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[00:00] THE DUNGEON MASTER: You're listening to... WRBB, 104.9 FM Boston. And this is *The Dark Forest*.

[00:07] SONG 1: The Dismemberment Plan - The Ice of Boston

[05:06] DM: Welcome back. ...To another *dangerous* and *evil* trek through the Dark Forest with *me*, the Dungeon Master, and...

THE CRYPT KEEPER: The Crypt Keeper.

DM: And our special guest, who has come here *all the way* from the *Great Tower*...

THE APPRENTICE: I'm, uh, the, uh, uhhh, Apprentice? Uh... thanks for having me on!

CK: Glad to have you here.

DM: Thank you for being here! Uh, Apprentice.

TA: This is my first, uh, radio show; my... My, uh, y'know, great mage, and uh, *mentor*, uh... Master *Zarthan*, y'know, *sent* me here, so, yeah, thank you.

CK: It's an honor to have a, an, apprentice of Master Zarthan with us on this particular trek. Thank—*thank* you for making it all the way here.

TA: Absolutely; it was... it was quite treacherous.

DM: Yes, it's—it's *great* to have you. Um... so this week's *genre*, uh, our—for this, uh, y'know this *journey*... through the Dark Forest, um...

[06:00] DM: A-as we, y'know, as we tend to do every *week*, y'know, we journey through a — *sorry*, sorry, I'm rambling. Um—

CK: You're kinda rambling there.

DM: [overlapping] 'Cause—

TA: Yeah, yeah, uh, you're, y'know, you're, like, still talking, man.

DM: Well that's kinda funny because this week's *genre* happens to be... ramble rock!

CK: Ramble rock?

TA: What's *ramble* rock?

DM: "What's ramble rock?" You guys don't know *ramble rock*?? Oh it's a — great, *classic*, y'know, um, genre of music... Y'know, ramble rock; it started—it's kind of in the... In the sixties, something; yeah I—[stutters, trails off]

TA: Y'know, I — I recall my *dad* telling me about ramble rock!

DM: Yeah, yeah, um... Let's listen to some more ramble rock.

[06:40] SONG 2: Soul Coughing - Screenwriters Blues

[11:49] SONG 3: King Missile - Cheesecake Truck

[13:00] SONG 4: Slaughter Beach, Dog - Do You Understand (What Has Happened to You)

[17:47] DM: ...So. Lemme tell—tell a quick story, right; so, the other day, y'know, I was just wandering through the Dark Forest, as I—

CK: [overlapping] Right.

TA: [overlapping] As you do, yeah, of course.

DM: As I tend to do, um... Happened to, y'know, I-I, I needed to fetch some water crystals—

[18:00] DM: —So I, I made my way down to the Slaughter Beach, uh...

TA: How come you, like, needed the, th-the crystals?

DM: Oh, well y— [exasperated sigh] You know, I—I was trying to cast a *spell*. Uh...

TA: Like, what kind of sp—y'know, like *incantation* were you... [trails off]

DM: Ye-yeah, you know, like, um... [stutters] Uh, uh, um, I...

TA: [stutters] A, uh, protection spell? Or—

DM: No, no; this was very — a *harmful* spell, uh—

TA: [overlapped] Okay.

CK: [overlapped] A harmful spell!

DM: —I used — there was someone... I was trying to, to get back at someone—

TA: [overlapping] Right.

CK: [overlapping] Why?

DM: —I'll say that, you know.

CK: Wh-what'd they do to you?

DM: Well— [stuttering] Y-y'know, and — so, so I'm walkin' down the beach, right?

TA: Okay, alright.

DM: I'm walking across the beach, y'know, uh... [trails off] Lookin' — scopin' out the water...

TA: [overlapping] The... the Elder Beach, or the Dark Beach?

DM: [simultaneously] The Slaughter Beach.

CK: [simultaneously] The Slaughter Beach!

TA: *Oh*, oh, I'm sorry, I'm sorry, the Slaughter Beach.

