

Dungeons & Daddies

Dungeon Master: Anthony Burch

Taylor Swift: Freddie Wong

Lincoln Link Li-Wilson: Matt Arnold

Normal Oak: Will Campos

Scary Marlowe: Beth May

Season 2 Ep.20 - I Brought You My Catbus, You Brought Me Your Love

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

[the following is a cover of Lose Yourself by Eminem]

Ras Poutine: Look, if there was some punk, some teen girl... challenging you for your spot as the leader of the Black Parade? Would you— would you let her challenge you? And win and become the leader? Or would you destroy her. Lyrically. Rhythmically. Rhyme-ically. Emotionally. I'm going to do that one instead.

Ras Poutine: Yo. My name's Ras Poutine and I'm here to say, I'm never going to throw my shot away. Just like Alexander Hamilton... S-sllamilton, I got lots of bullets and I'll always win.

Ras Poutine: I promise you I will never lose myself because my rhymes are so high that they're on the very top shelf. You gotta find a ladder if you want to reach it. There's a lesson here and I'm going to teach it.

Ras Poutine: These kids, boy, they snuck in. I've never seen them before. Plus her poems suck, it was a ma-ajor bore. It's obvious they're trying to steal the tape measure. That's a powerful item. Hey, that's our treasure!

Ras Poutine: So here's all the ways that I'm super sad. I never feel happy because happiness is bad. Feelings of joy? Psh, bro, that's just a fad. I skipped those emotions, and hey, I'm kind of glad. Now I'm not glad enough to overcome depression. I can't believe you're asking me that question. That means that I'm qualified as- as heck.

[booing]

Ras Poutine: No, I'm not done! I-I- Just let me finish! Once I get to the chorus, you're going to love it—

[squishy violence sounds]

Ras Poutine: [voice fading out] Ow! Ow! Fuck! Ow! Ow!

[intro music plays]

Freddie: Welcome to Dungeons and Daddies, not a BDSM podcast. Instead... a Dungeons and Dragons podcast. A pulse-pounding Dungeons and Dragons podcast about four teens—

Will: The podcast equivalent of a page-turner.

Freddie: That's true.

Beth: Wow!

Will: What is a page-turner for a podcast?

Freddie: And episode...

Beth: An episode-skipper.

Matt: Dungeons and Daddies!

Will: An ad-skipper.

Beth: An ad-skipper!

Will: It's a real ad-skipper.

Freddie: It's a real ad-skipper.

Anthony: Ad-skipper. 2x time listener.

[chuckles]

Freddie: Dungeons and Daddies actually is a Dungeons and Dragons podcast, this season is at least. Four teens from our world sent into our world, back again, to save it. From their dads...

Will: From our world.

Freddie: From our world.

Matt: From our world.

Freddie: From a Cthulhu monster!

Beth: Ooh!

Freddie: My name is Freddie Wong. I play Taylor Swift. Not that one! The one who...

[*chuckles*]

Freddie: You like that, Will? It's turn into my catch phrase.

Will: [*little gremlin giggle*]

Freddie: Not that one, it's the ranger teen main character of the group! Who's good with the sword and great with the ladies.

Beth: Are we letting him get away with this?

Will: What is going on?!

Matt: What's happening?

Freddie: I can do whatever I want.

[*laughter*]

Freddie: You know what I'm saying? So can you by the way, that's what improv is, baby! Teen fact: Taylor growing up was a fan, I think like many of us were, of the Berenstain Bears book, and also by the way, grew up with it spelled E-I-N. Just listing that...

Matt: That was the Doodler world.

Will: Did that get resolved when the world switched?

Anthony: Yeah.

Freddie: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Matt: Oh yeah!

Will: Did that singularity finally collapse?

Matt: Anthony, what—

Will: Anthony, is it Bernstein or Berenstain? In the Forgotten Realms?

Anthony: If you find a library, you'll find out.

[gasps]

Freddie: Nice! Look at that tease.

Matt: Important.

Freddie: That's how the best in the biz does it, baby. His favorite of the Berenstain Bears books was the one where they get addicted to junk food, Will and I have talked about this. This is our favorite one too, it's my favorite one as well. Because—

Will: Freddie and I read it together all the time.

Beth: Aw...!

Freddie: Because the candy— the candy—

Matt: They're very adorable.

Will: The candy looks amazing!

Freddie: Is so good. Oh, that's a good tweet. It's like, "Step aside, Studio Ghibli food accounts."

[laughter]

Freddie: Step aside for fucking the OG king. The Berenstain Bears have too much junk food, one. Oh, my God.

Beth: I fucking dare you to tweet that.

Matt: Dare you.

Freddie: I will. I will.

Matt: Start a war.

Freddie: I'm going to get engagement, Beth, and you're going to be so jealous.

Beth: I really don't think it will.

Matt: I don't think so either.

Will: Dude, there's fucking I'm looking at this bo—

Freddie: What are you talking about!

Matt: I've never heard of a Stu—

Will: I'm looking at this cover, and these kids are pounding down Yumms, Y-U-M-M-S. There's something called Sweet Pops that looks like cotton candy, but also a gummy bear. Dude, it looks good.

Matt: How many—

Will: It looks good. That's all I'm saying.

Anthony: How many followers can possibly be following Studio Ghibli food accounts?

Will: Oh, Matthew.

Beth: I don't think a lot.

Freddie: I'm just saying. Oh, Matthew. Matthew, Matthew, Matthew...

Matt: Are you done?

Freddie: I'm done. Get the fuck out.

Matt: *[laughs]*

Will: Me-ow! Damn!

Matt: I'm just making sure—

Beth: Re-ow!

Matt: —because you're on the computer. I don't want to stop if you're about to research something.

Freddie: Listen, here's what I'm going to do. You do your fucking bullshit teen fact.

[laughter]

Freddie: I'm going to fucking drop the tweet of the century and then we'll fucking see.

Anthony: All right. Hey, everybody. My name is Matthew Arnold. I play Lincoln Li-Wilson, a schooled at home soccer kid who's the protective paladin of this group. Little teen fact, rad fact about Lincoln. I felt like this was a good time to finally just get this out there on the main podcast because I'm asked this question all the time. So Lincoln's name. Lincoln is not named after.. Lincoln the dog that Grant lost. They agreed that Marco would name the first kid and Lincoln would name the...

Will: Grant would name the s—

Matt: Grand would name the second kid if they have a second kid. So Lincoln's actually named after Marco's favorite character on TV, which is Andrew Lincoln from The Walking Dead.

Beth: Oh, my God.

Matt: And—

[all laughing]

Freddie: Wh— No!

Matt: And they were going to call him—

Will: What a twist!

Matt: They were gonna call him Andrew, but Grant was like, “Nah, my last ex is named Andrew and that's way too awkward.”

Will: *[laughs]*

Matt: He's like, “Okay. We'll call him Lincoln,” and then Grant was just like, “That's fine. ” Because he refused to talk about the tragic event of missing his dog. So in very Wilson fashion...

Will: That's why his name is Lincoln Negan Wilson.

Matt: *[laughs]* Yeah. That's why in very Wilson—

Anthony: Andrew Lincoln is the actor's name.

Matt: Huh?

Anthony: Isn't it Andrew Lincoln the actor's name?

Beth: No, I think it's the character's. No?

Anthony: That's Rick Grimes.

Will: Yeah, it's Grimes is the...

Matt: Yeah, he loved the actor.

Beth: It's an actor?! *[yells]*

[group laughter]

Will: A real Lincoln-head.

Matt: He had a big crush on the actor.

Beth: Oh, my God!

Freddie: No way! In word was it—

Will: No, no, it's— they could've named him Grimes, because Grimes became the 40...

Matt: That's true!

Will: 57th president of the United States!

Matt: They went through all these things they could've named after the Walking Dead, and finally they got to Lincoln, and in very Wilson fashion Grant refused to express his emotions about the drama of losing his dog.

Will: [laughs]

Matt: And he just nodded and said, "That's fine. We can call him Lincoln." So that's why he's called Lincoln.

Will: That is my favorite Lincoln fact.

Beth: Wow.

Matt: He's named after Andrew Lincoln, the actor of the Walking Dead. The show 40 years ago in this timeline, that Marco had a— It was his first crush.

Anthony: 40 years ago. 48 years since it was good.

Matt: [laughs] Yeah. Marco was a big Andrew Lincoln fan. He had a lot of those posters up on his walls.

Will: Yeup.

Freddie: I'm just, I'm sorry, I'm just thinking it's—

Matt: This is how little I know about Walking Dead. I searched "famous Lincolns" and Andrew Lincoln was the first one, I was like, "Oh, that's the character from the Walking Dead."

Anthony: He's got a poster on his wall of him holding the "to me you were perfect sign" from Love Actually.

Matt: Yes. Perfect. Yes.

[*group laughter*]

Will: Hey, everyone. I'm Will Campos. I play Normal Oak. A cool kid who's great with a sword and great with the ladies!

Matt: [laughs] Wow!

Freddie: Ey...! Two— that makes two of us!

Will: No, he's— [*laughs*]

Beth: [*sighs*]

Will: He's a mixed-up mascot kid who doesn't know who he is anymore. One way that Normal is trying to figure out who he is by planning out the future of his new mustache.

Matt: Oh!

Will: He's been looking up mustache styles. He's still kind of waiting for this thing to grow in a little bit more, but he's thinking he might want to go with a real Burt Reynolds.

Beth: Oh, god.

Freddie: A Burt Reynold—

Will: He looked up a article on—

Matt: Ambitious.

Will: —Men's Health about great mustache styles and he was like, "Oh, maybe a Henry Cavill beard stash, where I do the mustache and then a little bit of stubble." But then he saw this picture of Burt and he was like, "That's what I want. That's what I want for my life."

Freddie: What era. Okay, so real quick, though. What era of Burt Reynolds?

Matt: Is he in the goatee, too?

Freddie: Because you have like, y'know—

Will: Smokey and the Bandit.

Freddie: Smokey and the Bandit.

Will: Peak Burt era.

Matt: Just the 'stache.

Freddie: Where the edges kind of curl down a little bit? Kennishly?

Will: Yeah!

Beth: Oh, no...

Will: Like a dirtbag, handsome dirtbag mustache is what Normal's going for.

Beth: Oh, no.

Will: It's not there yet.

Matt: So he's not shaving?

Will: No. He's gotta...

Matt: [*laughing*] He's going full in.

Will: The rate that it's growing, in about seven years he might have a decent Burt Reynolds mustache.

Freddie: Let me ask you this though. Does he have it in him to achieve that? Do you know what I'm saying? Because some people just can't. Like, my brother can't get to a facial hair... amount.

Will: Not a day goes by that Normal does not ask himself that very question.

Freddie: [*chuckles*]

Beth: Damn.

Matt: Aw.

Will: Also, his backup plan is a little waxy, curly, cute handlebar mustache.

Beth: Aw, no.

Matt: Does he already have a mustache brush and all that stuff? Like, really—

Will: No, he's been in the Forgotten Realms this entire time.

Matt: That's true. That's true.

Freddie: Oh, put that on the—

Will: Be serious.

Matt: We'll be on the lookout.

Freddie: Put that on the shopping list. Put that on the shopping list.

Matt: yeah.

Beth: Hi, my name is Beth May and I play [*intensely*] Scary Marlowe.

[*fearful gasps*]

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

Freddie: Phew!

Will: Oh...!

Beth: Fun fact about Scary this week...

Freddie: [*fearful gasp*]

Beth: Is... [*laughs*] ...that her favorite word in English... is the word ache. Because it's both a noun and a verb. Bnd so closely aligned to the feelings of her soul.

[*pause*]

Matt: Love it.

Will: Damn.

Matt: Ache.

Beth: Damn.

