mhmm!

Corinne: Hm!

Blake (as gunslinger 2): Bet you I could hit that bird that's out there.

Blake (as gunslinger 1): Through the window? No, come on, man.

Blake (as gunslinger 2): No, no, no! I got this, I got this! You ready?

Blake (as gunslinger 1): Don't fire your gun inside! It's gonna be way too loud!

[Laughter.]

Blake (as gunslinger 2): No, no, no! I got this! I got this! I—!

Blake (as gunslinger 1): No! Don't fire your fucking gun! [sighs] I swear, you guys are just…

[Laughter.]

Blake: And it's basically going to go like this. At one point, one of them says—

Blake (as gunslinger 2): Hey, I thought the vault door was on the other side?

Blake (as gunslinger 1): No, no, no. It's always been on the right.

[Laughter.]

Blake (as gunslinger 2): Are you sure? I could have sworn it was on the left.

Blake (as gunslinger 1): No, it's definitely—God! You don't pay attention at all!

[Laughter.]

Blake: Give me a Perception check, Moz.

Zach: Sure thing!

[Dice rolling.]

Gale: Not bad!

Zach: Twenty-six!

Blake: Twenty-six?

Zach: That's solid!

Corinne: Oo!

Blake: From inside your box, you hear some scuffling. Almost sounds like it's coming from below the floor. And then you hear a—[*Thump*]—[*confused pause*]—[*Thump*]—[pause]—[*thump–thump-thump-thump!*]—

[Everybody laughs.]

[Sneaky music fades back into Faraday's theme.]

Blake: Faraday says—

Blake (as Faraday): Look, you can ask me to be non-lethal, and I can try all I want. When it comes down to it, my goal is to protect the engineer first, that engine second, and then the property third, myself fourth, my people fifth, the other representatives sixth. You guys aren't really on the list, and whoever is heisting this, are lower than you. I just want you to understand where all of this ranks if it comes to a shooting match. Do you know what this heist is supposed to be? What it's supposed to look like?

Keith (as Jasper): Well, no, but I have a good idea that the people who are doing it are right outside that door right now.

Blake (as Faraday): The people that are right outside the door?

Keith (as Jasper): Well, caught a glimpse of 'em when the door was open.

Blake (as Faraday): Oh, really? Okay. Let's play along. Who do you believe is out there that is doing this right now?

Keith (as Jasper): Well, I did catch sight of a couple of ratfolk out there who uh, if they're in here, they ain't who they're pretending to be. Otherwise, they wouldn't have got through your security.

Blake: Faraday taps on the table, nods her head a little, and says—

Blake (as Faraday): Okay, okay, fine. You all stay in here. You move out of here, can't guarantee you won't end up with some bullet holes in you, or bolt holes.

Keith: Eh—

Blake: She walks past—

Keith (as Jasper): —wouldn't be the first time.

Blake: —pays a quick glance at the blood-smeared wall and then steps out.

Gale: As Faraday heads out, Asharel leans over to Jasper and says—

Gale (as Ash): I would remind you I am very, very low on supplies for healing the likes of us. I would not provoke…

Keith (as Jasper): Yeah. Yeah, that is true. I'm also–I'm also a little concerned about the whereabouts of our ironmongery at the moment.

Keith: Uh, what happened to our uh, weapons when we were taken in? I–I remember Ash divesting themselves of all of uh—

Gale: [laughing] —like, fifteen bombs!

Keith: —all of Bonesaw's bombs and weapons and garottes—

[Laughter.]

Blake: Yeah…

Keith: —poisons and various accoutrements of destruction.

Blake: One of the drow gunslingers would have taken it and stashed it around the corner from what you saw, they didn't go up the stairs, but there's kind of, you guess, there was like a little storage area back there ,just a little bit south of you guys on the other side of the wall.

Keith: Okay.

Blake: Faraday takes a moment to look over Bonesaw and Jasper. Door open, before she signals the same gunslinger that bummed a cigarette off of Jasper. He steps back inside and leans up against the wall, very casually. He's–he doesn't seem to be super concerned as Faraday steps out. You guys figure you probably have a minute or so before anything else is going to happen.

Keith: I'm going to look over at the guard in the corner and says—

Keith (as Jasper): Hey, I'm not uh–I'm not up to anything, but uh just in case lead does start flying, I'm going to shift my seat, if you don't mind. Get away from that there door.

[Laughter.]

Keith: I'm gonna move over to here.

Blake: The gunslinger just shrugs and says—

Blake (as gunslinger): Sure, whatever.

Gale: Ash will take Jasper's lead and come around the table on the other side and say—

Gale (as Ash): That is very smart.

Gale: They're holding a hand to where they got impaled through the shoulder to the wall earlier and are still sort of bleeding in a slow trickle. Actually, can I roll a Heal check?

Blake: Yeah.

Gale: I always forget I can do that for healing. Magic is so much easier!

[Laughter.]

[Dive rolling.]

Gale: A twenty-three.

Blake: Nice. I believe that beats the DC for it.

Gale: I'll look up what that gets me.

Keith: While you're looking that up, I'm going to reach inside my duster and say, uh—

Keith (as Jasper): Here Ash, why won't you have a slug of this?

Keith: I'm going to hand Ash, as long as I'm not stopped, an Inflict Moderate Wounds potion.

Gale (as Ash): Are you sure, Jasper?

Keith (as Jasper): I have a Moderate and I have a Light on me.

Gale (as Ash): We might need it later.

Keith (as Jasper): Ash, if you don't take it now, there might not be a later for you.

Gale: Ash will take it carefully.

Gale (as Ash): Thank you.

Blake: The drow gunslinger doesn't stop you, he's just still watching…

[Dice rolling.]

Gale: Oohoohoo!

Blake: Damn!

Gale: I got max healing out of that potion!

Corinne: Nice!

Gale: Rolled two eights!

Corinne: Thank god!

Keith: You're welcome!

Blake: Give me another last Perception. Let's do everybody.

[Dice rolling.]

Keith: Oh, even better! Thirty-nine!

Gale: Hohoh, seventeen!

Zach: Oof! Wow, wow!

Gale: Beautiful thirty-nine!

Corinne: Twenty-three!

Gale: Ahh!

Zach: Jasper with a casual thirty-nine!

Corinne: Jeezus!

Blake: Dammit!

Keith: Thirty-nine!

Zach: Christ!

Corinne: Wow!

[Keith laughs.]

Blake: Okay, everybody except Bonesaw hears the first bit. Jasper, you're going to get extra. You all hear what sounds like crying out, like somebody is hurt coming from what appears to be downstairs. It sounds pretty bad, someone's banging on the door. Moz, upstairs you hear—it seems like Faraday's voice, but she's not on this floor? Come out and tell one of the drow gunslingers—

Blake (as Faraday): [radio] Go downstairs, check it out, see what's going on.

Zach: Do I recognize this as some sort of illusion?

Blake: From what you can tell, her voice is kind of high and tinny?

Zach: Mhmm?

Blake: It sounds like her voice, but more like if you were talking through a…

Zach: Like a microphone?

Blake: Yeah. What we in our modern age would think of as a walkie-talkie or something. But y'all's characters wouldn't necessarily have context for that.

Zach: Mmkay. So, some–some type of technology or…?

Blake: Communication device.

Zach: Okay.

Blake: It–it doesn't sound perfect enough to be a illusion, basically.

Zach: Mmm.

Blake: Those of you in the room, Jasper in particular, hears Captain Faraday say this, but she's on the same floor as you guys. And as you hear several sets of footsteps running, you hear Chedders through the wall go—

Blake (as Cheddars): What is all this? You… [sighs] I thought we were supposed to start the demonstration now!

Blake: Faraday responds—

Blake (as Faraday): Nothing. Just some sort of incident that we're looking into.

Blake: Jasper, because you rolled so well, you're going to hear some of the stuff that is going on on the floor above you that Moz is privy to, but nobody else hears. You hear what sounds like the breaking of glass. One of the windows upstairs was broken in. And as the drow gunslinger goes over, Moz and Jasper, you hear a—[*thunk!*]—as they are pulled up against the bars and knocked out.

Gale: Oo!

Zach: Shit!

Keith: Jasper will sit bolt upright—

Keith (as Jasper): It's started.

Keith: —and he's looking at the guard. Is the guard reacting at all?

Blake: The guard is a little bit at, like, he went from relaxed and leaning back to, he's stood up, holding his gun at attention, waiting for orders, but currently, it seems his orders are keep an eye on you three.

Keith (as Jasper): Someone broke a window upstairs. They've been attacked. Open your ears, son! Can't you hear nothing?

[Laughter.]

Blake: The gunslinger is going to, still keeping an eye on you, reach down and pull a metallic box out of their chest pocket, and press what appears to be a button on it and say—

Blake (as gunslinger): Faraday, prisoners are saying it's going down. Keep an eye out.

Gale (as Ash): Did you want to inform her of the window? Jasper has exceptional ears.

Blake: He looks and says—

Blake (as gunslinger): —saying that a window was broken upstairs.

Keith (as Jasper): Thank… Thanks, Ash!

Corinne: Aww!

Gale (as Ash): As I said, special skills.

[Corinne chuckles.]

Blake: Moz, you hear a whisper that you immediately recognize as Monty's voice—

Zach: Mhmm.

Blake (as Monty): Cotija? Cotija, where are you? Get your skinny ass out here! Why aren't you—?

Blake: And you hear Cotija's voice from under the boxes—

Blake (as Cotija): There's boxes that aren't supposed to be here!

