

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.1 - Dungeon and D.A.D.D.I.E.S.

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

[A bizarre, airy, series of sound-effects play that jump between earbuds in intensity and building quickly; they end quickly on a string of high piano keys]

Anthony: We go to the Oak-Garcia household, where... all of your favorite characters are...

[laughter]

Anthony: ...hanging out in the living room. Then we go to the kitchen, and while Henry is doing abominable things to popcorn, Lark and Sparrow walk in.

Henry: Hey, my beautiful boys, how are you— how's it going? You guys ready to see this Minion movie?

Anthony: Sparrow says—

Sparrow: Father, I know— we know. That things have been different for some time and that since we've returned Lark has been... shall we say, sullen. But Lark? I believe you have an apology for Father?

Henry: Oh, Lark, that's so sweet. You don't need to apologize for anything, buddy.

Anthony: Lark comes in for an embrace and he says—

Lark: I really do need to apologize, Father. I am sorry.

Henry: Sorry for what, Bud?

Lark: ...For this.

Anthony: And in that moment you feel a blade—

[deep sound effect]

Anthony: —enter your back between your shoulder blades—

Matt: Wha—?

Will: *[gasps]*

Jimmy: Wh-wha...?

Beth: Fuckin'...

Anthony: —a knife. And it's not a very deep wound, but it hurts.

Beth: Oh my god...

Anthony: And you feel it go all the way in, and he steps away from you. And he just shakes his head and he goes—

Lark: I'm so sorry, Father.

Anthony: As you look into his eyes, you remember all the horrible things that brought you to this moment. You remember coming to the Forgotten Realms and you being the first person to cast a spell, to Entangle a red cloak so that he could be defeated. You remember using your JezzBall skills to build walls of fire and stone around each other. You remember using the power of your mind and your colon—

[laughter]

Anthony: —to completely immolate David Boreanaz, even as he was screaming that all he had ever wanted was for the Lord of Chaos to spill the blood of the Unsung Hero. And as you think about that, you remember that—

[ominous sounds, like wind over an organ, begin]

Anthony: —as the door slammed on Willy Stampler, he'd cast the Message spell.

Will: Oh shit.

Matt: Shit...

Anthony: And in this moment you realize, as Lark mouths it in front of you, what that message was: "Henry Oak is the Unsung Hero." And the Lord of Chaos has just spilled his blood.

Beth: Oh... no

Will: Oh shit.

Matt: God...

Anthony: And suddenly you, and your two children, find yourselves wracked with convulsions. As you all begin to vomit up a stream of black and gray—

Beth: Oh my god

Will: What the fuck?

Matt: Fuck...!

Beth: Oh, god!

Anthony: —static... -type stuff.

Freddie: Oh, the—

Matt: Can we see it in the living room?

Anthony: Yes, everyone in the living room, everyone outside can hear it—

Matt: Yeah, Darryl's running in to see what's happening.

Anthony: — as a deep, basey rumble, actually begins to be heard all across the planet. After what feels like forever, you stop heaving up this black bile substance and it begins to form into a cloud, and it escapes at the nearest open window.

Will: I stagger to my feet. I check on my boys.

Henry: Are you guys all right? Are you okay?

Anthony: You hear the smash of glass outside—

[smash of glass and a car alarm starts]

Anthony: —you hear a car alarms blaring.

Beth: Oh, god...

[more sounds fade in, more car alarms and emergency sirens in the distance]

Will: I pick up my two boys and I run out the door.

Anthony: And as you head out into the front yard, you look up and you see what was the small cloud of static—

[The sounds of alarms and sirens are pushed out by a low-tone static, and the musical notes get longer until they fade out as well]

Anthony: —beginning to grow larger and larger in the sky. And it begins to encircle the Earth. The sky is turning this horrible, black, staticky color. And you know, in this moment, that the Doodler has returned.

[Impact sound effect cuts out everything but the basey static, which fades to the new intro music; no lyrics yet, just woodblock rhythm and trumpets; there's a bit of a marching band vibe]

Freddie: Welcome to Dungeons and Daddies, not a BDSM podcast—

Matt: Or a Daddies podcast. *[chuckling]* It's not about daddies, either.

Freddie: No, it is about daddies!

Beth: It is about daddies, but daddies isn't what you think it is.

Matt: Oh...

Freddie: Yeah.

Beth: Open your mind.

[intro music fades out]

Freddie: This is a Dungeons and Dragons podcast that tells the story of the four grandchildren of Daryl, Henry, Glenn, and Ron on a quest to find their lost dads in a world forever changed by the events of season one. My name is Freddie Wong and I play... cool teen— I get to reveal my teen name.

Will: *[gasps]*

Freddie: Taylor. Swift.

[giggles]

Freddie: Taylor Swift loves anime, loves survival. Taylor's rad fact is he doesn't have a backpack. He has a go bag. He keeps everything in his school backpack, he calls it his go bag, just in case.

Will: Is it a normal school backpack, or is it like...

Freddie: It's just a normal school backpack that's kitted out.

Will: What's Taylor got in his go bag?

Freddie: It's got a lot of paracord.

Will: *[laughs]*

Freddie: And one of those crinkly blankets? One of those crinkly, survival blankets? And like a very, very loud whistle, because if you're ever out in the middle of nowhere, it does you no good to shout. But if you want to auditorily get attention of someone, the whistle is the best way of doing it. And Taylor knows all of this.

Matt: Hey, everybody. My name is Matthew Arnold, I play Lincoln Li-Wilson. Schooled at home, soccer kid, whose voice is going to drop soon, don't worry about it. It will.

Freddie: *[giggles]*

Matt: Little, I guess, rad fact about Lincoln here, is that he is a year older than everybody, because he was homeschooled, but he loves soccer so much and he was tired of playing soccer by himself. He finally convinced his overbearing dad, Grant, to let him go to a normal high school so he could join the soccer team, but it was a year behind everybody. So, he is a year older than everybody.

Will: He's a year older, a year wiser. How did he play soccer by himself?

Matt: In the backyard, y'know, a lot of helmets, a lot of safety equipment, very taken care of.

[laughter]

Matt: But uh... Yeah! Mostly just...

Will: *[laughing]* Safety equipment...?

Freddie: Wait wait, he wore a helmet?

Matt: Okay, I do have two quick rad facts, was also that Lincoln fell in love with FIFA first. He didn't know it was a sport, he just played the video game with Grant all the time and played FIFA.

Will: *[laughing]*

Freddie: Oh...!

Matt: And then when he found out there's a real world of soccer, he got really into soccer. He's like, "Wait! There's a real version of this video game?"

Beth: Oh my God.

Will: So, it was like Blitz Ball from Final Fantasy 10 to him.

[laughter]

Matt: Yes.

Freddie: [*"teen" voice*] "Wait, Dad, you're telling me that this one's real though?"

Anthony: Super Mario Strikers is a documentary?

Matt: Because Grant, his dad, is not quite a pro gamer, but, y'know, he was a millennial. He plays video games. So, that's how they did a lot...

Beth: Grant was not a millennial.

Anthony: Grant was a zoomer.

Matt: Zoomer! Oh. No

Will: Grant was a zoomer. San Dimas

Matt: I mean zoomers don't play video games.

Freddie: Zoomers play video games too, Beth!

Matt: Zoomers love video games!

Anthony: Zoomers play video games more than millennials do.

Beth: As a millennial...

[laughter]

Matt: As a millennial...

Freddie: I will not stand for this erasure of our generation.

Beth: I want our generation to be erased!

[group laughter]

Will: Thanos, get on it. Hey, everyone, I'm Will Campos, and I play Normal Oak!
A—

Beth: *[laughs]* I just love that your name's—

Beth & Matt: Normal.

Will: A perky, peppy, chipper, cheery school spirit mascot kid! Normal is the school mascot of Teen High, I don't know what the name of this high school is...

Anthony: High School.

Matt: San Dimas High School!

Beth: Teen High?

Freddie: Teen High, Will?

[laughter]

Matt: It's the same high school that we did— the first season.

Will: What if their—

Anthony: The kids call it Teen High.

Will: Hear me out. What if their mascot is The Teen?

Beth: The Teen—!

[group laughter]

Anthony: So, what is your costume, then? Just a larger teen?

Matt: I love that your costume's a teen!

Beth: A larger teenager!

Matt: And none— no kid likes your Teen. They're like, "that's not even a..."

Will: Okay, so he plays Teeny the Teen, and uh...

Freddie: Oh my God...

Beth: There's no way I am letting our mascot just be a teen!

Matt: No, we're the Doodlers!

Anthony: No, it's great. No, it's- it's too late! Sorry!

Will: *[off-mic laughter]*

Anthony: This is a new season, we have new canon. He's a fucking teen now.

Beth: A teen means something else... it's like—

Matt: No, Beth.

Freddie: No Beth.

Matt: You're not the masc—

Beth: The wor—

Matt: Beth, you're not the mascot!

Anthony: If you can say something that makes us laugh harder!

Matt: You're not the mascot! You're not the mascot character. Will put this out in the world, you "yes, and" this.

Will: I can't believe I've fucking done this.

Matt: We're now the Teens.

Beth: You know what, you're right. You're right, I spoke out of turn.

[laughter]

Beth: And, uh...

Will: All right. So yeah, Normal is a...

Matt: I hate it too, Beth. Don't worry. *[laughing]* I hate it so much.

[group laughter]

Matt: I hate it so much.

Beth: I'm losing so much. It's like, I don't like "rad fact."

[laughter]

Beth: I'm not a big fan of "rad facts." And then Teeny the Teen, I guess I can get used to. Hi, I'm Beth May. And I play Terry Marlowe, a once soft spoken

daydreamer, rebelling into a goth punk seeker of darkness—who is not like other girls!—after meeting her new stepdad, Terry Stephen-Stampler. *[laughs]* Yeah, that's right, her mom's with a dude that's also called Terry. Uugh! Instead of reverting to her full name Theresa, she decides to embrace her inner demons and she becomes: Scary Marlowe. And that's the longest intro that it will be. It's going to be, like, super snappy and quick for the rest of the season.

Anthony: Hi, I'm Anthony Burch. Uh—

Will: What up, teach?

Other “Teens”: Oh...!!

Freddie: *[braces-kid voice]* If Anthony's 15 minutes late to the podcast record, we don't have to do it!

[group laughter]

Anthony: I think I'm still the Daddy Master.

Matt: Yeah, you're still our Daddy.

Anthony: I'm not a Raddy Master, that sucks.

Matt: No.

Beth: Yeah.

Anthony: I guess the rad fact for this week is going to be: though this is still a Dungeons and Dragons podcast, I've adjusted some mechanics and farted around some stuff, trying to get just a different vibe. So, if you hear anything that feels like, “That's absolutely not a D&D mechanic,” give it time. If this sucks, I'll change it. And if it's cool, then I can do better and you can shut up.

Freddie: Let's go!

Matt: Do it!

[intro transition plays]

Anthony: So, last season on Dungeons and Daddies ended with the summoning of an Eldritch Chaos god, known as the Doodler. Lark and Sparrow Oak summoned him by drawing the blood of the Unsung Hero, their father, Henry. The three Oak boys vomited out a bunch of static that went into the sky, changed the sky in some weird way. Everything seemed like it was going to go very bad, like the world was going to end. And that's where we ended our previous season. And now, we will open... like this.

[bass boom and a long, stringy, tense note plays]

Anthony: 25 years later. The black sun burns angrily in a crimson sky.

[music stops]

Freddie: Did Anthony write some of this out?

Matt: *[gasps]*

Will: Oh, shit!

Beth: Oh my God.

Matt: I'm so excited.

Freddie: Yo..! Hold up, let me- lemme—

Beth: The black sun?

Freddie: Hold up, lemme lower my...

Beth: Fucking hell yeah. I'm there, baby.

Freddie: Let me lower my seat.

Beth: I can feel it.

Freddie: I just need to get, like...

Anthony: Get closer to the edge?

Freddie: Yeah, yeah.

Beth: Yeah.

[tense, sad, strings come back, now with slow piano notes]

Anthony: The black sun burns angrily in the crimson sky. You can see thin, shallow grooves fading into view, all pointing away from the sun. They looked like somebody dragged a knife across the firmament over and over again, each time bringing the tip closer and closer to the cigarette burn sun before slicing through the atmosphere.

Freddie: Holy shit!

Anthony: Fingernail scratches on the skin of heaven. And you know what that means.... It's time to show up for weekend detention!