Will: Ache. Is that the closest in terms of a noun and a verb that aligns with her soul—? I'm trying to think what other...

Beth: No, there's like— I was just on a Grammarly website trying to find what the...

Anthony: And A is near the beginning of the alphabet.

[*group laughter*]

Beth: And A is so close...

Freddie: Gottem!

Will: Her favorite word is Lincoln.

[*chuckles*]

Beth: Her favorite word...

Freddie: Is the Walking Dead.

Beth: ...is the Walking Dead.

Freddie: Is season two of the Walking Dead.

Matt: That's what she feels like every day, just a walking corpse.

Beth: Damn.

Matt: Corpse Bride.

Freddie: Pff!

Beth: Nice.

Matt: That's a movie too.

Freddie: Wow, Matt. You with the references, bro.

Matt: Reference.

Beth: Wow.

Matt: Rent! Alright.

Beth: Wow.

Anthony: I'm Anthony Burch, I'm your dad.

Freddie: Hey, Dad!

Matt: Hi.

Anthony: I think my favorite word is midst. Because there's not a lot of dst-like words.

Freddie: Midst? Oh, okay!

Matt: Midst.

Beth: Midst!

Freddie: Yeah!

Anthony: It's just an odd consonant cluster.

Freddie: How do you feel about Daylight Saving Time?

Anthony: I don't like it.

Will: *[laughs]*

Freddie: Oh, interesting, interesting, interesting.

Anthony: We say we do it for farmers. Farmers don't need that shit.

Freddie: Farmers— Yeah. Have you fucking seen this shit? Like, farmers got so much fucking... They got drones and shit, dude! You think someone with a drone needs to change...?

[laughter]

Freddie: ...the time one hour? They're beyond such fucking...!

Matt: Yeah, it's some— some prehistoric bullshit.

Freddie: ...petty bullshit! They fucking can fly their drones and water their crops with fucking computers and iPads. Shut the fuck up!

Anthony: *["southern" voice]* My drones only come up with the dawn.

Matt: They're still like, "Hey, can we get the sun to come down a little earlier so we can go to bed on time?" It's like, what are you talking about? There's probably more eSports gamers out there than there are farmers, right?

Freddie: *[laughs]*

Will: What the fuck are you talking about, Matt?!

Matt: I'm just saying. Look, this might be a weird hill—

Anthony: That is the most liberal thing...

Matt: to die on. All I'm saying is—

Anthony: Liberal elite bullshit.

Matt: —maybe eSports gamers are more important to society than farmers.

Will: *[laughs]*

Anthony: No!

Matt: Is that a weird thing?

Freddie: No!

Anthony: Yes!

Beth: This is devastating.

Anthony: Yes, that's weird! That's insane!

Beth: Yeah. No.

Freddie: There are approximately...

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

Matt: All right. Maybe that's weird. I guess that's weird. You guys, I'm hearing the feedback.

Anthony: No eSports gamers ever kept me fed unless they were doing a shitty job in the jungle at LoL.

Freddie: That's right, they're feeding my top mains! No, hold on, Matt. There's five... Okay, hold on...

Anthony: Google how many farmers are there.

Matt: Look, look. That was, without a doubt, on purpose, the stupidest thing I've ever said, so we can...

Beth: Wow, look at 4! We have four farmers!

Freddie: Oh, you're saying farmers in the US?

Beth: That's wild!

Freddie: There are 2.01 million US farmers.

Matt: Oh, yeah. Welcome to the concurrent fucking player count on Call of Duty.

[laughter]

Matt: If you're a farmer listening to this, don't @ me. I don't care.

Freddie: [loud laughs] Don't @ me from your fucking technological chamber at the front seat of your John Deere as you fly—

Anthony: If you're a farmer waiting for the Looney Tunes, [singing] “duh... na-na-na, na-na-na...”

[laughter]

Anthony: As the sun rises. Yawn all big as your rooster crows, then turn on your drones and send them to bomb Matt's house.

[group laughter]

[intro transition plays]

Anthony: When we last left the group, you had gone into the city to see the Black Parade.

Beth: When I was...!

Matt: [chuckles]

Anthony: Scary had successfully managed to convince the Black Parade that she was actually considerably darker and edgier and more in tune with her emotional, dark depressive side than the current drum major was, leading the Black Parade to beat him to death—

Freddie: If you're a drum major and you're beat to death, is that an ironic death?

Beth & Will: [Thoughtful hums and haws]

Beth: All right.

Anthony: Yes, as they were punching him, they were going, “Am I lagging or am I rushing.” ...Drums.

Freddie: They're like, “Paradiddle this!” ...Left, right, left, right. Right. They would punch him with a left, right, left, right, right, and [stutters]... Will? Just Will.

Will: [quiet laughing]

Freddie: I love it. I love it. There's going to be—

Anthony: Will also doesn't like it.

[laughter]

Anthony: Will's just trying to fill the silence with something so you don't feel too bad.

Freddie: All I know is that there's a couple of musicians out there who got a good hearty [*chuckling huff*] out of that one.

Anthony: Okay, so. The Black Parade has knelt and declared that Scary is their new leader.

Freddie: And what happened to the... We were there to get this—

Matt: The key.

Freddie: ...tape measure.

Matt: Oh, the tape measure.

Freddie: Where is that?

Anthony: Yes, the tape measure is still around Vince's waist.

Scary: Cool. So can I have that tape measure, Vince?

Anthony: Vince, without hesitation offers it to you, says—

Vince: Yes. Yes, of course. Now who are we going to go kill?

Scary: Oh... uh, kill. Yeah, kill, uhm... Probably like, our inner demons. Y'know?

Vince: But... how would we do that? They're unkillable, right? They're forever. That's the whole point of why we're all miserable.

Scary: Yeah, yeah-yeah-yeah-yeah, yeah, of course. Of course. And then also kill... ants.

Anthony: Vince is going to narrow his one-dimensional eyes and do an Insight check... and he goes—

Vince: I don't... I liked that poem. We all like that poem.

Anthony: Everybody's like—

Band Members: Yeah, we really liked that poem.

Band Members: Yeah, it was good, good poem.

Band Members: It was a really good poem.

Scary: Yeah! I mean, it was from the heart, it was from the...

Vince: But I don't know if you're actually the darkest person in your...

Scary: [*yellign*] What?!

Vince: In your gro—

Scary: What do you mean I'm not the darkest—? I-I—

Vince: In your group.

Freddie: Taylor wants to verify that—

Taylor: Yeah, she's pretty... dark.

Anthony: Vince goes—

Vince: Well, this one seems to be... He has some lightness in himself because he believes in himself because he's stupid.

[*chuckles*]

Vince: And this one, Link, he's just sad.

Link: What's up.

Vince: That's not the same as dark.

Link: What, man? Hey, yo, chill out. She's got so many people she wants to kill, but like, she can't bother right now, man. Just give her a second. Why you so angsty, man?

Scary: Yeah, I got more important things to do.

Link: Yeah.

Anthony: Va Bince— [*scoffs at self*] Vat Bince? Jesus Christ.

[laughter]

Anthony: But Vince. Goes like— [*beeps like a Game&Watch character moving*] his little one frame animation walk, and moves up right next to Normal and goes—

Vince: ...This one though.

Normal: Oh, hi there! You-y-yeah? W-what's up?

Vince: There's something in this one.

Anthony: So he got a 14 Insight if you want to roll to deceive to hide your true nature or something, if you want.

Will: Uhm... I don't feel like I'm going to do that.

Anthony: Okay.

Will: I feel like I'm an open book.

Anthony: So he goes—

Vince: This one is miserable.

Normal: Wh— I-I—!

Vince: This one is in the most delectable and distinct agony of any of you. You...

Scary: [*defensive laugh*] Okay! Yeah, right. I mean, my... tummy hurts from getting hurt a little while ago and I'm really in pain.

Normal: Yeah! I'm not miserable! What are you talking about? I'm, y'know! I'm Teeny the Teen! I mean, I'm not anymore, and, y'know... there's a couple things I'm upset about, but I don't know if I'd call myself miserable.

Vince: What are you upset about?

Normal: Well... I mean, y'know, just some stuff, like stuff with my dad or whatever, but I'm making do! I'm getting by! I got—

Vince: You said you're not Teeny the Teen. Why are you not Teeny the Teen? I don't know what that means, but why are you not that thing?

Normal: I mean, 'cause, y'know, it seemed like— [*sighs*] I just wasn't really working for me and I wasn't making people proud of me, so... I just wanted

to maybe see if there was a new kind of style I could do up. Like, I'm working on this great mustache. I'm really happy about that. So... y'know!

Vince: How does everyone else feel about the mustache?

Scary: Uh....

Taylor: Eh.

Freddie: Taylor puts his—

Normal: You guys all love it, right? We like the mustache!

Matt: Can I get Insight on... Is he looking like... he's going to get violent, or...?

Anthony: Yeah, go ahead and roll Insight.

Matt: [*dice roll*] A 14?

Anthony: So the 14, you can tell he is not going to get violent at Normal. He is trying to see... which of you, between Normal and Scary, is actually the one with a better grip on... their own darkness and depression. Which of you is actually more miserable than the other.

Matt: Okay, so he is trying to just choose between the two of them?

Scary: Norm, I can't believe you're doing this to me.

Normal: Wh—!

Scary: You're really stealing my thunder and you're really taking all the attention away from me. I can't believe you've done this.

Normal: But—! I'm not trying— I'm sorry. No! You're—! I'm sorry, Scary. That's not what I'm trying to do! Like, you're like, the meanest, worst person of all time, right?

Scary: Yeah! Yes!

Normal: Yeah! Yeah!

Anthony: Vince goes—

Vince: Oh, look. Everyone, look! She said one word and he immediately bent over backwards to make her happy. He doesn't stand up for himself at all. Oh, he's a... he's a... a doormat! He's a doormat and he's miserable. Nothing has made him happy and he's done everything for other people!

Link: Oh...

Normal: I mean, yeah. Okay, let's say I'm not like, the most happy person on Earth, but if you think I'm that bad, like, you should trust me to tell you that Scary, she's the one you want, right? She's got like... this dad that thinks she's great and she like, y'know, treats him crap. She must be miserable, right?

Scary: Yeah!

Normal: Yeah! Like. That sucks! That's a—

Scary: Like, Terry's never done anything wrong to me. It's just that I'm, like, moody and I am in pain. And, so, yeah!

Normal: Yeah, she has someone who loves her no matter what and is super proud of her and she's still upset, right?

Matt: [*chuckles*]

Freddie: [*half-pained laughs*]

Normal: It's like, are you freaking kidding me? What's that about?

Anthony: Ah— so Vince pulls out a knife and puts it to Terry Jr's throat and he says—

Freddie: Careful. That blade's one-dimensional. It's the thinnest possible blade.

Anthony: And he says—

Terry: Oh, you don't like this one? So you would feel nothing if I ended him right now, right? Because it's all pointless.

Scary: Ah, no! I would feel uhm... sadness! Because that's what I feel all the time.

Anthony: Ooh. Roll Deception...?

Beth: [*dice roll*] 18.

Anthony: 18? Okay. So they go—

Vince: Ah, your sadness is so omnipotent that the death of another wouldn't change it. That's not... that's not bad. I see. Maybe you are... The Dark One.

Scary: [*quietly*]

Vince: Maybe you can lead us to take others to the Forever Sleep.

Scary: So the Forever Sl— as like, as in death?

[surprised laughs]

Vince: I mean, kind of— just like, less sad.

Normal: Could you, uhm...

Taylor: Can we do a teen huddle real quick?

Scary: Yeah!

Normal: Yeah!

Vince: Sure, sure.

Link: Yeah.

Scary: Yeah, yeah.

Normal: Just give us a second. We need to talk about how much our lives suck.

Taylor: It's just been some— it's just been so—

Scary: Yeah, they suck so bad. All right.