[Laughter.]

Blake: Monty just says—

Blake (as Monty): I–If I break through this window…[sighs] Okay, do you think you can get through that vault in less than a minute?

Blake (as Cotija): Yeah, I can do it, probably.

Blake (as Monty): Okay.

Blake: And you hear a wrenching noise as Monty—

Zach: Prepping an action!

Blake: Got it. —as Monty is trying to crack through the bars and get in. Moz, what are you doing?

Zach: The moment Moz is convinced uh Monty has made it inside, I'm assuming there's some sort of alarm or response that will be cleared out. So, Moz wants the alarm to be sounded, but he's going to burst out of the box and he's going to cast a spell on Monty as he's entering through the window.

Blake: As he's entering through the window?

Zach: Correct.

[Gale giggles.]

Blake: Okay. All right. Shit… I need to get Yackety Sax ready for this.

[Laughter and Corinne scatting Yackety Sax.]

Blake: One of the drow gunslingers that went downstairs calls up to Faraday—Jasper, you're just hearing all of this—

[Gale laughs.]

Keith: OKay!

Blake: —Like, your ears are fucking on point. You hear—

Blake (as gunslinger): [radio] There's a young woman out here, got herself attacked. She needs help. Her brothers are still getting attacked. Should we go?

Blake: Faraday takes a moment, looks around.

Blake (as Faraday): Keep an eye on her. Don't leave.

Blake: The drow gunslinger comes on, on the radio again and says—

Blake (as gunslinger): [radio] You sure? It sounds pretty bad.

Blake: And Faraday responds—

Blake (as Faraday): Stay on point. Upstairs, Reginald, what do you got?

Blake: Silence

Blake (as Faraday): Reginald?

Blake: And Moz, you're hearing this her voice coming from what you presume is the downed body of the gunslinger upstairs.

Zach: Mmm….

Blake: After about fifteen seconds, Monty finally breaks the bars.

Zach: Okay.

Blake: Immediately, an alarm goes off. Just—[*boop, boop, boop, boop, boop!*]—and he crawls in, starting to get ready to do the boxes. What is your spell that you drop?

[Gale snorts.]

Zach: I'd actually like to intercept him right as he's on the window frame.

Blake: Okay?

[Laughter.]

Zach: There–there's–there's a, there's a good reason. There's a good reason.

Blake: Yep!

[Ernie's swinging theme starts up.]

Zach: So, Moz will pop out disguised as Ernie.

[Gale giggles.]

Zach: —just looks very disheveled, almost as if he's been taking a nap. And will–will look over towards Monty, who I'm–I'm assuming is some manner of surprise?

Blake: Oh yeah! Very surprised! Like, you just came out of the box and he's like—

Blake (as Monty): Huh?

Zach (as Ernie): [muppet voice] You're not supposed to be here!

[Laughter.]

Zach: —and Moz well cast Sonic Thrust.

Corinne: Uh-oh!

Zach: —but before he rolls, he's going to do a Perform check using his uh signature skill to increase the DC by one, assuming he passes.

Blake: Jesus christ...

Zach: Uh, but effectively, if this spell succeeds, Monty will be launched a good… a good fucking distance off the top of the third story onto the ground.

Corinne: Whee!

Zach: Not–not in a harmless fashion, but in a fashion that is hopefully non-lethal.

Blake: Shit fire!

Corinne: He'll be fine!

Gale: Blake, looking at those NPC character sheets, like five HP or something.

[Laughter.]

Blake: Oh, these guys were made for you go—guys to go full hog on them, so, uh…

Gale: Good!

Zach: Okay. [reading] Uh, 'whenever you cast a spell with a emotion- or language-dependent descriptor, you can attempt a DC 25 Perform check to increase the DC by one.'

Blake: Okay.

Zach: Uh, so I'll do a Perform check…

[Dice rolling.]

Gale: Hoo!

[Blake laughs.]

Zach: …that…a forty-seven?

[Laughing and cheering.]

Corinne: Get him!

Keith: You get on my case!

Gale: Get him! Get him!

Zach: That–that–that was a low roll for me! That was… I–I rolled a seven!

[Laughter.]

Blake: So, that means the DC to this is twenty-one.

Zach: Twenty-one! A twenty-one…

Blake: Will!

Zach: Will…

Blake: I'll tell you, Monty? Monty is the bruiser of the family.

Corinne: Hmm.

Blake: He isn't exactly the uh, the wisest person.

[Laughter.]

Zach: I'm counting on—! [laughs]

Blake: He has to roll a nineteen or a twenty to succeed.

Zach: Jesus!

Blake: I'm going to roll this in the open.

Corinne: [rooting] Two.

Zach: Okay.

Corinne: Two. Two.

[Dice rolling.]

Gale: Eight!

Corinne: Eeeeyyy!

Zach: Eight! Excellent!

Blake: Monty looks at Ernie/Moz and says—

Blake (as Monty): Huh?

Blake: —[*foom!*]—

[Laughter.]

Blake: —and he is hit by this cone of pure sound. How far back does he go?

Zach: Oh, fuck I–I didn't even… I didn't even count. Um, let's see. [reading] ‘You hurl uh, a total weight up to twenty-five pounds per caster level… I have ten cast… A hundred and fifty feet!

[Laughter and Corinne gasping.]

Blake: Jesus!

Corinne: Holy shit!

Blake: Hold on!

Zach: Christ!

Corinne: Across town!

Blake: That i— okay…Oh…Oh…!

Corinne: Skipped several buildings!

Zach: He’s in another fucking state!

Blake: Give me one second. I have to actively check the map—

[Laughter.]

Blake: —for where this shit just went down.

Zach: Ohh! I haven't had to use that spell yet, but I'm glad this is the time!

Gale: I'm only sad we didn't get to see it happen!

Corinne: Yeah!

Zach: You can–you can probably hear him—

Corinne: Do we hear that?

Zach: —Wile E. Coyote, ‘Fuuuuuuu—!’

[Laughter.]

Blake: Yeah, it is—

Gale: Blake, I'm by the window?

Blake: Jesus…

Gale: I don't know how the windows are situated though.

[Laughter.]

Corinne: Can we see it?

Blake: Yeah, you guys hear… You–you don't… This is a very concentrated thrust of sound.

[Corinne makes a sound like an overloaded amplifier.]

Blake: Yeah, like you all hear a little bit of fiddle music, uh, that causes pause, and then—

[Corinne mimics the sound of Monty flying.]

Blake: —that immediately is just a—[*boom!*]—

[Laughter.]

Corinne: Rockets!

Blake: A hundred and fifty feet…

Keith: Oh, jeez…

Blake: I'm going to say getting flung that hard, that far, that fast is going to be twice the amount of fall damage as he would normally take.

Zach: [laughing.] 'Kay!

Blake: Can somebody please give me a 6d6?

Gale: Hoo!

[Dice rolling.]

Blake: —as he is flung, and you hear just a–a skip, a skip, and just a—[crashing]—crash!

Zach: [laughing] Aw! He bounced off the ground?

Blake: He definitely bounced off—

Zach: [laughing] Oh!

Blake: He–He bounced off a roof, into the side of a building—

Gale: Ohh!

[Laughter.]

Blake: —off another building, and onto the ground.

Zach: Shit!

Keith: Ow!

[Laughter.]

Gale: For twenty-four points of bludgeoning damage!

Blake: —and there's just a dust cloud in the distance.

Corinne: Holy shit!

Zach: God!

Blake: The funny thing is, you're pretty sure… you've seen him fall from higher and be okay.

Zach: Mm-hm?

Blake: This wasn't pretty for him, but he is… he–he's probably okay.

Zach: Okay. He's… he's a–he's a tough nut.

Blake: Yeah, but he is by and large gone from this fight, like…

[Laughter.]

Corinne: Ding ding ding! T-K-O!

Gale: [breathless] I love… I love how it's not just that he got flung a hundred fifty feet away, but it's Ernie that did it to him!

[Laughter.]

Blake: Yes.

Gale: How much more embarrassing?

Blake: Yeah, Bonesaw, you see a streak of ratfolk through the sky.

Gale (as Ash): Did you see that?

[Laughter.]

Blake: The drow gunslinger, upon hearing this, like, comes over to the window, and pushes Bonesaw out of the way to look, and be like—

Blake (as gunslinger): What the fuck?

Gale: Asharel the Unjust looks down at him. He doesn't say anything, but they emanate a sort of like… 'don't push me' aura.

[Laughter.]

Corinne: Mm! Mm!

Blake: The drow gunslinger takes a step back.

Keith: Jasper would like to take this opportunity to walk to the door.

Blake: Okay.

Keith: And he looks at the drow gunslinger and says—

Keith (as Jasper): Son, I don't got nothing against you. I hope this doesn't get you in trouble, but you should not have allowed uh, a prisoner to come in here with a rifle.

Keith: —and I'm going to pull from my uh, coat, a rock. I'm going to drop the rock on the ground—

Blake: Oh, jesus!

[Everybody laughs.]

Keith: Smokey bursts forth!

Corinne: Oh my god!

[Laughter.]

Corinne: I love that horse!

Keith: I reach into Smokeoky's saddle bag and pull out my loaded rifle.

[Laughter.]

Corinne: Oh my god! MVP move!

Zach: Oh, excellent!

Blake: The gunslinger is just like—

Blake (as gunslinger): Oh, shit! Uh, captain! Captain! Captain!