[laughter]

[music cuts abruptly to pleasantly inoffensive rock beat with some jammin' guitar; like any pan-down to the view of a school in a teen comedy where the sky isn't a red flag the size of the atmosphere]

Anthony: The signs around town call it San Dimas, but you've only ever known it as home. San Dimas High isn't a particularly well funded high school, but the teachers are pretty good at pretending to care when it matters.

Freddie: [snorts]

Anthony: A minivan pulls up in the school's front parking lot. Inside, a man with a bushy beard and kind eyes looks into the rear view mirror. Next to him in shotgun, is another man holding the hand of the first and smiling sadly. In the backseat, we see a teenage boy. Matt, who's that teen?

Matt: It's Lincoln Li-Wilson. [sighs] Some people call him Link, short for Lincoln, and he's uh... he's in trouble. He's going to detention, isn't he? He disappointed his dads...

Beth: Oh...!

Will: Oh no!

Freddie: Is that like, twice as bad?

Beth: Oh!

Link: [sighs]

Anthony: So, the father of yours that is driving, Grant, says—

Grant: I just want you to know, I'm very glad that you've shown up for detention. It would've been very easy to not tell us that you had detention, it would've been very easy to sneak away, and I just want to say, I really respect that you were upfront with— I'm still disappointed in what you did, of course.

Link: [Link's voice is higher pitched (uncracked) and typically a bit quiet] Of course, of course.

Grant: I just want to say, well done, Link.

Link: No, no. You always told me— Look, trust is the one thing that you can't repair.

Grant: That's right!

Link: So, of course I wouldn't lie to you, Dad. [*sighs*] Oh, I'm so sorry about what I did.

Anthony: Your other father in shotgun, Marko, says, like—

Marko: No, no, you don't have to apologize. Remember, we don't apologize except to the people that we hurt. So, it doesn't do it any good to apologize to us, y'know? It's about finding that peace within yourself and moving forward. Does that make sense, Grant?

Link: Yeah...

Anthony: Grant's like—

Grant: Yeah, that's close enough. Yeah, sure.

Beth: Oh my god.

Will: Uh-oh!

[*laughter*]

Link: I already apologized to Mrs. Anderson so many times. I-I- oh...

Grant: That's very good.

Anthony: Marco says—

Marko: She may not forgive you immediately for that, and that's okay, we got to let her be on her own journey, but you did the right thing. This is a good first step for you. And honestly, maybe this'll do you some good. Your father and I haven't been the hardest on you, so who knows? Maybe some consequences and, [*unsure, half-aggressive, vocalization*]

Anthony: And Grant's like—

Grant: Calm down, it's okay. It's all right. I'm scared to see him go, too.

Anthony: Marko's like—

Marko: [*whispered*] I'm just scared about our little boy!

Beth: [*endeared sigh*]

Grant: And if anybody, if any street toughs come up to you?

[*laughter*]

Grant: In detention?

Link: Yup.

Grant: You just run. You don't be a hero.

[*group laughter*]

Grant: You run.

Link: Dads, I already- I already told you, there's no bullies at school and everybody's really nice to me, and I'm super safe there. So, don't worry about me.

Anthony: Your father, Grant, says—

Grant: I'm driving to the airport shortly. I'm going to be on my business trip for like a week. So, I've checked with Daddy—

Anthony: —he says, pointing at Marko, and says—

Grant: —he's got all your meds ready and your food, uh—

Link: I know, dad.

Grant: All your meals are already prepped, I already put them in the fridge, all you got to do is heat them up. And I'm going to be calling you every day on the Metaverse.

Link: Mm-hm.

Grant: And I'm going to see you every day there.

[*group laughter*]

Grant: And we're going to...

Link: I know, 4:30 PM. I got...

Grant: 4:30 PM!

Link: I got the global clock that tells me what time it is where you are—

Grant: That's right.

Link: —and where I am.

Grant: The Zucker Clock, that's right.

Will: Zucker—!

[*more laughter*]

Will: All hail the Zucker Clock!

Grant: I'll be back in Meet Space in a week.

Freddie: God!

Link: I'll be fine. It's just- It's high school. I told you, it's been fine so far, Dad. I'm okay.

Grant: It's just, high school's very big.

Link: I know.

Grant: There could be a lot of bullie— y'know, our home— We had a nice little homeschool and everything was very- very safe. And I respected your decision to try to go to a bigger school, and I just want you to know that... I'm a little worried. And I felt like it's okay for me to be vulnerable with you.

Link: Well, absolutely, just know that I'm... It's...

Beth: [*laughing*] The worst...! [*breathless*] Holy shit...!

Link: Dad—Grant— I'm sorry. You're right, it's okay for you to be vulnerable. I'm sorry I wasn't listening to your feelings. You're absolutely right about that.

Grant: I appreciate that.

Link: Just remember, I'm very tall.

Freddie: [laughs]

Link: And I don't sound like it, but I am tough, and my voice will sound tough at some point, like you told me. And it's gonna get—

Grant: And it's okay if it doesn't!

Link: It will. Okay! I should go. If I stay here too long, I'm not going to want to go. I love you both!

Grant: Okay, see you. Mwah. *[kissy sound]*

Will: Dang.

Anthony: And both your bad dads kiss you on the cheek—

Will: Darryl was right to not talk to his kid in the beginning of this show.

[all laughing]

Matt: And the moment I get out of the car, I look around for bullies.

[laughter]

Will: I was expecting like a pulls out shades, throws on leather jacket—

Matt: Nope.

Freddie: That's a roll!

Will: —runs switchblade comb through your...

Freddie: That's a roll for checking for bullies, isn't it?

Anthony: Yeah, give me a- give me a roll. Give me a Perception check.

[dice clatters and then keeps clattering]

Matt: *[laughs]*

Will: Way to drop your dice, freshman!

[laughter]

Anthony: You sto—12

Matt: *[laughing]* I got a tw— I got a 12!

Anthony: You stop—

Beth: 12 bullies!

[group laughter]

Anthony: 12 bullies encircle you! They go—

12 Bullies: Well, well, well!

Link: Hello!

12 Bullies: Me and my 11 friends here are looking for somebody to beat the shit out of!

Link: Hey, it's the varsity soccer team. Hey, guys!

[more laughter]

Link: Why are you here on a Saturday?

12 Soccer Players: Oh hey, wait a second. Didn't you...? Aren't you on the team? Didn't you...

Link: No, I...

12 Soccer Players: You just tried out.

Link: I wish I was on varsity. Of course I'm not on varsity. The coach said that maybe next year. I'm really tall.

Matt: I am really tall, by the way. I'm 6'3".

Freddie: [laughs]

Anthony: You are really tall.

Matt: I'm very tall and lanky.

Anthony: They're amazed that you're not on the team.

Link: Yeah, no, no, uh. What are you guys doing here? Oh wait, you guys probably practice on Saturdays.

12 Soccer Players: We practice on Saturdays. That's why San Dimas High has the strongest football— so— Soccer team!

[laughter]

12 Soccer Players: I took a semester abroad in Britain.

[group laughter]

12 Soccer Players: I'm cool!

Freddie: You're so cultured!

12 Soccer Players: I'm cultured and cool. What are you doing here?

Will: See you on the pitch!

[laughter]

Link: I got- I got detention.

12 Soccer Players: Ooh!

Anthony: All you hear are 12 voices going—

12 Soccer Players: Ooooh!

[group laughter]

Anthony: And they automatically harmonize. And they go—

12 Soccer Players: Well, well, well. Once you get out, maybe uh... We don't care!

[laughter]

Link: Well...

12 Soccer Players: We're just here practicing. You go to detention. You're tall and we appreciate that, but apparently you're not good enough to be on varsity. So, bye.

Link: Hey, really quick, guys.

Matt: I try to put on a really cool demeanor. Can I do intimidation or something?

Anthony: Yeah, sure.

Matt: [dice roll] I rolled a 3.

Link: So, my dad always says, I think you should express your feelings and it would be nice to know what it is about me that makes you so likely to bully me and maybe I'll do better to not do that. And then we could be more

friends, because I think I'm going to be on your guys' team next year. So, why don't you just give it to me? What don't you like about me?

Anthony: So, with your 3 roll, as you're saying that, you hear two power windows roll down and both of your dads poke their heads out of the van, because they haven't driven away yet.

[laughter]

Anthony: And they're like—

[claps in the laughter]

Li-Wilson Dads: Hey, what's going on? Hey, Link, what's going on? Are these friends of yours? Are they being nice to you? It's us, it's his gay dads! Are you...

[more laughter]

Li-Wilson Dads: Is everything okay?

Link: Yeah, this is the varsity soccer team, and they're really nice. Right, guys?

Anthony: And they go—

12 Soccer Players: Yeah, we're super nice. Nice to meet you, Dads!

Anthony: And they look at you and they go—

12 Soccer Players: The only reason we're being nice to you, is because your dads seem really sweet.

Link: They are really sweet.

12 Soccer Players: Yeah.

Link: Okay...

12 Soccer Players: That's not going to do well for you though, in this school.

Link: Well, I'm going to walk—

12 Soccer Players: This is a cutthroat school.

Freddie: *[laughs]* No nice parents!

12 Soccer Players: No nice par—

Link: W—

12 Soccer Players: I like— Hey, no, I like your parents. Your parents are cool. But you? I get “piece of shit” vibes for you.

Freddie: [*cackles*]

Link: Hey— Hey Dads! Look how fast I can run! Keep the window rolled down!

Matt: And then I just run into... While the windows were down so that the Dads are giving me protective cover from the boys.

[*laughter*]

Matt: I'm just going to run to the detention office.

Anthony: They go—

Li-Wilson Dads: Good job, Link! Keep those knees up!

Anthony: Next, a silver Sedan drives up. In the front seat, a powerful, feminine figure—because all women are powerful—is driving.

[*short laughs*]

Anthony: This is Veronica Marlowe-Stamper. In the seat next to her, turned around completely to face the backseat, is Veronica's husband, Terry. Veronica says—

Veronica: Uh, Terry Jr?

Anthony: And the man in the front seat does not react, because he knows he's not being addressed. Who is being addressed, Beth?

Beth: Theresa Marlowe, in the back, is being addressed, but is certainly not acting like she's being addressed. She's not responding to that at all. And her arms are crossed and she is sighing very loudly, like every 15 seconds.

Anthony: So, Veronica says—

Veronica: S-sorry. Scary.

Scary: [*Scary sounds like if Beth spoke at a slightly lower pitch and was perpetually offended*] Yes, Scary. None of this Terry Jr bullshit. I just meet this guy and then suddenly I'm a Junior? Like he... [*displeased grunts*]

[laughter]

Veronica: I understand it's inconvenient that your father, my new husband, has the same name as you, but we had to come up with some... I mean, yes. If you don't want to be Terry Jr, if you'd rather be Scary, that's- that's perf...

Matt: I feel like you'd call your stepdad Terry Jr, because you're like, "I was here first."

Will: [laughs]

Scary: Yeah. Yeah, he's Terry Jr.

Freddie: "I have seniority in this family!"

Scary: Yeah. So, you just keep calling me Scary.

Veronica: Yeah, no, I will. Uh, Ter- Scar- Ter- Scary.

Scary: Because I am.

Beth: And Scary stares—

[laughter]

Beth: And Scary stares at Terry Jr. like... really intensely.

Anthony: And Terry...

Beth: Upsettingly. Just stares.

Anthony: Terry Jr goes—

Terry: I'll ask again just to make sure, because you didn't answer me the previous seven times I asked. I thought maybe you couldn't hear me, but is there anything that you need before detention or did you need pens or food? I made lunch.

Anthony: And he produces a plastic bag.

Scary: I don't care! I need you to stop asking me about things, and like start like understanding, because like you're so infuriating, like you don't even get like anything. Gosh!

[laughter]

Anthony: Terry goes—

Terry: I would love to understa—

Anthony: And Veronica just goes—

Veronica: [*stutter*] It's okay. She just needs time to... Just give her some time.

Scary: I don't have time. The whole world is ending!

Veronica: You're right.

Scary: Look at the windshield, Mom! Look at the bug on the windshield, Mom!

Veronica: Yup.

Scary: It's like, dead! And it didn't even really get to live.

Veronica: Mm-hmm.

[*off-mic laughing*]

Scary: And neither— neither am I! I'm just like a bug in the back of a car.

Veronica: Yep. That's...

Scary: And I got this stupid face looking at me.

Anthony: Terry goes—

Terry: Aw. I'm going on the- on the trip and I don't want the last thing we say to be, y'know, hur— I, I just— If you just take the lunch, I'll be really happy. So, could you? Could you maybe...?

Anthony: And he tries to— tries to like—

Terry: [*sad gesturing noise*]

Anthony: —just into your hands with the plastic baggy of just... of sandwich.