Vince: Yeah, just let us know when you're ready to lead us into battle against the Undergrove.

Scary: Okay.

Link: All right. Well, maybe you all should go, like, start marching or whatever. You guys are slacking off. Get out of here.

Taylor: Yeah, practice your—

Link: Do your work.

Taylor: Practice your baton twirls.

Scary: Guys.

Link: You don't see—

Scary: I'm the leader here.

Link: Oh, you're right. Yeah, leader.

Taylor: Oh yeah, yeah, yeah.

Link: You tell— yeah.

Scary: Alright... fuck.

Link: They don't seem very miserable, do they, leader?

Scary: No. You guys each have to insult each other twice. Uh...

Will: *[laughs]*

Scary: In a really hurtful way. So... there.

Taylor: Yeah, get real personal.

Vince: Okay, we'll do that.

Scary: Okay.

Anthony: Also, on the ground is an item. This item was sent to us by Adam. Thank you, Adam. It is the Drum Major Baton.

Freddie: Oh....!

Anthony: It is a bo staff you can use as a weapon, similar to Glenn's Nunchucks, but it can also be used as a distraction if you succeed multiple different throws and tricks that get more difficult as they go on. Again, like the nunchucks. Every successful check for Normal heals Normal for 1d4 and every fail deals 1d4 psychic damage to Normal.

Will: *[gasps]*

Beth: Okay. So Normal should get it.

Freddie: No matter who's using it?

Anthony: Yeah.

Freddie: Oh, that's great.

Will: *[laughs]*

Matt: Oh, it's just always attached to Normal?

Anthony: Normal's alwa—

Freddie: No, no, no—

Anthony: Normal really cares, yeah.

Matt: Oh.

Freddie: Normal is influenced heavily by this object. Oh that's great.

Matt: Oh, so you can still have it.

Beth: Oh, okay.

Matt: Beth, if you want it.

Beth: Okay, so Scary picks it up.

Anthony: Okay.

Normal: Oh! That's fine. Yeah, you can have that.

Freddie: *[laughs]*

Scary: Cool

Anthony: Vince is already like—

Vince: Look. See! Look how bummed that one is!

Normal: *[yelling]* Hey, shut up, Vince!

Vince: Okay, fair enough.

Scary: Okay. Teen—

Vince: You ninny!

Anthony: He says to a friend of his.

[group laughter]

Scary: Okay, teen huddle. *[quietly]* F...uck.

Taylor: Hey, I think having this big army hanging around us that we can direct... feels like a good thing.

Link: Well, I mean... it doesn't seem that solid. Like... She was a leader within one second one of the gruntlings is already threatening to usurp. I don't know. This seems like a very unstable army. I was going to say, like—

Normal: Look, if I know anything...

Link: Do we stay here?

Normal: If I know anything about band people and band kids, it's that they smell fear and they will turn on you in a second if you show any weakness in front of them, so I think we really caught a tiger by the tail with this one. My thought is why don't we just grab this—

Link: Yeah, we have it.

Normal: —tape measure and bounce? Let's get out of here.

Link: Yeah, why do we need this?

Scary: Yeah.

Link: Like, whatever.

Taylor: Hey T-Dog.

Scary: Yeah. I mean, it would be a lot of— a lot of responsibility to have to control the whole army or whatever, the marching band rather.

Taylor: Hey, T-dog.

Terry: Yeah, what's— what's up?

Freddie: [laughs]

Terry: Am I in the huddle? Now?

Taylor: Yeah.

Terry: Cool, cool.

Matt: Who?

Freddie: I—

Anthony: Terry.

Freddie: Terry.

Matt: Oh.

Freddie: I wave him over.

Taylor: What's our exfil strategy, bro?

Terry: I was thinking we would like walk away. Because they're all looking at us.

Link: Yeah.

Scary: Yeah...

Terry: So I thought we would just walk back to the Pussy Wagon and then just drive away.

Link: Yeah that seems pretty...

Taylor: That's not a bad plan at all.

Normal: That sounds good to me.

Link: And why don't we all stick close together, y'know, hold hands again so that the vision doesn't happen? Remember? So you and your stepdad aren't separated so nobody can die?

Scary: Oh yeah.

Normal: You probably don't want to let them see you holding hands with your stepdad. That seems like that would be a pretty non-goth thing to do though.

Scary: Yeah.

Link: Yeah.

Scary: I mean, I'm not doing that. So.

Link: You can just punch him in the back of the head the whole time we're walking, or whatever.

[laughter]

Beth: I— I punch—

Anthony: Terry raises a finger in protest as if to say something.

Beth: I punch Terry in the shoulder.

Terry: Ow.

Scary: Heh. Anyways. I think I've got an exit strategy.

Normal: What's the plan?

Scary: Just follow my lead.

Link: All right.

Taylor: Oh-kay....

Normal: All right. You got it.

Link: What should we— can we call you like, Boss?

Normal: Yeah, do you want a cool leader name?

Link: What's your leader name?

Scary: S-Scary.

Taylor: Oh.

Link: Captain Scary.

Anthony: Terry puts his hand on your shoulder and says—

Terry: And that's— that's enough. Just as you— as the... Yeah that's enough as the—

Scary: What are you trying to say?

Terry: Something my- my dad told me, or my mom told me. It was like, that— Just being Scary is cool. Scary's cool.

Scary: Okay, that's a weird thing for your dad to say, but whatever.

Terry: Fuck. I fucked it up. Fuck.

Normal: It's like you are enough just the thing that you do—

Freddie: [*singing*] Just the way you are!

Normal: So the things you do are good. I think. Right?

Freddie: Yeah, that's it that's it.

Normal: That's what he's kind of trying to say.

Link: Yeah!

Terry: I'm trying to say— I'm trying to say cool, Scary.

Scary: Well, I'm saying the opposite of that.

Terry: So you're no good?

Scary: I'm no good.

Terry: Aw, what makes you say that?

Normal: I don't want to interrupt, but can we like, we could probably do this...

Scary: Yeah.

Normal: ...down the road?

Scary: Yeah.

Link: In the wagon.

Anthony: His eyes widen and he turns you and he's like—

Terry: I was— I was right on the cusp. Of making...

[*laughter*]

Normal: I'm sorry!

Matt: I whisper and I lean and I go—

Terry: ...such a fucking breakthrough, and you fucked it up for me.

Matt: I lean in and I go—

Link: You- you weren't close, buddy, yet.

[group laughter]

Link: Don't rush it, man. Don't rush it. You're okay.

Scary: Eh-hem!

Link: Just be there for her. You're okay, man.

Freddie: This whole time, by the way, Taylor like is Naruto finger tutting this information back to Hermie, who is watching with the, uh, golf...

Anthony: Hermie's just nodding solemnly through the monocular.

Will: "I have no idea what this is."

[laughter]

Anthony: Yeah. He's like, "Cool. I don't know what this means, but it means that Taylor wants to talk to me. That's pretty cool. I'm Taylor's favorite."

Normal: Okay, Scary. We'll follow your lead.

Scary: Okay. [clears throat] Attention, band. I have an announcement to make. Uhm... It would be such a cool fucking honor to be your leader, which is why I have to step down.

Normal: [gasps]

Freddie: [surprised laugh]

Scary: Because it would be so cool that it might make me happy and I can't have that because nothing should ever make me happy. I am too unworthy and depressed—clinically!—to...

[laughter, including beth]

Scary: ...to be your leader, and thus I must depart this land. As a last command to you, I say: march on in that direction and feel very sad! Mm!

Anthony: Right. Give me Persuasion.

Matt: With advantage because she's leader?

Freddie: She is the leader.

Anthony: Well, she just gave it up mid-sentence. So.

Beth: Fuck!

Will: Does she get advantage because those who don't want to lead are the most... They want do the-the best.

Anthony: They lead with most to lead?

[dice roll]

Anthony: The thing that you just said?

Beth: Okay, Persuasion. I got 5+5. 10.

Anthony: 10. Okay. So with a 10, Vince, again... People are beginning to surround—

Will: It's like Trump trying to tell all those guys to go home after the insurrection.

[group laughter]

Will: [Trump impression] You're very special. Go home.

Anthony: I know what she's really saying. Okay, so Vince goes—

Vince: ...I knew it. There's something off. There's something of— You haven't actually tasted true despair. You actually don't know what it's like...

Scary: [haughty scoff] What?

Vince: ...to be really, really miserable... and I think that you're a poser. Poser! Isn't that right, everybody?

Scary: Well I think that—

Vince: Poser! Poser!

Scary: —you're a fucko! And a loser and a- and a- and a two-dimensional squid person.

Anthony: The band mates around you lift their instruments and they go—

Band Members: You'll know what it is to be truly miserable once you've heard this music.

Scary: Oh, God. I'm sure I will.

Vince: Yeah. So either... you can prove that you're a hardcore and that you don't care about anything in some way that may surprise me or delight me. Usually, involving violence, you'll have to come with that yourself, or... we'll play this music for you and we'll know for sure that you know what it is to be miserable, and then you can leave us for good.

Normal: Uh... Sc—

Scary: Ugh...

Matt: I lean over to Scary—

Link: Hey, I don't know if this will help, but like, I got this gun that shoots humans. Maybe like, if you like, shoot yourself out of it or shoot your stepdad, or just be like, 'I'm so— don't give a shit.'

Normal: [*gasps*] No— that's—!

Link: 'Every day I watch myself die. I kill— I literally take a gun and I shoot my corpse out.'

Taylor: Wait, wait, wait, wait, wait, no, no, no. Let them play that music for a clone of you.

Link: Yeah, but like, if we're away from them where they don't see us, we might as well just run. But we could also just run away.

Normal: Scary... if you want to bully me to prove...

Link: Oh, that's a good one.

Normal: ...to these guys that you're super hardcore, y-you can do that. [*strained*] Just give me both barrels. I can take it.

Scary: Okay.

Link: Yeah, why don't you just tell them that we're your, quote unquote, best friends and then just devastate us in front of them?

Normal: Yeah, just—

Will: I drop to my knees and I say—

Normal: Roast me.

Link: Yeah. Roast me.

Normal: Roast the shit out of me.

Scary: [*clears throat*]

Taylor: I'd like to see you try to roast me, but uh, you are...

Link: Reddit r-backslash-roastme. And here's the evidence it's me.

Matt: I put up a little sign that says my Instagram account.

[*laughter*]

Link: It's me. Do your worst.

Scary: Uh-uh- eh-hem. Attention, band. Challenge accepted obviously. You're about to see the roast of the century. These are the only people that love me.

[*laughter*]

Scary: Right here. All I have. Norm... you got bad BO, man.

Normal: [*over dramatic gasp*] Oh! No!

Scary: That's just me doing a service to you, to let you know so you can be clean!

Normal: Oh, thank you, I really appreciate that—!

Scary: But! I mean! Not—!

Freddie: [*laughs*]

Normal: I mean, oh, God! No!

Scary: I don't know why you're so scared... of anything else when you should be m-mostly scared that you'll never make your parents proud!

Normal: Guh—!

Freddie: Oh God.

Scary: And Taylor.

Taylor: Heh.

Freddie: Taylor's looking at his fingernails.

Scary: You think you're so cool.

Taylor: Uh-huh.

Scary: But you're not.

Taylor: Meh.

Scary: You're just a, a sad... little dude. And...

Normal: [*whispers*] His father's in hell and abandoned him.

Scary: And your father went to Hell to get away from you!

Taylor: [*quick string of single consonants*]

Freddie: This does affect Taylor.

Will: [*chuckles*]

Taylor: [*continued indignant stutters*]

Scary: And no matter how cool and how hot you think you are, you're never going to make him come out.

Taylor: W! J—! Hold me back. Someone, hold me back.