Keith: I look at Bonesaw and I wink and say—

Keith (as Jasper): ‘Special skills.’

[Laughter.]

Gale: Asharel would like to react and just grab the man and cover his mouth. Not in a very threatening way, just in a ‘I'm going to hold you here and make you be quiet,’ because Jasper is clearly trying to do things.

Keith: [‘go to sleep’] hushing’ shh–shh–shh–shh–shh!

[Laughter.]

Zach: Fuck!

Blake: Give me a Grapple check.

[Dice rolling.]

Gale: Oh… I rolled a two! Only an eighteen.

Blake: Only an eighteen?

[Keith laughs.]

Corinne: Woah!

[Laughter.]

Blake: Oh, he is good enough to avoid that.

Gale: Ahh!

Blake: He avoids the grab.

Gale: Ahhh!

Blake: He is concerned, he's pulling up the gun, and he's calling out for Faraday. Everybody roll me some Initiative.

[Battle music kicks in.]

Gale: Yeah!

[Dice rolling.]

Gale: Oof! A four!

Corinne: Got a seven…

Blake: All of the drow-folk are going to activate on Faraday's turn. All of the heisters are going to act on Cheddar's turn. Okay, drow gunslinger has called out in concern. Let me have Faraday roll a Perception check to see if she heard him.

[Dice rolling.]

Blake: She got a thirty-eight. She is going to dash and say—

Blake (as Faraday): Why is there a horse in the gods-damned…? Okay, no—!

Keith (as Jasper): I–I don't know! Why are there thieves in your vault right now? Get a move on!

Blake: Give me a Diplomacy check, Jasper.

Keith: [sarcastic] Oh, good! Diplomacy…

Gale: [laughing] Have you uh… put any points in there?

Keith: Bam!

[Dice rolling.]

Gale: Oo!

Keith: Ho! Ho! I put a few points in it. I rolled an eighteen!

Blake: Faraday takes a moment, looks at Jasper, stares at him hard, then flips her half-cape over her shoulder, and says—

Blake (as Faraday): If you're lying to me, I'm going to fill that ass of yours with bolts so much that you won't be able to even think about sitting down come judgment day!

[Gale laughs.]

Blake: And she is going to spend the last of her movement starting to head towards the door.

Gale (as Ash): That sounds like permission to me.

Blake: The drow gunslingers downstairs are going to take up defensive positions. As Faraday's running past, you hear her call out—

Blake (as Faraday): Lady Alex, go stand in the corner. Stay out of the way! Don't get yourself hurt.

Blake: And you see Alex goes and stands in a corner. Out of the way.

[Keith laughs.]

Blake: Reggie and Cheddar are standing, kind of flanking in the middle of the room, which brings us around to Cheddar's group. Monty is gone.

[Laughter.]

Blake: Full-on…out of here. Cotija is going to try something, but she is locked underneath a big-ass thing.

Zach: How heavy are those boxes?

Blake: Heavy enough that she's going to have to roll fifteen or better on her strength check—

Zach: Fair enough.

Blake: —and she ain't that strong.

[Dice rolling.]

Blake: Oh! She actually got close. She rolled a thirteen. You see the boxes kind of—[*bump!*]—shift a little—

Zach: Hm!

Blake: And she says—

Blake (as Cotija): Monty! Monty! The fuck are you doing? Get me out of here! What was that sound?

[Laughter.]

Corinne: Monty not here no more!

Zach (as Ernie): Um, hiiii. My name is Ernie. How are you?

[Everybody laughs.]

Blake (as Cotija): Shit!

Blake: Everybody in the room would see Monty and Cheddar have moved back out of the way, as have Madeline and Julia, have kind of gotten out of the way of Captain Faraday, who's running in. Jasper, you're up next.

Keith: I will exit the room, rifle in hand, and I will say—

Keith (as Jasper): There were two folks uh in your vault. I believe one of them just went past the window out there.

[Laughter.]

Gale (as Ash): Is that what I saw skipping like a stone down the street of town?

[Laughter.]

Blake: The drow gunslinger who's in there, who's kind of cowed by a horse and Ash, just kind of snorts a little bit, of like—

Blake (as gunslinger): Ha! [clears throat]

Keith: I'm going to have my rifle—it's not pointed at anybody yet, but it is, uh… I do have my finger in the trigger guard where it can be whipped up quickly. And I'm going to say—

Keith (as Jasper): Cheddars, why don't you and your kin just uh, call the whole thing off?

Gale: Oohoo!

Blake: Are you saying this loud enough that Faraday would be able to hear?

Keith: Oh god, if I say it loud enough for Cheddars, Faraday's going to have to hear.

Blake: Okay, Moz, you're up. You are alone upstairs. But… you blasted the literal lynchpin of this plan—

[Laughter.]

Blake: —as long as Monty was in play, this could have gotten pulled off in some way.

Gale: Almost like he knows how they work, how they operate!

[Laughter.]

Blake: Yeah! You are free to do what you will. You know that Cotija, you've heard her voice, you get the sense that she was crawling up and underneath through the pipes.

Zach: Okay. What is the condition of the guard who got knocked out? Does he look in… like i–if he's just sleeping? Or uh, if–if Moz could wake him easily if he tried?

Blake: Looks like he could get roused pretty easily if he tried.

Zach: Okay, I'm going to hold on to that thought, but you said that in these boxes were like books or–or legal documents?

Blake: Yeah, a lot of legal documents, papers, um… mostly about like, land acquisitions.

Zach: Okay. Moz…[laughs] Moz is going to spend his turn, he's going to open one of the boxes, he's going to pick a book with a–a substantial number of pages and he's going to cast Spark on it and just set it on fire.

[Gale laughs.]

Blake: Oh, Jesus! Uh, roll 120 for me?

Zach: Okay?

Blake: If it's five or below, it's an inconsequential thing. If it's five to fifteen, it's of medium importance, and if it's a sixteen or… through twenty, it's an incredibly important thing that you're burning.

Zach: Okay.

[Dice rolling.]

Zach: Fourteen!

Blake: Middling importance!

[Gale laughs.]

Zach: I'm–I'm okay with a little bit of light fraud, er, vandalism?

Blake: Yeah…

Zach: Eh, it's fine. Bit–bit of arson mixed in there as well!

Blake: As the smoke starts to fill the area, you hear Cotija just give a small squeak of concern.

[Laughter.]

Blake: Okay. Uh, Myra!

Corinne: Myra is going to get to her guns as quickly as possible. So, she has a movement of thirty feet. She's going to use her entire turn to just get there, and then whatever she has left, um, she'll just scoop up all the weapons, and she's going to prepare to distribute them.

Blake: Okay, Ash, you're up.

Gale: Asharel is going to casually walk over the table, out the door, right up to Cheddars and Reggie, and he will lean in and say—

Gale (as Ash): If you do not surrender, I will vomit spiders on you, and they will be angry.

[Laughter.]

Corinne: It's back!

[Laughter contines.]

Keith: [laughing] Ah, I love Pathfinder!

Zach: Christ!

Blake: Make an Intimidate check.

[Laughter.]

[Dice rolling.]

Gale: Twenty-three!

Zach: Oof! That's–that's a good—!

Blake: …with a plus five.

Gale: Twenty-eight!

Zach: [laughing] Plus five? God…

Blake: Yeah, that does it.

[Snickering.]

Blake: Ash and Jasper, you can see the calculation going through Cheddar's eyes.

[Laughter.]

Gale: The lenses on Bonesaw's mask are just like, red and opaque, and you can't quite see past them.

Blake: Cheddars is going to… a quick glance over at Alexandra.

Gale: Hm!

Blake: You get the sense that maybe, she was plan B.

Keith: Ah!

Blake: But with this high of an Intimidate, and Jasper, and Ash, and all of this, Cheddars just leans in and says—

Blake (as Cheddars): Can't blame us for trying. Think you could uh… not mention our involvement for uh, Moz's sake?

Corinne (as Myra): Like you give a damn about Moz's sake in the first place!

Keith: I was going to say, 'Who's Moz?'

[Laughter.]

Blake: Faraday…. [hisses air, thinking] She doesn't trust you guys fully. The drow gunslinger is going to come out. She looks at Alexandra and says—

Blake (as Faraday): Squawk if you need anything.

Blake: —and is going to dash upstairs. She is going to come out at the top of the stairs and say—

Blake (as Faraday): Who the fuck are you?

[Ernie's theme kicks in.]

[Laughter.]

Zach (as Ernie): Hi, I'm Ernie! I'm a transfer!

Blake (as Faraday): I literally own this company. Do you think that I don't know the people that work for me?

Zach (as Ernie): Oh, well, if you'd excuse me, I have some business to attend to!

Zach: I can't do anything until–until my next turn. He's still holding a burning book!

[Laughter]

Corinne: 'Hi, I'm Ernie,' holds a burning book!

Keith (as Ernie): I didn't do it!

Zach (as Ernie): I was doing some light reading!

[Gale laughs.]

Blake: Cheddars and Reggie were getting ready to grab Alex and use her as hostage. Between Ash and Jasper, that plan seems to be abandoned. Reggie is going to take a single step back,

kind of, hands up, through the door, watching Ash and Jasper, and take another step back. If you want to react, you can.

Gale (as Ash): The spiders are… very fast.

[Snickering.]

Blake: Cheddars is going to step to the other side as well.

Gale: I would love to use Adhesive Spittle to uh, pin Reggie to the floor.

Blake: Okay. DC fourteen.