Beth: Scary takes it from his hands and then puts it on the seat... and leaves it there.

Scary: That's chill that you're going. Like at least nobody's going to be like watching YouTube and crying over like Top 60 Inspirational Sports Moments or something stupid like that.

Terry: I don't watch all 60 of them, I just watch the Miracle on Ice over and over again.

Scary: Whatever, Terry.

[group laughter]

Anthony: So Veronica says—

Veronica: It's okay, honey. I'll be taking care of her while you're gone. But say goodbye, Terry, please? For Mommy?

Scary: Say my name.

Veronica: Scary. Say "goodbye, Terry." Please.

Scary: Goodbye. [*low-tone obstinate teen voice*] Terry. [*normally*] Smell you later.

[group laughter]

Beth: She steps out and walks away.

Anthony: The window rolls down and Terry goes—

Terry: You forgot your lunch! So, I'll just— I'll leave it here!

Anthony: And he just opens the car door and puts it on the curb and then closes the car door. And he goes—

Terry: Okay, we're leaving now!

Anthony: And then pauses to see if you turn back around and say anything.

Beth: I don't.

Terry: Oh- okay!

Anthony: And they drive away, and the entire time they drive away, Terry's looking in the rear view mirror to keep his eye on you and make sure you're okay.

Beth: And I try to get the lunch without him noticing me.

Anthony: Okay yeah.

[laughter]

Freddie: Ooh, that's a roll, baby!

Will: That's a roll.

Anthony: Yeah, give me a Stealth roll.

Beth: [*dice clack*] I got a 2. [laughs]

Anthony: Okay.

Freddie: Wow.

Anthony: So, you do it, but he sees you do it. And like the last thing you see before the car drives out of view, is him smiling a little bit. And then 12 soccer players come at you and go—

12 Soccer Players: Well, well, well!

[*group laughter*]

12 Soccer Players: Look who we have here! Former soccer star, Terry Marlowe. What happened, Terry? Did you lose your passion for the game? [*all teasing drops*] Because we could really use you back. We real— Our girls team...

[*laughter*]

12 Soccer Players: Six of us are girls, I didn't mention it, we're— we miss you. Terribly.

Scary: No, I didn't lose my passion. It's like, I got passion in other things. Y'know? Like. More important things.

12 Soccer Players: Like what?

Scary: Well, like... just like close your eyes and think about this.

Anthony: 12 soccer players close their eyes.

[*laughter*]

Will: You hear the fleshy clap of 12 eyelid pairs—

[*more laughter*]

Will: They're slapping shut at the same time.

Freddie: [*vocally mimicking it*] *Doosh!*

Will: Freddie, I want you to design the fuck out of that sound effect.

Freddie: Oh we're designing 12 slaps, oh yeah.

[*12 wet slaps at once. It's. The worst thing.*]

Scary: All right, Butt Hole. Ricochet. That's the name of my new band that I'm forming.

[*laughter*]

Scary: If you guys—

12 Soccer Players: That's what you wanted us to imagine?

[*more laughter*]

Scary: Well, it's—

12 Soccer Players: It's such a visual name.

Scary: Yeah, but it's like, from the heart and it's like about pain and real, and it's not this bullshit soccer stuff. Where it's like, that's a game.

12 Soccer Players: Hey!

Scary: That's a game. I'm done with games. See you guys in detention. Or I guess if you're not going to deten...

12 Soccer Players: No, you won't see... We're not going— we're here to...

Scary: Okay, yeah—

12 Soccer Players: Yeah...

Scary: Yeah, you guys just keep like practicing or whatever, but like I'm going to go into detention.

12 Soccer Players: All right. Well, have fun at detention.

Anthony: They watch you go.

Anthony: A few minutes later, a convertible pulls up, top down, music blaring. In the front seat, a strikingly beautiful and powerful woman—because all women are powerful—

[laughter]

Anthony: [*unbroken verbal stride*] —adjust their sunglasses, even though there's no real need for them. This is Cassandra Swift. Former daytime TV star, and parent to the boy sitting shotgun. She hands the boy a plastic bag bulging with soft corners. It seems to be filled with a shit ton of video game boxes.

Taylor: Augh!

Anthony: She says—

Cassandra: You could play these during detention, right? Like, they let you play games?

Beth: Hey Taylor, I'm happy for you and I'm going to let you finish, but I just wanted to say—

[laughter]

Anthony: Augh!

[group boos]

Beth: —that Glenn Close was the best out of all time. Of all time!

[more booing]

Freddie: I even knew you had that prepped, Beth, boo!

Beth: Yep, yep, yep, yep!

Taylor: [*Taylor fluctuates between incredibly dramatic or kinda whiney on context. Mostly dramatic*] Detention's so stupid, but I suppose it's just another obstacle on my journey.

Cassandra: Yeah, sure, it's another obsta—

Taylor: Kuruma! Yamate kudasai! [*is probably supposed to translate to "Car! Stop please!" But it's wrong.*]

[beeps and tech-y sounds]

Freddie: And my self-driving car comes to a stop.

[laughter]

Freddie: Because it's the future, Anthony!

Cassandra: I have asked you not to do that, I need to be in control of the car. We could get into accidents. I appreciate that you're learning Japanese, but please.

Taylor: I reset the car's language to Japanese so I could control it.

[laughter]

Cassandra: I know, you need to switch that back! I can't- I can't follow the GPS instructions when it's saying stuff in Japanese.

Taylor: Heh. Good luck navigating the menus, Mom. Perhaps if you took a little bit more time with manga and a little less time with movies, you'd be in a better position to operate your own vehicle.

Cassandra: Oh, it actually gives me some good news! I did get an offer on doing some voice work for an anime, for a dub!

Taylor: Wha—? H—!

Cassandra: For doing the voices for an anime dub. You love anime!

Taylor: Gh—! Gh—!

Cassandra: I'm doing a voice. Nagisa Hayo, the ninja with the heart of gold? The one that she's like seven years old. I'm gonna— [*high pitched*] I'm going to do her voice like this! [*normally*] It's going to sound...

Taylor: [*off-mic, loud*] Agh! No!

[laughter]

Taylor: No!

Matt: She's not seven years old, she's 6,000 years old!

[laughter]

Taylor: She's not seven years old, she's 6,000 years old! God!

Cassandra: Well no, they changed it. Which is good for me, because it's in my range. I thought this would be something we could bond over.

Taylor: Uah! It's like I don't even know you anymore, Mom! I can't believe it.

Cassandra: Okay. Enjoy—

Taylor: Augh! Hand me my go bag.

Cassandra: ...Your backpack? Sure.

Taylor: My go bag.

[laughs]

Cassandra: Yeah, here's your bag.

Anthony: She reaches in the back seat and brings you your backpack.

Freddie: It's very heavy, you hear just stuff clanking around in there.

Cassandra: Taylor?

Taylor: What?

Cassandra: Are there weapons in here?

[more laughs]

Taylor: Chh. Everything's a weapon when you have the skillset.

Cassandra: Okay. I'm gonna—

[laughter, Will from off-mic]

Cassandra: Okay, I'm going to unzip this real quick and make sure that we don't need you getting detention for another reason.

Anthony: Alright, and she goes through your backpack. Are there weapons in there?

Freddie: I... [giggles] Okay, there's a Leatherman multi-tool...

Anthony: She takes that out.

Taylor: Ah, come on, Mom! I might need to unscrew something!

Cassandra: There's a knife in here!

Taylor: They make them like that, Mom! It comes with the knife!

Cassandra: You're not going to be able to explain that to the principal.

Taylor: They don't...! [sighs] Fine.

Cassandra: This is for your benefit.

Anthony: All right. She takes that out.

Freddie: And then there's the paracord and various...

Anthony: She goes—

Cassandra: There's no way you need this.

Taylor: Mom.

Cassandra: There's no way.

Taylor: Mom! Mom. [*sounding like "mawm"*]

Anthony: Roll Persuasion with that.

[*laughter*]

Will: Roll for "Mawm!"

Taylor: Mawm! Mawm.

Freddie: Wow, +0, what's that like? [*dice roll*]

Anthony: Mm.

Freddie: Uh, 13.

Will: She walked into the right room, motherfucker.

[*laughter*]

Anthony: Yeah. Clearly she did.

Freddie: It's her room, her car.

Anthony: She goes—

Cassandra: I will leave you a little bit.

Anthony: And she takes out all but like a yard of paracord and then tosses that into the backseat.

Freddie: Little does she know that with even one yard of paracord, one can fashion any number of survival mechanisms.

Will: [*laughs*]

Matt: Do you have little ceramic chunks? Little bits of...

Freddie: Oh, you mean ninja rocks, Matt?

Matt: Yeah. Knew it. She wouldn't have seen those. She wouldn't know what those are.

Freddie: She would've not have investigated my ninja rocks.

Anthony: I'm going to give her a d20 Investigation roll.

Freddie: No, no, no—

Matt: Ninja rocks just look like little...

Freddie: Do you even know what ninja rocks are?

Will: Is this really her first encounter with ninja rocks?

Anthony: There's no— there's no way this is the first time.

Matt: No, she knows what they are.

Anthony: Yeah.

Will: Yeah.

Anthony: She knows. She's going to get advantage on investigating for any ninja rocks. [*off-mic dice toss*] Okay, so she got a 5 and a 9 So, this time...

Matt: [*chuckles*]

Anthony: This time...

Freddie: Taylor pumps his fists.

Matt: They're in the inseam of the go bag.

Will: You just stitched them into the bottom of the bag.

Freddie: Yeah, I'm one step ahead this time.

Anthony: So, ninja rocks, I'm assuming are...

Freddie: So, ninja rocks, for people who don't know, it's if you take spark plugs and crush them? The chunks of ceramic are hard enough, on the mohs scale, that you can literally kind of—and we've tried this—lightly to—

Matt: Lightly.

Freddie: Like an underhand, light toss into any tempered glass window, will shatter.

Anthony: Really?

Freddie: It's amazing.

Matt: It's like a tiny pebble, you just barely throw it at like a car window and it just shatters.

Freddie: And it shatters—

Matt: Because it's so hard and sharp—

Anthony: If you can hear this! Don't do that.

Will: *[laughs]*

Matt: Yeah, don't do it. It's, obviously...

Freddie: It's considered thieves' tools in a lot of jurisdictions.

Matt: Yeah.

Anthony: Whoa...

Freddie: Because it shatters it very quietly.

Matt: Yeah.

Freddie: Like to the point where it's like, if you did it on a quiet night, there's a good chance that people will not even hear it.

Beth: Hell yes. Alright

Matt: Also a useful tool for us to have maybe, that's why I want...

Freddie: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Anthony: Yeah, that's great. Okay, that's cool, that's cool.

Taylor: *[sighs]* Mom?

Cassandra: Yes?

Taylor: ...Who's my dad?

[group laughter]

Cassandra: I... Again with this, you want to do this right now?

Beth: Oh, my God.

Cassandra: Your— detention starts in five minutes, and you want to do this again?

Will: *[losing it off-mic]*

Taylor: Well, I just got some mail from 23andMe the other day.

Cassandra: Yeah? What did it say?

Taylor: Well, it said! That my DNA is actually not human. At first, I thought I screwed it up by accidentally...

Cassandra: It sounds like you screwed it up.

Taylor: ...using— well, it seems kind of weird though!

Cassandra: How do they even check for that? Why would they even...

Taylor: Right? That's what I'm saying, Mawm!

Beth: He definitely submitted semen or something to 23andMe.

Anthony: Yeah.

Taylor: Yeah, 23andMe in the Future required me to jack off into a tube.

[chuckles; clap]

Cassandra: If you're going to try to use that to explain why you've been doing it so much—

[laughter]

Cassandra: I tell you, I'm not buying it.

Taylor: Mom!

Cassandra: I'm not buying it, honey.

Taylor: Am I— Is my dad part not-human or something? It's just so weird! Anyway, I'm going to write a complaint—

Cassandra: Your dad... was a good man. He had to go away. I haven't heard from him. I don't know if he's still with us. I miss him every day. I'm sorry that he wasn't around for you.

Taylor: Typical...

Cassandra: I don't thin— I'm pretty sure he was a guy.

[even Freddie laughing]

Cassandra: I think he was just a human guy.

[group laughing]

Cassandra: I don't think you have alien ghost DNA or whatever it is from one of those mangas you were watching.

Taylor: *[scoffs]* Whatever.

Cassandra: Okay.

Taylor: Bad luck with your audition, Mom, I hope you don't ruin one of my fav— one the greatest, canonical, greatest animes of all time.

Cassandra: I'm going to— I'm actually—

Taylor: Spitting on the legacy of Hayao Miyazaki.