Normal: [*strained*] I can't. I'm too— I'm too hurt. I'm already down. Link, you got to help him.

Scary: And, uh. And Lincoln!

Anthony: You're all grabbing your chest like somebody wrote the Death Note about you.

Freddie: [*laughs*]

Scary: You're named after a subpar actor!

Freddie: Whoa!

Will: [*laughs*]

Link: Wait, what?

Scary: And uh...

Link: I never knew that.

Scary: And you're way too preoccupied with what your parents think of you.

Link: Yeah...?

Scary: And Terry... [*chuckles*] Terry.

Anthony: Terry's beckoning you forward with hands like...

Terry: Here, I can...

Link: Oh, I got off easy.

[*laughter*]

Terry: I can take it.

Anthony: Terry turns and goes—

Terry: Andrew Lincoln is a very bad actor.

Link: Oh, no!

[*group laughter*]

Terry: Watch Love— Watch Love Actually again. He's a very bad actor.

Freddie: Taylor's leaning against Lincoln—

Taylor: Gah, I need your help.

Freddie: Now Lincoln also collapses. We're just a pile.

Scary: Terry... I've been alive for 15 years and I haven't learned how to love myself. What gives you the right to try in eight months?

Freddie: Woah!

Scary: You- Y-You dummy.

Anthony: Terry narrows his eyes and goes—

Terry: I don't know if that's a roast on me.

Scary: It is because— uhm! If you think it's so easy to be my dad, then you got another thing coming. Because my first dad didn't stick around. And so

he's really cool because he knows how dark and scary and wants to stay away from me. And that's how... it should be!

Link: *[quietly]* Tell him he's got fat ankles.

Scary: You've got fat ankles, and you're...

[laughter]

Scary: And I think you're needy and I think... that your eyes are too close together.

Anthony: So the others, other than Terry, it feels like they accepted your roasting. I think for Terry, you're going to have to roll Intimidation or Persuasion with disadvantage.

Matt: Oh, he's not sensitive about his looks.

Beth: *[sighs]*

Anthony: No.

Freddie: Nor his ankles, though?

Matt: No, he's a grown man.

Anthony: He's a grown man.

Will: His ankles look fucking glorious.

Anthony: Yeah.

Will: And you know it.

Anthony: His wife is Veronica. He's fucking got it made.

Matt: No he still had that for a long time, he just has extra wide shoes. He's fine. He's good.

Freddie: He's got those New Balance wides.

Scary: Terry, I'm never going to love you.

Freddie: *[quiet gasp]*

Anthony: Ooh, okay.

Freddie: Ooh...

Anthony: Now... you don't have to tell me, but it can be Deception as well. You can roll with Deception or Intimidation or Persuasion. You don't have to tell me which.

[dice clack]

Anthony: Not with the disadvantage because that was pretty good.

Beth: Nice. I got a 16+5.

Will: [gasps]

Freddie: Ooh...

Anthony: Okay. So with the 21, you see it hit him. He see those, like... He's all soft. His arms are actually opening up to sort bring you into an embrace as you mentioned that like, you haven't loved yourself in 15 years. But even despite all that, once you say, "I'm never going to love you," he realizes the truth of it and believes you wholeheartedly, and he like... steps back with the emotional impact. But it's like an anime thing where he digs his back foot in, it like *kkkshhhh*, slides a little bit.

Matt: [chuckles]

Freddie: The last second, yeah yeah yeah.

Anthony: His eyes are going to get a little bit wet. So Vince and the other members of the Black Parade look at your friends in a little pile and they go—

Vince et. all: That's not bad. That's not bad. But we all know that to be truly... deep, dark, and cool, you have to hate no one else more than you hate yourself.

[quiet gasps]

Vince et. all: What is the roast that you would roast yourself with?

Scary: [soft chuckle] That I am a poser.

Taylor: Wh—!

Normal: [gasps]

Scary: I'm a fucking phony. And... I don't even traditionally dark things, like black's not my favorite color or whatever. It's actually pink. But... I just... I get so lonely that I thought that... I could push everybody away. But it's just...

stupid. It's a stupid little game that a little girl who doesn't know jack shit is playing. ...I miss soccer.

Taylor: Doh—!

Link: [*softly*] Yes!

Matt: Link...

Freddie: [*laughs*]

Matt: He does it quietly though.

Anthony: Roll Persuasion with advantage.

Beth: [*dice roll*] 9+5.... 14.

Anthony: So with a 14, Vince nods at you and he goes—

Vince: It's not bad, kid. It's not bad.

Scary: My dad left me when I was a baby. He wanted nothing to do with me. My mom keeps saying she doesn't know where he is, but... I bet she does. I bet he's too cool for me. Fucking Terry thinks it's going to be all easy to come in here and love me, but... the one person who should've, didn't.

Anthony: Vince is like—

Vince: Whoa, you had me! Like you were—

[chuckles]

Vince: We were— we were good.

Scary: I'm sad all the time.

Vince: Oh, shit.

Beth: [*laughs*]

[*group laughter*]

Vince: Oh, shit. All right, it's a little much.

Scary: I'm so lonely...

Vince: Oh, no.

Scary: And my tummy hurts from getting the- those five hit points, and nobody's paying attention to me, and that's what's really, really—

Normal: [*still strained*] Everyone is paying attention to you right now.

Scary: Oh, 'kay.

Vince: Oh, we're all paying attention right now, but it feels like we're not to you, which is even— Oh, boy. Okay, everybody, I guess let's pack it up. Let's get moving. She said that we had to go in the other direction and just... think about our lives or whatever? What did you tell us to do?

Scary: Come up with another sad song.

Vince: Another sad song, right.

Scary: Yeah, and then if it's cool, I'll listen to it later.

[*group laughter*]

Vince: All right. Well, we'll see you again. But yeah, okay. We're good for now. Geez Louise. Okay. ...Man, maybe talk to somebody. Woof.

Scary: Well, yeah. I mean, things are really dark. Yeah.

Vince: Okay, bye.

Scary: Oh, wait. Give me that thing.

Vince: Oh, yeah, no.

Matt: You already have it.

Beth: It's still on his waist, right?

Anthony: Oh. Yeah, he takes the tape measure off and tosses it to you.

Scary: Nice, thanks.

Vince: Yeah, no problem. Woof. Oh, boy.

Will: [*laughs*]

Vince: Yeah, so I guess we'll forget about the Undergrove then. We're just going to sort of hang out here—

Normal: Wait, what's that?

Vince: The Undergrove? It's the place we're at war with.

Normal: Oh, okay.

Link: Oh.

Taylor: Just like, do a quick summar—

Normal: Wait, isn't Grant there— [*half muttered under his breath*] somewhere? Grant in the Undergrove? [*normally*] What's that? What is that though?

Vince: It's a place where a lot of people live that we don't like.

Link: Well, yeah. Probably is good. [*quietly*] If my dad's there, then have them forget it. We don't want to go there in the middle of a war. [*normally*] Yeah. Look, that would be freaking too cool if you did that, and that's lame, we don't want to be cool. So like, yo. Yeah, don't— yeah. Terry— I mean, Scary, you tell him. You're better at it. But yeah, yeah, no war with Undergrove, that would be good for us.

Scary: Yep, just carry on. Keep calm and carry on.

Normal: Just [*to the tune of the Welcome to the Black Parade lyric*] carry on!

Scary: Yeah! Yeah.

Normal: [*clears his throat*] Sorry. I don't know why I sang it like that.

Scary: No, I—

Anthony: Vince points, he goes like—

Vince: Wait a second. There's something there.

Scary: Ah!

Vince: Nah, fuck it. No, that was terrible.

[*laughs*]

Scary: Man, teenagers scare the living shit out of me, bro.

Normal: Boo!

Anthony: Oh, so they walk into the difference.

Will: I guess this is how they disappear. ...Anyone else?

Anthony: No, I don't know that one.

Beth: No, No.

Will: Beth and I are the only one who knows the... album... Nevermind.

Beth: No.

Matt: No, Beth doesn't know it either.

Beth: No.

Matt: Just you.

Freddie: Just you, Will.

Will: Sharpest Lives.

Matt: Now Will's the leader. He's the saddest of us all.

Beth: Yeah. Damn.

[ad break]

Anthony: The Black Parade heads back into The City, basically going over new lyrics and trying to find new ways to impress you now that you've... blown them away with how deep and dark and self-reflective somebody can be. Terry goes...

Terry: Oh, okay. I thought I was going to... I thought I would— this is where I... Huh. Okay.

Link: Nope. And that was all—

Normal: 'Ey yeah, you didn't die!

Link: Yeah!

Normal: Up top!

Terry: Uh...

Link: That was really fun make believe, right?

Will: [laughs]

Anthony: His eyes are still wet and he does not high five you, and he goes—

Terry: Yeah. No, definitely didn't, uh... I guess I didn't die. I guess not. Guess... definitely didn't have... my heart broken...

Scary: See, I knew you were overreacting.

Terry: Yeah. Yeah! Silly me. Silly me. Okay! Well... I guess I can, uh... head back—

Matt: I lean over to Terry, I go—

Link: Hey, man. I've seen her in acting class. She's really good. She thinks she's a good a— y'know, she thinks' she's a good actor, but I can—

Terry: Don't talk to me.

Link: —tell she's just acting. What?

Will: [*chuckles*]

Terry: I said don't talk to me.

Link: Oh, alright.

Terry: I don't like you.

Link: You know what? You are mean. Nevermind. Whatever.

Terry: Yeah.

Link: Was just trying to help you, dude.

Normal: Hey. Hey, Mr.— what's— Stampler?

Link: No, don't help him. He's mean. He doesn't care.

Normal: No, if you— but like, y'know, if you want to be like, proud of another kid and love them, y'know.

Link: Oh...

Freddie: [*laughs*]

Normal: There's other kids out there. That's all I'm saying. Y'know, like. If you want to be supportive and tell someone that they're doing a good job, y'know, I bet there's other kids out there that would like having that— some

kind of role model. I don't know. Maybe they have those programs like Big Brother, Little Sister, Big Brother, Big Sister. You could do something like that.

Matt: I put my hands on Normal—

Normal: Y'know...

Link: Dude. You can do better, man.

[group laughter]

Link: You're worth it, dude. I know you're having a hard time, but you're worth it. You're a good one man, and your mustache looks great and you're fine, dude. You don't want him. He's mean.

Terry: No, I like this one.

Link: Well of course you would.

Terry: Normal, I like.

Normal: Well I like you Terry Jr!

Scary: Oh God.

Terry: Scary was right about the smell though. You need to see about that. That's not...

Normal: Oh. Okay.

Terry: It's going to drive people away.

Normal: Wow, yeah, you're really not good at this are you?

[laughter]

Terry: I'm just saying it's going to drive people away. Do you want friends or do you not want friends? Yeah. No, sorry. Sorry— fuck. I fucked up. I fucked up. I fuck everything up. Fuck.

Anthony: So if you want to, you can just head back to the portal and drop off Terry, or you can try to take him to the Undergrove. But also, it has now been 24 hours since you've been...

Will: Uh-oh.

Anthony: ...in this world, so everybody to go ahead and roll a d20.

Freddie: What...

Anthony: And depending on how well you roll, that is the quality of memory you will lose.

Freddie: [*dice roll*] 11?!

Will: [*dice roll*] That's a 10.

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

Anthony: Ooh!

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

Will: Do we want to roll low, or roll high?

Anthony: You wanted to roll high.

Will: Okay.

Matt: Oh, good.

Beth: Oh, okay!

Anthony: So Scary, you don't lose anything. Link, you lose a bad memory.

Matt: I forget that I'm named after Andrew Lincoln.

[*group laughter*]

Freddie: Yes! The psychic damage undo does itself.

Anthony: Normal and Taylor, you're going to lose memories that are an everyday sort of element of your lives up to this point. Something you would sort of take for granted.