DM: Uh... scoping out the water for any crystals, um, lookin' to find; I, I stumble across this *goblin*, right; and this goblin, uh, he—he, he immediately tries to stick me up, y'know—

TA: Right.

DM: —He takes his little — *scrawny* little dagger and he— [stuttering] —he puts it—

TA: [overlapping] Like, “gimme all your money!”, yeah.

DM: —up to my neck, *yeah*, yeah yeah—

CK: [overlapping] Pop outta some hole somewhere—

DM: Like, p-put up—p—[stuttering]

TA: Like, “come on,” y'know—

[18:58] SONG 5: Car Seat Headrest - is this dust really from the Titanic?

[20:56] SONG 6: The Garden - Have A Good Day Sir

[24:13] SONG 7: Pavement - Conduit For Sale!

[27:06] DM: ...*Anyway*, so like I was saying, before I was *interrupted*... Right, so I'm walking along and this, this goblin comes up to me, and he tries to stick me up, y'know, and he's, he comes in and, y'know, he's just like:

THE GOBLIN: *Yes, come closer... But watch your step! Or you will be the next that I collect!!*
[ominous magical scare chord] *Ehehehehehehe, ehehaea, ehehheaheHEAHAHAYEHAYAH!!*
[creepy ambience]

DM: And I'm just like, dude, I, I mean, like—

TA: I'm just on a path, y'know?

DM: Right.

TA: Yeah.

DM: Li-like, you're not gonna *collect* me. [stifles laughter] Right? You're, you're not gonna—

TA: [overlapping] I'm a — ancient evil mage of — of the Dark Forest! Like—

DM: [stuttering] Right right; I'm a, I'm a warlock of the Dark Forest, you're not gonna collect anything, [trails off, stuttering]

CK: [overlapping] You, you really think you're gonna —

TA: [overlapping] Sorry, sorry; warlock.

CK: You think you're gonna *amount* to anything in this exchange? Like, you're just a goblin.

TA: In this economy, yeah.

DM: Exactly, [stuttering] so I, I, immediately sort of *dispel* of his existence, y'know, a simple, just, like—

[28:02] TA: You, like, *unmade* him? Y'know, with a banishing charm, or...

DM: Yeah, I sorta just, y'know, your typical sort of... [trails off, stuttering] It was—it was kind of like a... I almost, like, turned him inside out?

CK: You reversed the polarity of all his molecules, he just went *poof*.

TA: [overlapping] Ohh, yeah.

DM: Basically yeah, and, and—

TA: *Classic!* Yeah, like, Nathor's Curse; yeah, of course.

DM: Which, actually, i— I, I realized later, was a *terrible* way to deal with the situation, right?

TA: Right.

DM: Because *now*, I'm covered in *goblin guts!*

CK: No, yeah—

TA: [overlapping] *Ohhh*. That's the worst.

CK: —*Classic* mistake! Classic blunder.

DM: Which, which—

TA: [overlapping] That's *gross!* They smell... *so* bad.

DM: Which, on top of being gross and smelling bad, is gonna *attract* a lot of... *even worse*, larger creatures!

TA: Yeah... Much—like, *much* larger too, yeah.

CK: The *scavengers* of the Dark Forest's food chain; you don't wanna be a target.

TA: [overlapping] Yeah, y'know, like the... the—

DM: Right, so—

TA: The, like... *elder gnomes*, yeah.

DM: I haven't even gotten my *crystal* yet, and, and here I am, I'm, I'm covered in goblin guts—

TA: Yeah.

DM: And, and—I'm I gotta—y'know, I gotta get outta here somehow, before, y'know, a giant, like... *Moon Devourer* comes in and, and starts—

[29:00] TA: [overlapping] Oh, *gosh*, you do not wanna...

DM: —trying to—

CK: [overlapping] That would be—

DM: —eat me... Um... which, like, I could probably deal with, but, like, it's gonna take a *lot* out of me, and I just—

TA: Right.

DM: I, I need to just get out of here.

CK: You've burned through a lot of your backlog.