Gale: Oh, yeah. Ash removes Bonesaw's mask, revealing his zombie face in order to spit this oily black sludge around Reggie's feet.

Blake: Madeline Thorough goes—

Blake (as Madeline): My goodness, that is disgusting!

[Dice rolling.]

Blake: Reggie deftly steps aside of it, and both he and Cheddars are heading towards the door.

Keith: From where I am standing, Jasper will yell out—

Keith (as Jasper): Warning shot! And you only get one!

Keith: And I'm going to shoot out this window here, as, basically an Intimidation sort of roll.

[Dice rolling.]

Blake: [laughing] You know what? Between the two of those, both of them stop. They stop dead.

[Laughter.]

Keith (as Jasper): Sorry for the damages!

Blake: Uh, the drow gunslinger's like—

Blake (as gunslinger): Ah! Yes! Hold there… Why are we shooting at them?

Blake: And Alexandra just says—

Blake (as Alex): Whoa! That's a cool gun! Can I see that gun after we're done? I mean, take care of them, but I want to see it!

[Laughter.]

Blake: And the drow gunslinger says—

Blake (as gunslinger): Lady Voltaire, please… not now.

[Ernie's theme.]

Blake: Cotija… you hear another—[*thump!*]—as she tries to get out? You hear the gunshot, and then she's just like—

Blake (as Cotija): Fuck!

Blake: And you hear scuttling as she starts to crawl away.

Zach: I was hoping, whenever she did her attempt, that she was able to just barely lift up the top, just like a couple inches, enough to—

Gale: Smoke her out?

[Laughter.]

Zach: —to slide the book in?

Blake: You know what? If that's what your plan is, I'm going to go ahead and say, yeah, you do it.

Zach: I was planning on–on doing the 'firework' function of my Pyrotechnics and just flashbang her with the burning book.

[Gale laughs.]

Corinne: Oh man!

Blake: You know what? I'm going to say, at this point, things have gone badly enough for them that you guys can basically pull this off. You toss the book in—[*Boom!*]—Pyrotechnics. You having helped her pull the book off. Captain Faraday has her crossbow leveled at you while you're doing this, and she's a bit dazzled, but as you pull out a completely sparked and fried Cotija, she's just like—

Blake (as Faraday): How the hell did you get in here?

[Laughter.]

Blake (as Faraday): What the…?

Zach (as Ernie): I'm very good at my job! Aha! Ernie!

[Laughter.]

Blake (as Faraday): All right, you, “Ernie,” take her downstairs with the others.

Zach (as Ernie): Yes, ma'am!

[Laughter.]

Gale: This voice will never not slay me!

Zach: Moz will escort Cotija… [laughing]

Blake: Faraday steps over and is going to get the knocked-out gunslinger up and about and then follow you down.

Zach (as Ernie): There was another… He–He's gone now, but if you go out the east window, you might be able to see his–his path.

[Laughter.]

Blake: She looks out the window and just says—

Blake (as Faraday): Holy shit!

Zach (as Ernie): Yaaaay! Ernie!

[Laughter.]

Blake (as Faraday): Okay, we might actually have to talk about a job for you…

[Laughter.]

[Ernie theme ends, replaced with Faraday’s.]

Blake: Faraday comes down with the other drow gunslingers, kind of shaking off his head. Moz, are you doing anything with Cotija or are you just leading her downstairs?

Zach: Do we have a moment where we have no eyes looking at us?

Blake: Uh, it would be very brief in the stairwell, yes.

Zach: Moz had a bit of time to think while he was uh, in the boxes uh, waiting for the event to go down, so, he would have wanted to spend that time writing a note in the dark.

Gale: Aaw!

Zach: And if he could slip it to Cotija, maybe in her back pocket, as he escorts her down…?

Gale: Mm!

Blake: Yeah, absolutely. You can slip it into her pocket. She kind of looks back and… a little confused, but doesn't say anything. You come down the stairs, you see Myra. I'm going to take us out of Initiative at this point.

Gale: Mhmm.

Blake: You hear one of the gunslingers from downstairs say—

Blake (as gunslinger): Hey, that uh, ratfolk lady who was here ran off!

Blake: And then Faraday says—

Blake (as Faraday): Let her go! I think we have everything squared away up here.

Blake: At which point, Myra, you have the guns. The drow don't stop you. But Cheddars, Reggie, and Cotija are effectively captured. Alexandra and Madeline Thorough and Julia are all led into the conference room. Alexandra gives just this absolute squeal of delight when she sees Smokey, and is just—

[Laughter.]

Blake (as Alex): Oh, you're such a pretty horse, aren't you?

Blake: —and just starts petting Smokey, pulls out like some treats and is feeding Smokey. Madeline and Julia are just like—

Blake (as Madeline and Julia): There's a horse in here. Oh…

Keith (as Jasper): Yeah, Let me, uh… Let me lead her out. Come on, girl.

Keith: And uh, I'm going to lead Smokey out into the hallway. I'll put my rifle back in the uh, saddle bag, cast Carry Companion, and Smokey will be gone.

Blake: Alex says—

Blake (as Alex): Aw!

Blake: And Faraday says—

Blake (as Faraday): Well, I suppose… is this one with you?

Blake: —pointing at Ernie/Moz?

[Laughter.]

Keith (as Jasper): I… can't say I've ever seen that person before in my life.

[Laughter.]

Keith: I have no idea who Ernie is!

Gale (as Ash): Perhaps you had better ask… him.

Blake (as Faraday): Um, I did. And he says he works for me, and he doesn't. So, I'm going to assume that he is a part of this caper. Uh…

Zach (as Ernie): Consider this my resume!

[Laughter.]

Zach (as Ernie): Uhhh, you hiring?

Blake: She just rubs her eyes and says—

Blake (as Faraday): Okay… okay, this is… We're going to get the constable here to arrest these folk.

Gale (as Ash): He is… a little busy at the moment cleaning up our last… incident.

Blake (as Faraday): …hm

Keith (as Jasper): Ma'am, we're big damn heroes. We get around town a lot.

[Laughter.]

Keith (as Jasper): And, uh… We–we do tend to leave a bit of chaos behind, but a lot less than the chaos that would have occurred had we not been there.

[Gale laughs.]

Keith (as Jasper): By the way, I'm sorry about your window. Uh, uh if you will send a uh… a bill to uh, Jasper Graves uh, care of any Sheriff in town, I suppose. Uh no, send it to—send it to the Galloways. They'll–they'll get it to me.

Blake: Faraday shrugs and says—

Blake (as Faraday): Not our building! Talk to uh, Julia.

Keith (as Jasper): Oh, well then, I have no idea how that window got broken.!

[Laughter.]

Blake: Faraday takes a look and says—

Blake (as Faraday): Well, if that is the case, I suppose there isn't much more that needs to be done. We will hold these for the constable and keep them under lock and key, until then.

Keith: I would like to roll an Insight check, or… what is it?

Gale: Sense Motive.

Keith: Sense Motive! That's it! Uh, I would, I would—Oh, this is gonna fail, totally.

[Laughter.]

Keith: But I'm gonna try and figure out who the hell this Ernie guy is.

[Everybody laughs.]

[Dice rolling.]

Keith: Natural twenty!

Zach: Aw, natural twenty!

Gale: Oh, nat twenty, nat twenty, nat twenty!

Corinne: Nat twenty!

Blake: Holy shit! Yeah—

Zach: That'll work!

Blake: Jasper, you recognize, with all of the insanity, there is only one person who will be crazy enough to try and pull this, and that's your friend Moz.

[Laughter.]

Gale: He's also got hands covered in ashes, just… it should be said.

Blake: Yeah.

Corinne: Yeah.

[Laughter.]

Gale: The lingering scent of smoke.

Keith (as Jasper): Ernie, is it? Uh, it sounds like you're looking for a job. How'd you like to ride with the Renegade Riders?

Zach (as Ernie): You know… I'm a bit light on cash. Uh, how's your benefits?

[Laughter.]

Keith (as Jasper): Uh, I know… I know someone who'd be willing to pay an awful lot of money to see you on our side.

[Laughter.]

Zach (as Ernie): Hm! Well, Miss Faraday, I think I–I might have to submit my two weeks.

[Laughter.]

Keith (as Ernie): You have my severance package?

[Laughter.]

Blake: Faraday looks at all of you and just shakes her head like, 'I don't know what's going on.'

[Laughter.]

Corinne: She's just done.

Gale: We just broke into her building to like, pantomime at each other!

[Laughter.]

Blake: She takes a moment, reaches into her pocket, and throws each of you, including Ernie, a small billfold.

Gale: Mm!

Corinne: Hm!

Zach: Oo!

Blake: Inside is five-hundred dollars.

Gale: Oo!

Keith: Oo!

Zach: Hell yeah!

Corinne: Oo!

Gale: In each of them?

Blake: In each of them!

Zach: Money!

Gale: She is…

Keith: Oh my gosh!

Gale: …loaded!

Zach: Stacked!

Blake: And she says—

Blake (as Faraday): Ah, that's worth something to people up here. I–I don't know how much.

[Laughter.]

Keith (as Faraday): I don't understand your currency. Is that a lot?

[Laughter.]

Zach (as Ernie): Eh, that's a light tip for me!

[Gale laughs.]

Blake: She also passes… hmmm. Jasper has been the most vocally helpful in this. She passes Jasper a small stone and says—

Blake (as Faraday): You ever need help with a job, give me a call.

[Corinne gasps.]

Gale: Hooh!

Corinne: Oh, shit, okay!