Will: [*gasps*] Season 12 of The Walking Dead, it's gone!

Beth: Oh, no!

Matt: [*laughs*]

Freddie: Something that we would take for granted?

Anthony: Something you'd take for granted and look back on later in life as like, "Aw, I used to eat sandwiches with my sister.. when I was waiting for my dad to come home."

Matt: Your mom cooking you pancakes every Wednesday.

Freddie: I've suddenly lost my desire to read things right to left.

[*chuckles*]

Anthony: That's pretty big.

Will: Normal has lost the concept of Taco Tuesday.

Freddie: Woah, no, no!

Beth: Mm, aw man.

Freddie: Will! Will!

Will: A load-bearing concept.

Freddie: Will, think about that! Will, before you go down that route...

Will: [*laughs*]

Matt: I also like the only reason the school still does Taco Tuesdays is because Normal would always remind...

Will: Yeah, he'd be like "it's Taco Tuesday, everyone!"

Matt: ...the student council. And then two years from now everybody's like, "Why don't we have Taco Tuesdays anymore?" It's all... Normal was important to the school, dammit!

Anthony: That's great.

Will: Normal was the only one left on Earth. It's like the elevators. He's the only one who remembered Taco Tuesday.

Anthony: Fantastic. Yes, everybody has lost their requisite memory.

Freddie: I guess reading from right to left's not a memory.

Will: You forgot that you like to do that.

[*chuckles*]

Matt: You forgot the password to your weird fucking machine in your bedroom.

Freddie: Oh, yeah, yeah, yeah! I forget one of my most important passwords, which is the password that controls my home automation system in my room.

Will: You forgot—

Anthony: So it's like the omelette du fromage?

Will: You forgot the perfect AI art prompt to generate anime waifus.

Matt: [laughs]

Beth: Oh my God.

Freddie: Oh, my God! That's right. I found it once.

Will: "4K realistic anime girl ArtStation. What was the rest of it?"

Freddie: "OctaneRender in the style of... Who was it? Who was it?"

Anthony: Great.

Freddie: And a hole in my heart opens up. For all the waifus that I will not have.

Will: All the kind of weird vacant-looking waifus.

Beth: To all waifus I've had before.

[group laugh]

Anthony: You have one more dad to rescue. You can either get rid of this one, uh...

[group laughter]

Anthony: Or you can hang out with him. He gra—

Will: Wait, does Terry— does Terry lose a memory?

Anthony: Yeah, Terry does lose a memory.

Matt: But we don't know what it is.

Anthony: You don't know what it is.

Beth: We don't know the quality of it? Okay.

Anthony: No.

Taylor: Teen huddle. Teen huddle.

Link: Yeah guys, what're we doing.

Scary: Okay?

Link: What's up?

Taylor: Just real quick. I say that we just sort of mention that this guy Willy got out on his own.

Link: Oh, yeah. We should see how he responds to that.

Normal: He's going to find out about Willy when he gets back.

Link: Oh, yeah.

Normal: Do you want to frame the context on that at all, Scary?

Link: Oh yeah.

Scary: Well, I mean—

Taylor: I feel like—

Scary: I think we should still call Willy April Mistwell, which is a really anagram of Willy Stampler.

Normal: Oh, that is cool!

Anthony: Oh...!

Taylor: Oh...!

Link: Okay, that makes sense.

Anthony: That's where that's from! That's fun.

Link: That's good!

Freddie: That's really good!

Link: Uh— Okay.

Will: I thought it was like "Beth May" thing. I couldn't really like— May, April. I couldn't really figure it out.

Beth: No...

Anthony: April Mistwell.

Link: Not to throw a flag, but uhm... I get the secretness, but I feel like we should tell your stepdad what he's going into. I don't think that's really nice to like... We know that Willy was bad to him, so we should tell him before we throw him into...

Normal: Yeah, mm...

Link: Literally Willy. Like—

Scary: Okay, I think I can handle this. Yeah, for sure.

Link: Okay.

Normal: Okay, for sure.

Scary: Yeah. For sure.

Normal: Let us know if you need anything.

Scary: Okay, yeah.

Normal: And, and, and...

Link: Just like, on the drive over or something?

Normal: Please don't be mean to me anymore. I know you were pretending, but it really hurt my feelings.

Scary: Yeah, I'm- I'm sorry about— No, I'm not, I'm not sorry.

Normal: Okay.

Scary: I'm bad. [*quietly*] I'm bad! Okay...

Link: Also, Scary, if you're ever looking for a pass buddy and you just want to kick the ball around... Y'know!

Scary: Pss, no, I was completely lying when I said that I miss soccer.

Link: Oh, okay! Well, that's cool. I'm not lying. So if you do... let me know.

Scary: Okay. [*clears throat*] Terry?

Terry: Uh, yeah.

Scary: So... listen. About the other world. This... dude is out running around there. And, uhm. He's pretty cool actually, he's a little like, less approachable? Which makes him more approachable in my eyes. He doesn't try to put on airs or to, y'know like, make me like him. And, uhm... he's got a mean streak, right? So like, I just find him kind of inspiring... But he is out there and you should probably know about it.

Terry: So you- you wanted me to know there's a chill hot guy?

[laughter]

Scary: Zz, yeah—

Terry: Back on...

Scary: Well, no. Not hot like that. Like, just a...

Terry: Sounds hot to me but, sure.

Scary: ...chiller step dad material kind of.

Terry: Oh, are you saying... are your mom has... has been seeing...

Scary: No, no-no, no—

Terry: ...someone else?

Scary: No, no. It's not that. It's just like—

Taylor: It's my mom that's been seeing someone else.

Scary: I, y'know, I feel like—

Taylor: Why's that kid talking?

Normal: Yeah, Taylor, read the room, man. Come on. Come on. Uh, tell me about survival stuff. I really want to know about tents.

Link: What?

Taylor: Ah. Well, so the first thing you need now is...

Scary: It's Willy Stampler.

Anthony: So for a second he... steps back in shock as if you just slapped him in the face. And then he cocks his head a little bit and goes—

Terry: Well, wait a second. If I was supposed to die... surrounded by the Black Parade... I'm safe. When I go back. I can just fucking kill the guy.

[pause]

Scary: No!

Terry: I can just ha— I can just handle it. I can just f— I can kill him, and he can't stop me!

Scary: No, he's not like, causing havoc! I was saying as a courtesy! I don't know why I— all of a sudden I'm preoccupied with courtesy of all things. I'm just saying that he's out there... and that you should know.

Link: And that he's dating Taylor's—

Scary: And he's dating Taylor's...

Link: ...mom.

Scary: ...mom. So...

Terry: Okay that's—

Taylor: If you're looking for a place to start.

Terry: That's not really relevant to me, but I uh... Yeah, I'm gonna... I think I have to ki— Oh, so it sounds like you like this guy.

Scary: Yeah!

Terry: Which is not... I don't know why you— I don't get that. I'm sorry.

Scary: W...

Terry: I don't get it. He's bad. He's a bad person, he's worse than you think. He's just shitty. He's fucking awful, and I finally have a chance... to finish him off.

Scary: Then you're staying with us!

Terry: That's g—

Scary: You're not going back there.

Terry: I think I'm gonna...? I don't know if you can stop me?

Scary: Uhm.

Normal: Can we stop him? I mean, I don't...

Link: I don't want to stop him. I mean, you can... this is between you and your dad, but like—

Terry: Scary, I love you, but like... I have to get rid of this guy to keep you safe. If you go back and he's still running around, it could be very, very bad for you and your friends. And sorry I snapped at you, Lincoln. ...No response from Lincoln. That's fair.

Freddie: No response from Lincoln.

Terry: That's fair.

Matt: Oh, what? Oh, you were saying that to me?

Anthony: Yes.

Normal: When did you snap at him?

Terry: When he leaned over and was like, "Hey, she's a bad actor, and I was like, I don't care."

Matt: Oh, you didn't give me eye contact. Say that again.

Normal: Oh, that's not snapping!

Anthony: I don't give eye contact to anybody!

Normal: Snapping's like when you really flip out at someone.

Link: Oh. It's okay, man. I get it. You're having a hard time with your stepdaughter. That's tough. I got it.

Terry: Yeah, it's also my own stuff.

Link: I'm sorry I called you a jerk.

Scary: Why don't you stay here while I take a quick nap and then we can discuss it?

[laughter]

Anthony: Well, you go back to the Pussy Wagon and I assume you could drive back and then take your nap while you're on your way back to wherever you want to go.

Terry: Sure. Yeah, sure. We're going to take you back to the portal. Let's just go back to the Pussy Wagon. I'm just going to get some Z's in the back of the Pussy Wagon! And then we will say our goodbyes there.

Link: Why don't you drive so the four of us can talk in the back?

Terry: Sure. Yeah, I can drive. I know the way back to the portal, and I just wanna... say thanks for being mature about this. Of all the things I've done to keep you safe, this'll be the one that I feel the best about and the least morally ambivalent about. So I'm uh...

Scary: Okay, cool. Whatever.

Terry: But yeah. I believe in you all that you can survive out here and that you can find Grant and bring him back too, and then we'll be good. Then we can fix all this. So yeah. Vroom, vroom! I'm driving now.

Scary: Okay.

[group laughter]

Anthony: He says that aloud, by the way.

[laughter]

Matt: Very dad energy.

Anthony: Yeah.

Terry: Where's the radio on this thing, right?

Beth: In the back seat, I'm gonna put...

Taylor: Don't tweet that one.

Beth: I'm going to put the Night Cap on.

Anthony: So you instantly fall asleep.

Beth: Okay.

Matt: And then Lincoln instantly takes it off and is like—

Link: Scary, what's going on? What are you going to do?

Scary: Hey, I'm going to put a little "do not disturb" sign on this hat.

Link: Oh

Scary: So just give me some space.

Link: Okay. ...Hey, everybody, she needs space.

Beth: I put the hat back on.

Anthony: Okay. You fall asleep.

[in the dream, Scary and Willy both have an echoing effect on their voices]

Scary: Willy, are you here?

Will: *[inhales through teeth]*

[an airy music note plays]

Scary: In like, in the dream space?

Willy: Yeah. What's up? You okay?

Scary: Woah, you're actually here.

Matt: We all look at Scary and she's kind of moving like a dog that's having a dream.

[laughter]

Matt: She's running in place.

Anthony: Yeah.

Link: She's dreaming!

Anthony: Yeah, chasing rabbits.

Scary: So I think my stepdad is coming back there to try to kill you. He can't do that, can he?

Willy: He can try! But no, he's not going to kill me. Do you want me to kill... I mean, I don't have to kill him.

Scary: Uhm...

Willy: I mean, is he cool? How is he, like...? I mean, I knew him when he was a little, little, and I don't know how he is changed, y'know, since then.

Scary: Well he's—

Willy: It's sort of up to you.

Scary: He's complicated. He's like... nice, I guess, and he, y'know supports me or whatever. But he tries too hard and he comes off as a goofball and it's embarrassing!

Willy: Oh, so he's like a nerd. Okay.

Scary: Yeah.

Willy: No, I get that. You know what? Let's err on the side of... I'll beat him up bad enough that he doesn't want to keep fighting, but I'm not going to kill him though. I'll keep him alive. Is that fair?

Scary: Okay.

Willy: Does that sound fair?

Scary: Yeah.

Willy: But yeah. No, he'll definitely try some stuff. I'll make sure he doesn't...

Scary: Okay. Stay safe.

Willy: Hey, you too!

Scary: And then what should our next move be?