Cassandra: Yeah.

[laughter]

Cassandra: I'm just going to go do my first session today, so you can go ahead and call Lyft to get home when you're out.

Taylor: Augh. I don't wanna—

Matt: Are Lyft's helicopters in the future?

Taylor: I don't want to Lyft. I'd rather ride one of those Lyft turbo scooters.

Cassandra: Those are dangerous.

Taylor: Whatever, Mom.

Cassandra: Okay. Well, I'll see you at home.

Taylor: I love you, mom.

Cassandra: Love you too.

Taylor: M'kay.

Cassandra: Okay.

Beth: Aw.

[*chuckles*]

Anthony: Finally...

Matt: What do the soccer players do for him?

Anthony: Oh yeah. 12 guys—

12 Soccer Players: Well, well, well!

[*laughter*]

12 Soccer Players: If it isn't Mr. Weeb. What's going on?

Taylor: What up, cucks?

12 Soccer Players: Oh...!

Anthony: You get a bunch of people go, "Oooh!" as you call them cucks.

Matt: Wait, can cucks just be cool? Now?

Freddie: Yeah, cuck is cool.

Matt: Cucks now is a really normal word.

Freddie: Yeah, it's a cool— yeah! It's—

Beth: Guys, cucks is the new bestie.

[*laughter*]

Freddie: And I dap all of them, I do cool...

Anthony: And they go—

12 Soccer Players: Oh, it's Taylor, it's Taylor! It's Taylor! You see any good anime lately, Taylor?

Taylor: *Psh.* Only the best. You're subscribed to my SubStack right?

12 Soccer Players: Absolutely!

[laughter]

Taylor: I'm going to write some reviews this weekend.

12 Soccer Players: Please do!

Taylor: Keep an eye out!

12 Soccer Players: Yeah, you're a connection to anime. There's just too many to watch, but you really narrow down the episodes that we can super watch. Like when we're all hanging out together, we watched *I'm a Lonely Robot In Love*, and then halfway through the story becomes a different sort of thing, it's not quite as good as the first half. We loved it so much in the first half!

Taylor: All 43 episodes...?

12 Soccer Players: All 4— Well, again, we watched the first 23, because it kind of gets bad in the middle, but like we—

Taylor: Yeah, it kind of drops off with the *kosuko* [*this means Costco*] storyline.

12 Soccer Players: Yeah, yeah. Not a big fan of it, but hey! Without you, without your newsletter, we would've definitely wasted another 23 half hours of our lives, so thanks man. You're the coolest person in school.

Taylor: No pro—

[group laughter]

Beth: Oh my God.

Taylor: No problem!

Freddie: And as I say that—

Matt: I hate these soccer players.

Freddie: And as I say that, I doff my pork pie hat.

Anthony: Oh no.

Beth: [*devastated*] Oh, no...!

Freddie: That's right!

Anthony: The fedora of the future? [*crosstalk 00:26:56*].

Freddie: The fedora of the future!

Will: That's the beauty of the audio format, is you can save off on a horrifying detail like that until the absolute right moment.

[*chuckles*]

Anthony: And we can forget that you have a pork pie hat until you deign to remind us of it for the rest of the series.

Matt: [*laughing*] So, wait. Just to clarify, there's just— the coolest kid in school, and has a great mom?

Anthony: According to— according to these 12.

[*laughter*]

Will: Yes, Freddie's character is the coolest kid in school, who loves anime, has a ton of sweet weapons and his hot mom drives a convertible.

Matt: What happened!

Will: And gives him cool video games, and his mysterious dad is a demon.

Matt: And owns weapons?!

Will: That's the teenager Freddie is playing. Freddie is the main character.

Freddie: And then Taylor looks into the bag and digs through the games, and he's like—

Taylor: Indie game, indie... Ugh, no, triple A's? Whatever. It's just another day in the life... of Taylor Swift.

Freddie: And then the anime intro plays, like—

[a burst of j-rock music plays]

Freddie: *[sings something that is, we are told, a short line from an anime opening]*

[group laughter]

Anthony: As you head into the school, as your anime intro theme song plays—in your head—a four seater hybrid pulls up. A normal passer-by might double take at it, because the driver and shotgun seats seem to be taken up by the same man, twice. Twins.

Freddie: *[laughs]*

Anthony: But more than—

Will: Twins, if you will.

Anthony: Twins if you—

Will: I'm Rod Serling.

Anthony: *[laughs]* More than a few seconds' examination reveals subtle differences between the two twins. One has deep stress lines around his eyes and a beard just on the wrong side of unkempt. The other sports a fragile, wavering smile and a close crop beard, as well as glasses. In the back—

Beth: *[laughing]* Man, this family's fucked.

[all laughing]

Matt: Who named their kid Normal.

Anthony: In the back, a powerful woman finishes checking a lunchbox for the 70th time and passes it to the teenage boy next to her. The lunchbox says "Swallow's Ice Cream" on it in big letters. And the boy is... What does he look like? He looks weird.

Will: You see—

Anthony: He doesn't look like a normal boy.

[laughter]

Matt: The- The two men. The same man twice...

Anthony: If you—

Will: So far...!

Anthony: The witness outside of the car sees, in order, te

same man twice, and then a boy that's wrong.*[group lahugh]*

Will: If I'm going to truly paint the scene, what you see is two twins, a strong, powerful woman, and Jimmy Neutron!

[laughter]

Beth: Oh, God.

Will: Because what you see in the back, is a Teeny the Teen, the mascot of San Dimas High School. Within the shell of that mascot is Normal Oak. So yeah, basically imagine like a big... like head. And then like...

Beth: *[wheezes]*

[laughter]

Matt: Yeah, a mascot.

Will: A big mascot head!

Matt: Yeah!

Freddie: And we know what mascots are!

Will: Of a human boy, and then...

Matt: There's no mascot that has a small head.

Anthony: Imagine if you will, a mascot.

Will: A big human boy head, and then like a sort of like Bart Simpson-esque t-shirt and shorts, but then, imagine like sleeves that are flesh colored—

Freddie: Oh, yeah...

Beth: No...

Will: —ending in big, flesh colored hands.

Matt: God...

Will: And so that's, that's is the—

Freddie: A little cool curl on the hair.

Anthony: A cool spit curl.

Freddie: Yeah, yeah.

Will: I definitely, I like the idea that it is a Jimmy Neutron costume that has just...

Matt: This is important. Where—

Freddie: Jimmy Neutron went to the public domain.

Matt: Where are the eye holes? Are they like the...

Will: *[laughs]*

Matt: Is it a grinning mouth? Is it an opening grinning mouth and the eyes are the mouth? Or are the eyes and the eyes like— where are the eye holes?

Will: Here's what we'll say. The eye holes are in the mouth.

Matt: Nice.

Will: But there's not enough room in... The head is like shoved pretty far down to fit in the hatchback Prius, I'm assuming?

Matt: *[laughs]* Great.

Will: So Normal cannot see all that well right now.

Matt: There we go.

Will: So he kind of fumbles for the lunch pale that his mom is said to hand to him and says—

Normal: *[Normal is slightly higher pitched with a near-constant undercurrent of pep]* Thanks, mom, I appreciate it!

Anthony: Your uncle who's in the front seat. Who's driving, Lark Oak, turns around. And he pulls out a gun.

[group laughter]

Anthony: And he says...

[pause for more laughter]

Anthony: And he says...

Matt: Yes!

Lark: So Normal. I know you're gonna, I know you're going to detention. There might be some really dangerous kids here. I want you to just keep this in your backpack.

Beth: Oh my God!

Anthony: And your dad, Sparrow, in the shotgun goes—

Sparrow: No! No! What are you doing? He can't have a gun! Give me that!

Normal: Aw, why not, Dad? Come on!

Sparrow: No! You can't—!

Freddie: All the cool kids are doing it in Future Hell America!

Sparrow: No! You can't— He cannot have- can you imagine if he gets caught with that? He'll go to like, I don't know, to double detention or whatever.

Anthony: And your mother goes—

Rebecca: Now now...

Freddie: [*giggly*] The penalty for having a gun in American schools is a detention again!

Beth: Yeah.

Anthony: Is detention.

Matt: Ever since the 32nd amendment.

[*laughter*]

Anthony: So Rebecca says—

Rebecca: What if the truth is somewhere in the middle? What if instead of taking the gun or not taking a gun, you take my pepper spray instead?

Anthony: And she takes pepper spray out of her purse and puts it in your hand. And your uncle Lark is like—

Lark: Yeah, I guess. Yeah, sure. That's fine.

Anthony: And Sparrow is like—

Sparrow: That also seems bad if he gets caught with that! But— oh God. I mean, augh, do you really have to wear the costume into detention? Like can you...?

Normal: Dad! But the costumes the whole reason I have detention! If I take it off now, then what's the point?

Sparrow: [*stutters*]

Freddie: Gottem.

Sparrow: Look. Okay. So have you... Have you showered? What is the... I'm smelling something... Because you didn't take the mascot costume off when you showered and I don't remember when you showered or if you showered in a month...

Beth: Oh my God... Oh...

Sparrow: And maybe you want to leave the costume in here so I can clean it and you can leave. And then I'll give you the clean costume when you get out of detention? Bud?

Normal: Dad, I appreciate your concern. But as I've explained to you, the punks over at Chaparral High School want to prank the mascot outfit and no one is taking it seriously! Which is why I have to wear it to protect it. If I leave it at home, who knows what's going to happen to it? You know? And to answer your question, it's been a while since I showered, but I am pretty much naked under here.

Freddie: Gah!

Normal: So like, I'm not getting my clothes dirty. Y'know? The only thing that's getting dirty is the inside of the mascot costume, and since I'm the only one who's ever going to wear it—because I'm going to be the mascot until I graduate to senior year, and then I'll probably take it to college with me. It doesn't matter!

Freddie: [*laughs*]

Beth: Oh my God.

Anthony: So...

Matt: Normal's a hero.

Anthony: Spar—

Will: *[laughs]*

Matt: I just want to say. Normal's a fucking hero. Normal—

Will: Normal's a patriot.

Matt: Normal cares about the school.

Anthony: Sparrow opens his mouth to keep complaining and Lark waves him down and says—

Lark: No, no, no, it's fine. He can keep the costume on. While he was asleep, I sewed some Kevlar into the front and the back. So he's probably safer in there than he is outside of it.

Normal: It di—

Beth: Oh my God.

Normal: It did feel a little— Da— Come on, Uncle Lark! I need to be able to do flips in this thing! I know I can't do flips yet, but I want to learn! It's not going to be easy with lead bulletproof stuff in here.

Lark: If you...

Freddie: With 3A armor in here.

Lark: Well, hey. If you feel like you can't do flips, then maybe I can teach you things that are not a complete waste of time, like hunting or survival, or... talking to girls, or talking to boys or talking to anybody. Do you have, do you have a friend yet? Does your kid have a friend yet?

Anthony: Sparrow goes—

Sparrow: No, he doesn't have a friend yet. Give him time, it's fine.

Matt: *[laughs]*

Sparrow: He's allowed to take his time. Get— I would love it if you had a friend though, your mother and I are pretty worried about you.

Normal: W— Look— Guys. Teeny the Teen—

[giggles]

Normal: —is the most popular teen at San Dimas High. And if I'm Teeny the Teen people are going to like me! You just got to give it time!

Anthony: So Sparrow again goes—

Sparrow: A—

Anthony: And Rebecca, the wise, three dimensional mom.

[laughter]

Anthony: Says—

Rebecca: Just... Hon, just give him time. He'll— he'll realize it's... Teeny, go ahead and go off to detention and we're so proud of you Teeny.

Normal: Thanks, Mom! You're so wise.

Rebecca: I— that's me! I also did a lot of stuff before I met your dad.

[group laughter]

Rebecca: I'm the one who founded this ice cream empire that is on your lunchbox, Swallow's Ice Cream. That's me. My husband is an Heiress.

[group laughter]

Matt: Good for- Good for Sparrow.

Anthony: Good for Sparrow.

Normal: Well I'm gonna go, the ice cream melts pretty quick in this thing. So I'm going to go and try not to splash it on the inside of the mascot costume. I love you guys! And I'm sorry, I got detention, but I feel like it was a good cause, the reason. So I'm not that sorry.

Will: And then Normal takes the pepper spray from his mom and climbs out of the car.

Anthony: And then you head out of the car and—

12 Soccer Players: Well, well, well! It's the mascot!

Normal: What's up my cuckolds!

12 Soccer Players: You can't call us that.

Freddie: [laughs]

Will: And I start doing like a cheer routine. I'm like—

Normal: It's the boy's soccer team! You guys are going to go all the way this year! It's going to be great! I just totally believe in you!