Zach: Nice!

Keith (as Jasper): Ma’am, that is right generous of you. I'd like to return the favor, but if you, like I said, contact the Galloways or any Sheriff's office, they probably know where I am.

Blake (as Faraday): Understood.

[Laughter.]

Blake: Alexandra is going to come over and say—

Blake (as Alex): You guys are so cool! You're like all of the cool action books that I keep reading that I get from the surface! Oh!

[Keith laughs.]

Blake: —and Faraday just says—

Blake (as Faraday): No, you can't visit them. You have duties down below.

Corinne: Aww!

Blake: And Alexandra just—

Blake (as Alex): Oh, okay…

Keith (as Jasper): Miss Alexandra, do you have any of those books on you?

Blake (as Alex): Yeah!

Blake: —and she reaches into her pocket. It appears the pocket is like a bag of holding of some kind, and she pulls out like, a full penny dreadful novel that she has. ‘Rough Riders of the Cimmaron.’

Gale: Oohoohoo!

[Keith laughs.]

Keith (as Jasper): Can I uh, can I borrow this? I'll–I'll leave it at the front desk of the Flowing Waters.

Blake (as Alex): Um… okay. Yeah, I–I guess.

Blake: She looks a little loathe to hand it over, but she hands it to Jasper.

Corinne: Aww!

Keith: Okay.

Blake: —and then she also hands over a small necklace.

Gale: Mm!

Keith: Hm!

Blake: It's a silver necklace with a decently-sized medallion with a blue gem in the center and around it, it says ‘Voltaire.’ It looks like it's a family medallion of some kind. She gives that specifically to Myra.

Corinne (as Myra): [startled sound]

Corinne: Meanwhile, she's passed out everyone's weapons.

Gale: Asherel begins the lengthy process of putting away all of Bonesaw's weapons.

Keith (as Ash): ‘Where does he keep this? I'm going to put them all in one pocket.’

[Laughter.]

Gale: Asharel looks down at her and says—

Gale (as Ash): I believe Templeton would like you.

Corinne: Aww!

Blake (as Alex): Oh. Um, who's Templeton?

Keith: Whoever that is…?

Blake (as Alex): O–okay?

Gale (as Ash): Templeton is the original owner of this vessel. He is incapacitated at the moment.

Blake (as Alex): Oh, okay.

Zach: Might be the nicest compliment I've ever heard Ash give!

Corinne: Mm!

Blake: Yeah!

[Laughter.]

Keith: Unless it's a left-handed insult towards Alexandra, I don't know!

[Laughter.]

Keith (as Ash): [smarmy] 'Yeah, you look like the type of person Bonesaw would like…'

[Laughter.]

Gale: You know that if Bonesaw were here, he would be eating up the hero worship.

[Laughter.]

Corinne: Mhmm!

Keith: Oh, yes.

Keith (as Bonesaw): 'Am I in any of those books?'

Gale (as Bonesaw): ‘Oh! Do tell! No, no, really, tell me more!’

[Laughter.]

Blake: Cheddars, Cotija, and Reggie are led away by several of the gunslingers to await punishment. Faraday is going to lead you all downstairs and say—

Blake (as Faraday): Thank you for your service. If you get in my way again, I may have to kill you.

Zach (as Ernie): Okay!

Keith (as Jasper): Understood, ma'am. We get a lot of that.

Zach (as Ernie): See you then!

Gale (as Ash): I like when people are direct with us.

[Laughter.]

Blake: Give me one final Perception check as you leave.

[Dice rolling.]

Zach: Wow!

Corinne: Thirty-three for Jasper, and a thirty-one for Myra.

Gale: Oo! Nice!

Zach: That’s crazy…

Gale: We got a fifteen for Moz and an eighteen for Bonesaw.

Zach: [laughin] Us mortals!

Blake: Just Myra and Jasper see way down, far away to the east—

[Laughter.] You see Feta running down the street and Monty stumbling out, just like covered in dust and wood pieces and they're–they're full on fleeing.

[Laughter.]

[Faraday’s theme fades into folksy town music.]

Zach: I don't know what y'all are looking like, but Moz is like, depleted on everything.

Keith: Oh yeah, I think I'm—

[Laughter.]

Zach: I'm good—I'm good on–on health, but uh, I've used all my–my fancy tricks.

Gale: Yeah, relevant question, Blake.

Blake: Yes?

Gale: The part of the hotel that was destroyed, did that include the room we were staying in?

[Laughter.]

Blake: No.

Gale: Excellent!

Zach: Ah, thank god! 'Just the south wall. You have a nice breeze coming through here…'

Gale: It might be worth talking to the Galloways before we sleep, though, because I feel like Jordan will like us a lot better if we've already extracted a promise to get the hotel repaired.

Zach: Yeah, that's… that's probably fair.

Keith: All right, but can we have lunch first? I've been in three…

Blake: Yeah!

Keith: I've been in three firefights since I woke up this morning.

[Laughter.]

Zach: And not a decent meal in between!

[Laughter.]

Gale (as Ash): Right… This vessel needs to partake.

Gale: Asharel pulls out the black licorice that Bonesaw stole from the Sheriff and looks at it begrudgingly.

[Laughter.]

Blake: Yeah. So, you have a little bit of time. You're downtown. What do you guys want to do?

Gale: Is there anywhere near us to eat?

Blake: Depends on what you want to eat. You could go to the Prime Cuts Butchery.

Zach: Oo!

Gale: Mm!

Zach: Nice steak meal. Yeah…

Gale: Do you think they serve food or just like… sell meat?

Blake: There's the Grand Nickel Odeon Theater that might have food.

Gale: Oo!

Blake: There's the Saddle Sore that might have food. You know that that's um… brothel—

[Laughter.]

Blake: —but they might have food.

Keith: And it's called Saddle Sore? That's dark!

Blake: Yeah!

[Laughter.]

Keith: There's the Demon's Run Saloon, but that's kind of close to uh, the Sacred Flame. And I–I hear you can't get over there, 'cause some idiot burnt down the bridge…

[Laughter.]

Corinne: [joking] 'Yeah, gee, what happened to that bridge?'

Blake: There is another bridge. And if you wanted, there is a railroad bridge that you could cross.

Zach: Oo. Just look out for trains.

Blake: You know, all the railroad tracks are stopped.

Keith: That's true.

Zach: Unique opportunity.

Blake: Yeah, you could go to Demon's Run, which is there. Prime Cuts is right there. Nickel Odeon, Saddle Sore…

Gale (as Ash): If we eat at the theater, that is very close to Dr. Savalievna's. *This* vessel should not be seen. But if the woman that Templeton stabbed is still there, we never talked to her and her husband.

Corinne: Yeah…

Zach: At some point Ernie would definitely drop the disguise and revert back to Moz. Uh, probably out of… out of line of sight of—

Gale: You actually see Asharel jump—

[Laughter.]

Gale: Kind of, eyes wide, like—

Gale (as Ash): Mozzarella!

[Laughter.]

Zach (as Moz): Just Moz, Ash.

Gale (as Ash): Were you hiding inside this 'Ernie' fellow?

Zach (as Moz): Uh, that's a word for it. Uh, he's… hopefully we don't have to see him too much anymore. Didn't quite enjoy that guy's…

Gale (as Ash): No, he seemed very unprofessional.

[Laughter.]

Zach (as Moz): Entirely. But damn good at what he does.

[Laughter.]

Keith (as Jasper): I have to say, he was… he's pretty darn effective, and he's got himself a job… You know, hey, there's an open-air market up in Arroyo. I bet you we can get ourselves some real good street food up there.

Zach (as Moz): I'm famished.

Gale (as Ash): All right.

Corinne (as Myra): If we're close to the doctor's to talk to those two neighbors, if no one has any strong preference either way.

Gale: It's on the way to the open-air market.

Zach: Alright.

Blake: Okay, so, you're going to go up to the open-air market? And in the meantime, swing by Dr. Savalievna's place?

Gale: Mhmm.

Zach: Sure.

Gale: Yeah.

Blake: All right.

[Folksy music fades, replaced by frosty ambience.]

Blake: You all approach Dr. Savalievna's place. It seems like it's a fairly simple location. It says 'Doktor' in Cyrillic script, specifically.

Corinne: Oo…

Zach: Mm!

Gale: Mm!

Blake: Underneath, you see another portion of script in Cyrillic that reads *'kuzovniya raboti*' and against the front walls, it's just lined with bottles of what you would expect as a pharmacist of the time. Lots of bottles for cure-alls, potionries, the like, and several red banners flapping in the breeze as you approach.

Zach: Well, I'm a little… little rusty on my *Russian*.

[Blake laughs.]

Corinne: Myra turns to Ash/Bonesaw and says—

Corinne (as Myra): Uh, do you want to hang out here? Or do you want to…?

Gale (as Ash): I will remain outside in case the neighbors are present.

Corinne (as Myra): Okay. If… if you want to disguise yourself and listen in, you're–you're–you're welcome to do that, too.

Keith (as Jasper): I'll hang out with you, Ash.

Gale (as Ash): All right. I no longer have magic for disguise.

Zach: Moz will remove his hat and say—

Zach (as Moz): Now you do!

Zach: Uh, and give you the hat of disguise.

Corinne: Oh, that's right!

Zach (as Moz): Temporarily! I'll be needing that back!

[Laughter.]

Gale: Asherel fingers the hat and says—

Gale (as Ash): Who should I become?

Keith (as Jasper): Who do you want to be, Ash?