Willy: Well, you can go get Grant. I'm also thinking... Oh, yes! Ah, that was the other thing I wanted to tell you. So there's basically a kind of a church somewhere? On Earth? I've basically just been sitting around and just sort of psychically reaching out into where you are, which is why we can talk like this. And I think there is a church somewhere that a long time ago some folks tried to basically build a way of communicating with and of showing their admiration for the Doodler in the hopes that he would basically show mercy on them. And I think if you go there, that's the place where you're going to have the easiest time actually diving into the Doodler's mind and maybe finding a way to kill him. So... yeah. I think once you figure out... Give me a little bit to pinpoint exactly where it is, but I know that's probably your next stop after you deal with, y'know, getting whatever, Lincoln's dad, sorted or whatever.

Scary: Cool. All right.

Willy: You cool? You good?

Scary: Yeah. Yeah, I am. I think I am.

Willy: Okay. Do you need anything? Like... I mean, magic advice?

Scary: No, now you're trying too hard, man. *[laughs]*

[laughter]

Willy: Okay, fair enough. Nope, you got me there. Yeah, it's my first time trying, like. I'm trying. But no, that's fair. Uh...

Scary: Alright.

Willy: I'm going to go uh... make out with Taylor's mom a little bit more.

Freddie: *[laughs]*

Scary: Alright. peace.

Willy: But you have a good one.

Beth: I take the hat off.

Freddie: But you're asleep.

Beth: Damn.

[group laughter]

Link: Oh yeah, do we have to—

Normal: Did she say how long we're supposed to let her...

Link: Oh, we have to— I think we have to take this thing off.

Normal: It says do not disturb.

Link: Oh my god.

Normal: It's been like 12 hours.

Link: Oh, yeah. Hey, hey Terry. Uh... Mr. uh, Marlowe?

Terry: Yeah?

Link: Are we close?

Terry: Yeah, we're basically there.

Link: Okay. Yeah, we should take it off.

Normal: Hey, man. B-b-but real quick, what's the deal with this Willy guy?

Link: Good idea.

Normal: Like, we read the book and he seems like bad news, but at the same time, I got to be honest, you guys seem like bad news.

Taylor: Yeah, sorta bad news all around.

Normal: You did pretty bad shit to keep us safe, and I understand why you did it, but like... we're not really crazy about this whole idea of blowing up more planets and stuff. It doesn't seem like a good way to do it, and it seems like this Willy guy has another idea for how we can not do that by like, fighting the Doodler. It seems like he's got a plan, so I-I don't know. I feel kind of conflicted, I gotta be honest.

Terry: I understand why you might feel conflicted. And... I mean, I remember what it was like to be a teen. Everything's confusing. The adults are telling you this thing and that thing, and... you're sure that you're smarter than them and you're sure that they don't know what they're talking about, and... you know that when you're an adult, you're going to do better and you're going to be smarter and you're going to have your shit together. And then one day, oh shit, you're an adult, and oh shit, you don't have your shit together any better than anybody else.

Taylor: It feels like you're avoiding the question.

Normal: Yeah.

Terry: The answer to your question is we made mistakes trying to protect you. Willy never made mistakes. Everything Willy wanted to do was intentional. Everybody he hurt, he wanted to hurt, and every bad thing that he did was part of some greater plan. So if you think that he has some sort of way of getting rid of the Doodler that's going to be bloodless or that's going to ultimately be better than whatever we can think up? I think you're kidding yourselves. I can't stop you from doing what you want to do, you're not my kids. I mean, Scary is, but...

Normal: Well, she's not.

Terry: Well, I guess no, she's not. No, she's not. I can't stop any of you.

Terry: She doesn't give a shit about me. Why should you give a shit about what I have to say? I'm just some dumbass adult. But! I can tell you that Willy kidnapped me and my friends when I was a kid and he was going to keep us locked up for good so that he could be immortal. And if you think that's the kind of guy who could just... change his mind after a while and become a good person and really want to protect all of you, I don't know what to tell you. You may not like what I and the others want to do to stop the Doodler, but I can guarantee you're also going to dislike—way more!—whatever it is that Willy thinks he can do. Because I don't know what his plan is, but I know whatever it is, it can't be good.

Link: Why did you tell like, did you tell your wife?

Terry: No.

Link: Any of this? So did my dad not tell Marco anything?

Terry: I don't know what Grant did.

Link: How come you guys didn't get help from anybody? Like...

Terry: We went to everybody! When this first started, we went to the FBI—The FBI came to us. We talked to all the Feds and everything and they seemed to be the most interested in how they could maybe... use the Doodler for themselves or get into Hell and use all the resources they had there. They got very distracted very quickly—

Taylor: Promise of power.

Terry: —by Nicky and his family rather than the larger problem, which they tended to think of as not that big a deal. I mean, as far as they were concerned, it was just more kooky stories about poltergeists and- and witchcraft and stuff that they already had a long history of ignoring. The stuff we wanted them to pay attention to, they just wouldn't. So we had to go out as a family... in basically a couple of mystery machines— That reference is probably lost on you. We just all hung— went into a big van and went out and tried to solve this—

Normal: You guys were like YouTube ghost hunters.

Link: But how did you find like... You have Ms. Haile, and she's great, she's doing all sorts of stuff. So why, like— you just put it all on her and then you didn't give us anything. Like. You didn't protect us. At all. Protecting is also trusting. So I just don't understand like... how Grant or how you guys could all do that.

Taylor: Yeah, you didn't train us on how to use weapons...!

Terry: We were trying to protect you from every part of it. Not just the danger, but the... losing your innocence as quickly as we did and having to learn how to load a gun when you were 12 and having to do all that sh— I'm sure Taylor thinks it's— This one with the sword probably thinks it's super cool.

Taylor: All of this. Was important. And it could have been a great market improvement on my life.

Terry: I'm sure you would've loved that, but you also would've missed out on all the fun parts of your childhood, all the things that... I mean, I'm assuming. I haven't had very long with Scary in my life, but I'm assuming you all had happy memories with your families of, of normal things and making cookies together and watching movies and throwing popcorn and y'know, whatever, playing board games—

Taylor: Throwing popcorn?

Terry: I don't know!

Link: Yeah, but now it's all ruined, cause it's all a lie!

Terry: When you watch a movie, people playfully throw popcorn at each other as like a visual shorthand for like, "they get along." You know what I'm talking about?

Taylor: You've never watched a movie before in your life, have you?

Terry: I've watched... I only watched a couple. I really like watching Miracle. I've just watched Miracle a lot.

[group laughter]

Beth: Oh my God.

Terry: You know how sometimes parents will lie to their kids about whether or not... Santa Claus exists?

Taylor: W— Sor— One more time?

Terry: Do you know Santa Claus...?

Link: He just learned this.

Taylor: I've been told that this was a lie!

Terry: Well, okay. So St. Nicholas technically does exist in terms of that's your dad, but Santa Claus, the red guy with the suit?

Taylor: Uh-huh!

Terry: Is not... I'm so sorry you're hearing this from me.

Taylor: Sir, I did figure it out, and it was quite the shock and I would've preferred it that I was not deceived for so long. That's bullshit.

Terry: Yeah, but if you didn't have that, if you didn't have that period of time where you were lied to, then you would've never had any magic in your life. You would've come out with your child-like wonder and you would've immediately be hint the face by reality. And all we were trying to do was save just a little— as much time as we could with you being enjoy a normal innocent... life. And...

Taylor: Well good job, I guess...

Link: Alright, well...

Terry: We fucked up, I guess, because now you're in this, and you're in it harder than we expected or wanted, and I'm sorry.

Taylor: Ah.

Link: Well, look. I don't think we like Willy. I think you're going to have to work on... Look, I think something's going with Scary and it's not my place to say, but like. We don't like Willy, but we're not down with what you guys are suggesting either. We're not going to kill a world. So we're going to figure this out, but I don't know... You got to go back there and fix it.

Terry: Hey, I uh... really hope you do. And honestly? I'm kind of rooting for you guys. Don't tell Lark that you said that.

Normal: Why not? What's... what do you mean?

Terry: Lark will do whatever it takes to get rid of the Dood— like, your uncle's a complicated guy. He's a good guy in general, but he is going to do whatever it takes to make sure that the Doodler doesn't... win, and if you try to get between him and that, it's— he'll go— he'll get weird.

Normal: Okay?

Terry: He's not going to hurt you. Like, don't get me wrong. But like. I don't know. I don't want to speak on your uncle's behalf.

Normal: I-I'm going to take a shot on something here. You seem conflicted, like we are, about all of this.

Terry: Yes.

Normal: Can you think of anything else we can do? Any clues we can chase? Anyone we might even be able to talk to—

Link: Yeah!

Normal: —to find a third way to figure this out? Because both of these options suck! They're terrible! I got the psychopath lying to us and then we've got you guys who we like—

Taylor: With a track record of shit!

Normal: —but you're doing all this crazy... y'know, you wanna— It's just more death and destruction. There has to be another way like, is there anyone we could talk to? Did anyone from when you were a kid in this world that you remember that might have some information they could help us?

Terry: There are... definitely some people we knew. Their opinions of us are not what they once were, maybe they'll be different for you. Maybe you'll have a better time talking to them, but what could be worthwhile is a long time ago... we and our dads went to this place called the Church of the Doodler. And it was basically a sort of a monastery-type place for people to try to worship the Doodler and try to talk to him and stuff like that, and while we were there, we found out what the Doodler wanted. Or Lark found out what the Doodler wanted. Lark was the only one willing to put his mind at risk to sort of go into the Doodler's brain, figure out what its goal was. It was like a physicalized thing? You could sort of bring out. When he did, he smashed it immediately and said that we had to kill the Doodler at all costs.

Terry: Maybe if you go there, you can find out how to kill it. If it's got the information inside of it of what it wanted, it probably also knows, y'know, what it's scared of? So that's... what I would recommend. Lark told us to never go back there ever again no matter what. So we didn't because Lark's kind of scary and he sort of knows what he's talking about, but... if I were you, that's what I would do.

Normal: Well, thanks, man. I think that's where we're going to have to go.

Anthony: He draws on your video game map that zooms out a little bit.

Freddie: *[laughs]* Here's another checkpoint.

Anthony: Where the monastery of the Doodler is.

Link: Do you know if my— last quick— do you know if dad's in danger right now?

Terry: If he's here, he's in danger, yeah.

Link: Oh, okay. Do you know what he is doing?

Terry: He was sent to go make peace with the Undergrove. That's why we came here in the first place.

Link: Okay...

Terry: That's what they told me anyway.

Link: All right. Well we should probably wake up—

Normal: Well, hey, man. It's been super fun—

Link: Yeah.

Normal: —learning more about you, y'know, and it looks like we're coming up on the portal. I'm going to go wake Scary up.

Link: Oh, wait. Before you wake her up real quick. Look, man.

Taylor: Ah.

Link: Let's— the three— Let's be Scary's friends for a second. Look, let's all give... Hey, buddy. Sir.

Terry: Pf—Yes?

Freddie: *[laughs]*

Link: Just quick little advice.

Freddie: "Hey. Buddy. Sir."

Link: We've only been friends with her for a bit, but like, okay, number one. Just step off Scary just a little bit. Just give her space, man. Like, you love her. Just let her know you love her—

Taylor: Yeah!

Link: —but just give her some space.

Taylor: Yeah, stop getting all up in her shit.

Link: And maybe, you know what? Share her interests. I hear a lot of talking, but not a lot of poetry. Maybe like, maybe take the time. Maybe learn some poetry.

Taylor: You should check out this poet named Rupi Kaur.

Beth: Oh, my God.

[laughter]

Anthony: Scary wakes up.

Beth: Scary wakes up—

[group laughter]

Scary: What?! No...!

Link: Oh hey Scary, we were just— we were just talking about sports and stuff. Just whatever.

Terry: Scary, what kind of stuff do you like?

[laughter]

Taylor: Holy shit.

Scary: [sighs]

Taylor: This fucking loser.

Terry: Scary, I love you. What kind of stuff are you into?