12 Soccer Players: Yeah, no, I mean, you know, honestly, this sight of you, kind of takes the joy out of our school spirit. You got to go—

Normal: Come on, we're all Teens here! We've got teen spirit, don't we?

12 Soccer Players: Yeah. No, we have a lot of team spirit. It's just like, you're, you're a lot.

Normal: I'm a lot? Well, this whole team's a lot! There's a lot going on and we're going to take all of that and bring it to state this year, hands in the middle, everybody.

12 Soccer Players: Ah, God.

Anthony: And they all put their hands in the middle and they go—

12 Soccer Players: You... I'm so— its just a little...

Normal: Give me a T!

12 Soccer Players: We don't have to go through the whole thing.

Normal: Gave me a T!

12 Soccer Players: T.

Normal: Give me an E!

12 Soccer Players: E.

Normal: Give me an E!

12 Soccer Players: E- E?

Normal: How many E's did I do?

12 Soccer Players: You did two E's.

Normal: That's Teen! That's Teeny the Teen! Wah, you guys don't even know the ma— we'll work on it.

Freddie: *[laughs]*

12 Soccer Players: I thought we were just doing the word “team.” You wanted do the— oh God, thank— you know, you should go to detention. It's taking so much self control not to bully you, right now. We're trying to be a positive force in school.

Normal: I appreciate it.

Will: And then Normal walks off whistling at the school theme, which is... *Bad Guy* by Billy Eilish.

[laughter]

Will: And uh... The Fighting Eilish, that's what we call the team!

Beth: Oh, my God.

Freddie: [laughing, off-mic] The Fighting Eilish, no!

Anthony: God.

Will: And he heads off to detention.

[ad break]

Anthony: You all open the door to the history classroom and you see Mrs. K—the history teacher and today's detention teacher—sitting at her desk playing on her phone. And she says—

Mrs. K: All right, everybody sit down. Time for detention. No fun. No— Welcome to the no fun zone.

Anthony: For a couple of you, you're seeing familiar faces by seeing each other. So Normal and Link, you used to see a lot of each other at like these quasi-weekly get togethers that your parents would throw because your parents were friends and you would go to like grills and stuff like that. But as of lately, Normal, your dad, Lark, and Link, your dad Grant, both have wanted you to sort of separate out a little bit more, that you stopped going to these cookouts. They started getting protective. You got the vibe from both of your parents, separately, that the other kids might be a bad influence. So this is maybe the first time you've actually had the chance to be in the same room together in quite a while.

Matt: Especially Taylor, Swift. 100% bad influence. Who's the coolest kid in school though, actually.

Freddie: Who's already got his feet up and is already playing his Nintendo.

Anthony: Yeah and then I guess, all of these people are—

Freddie: They're called Nintendos in the future.

Anthony: Great. And then I guess, Scary, everybody here is more or less... new to you, because you just recently had Terry Jr. come into your life.

Matt: Link definitely knew of Scary, because she's a really good soccer player.

Normal: Lincoln!

Link: Oh hey.

Normal: Linky Binky!

Link: Hey...

Normal: Linky, Binky-fo-Finky!

Link: Yeah, hey, what's up?

Normal: I hear you're joinin' the soccer team this year, man! What's up?

Link: Yeah. I'm on JV. Uhm. Cool, cool.

Will: All right, march over and sit right next to Link.

Link: Oh...

Normal: Link, it's been so long since I seen you, dude! I know our dads are like [*tongue lolling noise*] but it's like, you know, I miss you! Boom, boom, boom!

[*three quick smack noises overlap the 'boom's*]

Will: And I punch him on the shoulder a bunch.

Link: Ah... yeah...

Freddie: Well, it wouldn't hurt that much because he's Jimmy Neutron.

Normal: It's me under here!

Matt: I have, very low constitu—

Normal: It's Normal, under the— I'm the Teen!

Matt: Can I roll for constitution to see if it hurt me?

Freddie: *[laughs]*

Anthony: Uh. Sure.

Matt: I'm very tall, but I'm very weak. I'm fast, but weak.

Anthony: Roll with advantage, because he does have foam hands on.

Matt: *[dice roll]* It was 19.

Anthony: Yeah. No it doesn't hurt at all.

Matt: I still say, ow.

[laughter]

Link: Ow! Ow...

Normal: Ooh! Hey, yeah. Sorry man! Didn't mean to razz you—

Link: Yeah, it's...

Normal: But y'know, what's going on?

Link: You know, not much, just soccer—

Normal: It feels like you've been avoiding me!

Link: Yeah. Well, you know. You're dangerous.

Normal: Whu...

Link: Well, I mean your dad's— or. You know. Yeah.

Normal: Uh—

Anthony: Mrs. K goes—

Mrs. K: You're in deten— You're not supposed to like talk in detention—

Link: Can you tell him that?

Mrs. K: Yeah. Just—

Link: He's talking to me...

Mrs. K: Everybody. Hey, Hey. Stop talking. We're starting detention. The fun stops now, you can't socialize.

Scary: The fun stopped a long time ago.

Matt: I write a note to Scary and try to throw to her.

Anthony: Okay. Roll Stealth.

Will: Do people send notes, now? Is that a thing?

Anthony: Woof.

Will: Did we just out ourselves as the oldest human beings of all time?

Beth: Oh yeah, I guess—

Matt: I'm sure people still do that.

Beth: —causes like, people text each other.

Will: They have phones!

Matt: You can't text people in class.

Will: Oh, Matthew.

Beth: I think you can.

Matt: I mean, not Terr— I mean, not... [*chuckles*] Not Link...

Will: Not Lincoln, yes. Fair enough.

Anthony: Yeah. I feel like the first thing that happens when you come in is probably Mrs. K takes your phones.

Beth: Oh...

Anthony: [*dice roll*] So like, so yeah. So Mrs. K rolled natural 1 on her Perception.

Will: I tell Mrs. K., [*just Will's normal voice*] "Now there were 12 apes on this phone when I gave it to you. There better be 12 when I get it back."

[*laughter*]

Anthony: Yes. You successfully throw your note to Scary without getting noticed. What's the note say?

Matt: There's a yes and no check box...

Beth: Oh my God.

Matt: And it says, "Are you going to join the varsity team? They need you."

[laughter]

Matt: And I give a thumbs up. Like...

Link: [*anxious noise*]

Beth: I write back in like scribbled, hard core, like writing.

Scary: "I'll think about it. Probably not though."

Anthony: And you don't give the note back.

[laughter]

Anthony: You hang onto it after writing, "I'll think about it" on—

Beth: [*in Scary's voice still*] Yeah.

Anthony: So he doesn't know what the answer is?

Matt: I just see— I just see you—

Beth: No, no I crumble it up. It was pristinely folded but I crumble it up. And I throw it back.

Anthony: Okay. Do you want to do it sneakily or not?

Beth: I don't want to do it sneakily, I want to do it, because I'm really good at it. I'm just like a perfect throw. But I think that she probably will catch me. Let me roll for it.

Anthony: Okay.

Will: Roll for advantage. Because Normal's big head is blocking the teacher's view, right now.

Freddie: [*laughs*] Yeah, that's it.

Beth: [*dice roll*] I got a 5.

Anthony: Okay. So with a 5 you throw it, it lands on the ground and Mrs. K sees it. And she goes—

Mrs. K: If— Can we not with the notes?

Anthony: And she looks at you and Link and she goes, she says—

Mrs. K: She'll think about it. No more notes please.

Link: *[sighs]*

Anthony: And she crumbles it up and throws it away.

Normal: *[whispers]* Oh, did you just ask the Scary girl out on a date?

Link: What? No. What?...

Taylor: *Psh*, Yo! Yeah right!

Normal: Okay. She'll think about it.

Link: *[sighs]*

Taylor: She'll think about it, bro!

Normal: Good luck man, that's so cool! You're already, you're already, you know, puttin' yourself out there!

Link: What? She's like our—

Normal: I really appreciate it. I support you! That's great!

Link: What? No, she's just, like, really good at soccer.

Will: I, I turn...

Taylor: Yeah, she is.

Will: ...Jimmy Neutron's head around like backwards to look at Scary—

Beth: *[giggles]*

Will: —and I point, I'm like—

Normal: He's a really great guy! You should give him a chance!

[laughter]

Mrs. K: Okay. Everybody calm down, calm down its detention. Before we start your proper punishment, I think you all should throw yourselves upon the mercy of detention and just maybe talk a little bit about how you're sorry about what you did, and how you're going to not do what got you here—again. Anybody feel free to go—

Normal: I'll go!

Mrs. K: —first. Ah, yep.

Normal: Ladies and gentlemen of detention. I ask you this. Is it a crime?

Freddie: [*chuckles*] Oh no.

Normal: to love your school?

Freddie: Oh no.

Normal: Link!

Scary: I mean—

Link: Uh, hey!

Normal: Scary Junior!

Link: Hey!

Normal: What do you, you guys think?

Scary: I think it depends on what you think love is. So...

Normal: Well, ma—

Link: I mean it's not a crime. We're not here because we're criminals, it's just against the rules.

Scary: Well did he fuck the school or did he just like it?

Link: Woah.

Normal: I did not—!

Mrs. K: Scary. Language.

Scary: [*under breath*] Sorry...

Normal: That's okay, I did not French the school. But I did try to protect our beloved mascot from getting punked because I support the teams at this school! Y'all are going to go to state this year! Because we're not going to let Chaparral destroy this beloved institution and humiliate us by ruining the costume. So I can't say that I formally apologize, but I am "sorry."

Will: And I do like big finger quotes with that.

Normal: That I love San Dimas High School, so much.

Anthony: But your fingers don't go all the way to the end of the mascots fingers, so just, you hold your hands up...

Will: You see the two little fingers—

Matt: You just wave. *[laughs]*

Will: You see two little fingers poking out of like one finger, of the glove.

Anthony: That's great. So, Mrs. K knows that it's probably not worth arguing with you further, this is probably not the first conversation you've had. So she goes—

Mrs. K: Cool. Any, anyone else next?

Taylor: Yeah. Let me just start by saying... is it a crime? To be drawing Manga in class? I contend, no. It was just a little bit of extracurricular activities in the middle of a boring math class, which nobody's going to ever need after this, anyway. But...

Normal: It is- It is a crime to just disrespect your teacher and not pay attention in class. So yes, it is.

Taylor: It is not a crime! If you don't bel—

Matt: Damn! *[laughing]* Normal's narcing on...

Mrs. K: Thank you, Normal...

Matt: After immediately saying he's not going to fall... *[laughs]*

Mrs. K: That's why Normal is my favorite student—

Beth: Oh my God.

Mrs. K: —and why I'm not going to continue arguing with him.

Taylor: So yeah! I got caught. Drawing anime about my awesome life.

[laughter]

Taylor: And how one day I'm going to be... the hero that this world needs. Because there needs to be some changes around here, and I think I'm going to be the one to do it.

Anthony: You just... fucked yourself, because now that's something we have to have as bonus content on the Patreon.

Matt: Oh, yes.

Anthony: Is the fucking manga that, that Taylor drew of himself...

Will: [laughs]

Freddie: Oh, I'll draw it. Oh I'll draw it. I will go to— here's what I will do. Listener, this is my pledge, to you. Freddie Wong, content creator, to you, listener of Dungeons and Daddies.

[laughter]

Anthony: To you, content consumer

Freddie: Consumer.

Beth: I- I- [sighing] Oh my God. Okay, go on.

Freddie: I will go on YouTube. And look at how to draw anime eyes really good.

[laughter]

Freddie: I will—!

Matt: Somehow...

Freddie: —create a deviantart. And this will be a manga pen—

Matt: Somehow Taylor is even more Freddie than Glenn is Freddie...

Beth: I. Yeah.

[group laughter]

Beth: It's like so... Oh, goodness. Oh, my goodness.

Anthony: The apple doesn't fall far from the weeb.

Freddie: *[laughs]*

Beth: Damn.

Mrs. K: All right. Anybody else?

Scary: Uhm, okay. Let me get this over with, because I don't even think I fucking—I mean freaking, *uhg*—belong here, but... So, I turned in a book report last week and it was about the Diary of Anne Frank. I realize, now, that by saying that... when I tried to self-publish my diary, and...

[pause for laughter]

Mrs. K: Keep going...

Scary: That...

Mrs. K: What was wrong about the way you did it?

Scary: That by focusing on my struggles, which are still like super dark—

Anthony: Your kampf, if you will.

Freddie: *[laughing]* Your kampf, if you will!