Zach (as Moz): Whoever you want to be. I wouldn't recommend Captain Faraday. That didn't work out too well last time.

[Laughter.]

Gale: Uh, Asherel will pass a Comprehend Languages extract over to Moz.

Zach (as Moz): Oh! Well!

Gale (as Ash): Perhaps this will help. Thank you for the temporary use of the hat.

Zach (as Moz): Of course, Ash. Now, what does this do exactly? Uh… Whenever Bones hands me things, I get a little nervous.

[Gale laughs.]

Gale (as Ash): This is a spell that will let you understand the spoken words of creatures or read otherwise incomprehensible written messages.

Zach (as Moz): Okay. I don't believe you're capable of lying to me, so I'll go ahead and take a sip.

[Gale laughs.]

Gale (as Ash): I was very serious about the spiders.

[Laughter.]

Zach (as Moz): Spiders? Where?

[Laughter.]

Gale (as Ash): It was a threat employed against your relatives.

Zach (as Moz): Oh…

Gale: And then Asherel will put on the hat and he'll turn into a human woman, maybe like five-foot-six? With brown hair and blue eyes, who looks sort of like a doctor herself. She's got, still, Bonesaw's extract stuff on the bandelier with the sort of spell vials and a couple of other bottles and whatnot tied around her belt.

Zach: Oh shit…

Keith: So, if somebody tries to touch your face, do they hit a beak?

[Laughter.]

Gale: Oh, I guess… he, he takes off the plague doctor mask and leaves it tied, I guess, disguised at–at his belt.

Zach: Can Moz roll something to see if he recognizes who this is? Or uh… Would that be like a–a Sense Motive or a Knowledge (History) or something?

Blake: I'm going to say Knowledge (History), but it is a very high DC.

Zach: Okay. 'Cause I myself personally, I think I have a–an idea of who this is, but I'm–I'm not sure if Moz would be able to put that together, but we'll…we'll give it a shot.

[Dice rolling.]

Zach: Eight. Yeah. No, squat.

Blake: Nope. Sorry.

Zach (as Moz): Say Ash, that's a… awful pretty lady. Uh, who–who's that? Who are you pretending to be there?

Gale (as Ash): You are romantically interested in Templeton's mother?

[Corinne gasps, others laugh.]

Corinne: Oo!

Zach (as Moz): …I suppose I am. She's a damn fine lady. Please don't tell him that.

[Laughter.]

Gale (as Ash): Templeton and I have no means of transferring knowledge.

Keith: I'm going to try and commit this to memory.

Blake: Okay.

Zach: Yeah…

Gale (as Ash): I thought this would be a helpful image, given the ongoing quest to repair Templeton's mask.

Keith (as Jasper): Speaking of which, is there any danger with you removing that mask?

Gale (as Ash): Not for me.

Keith (as Jasper): But… but is—

Gale (as Ash): Templeton uses it to manage some of the effects of having my presence in his mind.

Keith (as Jasper): But you taking it off in this situation ain't going to hurt Bonesaw none?

Gale (as Ash): Not while I am driving.

Keith (as Jasper): Understood.

Blake: Moz, with your new Comprehend Languages, you are able to read that second bit of text says: ‘Dr. Savalievna's Bodyworks.’

Zach: Mm!

Gale: Mm!

Corinne: Ooh!

Zach (as Moz): Well, seems the doctor specializes in bodyworks…

[Ominous music creeps in.]

Blake: You all step inside. Above the door, there's a little bell and you hear a ding ding ding ding as you enter. The room is spotless. The floors have a high polish to them. Very well-maintained floor. All of the shelves, all of the bottles that are on the shelf are perfectly aligned. Every kind of patent medicine you've ever heard of is along these walls. There are some in English, some in Russian, some in German, French, the–the entire shebang. Like, you see things from across the world in here. And you hear a voice call from the back. Uh—

Blake (as voice): *Dobŭr den, minutku!*

Blake: —which Moz you understand is ‘Good afternoon, just a moment.’

Zach: Okay.

Blake: At which point a woman comes out of the back.

Gale: Ohohoh!

Blake: She's wearing round spectacles, very pale face, brown hair with streaks of gray in it, cravat tied very tight around her neck, wearing almost like, a military uniform with a breastpiece covering and small vials in a breast pocket. More concerningly—

[Gale laughs.]

Blake: —her arms are wrapped up in bandages, and she's wearing gloves that are covered in blood. Her fingernails are pointed to the point of almost rupturing through the glove. She is also carrying on one arm, a bonesaw.

[Laughter.]

Blake: And she looks and says—

Blake (as woman): What can I do for you?

Blake: —and she pulls off the gloves and throws them into a waste basket.

Zach: Is she speaking in English or in Russian?

Blake: She is speaking in English now.

Zach: Okay.

Zach (as Moz): Evening, ma'am. Uh, we're–we're looking for some patients of yours. Um, have you had any people in here with stab wounds recently?

[Gale snickers.]

Blake (as Doktor Savalievna): *Da,* there was somebody who came in with uh, stab wound two days ago. A young lady, she was uh, quite distraught. Somebody attacked her and her husband.

Zach (as Moz): Well, you see, we're private detectives here. We're investigating a case.

Corinne: Kinda true!

Zach (as Moz): We would like to ask that lady several questions about that injury.

Blake (as Doktor Savalievna): Mm. Well, in that case, you should probably ask her. I was able to get her patched up and out of the place quite handily. She is not… That was just a stab wound. There's nothing too damaging there. Didn't hit any of the ribs or bones or vital organs.

Zach (as Moz): Of course—

Blake (as Doktor Savalievna): Nothing… *damaged*.

Blake: She grins just a little bit.

Zach (as Moz): Simple band-aid will suffice!

[Laughter.]

Blake (as Doktor Savalievna): *Da*. Like I said, she was fairly hysterical when she came in. Uh, her husband got quite a bump on her head. Nothing that took up too much time or medication.

Keith (as Jasper): But they're going to be okay?

Blake (as Doktor Savalievna): *Da, da,* quite okay. I barely needed to even uh… 'work my magic,' as it were.

Gale (as Ash): Do you know anything about the Coffinmaker?

Blake (as Doktor Savalievna): Uh, you mean Leona Maxwell? She makes quite a few coffins. Or I think, oh, what is his name? Uh… Harrison Young, who makes the furniture down the road, makes all of the coffins in town. Quite skilled, if you know of what to ask for.

Corinne: Sense Motive?

[Dice rolling.]

Gale (as Ash): Perhaps. Do you sell potions and magic of Inflict Wounds?

Blake (as Doktor Savalievna): *Da*, I do. Uh… there–there is not too many who ask for that. Uh, give me but a moment.

Keith (as Jasper): Fewer now than there have been.

[Gale laughs.]

Blake: She is going to step away. Myra, what was your uh, Sense Motive for?

Corinne: When asked about who the Coffinmaker is. Is she deliberately hiding something?

Blake: You get the sense that yeah, she's hiding something—

Corinne: Mmm.

Blake: But you get the sense she's hiding something about herself.

Corinne: Mm. Mhmm.

Blake: And that you don't think that she's hiding that she is the Coffinmaker, but she has a secret that she doesn't want people to know about.

Corinne: Ah.

Gale: Mmm.

Corinne: Okay.

Blake: She comes out with several bottles and says—

Blake (as Doktor Savalievna): This is Inflict Light Wounds uh, for fifty dollars. This is Inflict Moderate Wounds for three-hundred. Do you want more than that?

Gale (as Ash): I would like both, if that's all right. Are you able to charge wands?

Blake (as Doktor Savalievna): Wands? Um, no. Not… Suppose I… No. That, uh…

Gale (as Ash): Worth a shot.

Blake (as Doktor Savalievna): No, that is not… Private detectives, you said?

Zach (as Moz): We're investigating a case.

Blake (as Doktor Savalievna): Hm. Very well. I do not have anything that you need, I suppose, if you'll give me the money.

Gale: Ash will dig it out and hand it over.

Blake (as Doktor Savalievna): Very well. Is there anything more that you need?

Gale (as Ash): No, it was nice to meet you.

Gale: Unless y'all want to go digging some more.

Blake (as Doktor Savalievna): Quite good to meet you as well.

Keith (as Jasper): Thank you kindly, doctor. Were this couple, were they able to pay your uh, your doctorin' fees?

Blake (as Doktor Savalievna): *Da*. They were uh, quite eager to pay up. You know how rumors start, but… [sniffs]

Gale (as Ash): I don't understand.

Keith: I'd like to Sense Motive on that.

[Laughter.]

Corinne: Mm!

Keith: I'm trying to figure out what ‘rumors’ she's talking about.

Blake: Uh, go ahead and Sense Motive.

[Dice Rolling]

Keith: Twenty.

Blake: She's definitely hiding something and there are probably rumors about her. You're guessing the fact that she came out with a bonesaw and bloody arms, that…

Gale (as Ash): What rumors are you referring to?

Blake (as Doktor Savalievna): Oh, nothing. Mostly associated with my cousin.

Corinne (as Myra): Your cousin?

Gale (as Ash): Who is your cousin?

Blake (as Doktor Savalievna): Oh, it's… A doctoral student in Switzerland.

[Keith laughs.]

Keith (as Doctor Frankenstein): [quoting] ‘It's aliiiiive!’

[Laughter.]

Corinne: Oh! Okay…

Zach (as Moz): Who are you uh, cutting up in there? Just out of curiosity.

[Laughter.]