Scary: Uhm... I'm into being alone and—

Terry: That's so interesting.

Scary: —not answering questions.

Terry: Cool. Can you tell me more—? Oh, shit. That's a question. Tell me more about that.

Scary: [sighs]

Will: [laughs]

Taylor: We're going to need to work on this guy.

[ad break]

Terry: All right. Well, I guess I'll head out.

Scary: All right. Cool.

Terry: Good- good seeing ya.

Scary: S... Yeah.

Anthony: He walks away and is like, trying to walk away all cool without turning around, but then he turns around and goes—

Terry: Later!

Anthony: And does a finger gun at you, but it's weird.

Scary: [*longsuffering sigh*]

Anthony: And he shakes, and he's like—

Terry: Ugh, never— umm—

Anthony: Then turns back around. And then tries to hook the thumb over his back as he's walking away and then thinks that's also weird, and just...

Terry: [*nervous stutter*]

Freddie: Anthony, he does finger guns, but instead of the index fingers, he does middle fingers. So you're like, "Is he flipping us off?"

[*chuckles*]

Freddie: How do you fuck up finger guns like that?

Anthony: And then he tries to— he just basically tries to do a bunch of cool hand things, like waving at you and stuff—

Link: Aw, man.

Anthony: —without turning around. And then he basically settles for raising his hand, turning it around, so his palm spacing you and putting his fingers down like—

Terry: Bye-ee!

[*group laughter*]

Anthony: And then he goes—

Terry: Love you! Bye!

Anthony: And then he steps into the portal.

[rad magic portal sound effect]

Anthony: And he is gone.

Link: Wow. Your dad's a pretty cool guy, Scary. Your stepdad! Oh, shit. I'm sorry. How are you?

Scary: I'm, uh—

Taylor: You get a good rest?

Scary: Oh, yeah. I feel well-rested. Not that it ever really... rested the chaos in my soul.

Normal: Yeah, we get it.

Link: Yeah.

[all laughing]

Normal: No.

Scary: Guess what though? I think that we should go to a church.

Link: Oh!

Normal: Woah!

Scary: The Church of the Doodler.

Normal: That's— That's— Well—

Link: How do you know that?

Normal: How do you know that?

Scary: Uhm... I just got a feeling, y'know?

Link: All right. Well, should we do that before getting my dad?

Normal: I feel like let's get— I mean, triage. I think we should swing by Grant first. Plus he might have some more information for us in terms of what to do...

Link: Yeah. I mean you guys—

Normal: ...with the Doodler, plus I feel Link's going to have a nervous breakdown or something if we don't go see his dad.

Link: No, I don't know—

Scary: Yeah, that's true.

Link: —I mean maybe we don't have to go see my dad now...

Taylor: Yeah, look at his foot.

Normal: Wait. What do you mean, bro? What do you mean?

Link: What? I dunno. No. It's just like, whatever's more important. I don't know.

Normal: What? I feel like. But that?

Freddie: Insight. [*dice roll*] I rolled a 19+3 22.

Beth: Nice.

Matt: He's just nervous about going to see his dad.

Freddie: Oh, okay. I'm like—

Taylor: Normal.

Normal: Yeah, what's up?

Taylor: [*only half grumbling under this breath*] Look. His left foot has been tapping at 200 beats per second ever since we got on the bus. I think he actually wants to go.

Link: Taylor, you're so loud. I can hear you, dude. Okay. Look, I'm just nervous about like— Yeah, I'm just a little angry at my dad and I don't know, maybe we don't need him right now.

Scary: Aw, is someone scared to see their dad?

Link: I'm not scared. You're— No!

Scary: Somebody scared to see their—?

Normal: Yeah, some of us actually like our parents. I'm sorry that's such a problem for you. Y'know?

Scary: Ff. Whatever.

Link: I'm not scared, Scary!

Normal: Some of us don't just take people who love us for granted, and we care about them.

Link: Okay. Well, cool your jets—

Scary: Okay. Well...

Link: Norm. She's having a tough time. I'm not scared, Scary. I'm just— I'm angry, or like, I don't know. Maybe he's doing something important, and clearly if he's doing something important, he doesn't need me, otherwise he would've told me stuff earlier. So like, maybe he's just doing his thing and maybe we should do our third plan anyways. Or like, I just don't want to ruin our third plan. Maybe we go help my dad and that's just going to help end this world, or whatever. But like—

Anthony: Link, you feel hands on your shoulders massaging them.

Link: Oh! Oh. Hey. Thanks, Taylor. Uh, yeah, ooh—

Taylor: I'm over here.

Link: What? Hey...

Hermie: No, hey, it's- it's me. You just look a little tense.

Link: Oh. Hey, Hermie. Oh.

Normal: Oh. Hey, Hermie!

Hermie: Hey.

Normal: Oh, wow! God. We kind of forgot about you.

Link: Hey.

Normal: I'm sorry!

Hermie: Yeah. No, I've been here the whole time.

Link: You're shockingly good at this.

Hermie: Oh, I know.

Link: You can stop now, though.

Hermie: I played a masseuse once. I played Zatoichi.

[group laughter]

Normal: That's right. You were good in that.

Hermie: Thank you. I couldn't see. ...How good I was. It's a little pun from actors to actors.

Link: You feel anything back there though? I got no knots. I keep myself loose.

Hermie: That's, uh, not true!

Link: Oh, okay.

[laughter]

Hermie: You are, you are just one big knot.

Link: Oh, really?

Taylor: You're like a race horse after a race day.

Link: Oh.

Hermie: Mhm. Sorry. Continue though. Just want to remind you I'm here.

Link: Oh, nothing, I was just— whatever— I just think we should do whatever is most practical to save two entire worlds, which is our responsibility now, rather than whatever's I feel, y'know, I should do. Anyways. That's all. Just a group— Let's just take a group vote... and just pretend my dad's not part of the equation. Should we go to the Undergrove or should we go to this church?

Normal: Well, I mean, if your dad's not part of the equation, then we definitely don't need to just go to a place to see stuff.

Scary: Yeah.

Link: Yeah, see, so like...

Taylor: Yeah, we're not on a tourist mission here.

Link: What do you think, Hermie? You're part of the group, I guess. It's five? Breaks the tie?

Hermie: Well...

Freddie: How good is the massage?

Anthony: Let me roll. Ooh, it's a natural 1 massage.

Will: Oh, no!

Freddie: Oh no!

Beth: Oh, no.

Link: Ow!

[laughter]

Hermie: Pain is just weakne—

Freddie: You were knot-free. You were knot-free, and he's introducing knots.

Will: He's added knots.

Hermie: I've added knots. Pain's just weakness leaving your body. Don't worry about it. Don't worry about it. Uh... If it were me, it sounds like a place that maybe was a church a long time ago doesn't have a lot of stuff in it right now that is relevant, or it's going to be relevant whenever you want it to be, but it sounds like your dad could potentially be in danger right now.

Taylor: Yeah, he was saying your dad's in danger.

Hermie: There's a timer on it.

Scary: Yeah.

Link: Okay. Do you guys feel better after talking to your dads?

Normal: Absolutely not.

Scary: No.

Taylor: I don't talk to my dad.

Link: No?

Taylor: No.

Link: ...Cool! Well, I guess that's the way to go then!

Taylor: My dad is—

Link: Let's go talk to my dad. Let's do that.

Taylor: My dad's anime.

Hermie: Okay,

Taylor: Come on, cat!

Link: I'm going to drive, if you guys don't mind.

Taylor: What?

Link: Yeah, I think well when I'm driving, or I don't think. That's the best part about it. You just can focus on the road.

Anthony: So you drive to the Undergrove according to the map that you have. And—

Matt: Any encounters on the way?

Freddie: [*chanting*] Encounter table! Encounter table!

Anthony: Yeah, I'll roll on the encounter table.

Freddie: Yeah!

Beth: Nice.

[*music of huge heavy drums and a mighty blare of horns accompany an eruption from the ground*]

Anthony: [*flatly*] An immense centipede-like beast erupts from the snow, rows of chitinous plates on its back glowing red hot.

[*monstrous screech, and orchestral strings*]

Taylor: Woah!

Link: Whoa!

Taylor: Kitty! Fight it!

Link: Drive past it.

Taylor: Kitty, batten around and fight it.

[laughter]

[music just kinda stops]

Anthony: The cat just jumps really high in the air and then scampers away.

Freddie: Oh, yeah.

Link: Hell yeah!

Freddie: It flattens us into the bottom of the thing, how fast it jumps.

Anthony: Yeah.

Freddie: It's like pickle. Oh, we run into a pickle.

Anthony: *[laughs]* Yeah, actually it thinks it's what I just described, but it's actually just a very large pickle. It freaks out, runs away, and takes you to the Undergrove.

Taylor: You guys remember that time our car freaked out?

[laughter]

Anthony: So you head to the remains of what looked to be a rather bustling city center, and there is seemingly nothing at all there. Most of it seems like it's been razed to the ground entirely, it's just this big flat plane of wreckage and nothingness.

Will: Is this a forest or what is the...

Anthony: It's just a—

Will: Oh, it's—

Anthony: It's abandoned ruins...

Will: Okay.

Anthony: ...of like a shitty plaza that had a used game store and just a bunch of random little— Like a little plaza between an intersection, essentially.

Will: Oh, okay, yeah, yeah, yeah.

Anthony: And all of this has been run down.

Freddie: Southern California strip mall vibes.

Anthony: Yes, exactly.

Matt: Is this the Empire Center?

Anthony: No.

Matt: Oh okay.

Anthony: If it was the Empire Center, I would've mentioned one of the—

Matt: That's true, we went to the...

Will: Well, that's not a shitty strip mall. That is a glorious...

Freddie: That is a premium outdoor mall experience.

Anthony: I would've mentioned one of the many wonderful things that are at the Empire Center. For example, Chipotle.

Matt: And Grain Lab.

Anthony: Grain Lab.

Freddie: There's a—

Anthony: Yalla. Fresh.

Matt: California Sushi Roll.

Freddie: Don't forget that there is a Outback right next to...

Matt: Yeah.

Anthony: But amidst that, you see a staircase. Leading downward.

Taylor: Hm...

Matt: Can we hear anything? In the staircase?

Freddie: Got a little investo, on that...

Anthony: You hear steps. You hear something or someone going down the staircase.

Will: There's a big hole in the ground with stairs going down.

Anthony: yes.

Will: And we hear stuff down there?

Matt: Does it look like a subway stairs? I just want to know if it's like a spooky cathedral staircase from the ground, something that was made, or is it like...

Anthony: It looks like something that was made in a style that is not similar to the building surrounding it. It doesn't look like...

Matt: Okay.

Scary: ...stucco and industrial design, it looks like something almost medieval. A lot of wood steps, twigs holding away the soil from the actual passage of the stairway.

Freddie: Huh.

Anthony: Leading down into darkness.

Matt: Okay I'm going to do Sacred Weapon, so I can make my cool gun that shoots myself glow. And then I'm going to see if I can see anything down the staircase.

Anthony: Okay, great. As you peer down the staircase, you see... your dad!

Matt: Wha—!?

Anthony: You see Grant heading down the stairs holding a parcel in his hands, a big box wrapped in wrapping paper. And he turns around and winces at you and goes—

Grant: Link! Oh! Oh, you're okay!

Link: Dad?

Grant: You're okay. Oh, and I just... Oh, okay! I just injected myself to like... Oh, this is so good. Oh, wow. Oh, I'm the luckiest man in the world. I am so, so happy. Can you just wait here?

Link: No!

Grant: Uh... Okay—

Link: I'm mad at you, mister!

Grant: Well, in the words of my dad, let's talk about that later. Daddy's just gotta, I gotta—

Link: What? I...