Scary: Yeah, yeah, that! And which is like, even though my struggles are like super dark and nobody understands them and like really devastating that maybe by, like, saying that, in my Diary of Anne Frank, thing, and then also saying that she was, like, kind of being dramatic about, like, some stuff, but not—

Mrs. K: You compared yourself to Anne Frank and said you had it worse than she did. Did you not?

Scary: Only, like in my soul.

[pause, off-mic laugh]

Mrs. K: Okay. Do you feel sorry about that at all?

Scary: I feel sorry for the both of us. Me and—

[group laughter]

Mrs. K: Okay.

Scary: Me and Anne! And I feel like we're kind of like... Yeah, I'm sorry. Whatever. Fuck it.

Mrs. K: Yeah. You, you... you belong here. And, uh, Link! Lincoln.

Link: What?

Mrs. K: Lincoln Li-Wilson, please.

Link: Uh, I think is weird that we're all talk— We don't have to tell everybody what we did.

Mrs. K: No, I think you should definitely tell everybody.

Link: No.

Mrs. K: Why you're... I think actually everybody already knows it. I assume it spread pretty quickly amongst your classmates.

Link: Look, okay... I'm sorry... Yeah. I peed on my teacher's foot. It's not a big—

Normal: [*back from mic, loud*] I— You did what?

Taylor: You what?

Scary: Whoa...

Link: I didn't mean to do it! I shouldn't have—

Normal: Oh you're— You're Piss Foot? I didn't hear who that was!

Scary: That's metal.

Link: No, I- I didn't do it. I shouldn't be here. Like, it's...

Mrs. K: Are you suggesting that you should be allowed to pee on teachers...

Link: She was in the wrong place at the wrong time, it's not my fault!

Mrs. K: Where was that?

Link: In the alley. Behind the school. Because, the boys— look, it's was scar— The boys—

Freddie: Y'know, schools, where there's alleys around them.

Normal: You...!

Link: I really— I stayed—!

Normal: Urinated on the wall of our beloved school, Lincoln?

Link: I stay hydrated... cause I gotta perform, very well, and I had to go to the bathroom and those... [*restrained sigh*] They're mean, in the locker rooms. Like they were going to give me a hard time. They came and like, "Oh look, he doesn't even have hair on his face" or whatever! And like, "He's tall and his voice sounds hilarious!" And like, I can't pee during that. So like, I just went behind the back and I went to pee, like away from everybody, I wasn't going to show anybody anything, I was just going, by myself. And then, I don't know what she was doing! Why is the teacher back there? She should be working! God! Anyway, she scared me, I spun around and yeah! The piss. Whatever!

Link: I- I'm sorry.

Mrs. K: Thank you for apologizing, Lincoln.

Link: I'm not, I mean...

Mrs. K: That's very adult of you.

Scary: So, who was the teacher?

Link: Ms. Anderson. The one who doesn't look at me in the hall—

Normal: Ah, the human biology teacher.

Beth: The urology teacher?

Will: [*laughing*] The uro— yes.

Anthony: Yep. Urology teacher!

Will: We have a burgeoning urology department!

Beth: [*giggles*]

Anthony: San Dimas'...

Will: It's the new trade of the future, it's like when your school has a shop class.

Beth: Yes.

Will: *[laughing]* We have a urology department.

Anthony: Yep. That's all canon.

[laughter]

Mrs. K: Okay, everybody stop talking. That's, it's time for detention to properly start. Six hours of total silence, starting now.

Freddie: *[laughing]* You hear this sound of like, a control stick. Like *kk-kk-kk-kk*

Anthony: Mrs. K... Go ahead and roll... Stealth.

Freddie: Stealth, *[dice roll]* you mean the one I have +3 on? 21.

Anthony: *[whispered]* Jesus Christ... *[normally]* Yeah, she doesn't hear.

Freddie: Yeah baby! Guess what bitch? It's another season of me owning your ass on the dice, bitch.

Anthony: This sucks.

Freddie: *[laughs]*

Beth: Damn...

Anthony: I already hate season two. Yes, she doesn't notice you playing games.

Matt: So she's staying in the classroom?

Anthony: She's staying in the classroom with you.

Link: If we just have to be quiet. Can I just, like, practice? Can I just like juggle in here?

[loud laughter]

Beth: Hell yeah.

Link: Soccer ball, soccer ball. Can I just practice?

Mrs. K: No, that's not going to be quiet. I'm going to hear the thunk, thunk, thunk of you hitting it.

Will: Normal is going to roll a Stealth check, to see if you can whisper to Link.

Anthony: Okay.

Will: Without getting caught.

Anthony: Go ahead.

Will: [*dice roll*] I got to natural 20!

Anthony: So did she.

Freddie: [*gasps*]

Will: Shit, really? [*laughs*]

Anthony: Yeah...

Freddie: Wait, what happens? What happens now?

Anthony: It means you think that she didn't hear and she hears and doesn't convey that she heard.

Will: Okay.

Beth: Wow.

Will: But that means, I lost. What is my natural 20, not good for anything? ...Maybe she hears me, but...

Beth: She thinks it's cool.

[*laughter*]

Anthony: Yeah, whatever you say she thinks is cool, now.

Freddie: Will!

Beth: Oh shit.

Freddie: Will! This is the most powerful, OP move you could possibly do!

Normal: Hey Lincoln, do you talk to Taylor Swift that much anymore?

Link: No, I don't talk to you very much either. I...

Normal: Well I know. I just, because he seems weird lately...

Link: What?

Normal: Like, I haven't talked to him in a while. Like, you know, and I kind of miss not hanging out with you because we're buds?

Link: Uh.

Normal: But like I was kind of relieved to not have to hang out with Taylor anymore.

Link: Oh, that's a lot. Uhm. You should tell him that. Don't tell me that. I'm...

Normal: Why would I tell him that? He'd be mad at me.

Freddie: *[giggles]*

Scary: What are you guys gossiping about?

Link & Normal: What?

Scary: You guys are gossiping.

Normal: We're not gossiping!

Link: Teacher, I'm trying to be quiet and there's a lot— I don't want to say who's doing it, but there's a lot of—

Scary: Teacher, We got a pussy in here. We gotta certified—

[group laughter]

Mrs. K: First of all, hey! That's two strikes on the problematic chart for you, honey.

Scary: Oh, what happens? You cancel me?

Mrs. K: Yes I do!

[laughter]

Mrs. K: You get canceled from school.

Scary: Oh, I get called out? Called out of school?

Mrs. K: Yes.

Scary: Whatever. I've been called out by my own heart.

Normal: Here at San Dimas High the teen spirit believes in calling people in, not calling them out.

Freddie: Oh my God...

Scary: Yeah, no wonder, you smell like teen spirit.

Anthony: Yeah. Mrs. K goes—

Mrs. K: Man. That's really cool, that kid to ask him if the other— if he still talks to that other kid.

[laughter]

Freddie: Wow, it's nice that these kids...

Mrs. K: Wow, I love it when kids try to maintain relationships with their peers. How cool...

Will: He gracefully slid in the exposition he wanted to, so well.

Anthony: Yeah. Your stock has risen in the eyes of Mrs. K. And yeah, you remember there was a time when Taylor Swift's mom would bring him around and would just sort of hang out with your parents for a bit and shoot the shit, but that time has passed. So the hours pass very, very slowly...

Freddie: Actually they pass pretty fast when you're playing a visual novel.

Matt: *[quiet laugh]*

Anthony: ...For all, but one of you the hours pass very, very slowly.

Freddie: Nice.

Anthony: After a long, long time, all but one of you feel that something is off.

[a bass beat introduces ominous music with a slow rhythm]

Anthony: Your adrenaline slowly starts pumping and then gets faster, your heart starts beating faster and faster...

[music cuts abruptly]

Freddie: That's happening for me, too.

Anthony: Because you're yeah, because you're on a raid. Yes.

Beth: Nice.

Freddie: No...

Matt: It's a visual novel, he's got the second act turn?

Freddie: It's a visual novel.

Anthony: Yeah in the future. They have raids in visual novels!

[laughter]

Matt: Wow!

Anthony: I'm trying to level up our fucking experience!

Matt: I can't wait for the future!

Anthony: Your heart starts beating faster and faster. You're panicking and you do not know why.

Freddie: Probably because my dating meters really low, I—

Beth: Oh my God.

Anthony: Again, not you!

Freddie: *[laughs]*

Anthony: The other three. You feel like you're being chased by something. You feel like it's gaining on you. You feel like you are about to die. And then you realize it's not you. You're not the one feeling this, your dads are.

Will: *[gasps]*

Anthony: Somewhere, something awful is chasing them. All of them. It gets closer and closer—Well and, I guess, for you Scary, it's your stepdad, not your dad, dad.

Beth: Yeah.

Freddie: Do I feel as well?

Anthony: No. You don't feel this.

Freddie: *[gasps]* Ooh.

Anthony: But for the three of you, it gets closer and closer. And then there's a scream of four voices. All of your dads—or stepdad or uncle—screaming in unison. You, through your father's minds, feel yourselves watching them. And all of you—again, except for you Taylor—know that for certain, your fathers are going to die, if you cannot find them and save them. And they are going to die soon.

Anthony: Normal, you feel your uncle and your father tell you to stay safe. Link you feel your father tell you to take care of your daddy, Marko, and love him very much. Scary, you feel Terry's sadness that he didn't get time to know you better. You also get the unquestionable sense that your fathers love you and you feel them say goodbye. And then suddenly the screams cut out and all of you are left in silence. Mrs. K hasn't moved. She doesn't seem to have noticed.

Will: I throw up in the helmet.

Scary: Oh...!

Anthony: Mrs. K. goes—

Mrs. K: Oh!

Scary: God...!

Mrs. K: No, go to the—

Normal: Oh, [*gagging a bit*] I'm so sorry! [*breathless*] Oh my God. Oh my God. I got to go! I got to go call my dad! And I run out of the room.

Matt: Yeah. I scream—

Link: Dad!

Matt: And I run out of the room.

Anthony: As you all head toward the door to run out of the room, there's a knock. And then the door just opens and *donk*, hits you in the head, Normal. And a man in a black suit now stands in the doorway.

Matt: I run past him.

Anthony: He watches you go and says—

Dark Suit Man: S-Stop?

Link: No!

Matt: And I run.

Dark Suit Man: It's about your dad.

Link: Uh! Tell me as I'm running!

Anthony: So you just keep running?

Will: [*laughing, off-mic*] Tell me as I'm running...!

Freddie: [*giggly*] Tell me as I'm running!

Will: Walk and talk, man! Come on!

Dark Suit Man: Where are you running to...?

Anthony: And you just—

Link: I've gotta go run— I'm going to go run to talk to my dad, to tell him— about Grant! I got, I got... What?

Anthony: The man goes—

Dark Suit Man: Ugh.

Anthony: And takes out a device from his coat pocket. Looks like a remote control and points at you and... [*dice roll*]

[*pause*]

Will: You die.

Anthony: Yeah you—you evaporate. You feel something hit you in the lower back and an electrical charge goes through your body—[*grunts*]!—and you go rigid and you fall over to the ground. He goes—

Dark Suit Man: It's... stop.

Link: Ow, what the fuck, dick wad?

Scary: Holy shit!

Anthony: And he turns to Mrs. K and he says—

Dark Suit Man: Uh, I have, it's from the superintendent of the school.

Anthony: And he takes out a badge from his pocket and he shows it to her. And then he takes out a letter and hands it to her. And she looks through this as the

man goes in the hallway and throws you over his shoulder and brings you back to the room. And Mrs. K says—

Mrs. K: Oh, okay. Apparently the principal suggested community service in lieu of finishing out your detention, today. So...

Taylor: Wait, who's this guy?

Link: Wh—

Scary: What! We've already been here like, six hours!

Link: Yeah!

Mrs. K: Yeah, and for the la— well, you've been here for three and for the last three, I guess you're doing...

Normal: *Buh...*

Mrs. K: ...community detention.

Will: Normal pulls the Jimmy Neutron off his face. Revealing his sweaty face. Pimple marks, greasy haired...

Beth: Oh...

Anthony: And a puddle of vomit that comes out.

Will: ...hasn't bathed in week, covered in vomit and says—

Normal: Ms. K! Something horrible's happening to our dads! I don't know who this guy is, but he's probably involved, you got to help us!

Anthony: So roll, Persuasion.

Will: [*dice roll*] I got you, 4.

Anthony: [*dice roll*] She got a 5. So she goes—

Mrs. K: It's signed by the superintendent. It's got the sea— I, it's, it's just three more hours. You'll probably be like de-weeding the school lawn. Don't worry it, about it'll be fine.