Blake (as Doktor Savalievna): That is none of your business.

Corinne: Mm.

Zach (as Moz): Eh… Well, our investigation says otherwise. Could be someone who's important.

Blake: Her jaw kind of clenches and says—

Blake (as Doktor Savalievna): Just because my cousin stole my research doesn't mean that I have done anything practical with it.

[Laughter.]

Corinne (as Myra): Uh, uh…your–your–your research?

Blake (as Doktor Savalievna): *Da.*

Zach (as Moz): What type of research are we talking about here?

Blake (as Doktor Savalievna): [scoffing] Viktor did not know what he was doing! Just a bit of exper–experiments with galvanism! It is nothing that needs to worry anyone!

Keith (quoting *Young Frankenstein*): His work was doo doo!

[Laughter.]

Corinne (quoting *Young Frankenstein*): My grandfather's work was doo doo!

Zach (as Moz): Got me a little worried. Mind if we take a peek behind the curtain there?

Blake (as Doktor Savalievna): *Da.* I do mind.

Zach (as Moz): Hmm.

Keith: I'm going to look quizzically at Moz, trying to suss out what the heck is he getting on about.

Zach: I'm just curious, alright!

[Laughter.]

Zach: This–this lady is fucking weird!

Corinne: I'm kind of curious too. I just want to see.

Zach: I… It wasn't on the menu, but… She… she's covered in blood, she has a saw, she's being super fucking suspicious!

[Laughter.]

Corinne: I want to know, too.

Keith (as Jasper): Hey, uh…Hey Moz? Moz? I think we have uh, trespassed on this lady's time enough. Uh, ma'am, uh, thank you very much for your help in our investigation.

Keith: I'm going to lean over to Moz and I'm going to whisper in his ear—

Keith (as Jasper): Moz, you can walk in and out of this place at will.

[Laughter.]

Keith (as Jasper): No sense in—No sense in antagonizing anybody.

Blake (as Doktor Savalievna): *Dasvidaniya.*

Zach (as Moz): Well, it appears that we're late for our lunch break. Uh, we'll be seeing you.

Zach: And Moz will uh, tip his hat and uh, make his way out.

Blake: She gives a small head bow and says—

Blake (as Doktor Savalievna): *Dasvidniya.*

[Ominous music fades into frosty outdoor ambience.]

Zach: After leaving, Moz is going to pull out The Sheriff once we exit the building.

[Laughter.]

Zach (as Moz): All right, compadre. Need you to go in there and take a look for me and see if there's anything suspicious going around.

Zach: And uh, he–he'll deploy The Sheriff on the ground like a little RC car.

[Laughter.]

Blake: So, you all exit. The Sheriff makes his way back in. Can you see through The Sheriff's eyes or do you just get emotion?

Gale: If he works like Goiter—

Zach: Yeah.

Gale: —then there's like an emotional connection?

Zach: Mhmm.

Gale: —that you can feel, and when The Sheriff comes back, you can communicate, but I don't think there's like a mind link.

Zach: Yeah.

Keith (as Narrator): [joking] That was the last time that Moz ever saw The Sheriff…

[Laughter.]

Zach: Ohhh… I–I would burn down the block.

[Laughter.]

Corinne: Oh no!

Blake: You get initial usual stuff from The Sheriff as he goes in. Then you get a sudden like, extremely fucking worried sense from him, and a moment later The Sheriff returns. As you get a image in your mind from the Sheriff. He saw it up on the wall, and then saw a live demonstration of this being conducted by Dr. Savalievna. It is a description of galvanism, as experimented on with—

Keith: Ah!

Blake: —frog legs.

[Laughter.]

Keith: Oh no! Oh no!

Corinne: Oh! Oh!

Blake: Yup!

Keith: [dramatic wailing] A chamber of horrors!

[Laughter.]

Zach: Ohhh!

Gale: We picked the worst person to go check it out!

[Laughter.]

Corinne: Poor Sheriff!

Gale: Sheriff's going to have nightmares!

[Laughter.]

Zach: Moz is going to pick up The Sheriff and–and hold him, like a… like a little puppy. Just–just pet him.

[Laughter.]

Zach (as Moz): I'm sorry, little partner. Let's–let's get you a big old bowl of flies!

[Laughter.]

Keith: Aww!

Corinne: Aww!

Zach (as Moz): Where's that open air market?

[Laughter.]

Blake: I'm so glad that you chose The Sheriff and not Goiter to go!

[Laughter.]

Zach: Fuckin… Why do you have that?

[Laughter.]

Gale: Oh my goodness!

[Frosty ambience is replaced with lively music.]

Gale: So, do they sell flies at the open-air market?

Blake: Is that where you guys are going next? After, uh…

Zach: Yeah.

Gale: Yeah, we'll pick up lunch on our way to the Galloways.

Corinne: Yeah, we're going to go eat.

Blake: You guys get to the open air market. This place is… unlike, like, all of the other shops. This is all very much people that are kind of coming in from out of the city, bringing their wares in. You see trinkets, little stone carvings, metallurgy work, horseshoes, a small foundry has been set up and a farrier is working. Kind of all of the bits and bobbles that you want. And uh, because of that, there's also a lot of food, in addition to just like, your regular goods that you would expect from like, farmers and stuff. You also see several Mexican people making street tacos. They have this whole setup.

Corinne: Oo!

Blake: Clearly, it's one of the more popular booths. You can see them grinding cornmeal right there—

Gale: Mmhmm!

Blake: —making a fresh guacamole. Like, it is as fresh as street food you can get. And it is clearly very popular.

Zach: Mm!

Gale: Asharel's stomach grumbles and they say—

Gale (as Ash): I believe this vessel desires… *that*.

Gale: And he just points.

[Laughter.]

Zach: ‘Stumbles in the direction of taco.’

Keith (as Jasper): Tacos all around then?

Corinne (as Myra): Absolutely!

Zach: Yeah. Tacos all…

Blake: Very quickly, you know, you meet the proprietor, Maria Casios. She and her sons are the ones running this place. They're mostly doing like, the prep and she's the one manning the front, doing the business transactions, taking the money, giving out the tacos there. There's no real choice. It's… You want it ‘with stuff’ or ‘without stuff?’ And ‘with stuff’ comes with just a mess of veggies and salsa and guac. ‘Without stuff’ is without all of that.

Gale (as Ash): Stuff. Please.

[Laughter.]

Keith (as Jasper): Yeah, can we have a platter that would feed like, four hungry cowpokes?

Blake (as Maria): *Si, si! Quatro! Rapido!*

Blake: They quickly bring out four sets. It's actually, each little packet comes with three tacos and you all exchange money for it. And when you bite into these, these are just absolutely fucking delicious. Like, they are amazingly good.

Corinne: In snake fashion, Myra unhinges her jaw and just swallows them whole.

[Laughter.]

Zach: Moz will watch the tacos slowly move down Myra's gullet and uh, kind of–kind of shuffle away from her and nibble at his street tacos.

[Laughter.]

Keith: Jasper will thank her in fluent Spanish, which I won't portray out of respect for all Spanish-speaking people everywhere.

[Laughter.]

Blake: Yeah. Same, yeah that's…

Gale: Asharel, the skill of eating a taco seems to escape them and they're very frustrated as it seems to come apart in their hands into many pieces.

[Laughter.]

Gale: They are very messy by the end of the meal.

Corinne: Watching an angelic being grasp the concept of a taco…

[Laughter.]

Corinne: It's very entertaining.

Zach: Just, picks it up by one end and all the–all the meat and veggies fall off.

[Laughter.]

Blake: Oh yeah!

Gale (as Ash): [confused] Does… Does this repast exist on three dimensions? Four?

[Laughter.]

Keith (as Jasper): Well, it does–it does require a certain trick o' twistin the neck just right.

[Laughter.]

Gale: Asherel's head goes like—*kkk*—kind of sideways, and they eat it at a very pronounced crick.

[Laughter.]

Zach: Ugh!

Blake: Oh god!

Zach: Moz is still looking for some food for The Sheriff.

Blake: That badger that you met the other day—

Gale: Mel!

Keith: Yeah!

Blake: Yeah, Mel is walking around with a little basket—

Gale: Awww!

Blake: They're collecting different fresh produce to feed their pets, their little badger form kind of waddling on two hind legs, their scarf pulled over. You guess that if anybody would have something, he would probably have it.

Zach (as Moz): You there! Badger!

[Laughter.]

Blake (as Mel): Um, my name's Mel.

Zach (as Moz): Sure thing, Smell. Uh—

Gale: Ah!

[Laughter.]

Corinne: That's—!

Zach (as Moz): I need a–a jar of flies, pronto!

Gale: That's so rude!

Blake: Mel's eyes narrow and says—

Blake (as Mel): Flies. Um, I suppose you can't account for taste…

[Laughter.]

Zach (as Moz): I'll take dragonflies. I'll take mudflies. I'll take anything with wings and four legs or more.

Blake (as Mel): [sighs]

Keith (as Jasper): How about some crickets?

Blake (as Mel): Come with me.

Blake: And they're going to pay for their food, lead you guys over to Mel's littlest pet shop.

Gale (as Ash): Mozzarella, I believe you should apologize.

Zach (as Moz): To who?

Gale (as Ash): To Mel.

Zach (as Moz): Oh, for what?

Gale (as Ash): Calling them 'Smell.'

Zach (as Moz): Oh, I apologize! I misheard their name. Apologies, Mel.

Blake (as Mel): Here.