DM: Right, and so I'm, I'm just—

[29:12] **SONG 8: Courtney Barnett - Avant Gardener**

[34:26] DM: ...Yeah, so, so this goblin... y'know... goblin guts all over me; I actually... Because I was right at the beach, I was able to wash it off in the water.

TA: Oh, that's convenient.

DM: I, I actually didn't get any crystals that time; I ended up just having to bail.

TA: *Augh*, that sucks.

DM: Uh, it was an—it ended up being a huge waste of time, but I ended up just... y'know, getting out of there; I kinda hurried out...

TA: Cutting your losses.

DM: Uh, you know...

CK: Unfortunate.

DM: Teleport out, y'know, quick spell, just... gotta, y'know—

TA: [overlapping] It happens, y'know...

DM: —Get home, take a shower. Get all the — get all the guts and gunk off me.

CK: The Slaughter Beach can only wash off *so much* goblin carcass; you know how it is.

[35:01] DM: Right, right. Um... and, y'know, I... [stuttering] *Could* I have tried to, y'know, uh, *hire* that goblin and, y'know, m—make it work for me? Uh, *perhaps!*

TA: Probably, yeah.

CK: Maybe!

DM: Um... y'know, maybe I could've... threatened its family and gotten—gotten something out of it *that* way, but, y'know—

TA: [overlapping] Well, that's unethical, I'd say. Well — at least, y'know—

DM: I, uh—I don't care!

TA: [simultaneously] —That's what *I*'ve been taught... y'know, is that—

DM: Yeah. Yeah, they'll tell you—

CK: [overlapping] Unethical? *Sure*.

DM: They'll tell you that in the Great Tower. They'll tell you that.

TA: [overlapping] Alright, *alright*. Just 'cause you made an ancient, y'know, *pact* with a great being of the Dark Forest doesn't mean that you have to slander my master.

DM: Yeah; um... [stuttering] I actually—I actually have a *gift* for your master.

TA: Oh, really?

[35:41] **SONG 9: The Velvet Underground - The Gift**

[44:02] CK: ...So I was walking through the Forest one day, right? I was walking through, like, maybe, like... earlier in the week—

DM: [overlapping] Yep.

CK: —And I was in this particular *dense* part of the Forest; there was a lot, a lot of growth, a lot of greenery—

DM: [overlapping] Oh yeah, yep.

TA: [overlapping] Mhm.

CK: They were kinda, like, sticky with *sap*; there was some sort of, like, bizarre eerie *sap* on it.

TA: Was it, like, *green* sap, or *brown* sap?

CK: It was like, it was like, weirdly *purple*?

TA: [overlapping] Ohhh.

CK: I didn't quite know what to make of it.

DM: W-was the sap screaming or silent?

CK: Oh, the sap was very silent, thankfully.

DM: [overlapping] Okay.

CK: If it was; if it was screaming—

DM: [overlapping] Dead silent; *eerily* silent.

CK: Yeah.

DM: Yeah.

CK: Which is; I honestly prefer—

TA: [overlapping] They're quiet. Uh, uh, y'know; syrup, yeah—

CK: Yeah.

TA: It's a classic... [trails off]

DM: Anyway, yeah? Yeah?

CK: So yeah; so as I was going through, through this, the-these *growths*, I, I happened upon a slithering sound in the distance. And I, I looked: there was this *creature* that was like, y'know, kinda just, like, crawling — *ambling* along on, like, its back; it was, like, y'know, kinda *shifting* towards me, and... *Then*, it was *not* silent at all; I started hearing a lot of noise. There were — it sounded like all these different people, they were just, like—

[45:00] CK: —Talking over each other, over and over again. They were just, like, sort of—

DM: [overlapping] Yeah... yeah. [stuttering] Like, sort of, *rambling*. Mhm.

CK: Yeah! Like, that's a, that's a... that's a good word to use, actually. I like that word!

DM: [simultaneously] Just going on and on. And on. And on. Yeah.

TA: Yeah!

DM: Yeah.