Normal: Don't you— no! You don't understand!

Mrs. K: No, I clearly don't.

Anthony: The man with the suit gets close to you and he whispers like—

Dark Suit Man: I can take you to your dads.

Scary: Why would I want to go to my dad? I mean, my stepdad, not even my real dad.

Dark Suit Man: Because if you don't, he'll die?

Scary: Well— *mm*. Hmm. ...I guess! That wouldn't be cool...

Freddie: Taylor stands and confidently struts over to this gentleman, sticks his hand out for a handshake and says—

Taylor: Taylor Swift. And who might you be?

Anthony: I guess, roll Persuasion or charm or something to see if he wants to shake your hand.

Freddie: [*dice roll*] 8.

Anthony: [*dice roll*] He does not shake your hand. He goes—

Dark Suit Man: That's classified.

Taylor: Ah, I knew it!

Anthony: He opens the door wider and ushers you forward. He goes—

Dark Suit Man: We're headed to the parking lot.

Anthony: And he leads you out to the parking lot. And there—

Freddie: Taylor has a beaming smile on his face because this is all of his dreams, coming true, like, he knew it would happen.

Anthony: And he goes like—

Dark Suit Man: Oh yeah, I guess you can come too. As he sees you, Taylor.

Will: [*laughing*] Oh, brutal.

Freddie: I do not notice this. I'm just gonna just strut.

Anthony: You are led to a limousine. The man in the suit opens the door and ushers you in.

Freddie: Taylor tries to get in first.

Anthony: Does anybody going to try to stop him?

Will: No.

Beth: No.

Will: Normal has grabbed a bunch of paper towels on the way out and is trying to scoop the vomit out of the helmet.

Anthony: Great.

Freddie: [*shuddering*] Uh...

Scary: Wait, Mr. Classified, where the fuck, are we going?

Mr. Classified: You'll find out when we get there. It's not a long drive.

Link: But you said we were going to do weeds or whatever here. Like, no... Where's my dad? Where's my father?

Mr. Classified: It's classified. I'm not— I'm not allowed to know. And you're allowed to know, but I'm not allowed to tell you because I don't know.

Normal: Now, I...

Link: What?

Freddie: [laughs]

Link: This sucks!

Freddie: That's some Tom Clancy ass fucking improv right there.

Normal: Yeah, I do kind of remember hearing something about adults and strangers and not getting into cars when people say they know your dad. That was like the, "don't get into the stranger car" video. Number one was like, they come up and say that they know your dad.

Taylor: Woah guys!

Scary: Chill out, Normal. It's fucking metal to get into cars with strangers.

Taylor: Hey, there's a... There's like sodas and like candies in this limousine, guys!

Will: *[laughs]*

Anthony: There are a lot of sodas and candies. Because yeah, that was to...

Scary: Aw man! Maybe there's a body in the back.

Will: While this is going on. Normal has pulled up a stranger danger video on YouTube and is showing it to everyone. I'm like-

Normal: Yeah, see? Like, see this creepy guy, with this van?

Anthony: On the video you see the guy.

[laughter]

Anthony: It's the same—

Will: It just looks like the guy?

Anthony: It's the same guy.

Matt: Don't trust this guy!

Anthony: The same guy wearing the same suit.

Normal: You didn't even answer any— What's my dad's name?

Mr. Classified: Your dad's name is Sparrow Oak, and your uncle's name is Lark Oak.

Normal: Well, but, what? We just...

Will: I pepper spray him.

Anthony: Okay, great.

[off-mic dice roll]

Anthony: Roll Dexterity, to see if you can use the pepper spray properly.

Will: *[laughing]* Natural 1.

Anthony: Okay. So you pepper spray yourself directly in the mouth of the suit.

[laughter]

Freddie: Oh no!

Anthony: You pepper spray in the face...

Beth: Scary thinks that is the coolest thing ever.

[laughter]

Anthony: The guy just grabs you and tosses you into the car.

Link: He just tossed—! He just tossed Normal!

Anthony: Were you in the car—?

Matt: No.

Anthony: —or did you not get in the car?

Matt: No, I try to run again.

Anthony: Everybody else is in the car though?

Beth: Yeah, I...

Matt: Fuckin' weirdos...

Freddie: Taylor is definitely in the car.

Beth: Yeah, Scary's in the car.

Anthony: So you hear *cha-chunk* as the car door is lock, and he goes—

Mr. Classified: [sighs]

Anthony: And he gets in the driver's seat of the car and just starts chasing you down with the car. So go ahead and roll Dexterity—

[dice roll]

Anthony: —and see if you can evade his car.

Matt: [dice roll] That's at 17+3. That's a 20.

Anthony: Jesus Christ!

Matt: I do some cool soccer moves, too.

Freddie: Well he's tall and gangly and fast, right?

Matt: I'm good at footwork, yeah tall, gangly...

Anthony: Okay.

Matt: Does some footwork.

Anthony: He tries to drive the car like right next to you. And you just, juke him very easily down a side street and you seem to have lost him for a second. I guess, what are you going to do now? Because you're, you're not at the school.

Link: Call, call— Hey, anybody out there! Pull— pull your phones, record this!

Will: Where are the bullies? Where are the 12 soccer players?

Anthony: Oh, that's true.

[laughter]

Anthony: You lose the limo behind you, but then you hear the tromp of 12 pairs of feet. *Bum, bum, bum, bum, bum, bum*. As they come up and they go—

12 Soccer Players: Well, well, well!

[laughter]

12 Soccer Players: Looks like somebody's trying to get out of detention.

Link: No this guy is—!

12 Soccer Players: We believe in serving time as assigned.

Link: No, no, no, this guy—! This guy, this...! My dad's dying, and this guy's trying to— I'm...! Fuck you! You guys are mean!

Matt: Then I'll run.

Anthony: You can go ahead and roll something. If you want to get a natural 20 and evade the grips of six people.

[off-mic dice roll]

Matt: No, I got 17, but not a natural 20.

Anthony: Six pairs of arms, wrap around you. Go—

12 Soccer Players: Well, well, somebody doesn't want to go de-weed the lawn in school! We believe in having a well weeded lawn because we're soccer players and it helps us get more traction.

Link: Me too, but that's not what this is not what this is about.

12 Soccer Players: You want us to lose you, little jealous JV, yeah? Does JV, stand for jealous, v... boy?

Will: Virgin?

Link: I'm a freshman...!

12 soccer players & Freddie: Jealous, Virgin?

Will: *[laughs]*

Link: What? That's not about...? What does it actually do with anything?

12 Soccer Players: Well, well, well jealous virgin. It's time to pay the Piper!

Anthony: You feel yourself, get hoisted up by six soccer players and they go—

12 Soccer Players: Yoo-hoo! Limo guy!

Anthony: And they, they drag you out and then they go—

12 Soccer Players: Here's the Virgin you're missing!

[laughter]

12 Soccer Players: You tak— You taking him to Virgin Jail?

Anthony: And...

[group laughter]

Beth: Holy shit, Virgin jail.

Anthony: The limo driver pulls up and rolls down the window and he goes—

Mr. Classified: Yes, I'm taking him to Virgin Jail.

Link: This is why my dads—!

12 Soccer Players: Well here you go then.

Link: —didn't even want go to school, this is horrible! I love my dads...!

Matt: I say as I get pulled in.

Will: Oh he's in the trunk.

Anthony: Yeah. They put you in the trunk. They go—

12 Soccer Players: Ha, ha, take him to Virgin Jail!

Anthony: And they slap the trunk twice and he goes—

Mr. Classified: Thank you, you're so helpful.

[laughter]

Mr. Classified: I'm so, I'm so glad I ran into you.

Anthony: And they go—

12 Soccer Players: Anytime. Hey, why are you taking those kids?

Anthony: And he drives away.

[sound of a car driving off on an otherwise peaceful day; the ambient sounds continue]

Anthony: So the limousine drives for a little while. You were driven to a perfectly boring non-descript corporate plaza. The kind with tons of small buildings, all belonging to different offices like dentists and shit.

Link: *[almost inaudible]* Die, we're gonna die...

[the car engine approaches again and we hear it idling]

Anthony: The limo stops outside of a building with a sign reading DADDIES on it, in all caps.

[laughter; ambient noise fades out]

Anthony: The trunk...

Scary: This doesn't look like a Virgin Jail, this looks like a BDSM fucking, podcast...

Anthony: In parentheses it says, "this is not a BDSM thing," underneath it.

Scary: Oh...

Will: Not a BDSM Corporation.

[*group laughter*]

Anthony: The doors pop open, the trunk pops open, and you hear the man who drove you here, say—

Mr. Classified: Get out. Go inside.

[*car drives off*]

Anthony: He just drives away. Just leaving you alone in the parking lot.

Link: What? Oh, okay.

Anthony: So there is a...

Will: [*laughing*] He just leaves?

Anthony: He just leaves.

Will: What a pro, if he's just a limo driver to go to all that work of tasing people and chasing them down? A for effort.

Beth: Yeah.

Anthony: I feel there is a set of glass double doors leading into this little building.

Taylor: Come on, everyone. Clearly destiny awaits us and it doesn't do us any good to turn away from it.

Scary: I guess, I actually, I agree with you.

Taylor: Nice.

Anthony: Okay. So as you try the door, it is locked. You hear—*err* [*negative*]*—*sound. You try the door again and it remains locked and you hear a vo—

Taylor: Oh, don't worry, I got something for this.

Freddie: And like reach into my go bag...

Will: [*laughs*]

Anthony: Okay...

Will: Get your ninja rocks?

Freddie: Well, yeah, you said it's a glass double door, right?

Anthony: It is.

[laughter]

Beth: Oh my God!

Freddie: I ninja rock that door!

Anthony: Okay, so as you reach in your bag to get ninja rocks... actually, everybody roll Perception.

[clatter and clack of dice]

Will: Got a 4!

Freddie: 14.

Beth: 7.

Matt: I got a 9.

Anthony: Okay. So nobody, uh, sees anything. It's what you hear first that makes you turn. You hear... the slap of bare flesh on concrete.

[quiet, breathy laugh]

Anthony: And you turn around— Yeah, I said flesh.

Will: *[soft chuckles]*

Anthony: You turn around to see an... infant.

Will: *[surprised scoff]*

Freddie: What?

Anthony: A human baby, stepping towards you... with adult posture. A straight back, long strides, no wobbling in its gait.

[nervous, confused, chuckling]

Anthony: [*plainly*] Is entirely naked except for a diaper. And it is walking towards you fast. The slap of its bare feet on asphalt getting quicker and quicker.

Normal: Uh—

Anthony: It stares blankly at you.

Normal: Does anyone see that baby?

Link: Yeah what? Uhm!

Scary: Yeah.

Normal: Uh, hello? Baby?

Link: Hey, bud!

Scary: That's the most fucked up thing I've ever seen.

Link: Hey!

Normal: Uh—!

Link: Aw, what a... You're going to be a soccer player, one day. Look at that walk. What a little cute guy. Hey, what's up buddy?

Matt: And I go—

Anthony: It opens its mouth. It bears two rows of fully formed adult teeth.

Beth: Oh no.

Anthony: It gnashes them together, faster and faster. It flies into a dead sprint, like the T1000.

Freddie: I'm gonna try and throw—

Link: Uh...

Freddie: I'm trying to throw these ninja rocks at the window.

Anthony: How many are you going to use?

Freddie: I will say that I had like, let's do like a 1d4 and that's how many I have...

Anthony: Okay.

Freddie: And then I will roll for one of them. So I had in my pocket, [*dice roll*] three of them.

Anthony: Okay so you have three, roll a d20. If you get more than a 10 it'll break the window.

Freddie: [*dice roll*] 11!

Will: Ooh!

Anthony: Okay. So at 11, the window cracks!

Freddie: Quietly.

Anthony: It doesn't shatter entirely, but there's a hole in it, there cracks in the facade of the window. The baby keeps running at you.

Matt: I want to kick it.

Will: [*laughs*]

Matt: Like a soccer ball.

Anthony: Okay. So one thing that we're going to change mechanically is you're not going to have to roll, to hit him. You're just automatically going to hit him and you're just going to roll your damage. So just give me a d4 roll and we'll see how much damage that does.

Matt: Lincoln is definitely like.. looks back at Scary and be like, "I hope she sees what sort of kicker I am. It's really good. Be a good kick."

[laughter]

Matt: [*dice roll*] 3.

Will: Oh no.

Anthony: The tip of your foot finds purchase in its round, baby belly and your foot—

Matt: Tip of my foot? Am I fucking toe kicker? Come on, I'm a soccer player.

Beth: Yeah.