Blake: And they pass a jar of crickets. Five dollars.

[Laughter.]

Zach (as Moz): Make it fifteen and give me three of them.

Blake: Pulls out two more jars, sets them. It's hard to read the face of a badger, but there's a distinct level of like… not liking you, for this.

Zach: Which is fair.

Blake (as Mel): If you need anything else?

Keith (as Jasper): Yeah, uh, Mel, while I'm here, iffin you don't mind, I notice you uh, your sign–your signage up above said ‘littlest pet and horse shop.’ Do you have sugar cubes?

Blake (as Mel): Yes! Absolutely. Um… now just make sure, you're not planning on *only* feeding your horse sugar cubes?

Gale: Aww!

Blake (as Mel): —'cause somebody came through a week ago and they were like, ‘Oh, I could just feed them sugar cubes, 'cause that's what they ate in all of the books,’ and—

Keith (as Jasper): No, no, no, no, no, no. I got a horse named Smokey. She's the best horse and uh, she's been a really good horse lately, and she needs a little treat, but no, she gets… she gets regular horse feed.

Blake (as Mel): Good! Yes, give me one moment!

Blake: Mel hops down on all fours and just scuttles into the back of his shop and comes out with a small paper bag and says—

Blake (as Mel): Here you go! One dollar, please.

[Gale laughs.]

Keith (as Jasper): All right. Here you go.

Keith: I will pass them a dollar, 'cause I'm pretty sure that they just really, really royally reamed Moz.

[Laughter.]

Gale: Yeah, those are some expensive crickets!

Keith: I ain't never paid more than two dollars for a bag of crickets!

[Laughter.]

Keith: All right, I will hand them a dollar.

Blake (as Mel): Thank you!

Keith: And I'm going to say—

Keith (as Jasper): Folks, if you don't mind, afore we leave this over here open-air market, got a little bit more I got to pick up while we're here. And it's an investment I think will pay off in the long run.

Zach (as Moz): Sure thing.

Gale (as Ash): Of course.

Corinne (as Myra): Absolutely.

Keith: Jasper's going to take the better part of an hour going throughout the entire open-air market and collecting herbs, spices, cooking additions—

Gale: Ooohh yasss!

Keith: —replenishing things like bags of rice and stuff like that.

Blake: Yes.

Gale: Yes!

Corinne: Myra follows along and is like—

Corinne (as Myra): Oh, what about this?

Corinne: —and tries to like, grab things that are definitely not spices, and were like medi—medicine, and is like—

[Laughter.]

Corinne (as Myra): Oh, what about these?

Corinne: He has to tell her no!

[Laughter.]

Gale: Asharel will volunteer to carry the heavier things.

Keith: Okay!

Zach (as Moz): Be sure to get some lime and cilantro from that taco lady!

Keith: There's going to be things like a five pound bag of rice, and five pound bag of beans, and uh—

Keith (as Jasper): Yeah, yeah, we're going to—we're going to say, oh, get us some—Oh, there's some chicory over there. We're going to need that. That is going to make our morning coffee quite a bit more interesting—

Keith: And just uh, top off.

Blake: Excellent.

Gale (as Ash): You may want to remove the leg before placing these in the cooling receptacle.

[Laughter.]

Keith (as Jasper): Oh! Well, most of the stuff I'm getting, uh… Don't need uh… no cooling, but uh, yeah, thanks for reminding me of that!

Zach (as Moz): We really oughta get rid of that at some point.

Keith (as Jasper): Means we can't get some of that cilantro I was going to pass by.

[Laughter.]

Zach (as Moz): Damn!

Keith (as Jasper): Now, some of you are going to like this, and some of you are going to say it tastes like soap.

[Laughter.]

Keith (as Jasper): Nobody knows why!

[Laughter.]

Corinne: If there was snake oil, 'cause I remember she had little itching problems, 'cause of her snake ‘time of the month—’

[Laughter.]

Corinne: So at–at–at some point she–she discreetly goes off to get some snake oil—

Gale: [snickering] And tampons!

[Laughter.]

Keith: [joking] I don't want to hear about it!

[Laughter.]

Corinne: And–and just—

Keith: [joking] That's a reptile thing! Don't want to hear about it!

Corinne: That's a reptile thing!

[Laughter.]

Blake: Absolutely. Yeah. You find in one of the corners there's a snake folk that is selling that—

Corinne: Okay.

Blake: —that you can pick it up.

Corinne: Okay. She discreetly barters and takes it, and as she's scratching herself, she's like—

Corinne (as Myra): Oh, thank you!

Blake (as snakefolk): Mhm. Yesss. Happy to help! Uh, good luck.

[Lively music fades, replaced by mysterious classical music.]

Blake: You all make your way towards the Galloways. You see in the distance the remains of the Flowing Waters.

[Gale laughs.]

Blake: As you cut through, you see *La Fuente Sangrada*. And outside the Galloway house, Farraige is standing there, arms crossed, says—

Blake (as Farraige): So! You all did the job. Time for you to come in and get your… just desserts.

Corinne: Uh…

[Laughter.]

Keith: Now wait a second!

Corinne: Sense motive?

Gale (as Ash): Naturally. That was the exchange we agreed on.

Blake: And she turns and leads you inside.

Corinne: Damn it.

Zach (as Moz): Give me my hat back!

Zach: Moz'll snatch the hat off of Ash.

[Laughter.]

Zach (as Moz): Got a bald spot!

[Dice rolling.]

Corinne: I got a nine.

Blake: Nine? You have no clue.

Corinne: Mhmm.

Blake: She leads you through, past the massive blue and white exterior, down the blue hallways. You don't see any of the Galloways as you're being led in. It is eerily quiet. You get into the game room, where the elevator was. She pulls the book. The elevator opens up. She points and says—

Blake (as Farraige): Go on in.

Gale: Ash'll get in.

Zach: Sure, Moz will hop in.

Corinne: Yeah, Myra will 'cause she didn't sense anything.

Keith: I'll follow. I trust 'em.

Blake: She closes the door with her still out and says—

Blake (as Farraige): Good luck.

Blake: Presses a button, the door—[*shunk*]—and the four of you begin the descent in the elevator alone.

Keith: Ohh!

Blake: You see the giant cavern open up around you as you descend deeper, and you look down into the water of this cavern, this cenote, and you think you see something… swimming around.

[Main theme kicks into gear.]

Dust and Blood is a Rolling Path production, featuring Corinne Hill as Myra Sting, Blake Alfson as our GM, Zach Parker as Moz Copernicus Prior, Keith Curtis as Jasper Graves, and myself, Gale Parker as Bonesaw.

Our theme song is *Dust and Blood* by Arne Parrott, and other music throughout this recording is provided by Kevin Macleod, Tabletop Audio, Dark Fantasy Studios, and the Desperados 3 Original Game Soundtrack by Filippo Beck Peccoz.

Transcripts, detailed sound credits, and more can be found on our website at DustAndBloodPod.com. You can follow us on X and Facebook at DustAndBloodPod, or support us through our Patreon at Dust and Blood, where you can join our community discord and get perks like our behind-the-scenes discussion show, The Roundup.

We are so grateful for the support of our fans, people like LegoQueenBB, Rayne, Wubatub, and Barbara!

Dust and Blood releases monthly on the first, and the next episode is coming at you on December first!

Content warnings can be found in every episode description, and we hope you enjoy exploring this fantasy western with us. Thanks for listening!

[*Dust and Blood* main theme vocals cut in: *My eyes shoot open to the early morning sun. I feel that aching, pounding, poking of a bullet in my lung. Skin is sealed and bones a-crunch, and I feel that wretched itch and something drag me up to face that coward son-of-a-gun! His face grows white as he fumbles for his holster. I feel the lead pierce my shoulder, neck, and chest. I scream that I have died a hundred times and lived a thousand years, and I'll be damned if a boy like you is gonna beat the best. Yes, I'll be damned if a boy like you is gonna beat the best!*]

Gale (as Ash): Not while I am driving.

Keith (as Jasper): Understood.

Blake: Driving?

Keith: Like you'd drive cattle!

Gale: Yeah! Or a carriage!

Blake: Yes.

Corinne: Yeah!

Gale: [laughing] Fuck off, Blake!

[Laughter.]

Blake: Well, fine!

Keith: Oh, familiarity breeds contempt!

Gale: I love you!

Blake: I love you too!

Corinne: True husband and wife.

[Music continues.]

Gale: Can I just say, when Jasper was like, ‘You want a job with the Renegade Riders?’ I was really feeling that. We—I know we haven't talked about our name in a while, but that was definitely like the one we were like, we'll think. Well, yeah, we'll sit on it! But like… hearing it in action? Ooo. Oo, I liked that!

Zach: Yeah!

[Music continues.]

Keith: The Renegade Riders of Bonesaw, Jasper Graves, Myra, and *Ernie*.

[Laughter.]

Gale: It's such a perfect name! [elongated] *Eeernie*!

[Laughter.]

Gale: I should apologize to any Ernies listening.

[Laughter.]

Gale: It's just, it's a very good name to say in that particular accent.

Corinne: Mhmm. *Eeernie!*

Blake: You know, you know, you know, Gale? I think you need to re-apologize? That one didn't sound very ‘earnest.’

[Laughter.]

Corinne: Boo! Boo!

Gale: You should apologize to all the Earnests!

Corinne: For that!

Zach (as Ernie): Well, I…I'm Ernie. Ernest is my father!

[Laughter.]

[Cassette End sound.]