CK: [simultaneously] They were just, like, talking about all these different kinds of shit, and I realized... I had, I had come face to face with, with, the *Rambleworm*. And I *knew* that—

DM: [overlapping] Oh, oh *no*.

TA: [overlapping] That's *terrifying*.

CK: —if I did not do *something*, I would be... it would make me go *deaf* with the amount of, just, pure *noise volume* being put into my ears. It would, it woulda been too much!

TA: It's quite the—it's quite the cacophony, yeah.

DM: [simultaneously] And you escaped with your sanity!

CK: I did! I, I, it was almost too much to fathom, but, I, I was able to leave and tell the tale to you two, and I'm really grateful, otherwise I woulda been a goner; it woulda been *bad*.

TA: Well, we're glad you're here; thank you for sharing.

CK: Of course. You know, I hope I don't get cut off in the middle of telling—

[45:49] SONG 10: CAKE - Comfort Eagle

[49:30] SONG 11: Talking Heads - Seen and Not Seen

[52:55] SONG 12: King Missile - Detachable Penis

[56:20] TA: ...So, um, I was searching for a shard of the Mother Crystal the other day—

CK: Yeah.

TA: —To, uh, to get back to the Great Tower for a great and powerful... [breathes in] warding and binding spell? Um, and, I found myself in the Gli—in the Glimmering Caves.

DM: *Oh*. Oh, no; oh no.

CK: [simultaneously] Oh boy.

TA: A dangerous and dastardly realm, um... For those of y— [beat] You know, who are, *un...* initiated, uh, you know, this is a... this is a realm of, like, *illusory* magic, where, where...

DM: Very powerful illusion magic in the Glimmering Caves.

TA: Yeah, n... *nothing* is as it seems in the—

[57:00] TA: —In the Caves. Uh... [beat] Many travelers have been, y’know, lost in the Caves, um... it’s, it’s said to be inhabited by many, many *gnomes*, and, y’know, even worse beings. Um, but I... I... was traveling through and I found a small, um, uh, *pond* that had... a *shimmering silver sword* at the bottom of it.

DM: [overlapping] *Oh*. Oh, yeah.

CK: [simultaneously] An oasis! In the Glimmering Caves!

DM: [overlapping] Yeah. Sure. *Sure*. Right!

TA: And so, I, I said to myself, “Perhaps... this is real.” And I dove in...

DM: [sighs]

TA: And, um...

DM: Oh, man.

TA: And... and then, um... I, uh... I...

DM: Yeah.

TA: Um... and then I was, y’know, trying**[57:40] SONG 13: Pixies - Monkey Gone to Heaven**

[1:00:35] SONG 14: Gorillaz - Fire Coming Out of the Monkey’s Head

[1:03:56] DM: ...Thank you for listening! ...To this episode of *The Dark Forest*; we are *almost* through! We have almost... made it out of the Forest.

CK: This long, winding road, this road that rambles on and on, it-it’s coming to an end; thank you for your patience. Thank you for listening to our, our stories. We hope that you’ve enjoyed it.

DM: As usual, you can find this playlist and all previous ones on our social media at darkforestwrbb, on Instagram or Twitter, or on our Discord. Thank you so much... to the Apprentice! For coming all the way here from the Great Tower... to be on the show tonight.

TA: [overlapping] Thank you for having me.

CK: It's really been great to have your perspective; I, I, feel like we've learned a lot from you and your definitely legitimate ways of the Great Tower. It's been, *awesome*.

TA: Thanks so much!

DM: Send—send the Tower my regards.

TA: I shall. I shall...

CK: And mine.

DM: [overlapping] A-and my, and my *curses*. Make sure you pass those along.

TA: [simultaneously] I... won't send those.

CK: Why not??

TA: [mumbling]

DM: Oh, oh — that's what you think. You, you will, though. [stifled laughter] You will.

TA: Alright.

CK: We have one more song for you. Please enjoy.

DM: Stick around. Thanks for listening.

TA: Until next time.

[1:05:01] SONG 15: Slaughter Beach, Dog - 104 Degrees

[1:07:41] END