Grant: I got to drop off this gift really quick and sort of prevent some bad stuff from happening, and then we'll be...

Link: What? You— No, you tell us now. We're- we're here and, and— Oh! Mm! I could— *bbuh!* You know— Dad, it's been weeks without you and you didn't tell us anything and you're a murderer you did—

Grant: Woah, woah, woah!

Link: —the first rule in your book is don't lie, and that's all you've been doing this whole time!

Grant: I— Uh—

Link: I'm—[*angry grunt*]!

Matt: I start kicking the wall.

Link: I'm so! Uh! We're not supposed to use violence, but I could— If this was, if you were the wall, I'd be kicking even harder, I'll tell you what, I'm—!

Normal: Link, no! Your soccer feet!

Will: And I try to pull him off.

Normal: You need those! You need those toes, boy—

Link: [*angry vocalization*]

Normal: Wait! You need those toes, buddy! You got to keep— You gotta keep them fresh!

Link: Fine, but I don't need my hands though!

Matt: And I start punching the wall.

Normal: No!

Freddie: [*laughs*]

Link: I wish this was your face, Dad, I'm so angry!

Grant: Link, you got to... Okay, ground yourself. Breathe in—

Link: Oh yeah, I'll do that. Ground myself.

Grant: Count to 10, breathe out, count to 10.

Link: Mhm!

Grant: We should talk about everything you talked about. You have every right to be upset, but just not right here, right now.

Link: Mhm!

Grant: I've got to go do this thing, and then we can talk. We go back home and we can talk together. And then everything should be back to norm—

Link: All right. Well, what's the thing you want to do? Because I think you lost doing thing privileges for lying all the time, so now you got to tell me what you're going to do.

Grant: [*smile in voice*] I've lost doing thing privileges?

[*group laugh*]

Anthony: He goes—

Grant: I am taking this...

Link: Mhm.

Anthony: And he lifts the parcel.

Grant: To the head of the Undergrove, the queen of the Undergrove, because she's not... very happy with us...

Link: Mm!

Grant: ...and I wanted to fix things.

Link: She sounds like she knows what she's talking about.

Scary: Yeah.

Grant: Okay, yeah. No, that's fair, but I'm just going to do it real quick and then I'll be right out.

Scary: I say we follow him.

Taylor: Yeah, yeah.

Link: Yeah, we're going to follow you.

Grant: [*tired sigh*]

Link: By the way, we already met the other two dads that just did a bunch of bad stuff and we got the tape measurer and whatever the first thing we got, whatever we got. We've done it all ourselves already.

Anthony: When you say you got the tape measurer...

Link: Yeah.

Anthony: You can roll Insight if you like.

Matt: [*dice roll*] 17.

Anthony: Wow. You can see his eyes brighten for a second.

Normal: But we're not using it to blow up our whole world.

Link: Yeah!

Normal: So get that thought out of your head.

Anthony: His shoulders immediately slump. He's like—

Grant: Come on!

[*laughter*]

Link: No.

Grant: They told you that?

Normal: Look, we don't trust you freaking guys any farther than we can throw you or kick you. That's for you, Link and Scary.

Link: Yeah. Oh yeah.

Normal: So look, if you're going to go make some deal with someone, we got— we want to know what you're giving them and we want to know who they are, so we're coming with you whether you like it or not.

Grant: Fine. All right. Follow me. And whatever you do, don't... mention... You know what? Just don't talk. Just follow my lead.

Scary: [*chuckles*] Okay.

Grant: You'll be fine.

Link: I mean, realistically, we're probably going to say something.

Grant: Yeah, I know. Just like— just be cool.

Freddie: Please be cool.

Grant: Just please be cool.

Freddie: Please, God, be cool.

Grant: Because if they wanted to, the things down here could rip the skin from your flesh.

Link: Okay.

Grant: And just eat it.

Scary: Metal.

Grant: Sure. Yeah, it is, but not when it's happening to you. So all right. All right, follow me.

Anthony: So he heads down some stairs for a long, long, long-long-long-long, long-long-long-long time.

Will: Stony silence—

Matt: Yeah.

Will: —between Link and Grant that whole time.

Matt: Clearly putting my hand-holding hand in a cross, but kind of getting near him so he knows I'm making a point of not holding his hands.

Freddie: Taylor talks to the group and he's like—

Taylor: Hopefully there's an elevator on the way back up. You know what I'm saying? Lot of descending, and going down stairs easier. Not looking forward to the up.

Normal: Yeah, man. That's true.

Taylor: Yeah.

Anthony: After an eternity of walking...

[laughter]

Anthony: ...in this up-down-roomless stairwell, after eternity of walking down these steps, you come to what looks like a heavy door made of meat. It is locked.

Scary: Oh...

Matt: Made of meat?

Anthony: Meat.

Matt: Oh.

Anthony: You can feel a light— It's not alive meat. It's not pulsating or anything like that. It just looks like it's made of old, sort of magically preserved steak.

Freddie: Jerk— beef jerky.

Anthony: You feel a light comforting heat from the other side.

Will: [*suspicious hum*]

Anthony: Grant turns you and says—

Grant: I just gotta... I just gotta get this open, so don't freak out. I'm just going to pick the lock. Like, is that cool? That's cool. It's not a big deal.

Link: Uh, if you're gonna say—

Scary: That's actually pretty cool if you can pick the lock.

Link: Yeah, but since you're saying don't freak out, it makes me think that something weird's going to happen when you do it. So just give us a heads-up—

Grant: Well, nothing weird is going to happen. I just like... Uhm—

Normal: We know you blew up a whole world.

Link: Yeah.

Normal: Like, you opening a door is not that scary to us.

Grant: Okay! I'm just— I'm just saying...

Link: What are you going to do? Lick it? What?

Grant: When we go in, keep your eyes down at first. Okay? That's all I'm saying.

Link: Gah...

Grant: Just don't—

Link: You're so vague about everything.

Normal: Yeah, dads are vague.

Link: Yeah.

Freddie: [*chuckles*]

Link: Like—

Anthony: Dads don't want to spoil reveals.

[*group laughter*]

Anthony: So after a minute or so, Grant picks the lock.

Will: Thank you for making it a realistic amount of time to pick a lock by the way.

Freddie: Thank you.

Will: This fucking movie shit where they jiggle a credit card and two seconds later the door lock's open?

Beth: Ridiculous.

Anthony: Absurd.

Freddie: Well to be fair if you're credit carding a lock... Real quick, I want Taylor to try and learn from this action.

Anthony: Okay.

Freddie: Y'know what I mean?

Anthony: Roll, uh...

Matt: In case we get locked in or something, good idea.

Anthony: Insight... or Perception or Investigation. Any of those.

Freddie: I'm going to do Insight. [*dice roll*] 16+3. 19.

Beth: Nice.

Anthony: Alright. You get a +1 to future lock picking.

Freddie: Yeah!

Anthony: Because you saw a master do it. So he puts his hand on the handle and he goes—

Grant: I would recommend closing your eyes and then once it stops hurting, opening your eyes.

Link: It's gonna hurt?

Freddie: What?

Grant: But you're not going to trust whatever I say I'm assuming, so you do you.

Link: No, we'll trust...

Grant: Okay, close your eyes.

Link: Okay.

Scary: Okay.

Grant: It's going to be really bright, then you can open your eyes after a little bit when you acclimate, okay?

Scary: Okay.

Link: Alright.

Taylor: Alright.

Grant: Alright.

Anthony: So he opens the door. Do you close your eyes?

Beth: Yes.

Matt: Yeah.

Will: I'm closing my eyes in real life.

Beth: I close my eyes.

Freddie: I'm closing my eyes.

Matt: I hope you have something physical, Anthony. We're all closing our eyes in real life.

Beth: Real closing.

Anthony: I didn't want you to do that in real life.

Matt: Well I'm doing it.

Anthony: There's nothing physical for you.

Beth: I... I can't see anything.

Matt: Yeah.

Anthony: Okay.

Taylor: It's so dark in here!

Beth: Yeah.

Anthony: So even with your eyes closed, a light unlike any you have ever seen—except in a single premonition of the future—

[the dramatic build of a string orchestra starts]

Anthony: —strikes your closed eyelids and the warmth and brightness of it and the unfamiliarity with it almost reduces you to tears.

[build stops abruptly]

Beth: It's a fleshlight.

Anthony: As you—

[group laughter]

Matt: Beth, we said unfamiliarity. Taylor's here.

[group laughter]

Anthony: Nevermind. End it. End the episode right there. You don't get to figure out what's in there—

Freddie: *[just keeps laughing]*

Beth: No, please!

Anthony: —until next episode.

Matt: No, I wanna know!

Beth: Please!

Will: No, tell us what it is!

Matt: *[laughing]* Beth needs to—!

Anthony: Nope, that's the cliffhanger, you did what you did!

Beth: No!

[outro music plays]

Freddie: Dungeons and Daddies is Matt Arnold as Lincoln Li-Wilson, Anthony Burch is our DM, Will Campos as Normal Oak, Beth May as Scary Marlowe, and myself, Freddie Wong as Taylor Swift. Our theme song is *On My Way* by Maxton Waller. Brian Fernandes is our content producer. Ashley Nicollette is our community manager. Ester Ellis is our lead editor. Travis Reeves provides additional editing and Robin Rapp is our transcriber. Special thanks this week to Adam who provided a name for an item we use in this episode. That's one of the many perks you get. You can submit things to us, names, character names, place names that we'll sometimes use. This is a perk of being a Patreon supporter.

Freddie: That's right, we got a Patreon, and some of the people who support us are people like Alan Burley, ryan jarvis, Viin, Matt Wasson, Evan Martin, Chris Sweeney, Patricia Zibelli, Caelean A. Mason, Amy Belliveau, Eli Broide, Chigglestank, Philip Gregory, Katieebird, Caitlin Hart, Mike B., Andrew Ikard. Elizabeth Fransen, Samuel Plaster, Quinton Barnes, and Stephen Graham. That's just some of the people who support us.

Freddie: Let me just direct your attention over here real quick to our Patreon in which you've been running since episode six of season one. Which means that there has been years of bonus content, behind the scenes content, content-content accruing there in the form of after shows, bonus campaigns, live shows, et cetera.

You can go to dungeonsanddaddies.com and click on Patreon at the top and you can flick your mouse wheel down, and if you have one of those mice that has a button where you can unlock the wheel so it spins freely, it's very satisfying to do that on that page because you can just gawk at how much stuff there is to experience as it scrolls by your eyes at light speed. Truly, the Patreon is the gift that keeps on giving assuming that you actually like what we do here.

Freddie: If you hate us, the Patreon probably not for you. But if you enjoy this show, check it out. You can get on board for just \$5 a month, which also gives you access to our vibrant Discord community where we do live listens, you can discuss show conspiracy theories and much more. That's all at patreon.com/dungeonsanddads. Our website is dungeonsanddaddies.com. Our Twitter is DungeonsandDads, the subreddit's over at DungeonsandDaddies, and our next episode comes out November 1st, two weeks from now. Every two weeks, just in case you don't know that. Thanks so much for listening. We will see you then.

[outro music finishes]

Matt: Can we know what it is?

Anthony: No! That's a funny cliffhanger!

[laughter]

Freddie: I like it. I like it.

Beth: This is devastating. I'm so funny!

Anthony: *[laughs]*

[Eminem music from the intro plays]

Anthony: My rhymes are better. Like Roger Federer...er. Uh. Uh— like cut you like razors, wearing my blazer. Uh-Uh-Uh. Don't watch the movie Eraser starring Arnold Schwarzenegger, it's not as good as some of his other films like Preh-day-tor. Don't watch Preh-day-tor 2, that's got Danny Glover. I'm just a lover, here to tell you that... like no other, with my brothers, here in the Black Parade so I should be... still in charge of the Black Parade. You love me so much.