Anthony: Oh, you're a soccer player.

Will: [*laughs*]

Beth: Fuckin' sole.

Matt: Flat of my foot, c'mon buddy!

Anthony: Right. Correct. I'm sorry.

Freddie: Fuckin'— the fucking laces baby!

Matt: I'm JV. I'm not a fucking idiot.

Anthony: So the flat of your—

[group laughter]

Anthony: The s— the inside of your foot? Is that what you kick with?

Matt: No, the flat— the top. The flat of the top.

Beth: Yeah.

Freddie: The laces!

Anthony: Okay the top of your foot.

Matt: The laces. Yeah.

Anthony: Okay so the lace of your foot impact on the soft bouncy belly of this baby. And it goes—

Baby?: *[grunts]*

Anthony: But now your foot is right within grabbing reach of it.

Will: Uh oh.

Anthony: So, he—

Matt: Oh so I don't kick it away, it's a pretty strong bab—

Anthony: No, you don't kick it away.

Matt: Oh no.

Anthony: You just—

Will: It does that anime thing where its feet dig into the gravel...

Matt: *[laughs]* Yeah.

Will: ...and it fucking, like, just tear up asphalt as it holds you back.

Anthony: It feels like the center of gravity of this baby is way lower than it should be.

[laughter]

Anthony: Like this baby has way more mass than it should for its size.

Matt: It's like kicking a medicine ball.

Anthony: It's kicking a medicine—! It's exactly what it feels like. It's like kicking a medicine ball.

Will: So kicking a med— Was it Ali McBeal with the CG dancing baby?

Matt: Yeah.

Freddie: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Matt: Early days.

Anthony: The baby reaches forward with its small fat fingered baby hands, and grabs your ankle and its fingers sink into your ankle...

Will: Ooh!

Anthony: ...like softly. And initially it doesn't hurt and then it hurts a whole lot.

Matt: Ow!

Anthony: So you take 3 damage, Link.

Matt: Okay.

Normal: Link, your soccer foot!

Beth: He only has one, man!

Normal: That's his golden foot!

Beth: That's— that's the soccer foot!

Link: Don't make fun! I know, good soccer players can kick with both feet, but I'm learning! I'm trying! Oh God, ow!

Matt: That's a third of my health, by the way.

Anthony: Woof.

Beth: I want to try to kick... the face.

Anthony: All right. So you kick it in the face and, uh...

Matt: The moment she's winding up, I'm like—

Link: Gah, I shoulda kicked the face!

Freddie: *[laughs]*

Link: God, she's a better soccer player than me!

Beth: I'm going to slide tackle the face. So I'm actually kind of coming up like...

Matt: Damn.

Beth: You know what? I'll do fucking cleats up. A dirty slide tackle.

Matt: Oh shit! Red card.

Will: Oh, wow.

Matt: Instant red card.

Beth: A dirty slide tackle to the face. So essentially I'm hitting her with the bottom of my shoe.

Anthony: Okay. So, that'll do... another d4 damage.

[dice roll]

Beth: 3.

Anthony: Okay 3. You feel the baby's skull compress as your heel punctures into it. Then you feel like the baby skull reforming itself?

Beth: Oh, no...

Anthony: Like around your foot. And you feel something wet and warm as its mouth gets a little bit bigger and a little bit bigger... and it starts to encircle your heel. And then the rest of your foot is—

Baby?: *[unsettling fast breathing sounds]*

Anthony: And it's like trying to, like, swallow your foot whole, or at least get your entire foot in its mouth.

Freddie: Wow. It really just has to happen to Beth's character.

[*surprised wheezes*]

Anthony: Oh no, I didn't think about it that way.

Beth: Wait, what

Will: What?

Beth: Oh! [*laughs*] Now I get it.

Anthony: It's doing feet stuff.

Beth: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Anthony: All right. Normal, would you like to do anything?

Will: Normal removes the big Jimmy Neutron head and wants to bring it down with thunderous force onto the baby, such that I kind of like disconnect your guys' feet from it...

Beth: Yeah.

Will: ...and trap it under the helmet. Is what I'd like to do.

Anthony: Okay!

Beth: I feel like we're trying to pull away, anyway, too.

Will: Yeah. You guys are trying to fall away, I'm trying to break the connection and trap it under the helmet.

Anthony: Okay.

Beth: I have to say the idea that you put that mask back on...

Will: [*laughs*]

Beth: ...after throwing up in it...

Matt: ...throwing up in it?

Beth: ...is...

Will: I cleaned it out!

Beth: Okay.

Matt: With what?!

Anthony: With paper towels and no soap or water.

Will: Paper towels and a little bit of spit.

Beth: Oh God!

[*groans*]

Anthony: That smells really good after a while.

Will: There's a diet Coke in the limousine—

Beth: No...!

Will: ...and I poured that in there and used it to scrub it.

Anthony: Okay so give me a, uh... I feel like that's a kind of Sleight of Hand to very specifically get him.

Will: [*dice roll*] I got a 9!

Anthony: Okay, so he'll roll opposed. [*dice clack*] He got a 2.

Will: Ooh!

Beth: Nice!

Matt: Heheh, stupid baby.

Freddie: Stupid baby!

Beth: Stupid baby.

Freddie: Can't roll fucking dice!

Beth: Yeah! Fuck off, baby.

Anthony: So you trap this baby, so like—

Baby?: [*surprised sound*]

Anthony: —and it spits out Scary's foot as it sees that coming. And he goes—

Baby?: *[like if a hiss was no air and all vocal chord]*

Anthony: It's like that one guy in the pod race before he explodes.

[group laughter]

Anthony: You bring the mascot helmet down and trap the baby inside for a second. You suddenly hear a voice over the radio, say—

Voice: *[over radio]* Get inside, get inside.

[a metallic clank and swing]

Anthony: And the doors snap open. And then they shatter.

[glass shatters]

[group laughter]

Freddie: I look at the broken glass and I look over and to be like—

Taylor: I've opened the door! Get on inside everyone!

Will: I run, but because I'm not leaving this mascot helmet line, I do pick the mascot helmet back up and start running.

Freddie: *[laughs]*

Anthony: Okay. Then it tries to cha— well, I guess it chases after you...

Will: I feel like maybe I pick it up, and like there's baby on the ground. *[chuckle]* Because it's like... *[laughing]* Splinter Cell on the inside!

Freddie: *[laughs]*

Will: *[laughing]* And I haven't noticed yet!

Beth: No!

Anthony: That's funny!

Normal: Good news guys, the baby disappeared!

Anthony: *[laughs]*

Will: And then I put the helmet back on.

Anthony: And then you hear breathing above you in the helmet...

[*group laughter*]

Anthony: ...and your eyes slowly move up and you see a baby spread eagle with its arms and legs, keeping itself suspended the very top of the thing. And it's looking at you with very big eyes and then it drops onto your head and starts clawing at your face.

Normal: Ah! Ah! Ah! Ah!

Matt: Oh, God!

Normal: Get it off!

Scary: Normal, lose the fucking mask!

Matt: I dive and try to take the mask off.

Anthony: All right. Give me a Dexterity roll or something.

Matt: [*dice roll*] That's a 22.

Anthony: You get the mask off easily. And it's just the baby is just... clawing on Normal's face.

Matt: It smells like vomit. So I also— I punt the mask over the fence.

[*laughter*]

Normal: No!!

Anthony: Roll a d20 Strength check.

Normal: Good thinking. Protect the mask.

[*laughter*]

Beth: Oh my God.

Matt: A Strength roll?

Anthony: Yeah. Strength check. Yes. See if you can get a—

Matt: [*dice roll*] That's a 15.

Anthony: Yeah. You kick it over the fence.

Freddie: And then I'm going to wind up my big heavy go bag and then try and hit the baby off of... Normal's head.

Matt: Off of Normal's head.

Anthony: Okay. Roll Dexterity and see if you hit the baby and not Normal.

Freddie: [*dice roll*] 10.

Anthony: Okay. So with the 10 you hit Normal in the temple and it doesn't actually hit the baby at all.

Freddie: I think it hits both! Probably both. 10, right in the middle.

Anthony: Yeah. I guess it hits both. But like...

Will: Does he have to roll for damage against my head?

Matt: A 10's bad, Freddie. That's bad.

Freddie: Shut up, M-Matt.

Anthony: Yeah. Yeah, Roll a d4. That's how much damage Normal takes.

Freddie: [*dice roll*] 1 damage.

Normal: Ow, ah!

Taylor: Oh, geez. Not quite what I planned, but come on! Let's get inside!

Anthony: So as you're running into this building down carpeted hallways, a woman appears in front of you in the hallway and says—

Woman: Down.

Anthony: And takes out a blue marble from her coat pocket and throws it.

Anthony: And it hits the ground, explodes, and a blue acrid smoke fills the air. The baby growls, grabbing at its eyes, gnashing at the empty air. It lets go of your head, Normal. And it starts swinging around blindly trying to grab each of you, and she goes—

Woman: Kids!

Normal: Ah!

Woman: Come with me if you want to not die. Come on, come on.

Normal: Ah! Ah! Ah!

Link: But there's a baby, there...!

Woman: Yeah, I know. I know. I know. You just need to follow me. Come on, follow me.

Anthony: So she leads you to an elevator and ushers you all in and then presses a button. She says—

Mae: I am Chief Mae Hailes of DADDIES.

Anthony: And that name was sent in to us by Mae Hailes. So thank you for your name. Mae. And when the elevator doors open, you are not where you were— I guess that's how elevators work. But like—

[*group laughter*]

Link: Woah, lady!

Anthony: There were—

Link: Lady, this elevator brought us to a different place!

Anthony: This magic room took us to a different room!

[*still laughing*]

Beth: Oh my God.

Freddie: [*laughing*] I guess that's how elevators work!

Link: Guys... I don't know where we are!

Anthony: The ground floor—

Taylor: Wait a minute! Lady, what's going on here? We were just in the place and now we're in a different place!

Matt: Wait, wait— Link—

Anthony: Canonically this is the first time any of your characters have used an elevator.

Matt: Link— Link stays in the elevator.

Scary: What...?

Matt: *[laughing]* Link stays in the elevator, he presses the door closed? And like, he's like—

Link: Wait, I can't do that again, can it?

Matt: And he presses the door open. And there the same room

Anthony: And it's the same room because nobody pressed any buttons for floors.

Will: After the- After the sky turned red, knowledge of elevators vanished from here.

Anthony: Specifically that. Everybody lost, yeah. So this is the only elevator in the world.

Beth: Wait, is it that knowledge of them? Or they actually exi— It's like every time we see an elevator, we—

Will: All elevators disappeared.

Anthony: Yeah.

Will: And everyone forgot what they were.

Beth: Okay.

Will: There was a, "Why are these shafts in the middle of buildings? We don't understand."

Beth: Okay.

Anthony: Yeah. It's just a distraction. We just build another stairwell here.

Matt: Why do they have closets that're kind of bouncy? That's weird.

[laughter]

Anthony: She goes—

Mae: This is a room that goes up and down and leads to other rooms. That's maybe the least interesting thing you'll learn while you're here.

Will: Normal throws up again.

Matt: No more stairs.

Mae: I'm sorry. I should have predicted you wouldn't be ready for that.

Normal: Oh my God!

Mae: I forgot about the elevator thing.

Normal: A what?

Mae: I forgot nobody knows about elevators in this world anymore.

Scary: I like them.

Mae: That's what we call it up. Up-down room. Nobody knows about up-down rooms anymore.

Anthony: So basically on the ground floor, it was all carpeted and corporate, and there were pictures of flowers and playing like... future Phil Collins music. And as you went—

Freddie: *[laughing]* Future Phil Collins?

Beth: Holy shit.

Matt: *[laughing]* I feel like when the elevator started moving, and we all looked at each other...

Taylor: What the fuck is going on?

Matt: What the fuck's going on?

[laughing]

Anthony: She goes—

Mae: Oh, I'm sorry, this room moves.

Will: *[off-mic loud cackling]*

Taylor: Why would it move, lady? That doesn't make any sense!

Mae: It moves up— You know stairs? You know how stairs work?

All Kids: Yeah.

Mae: What if you didn't have take every individual sta—

Link: Stairs don't move though!

Mae: I know, but what if you moved instead of the stair—? Wait. No, yeah. The stairs don't move. So the stairs move instead of you.

Scary: No, like stairs, it's like you are moving, right? But this. It's like I'm subject to the whims of the up-down room. A room that reflects my moods. Up. Down. And sometimes just staying still.

Mae: Wow. You've got a handle on this very quickly. But yeah, that's what this is.

Anthony: So she takes you out of there. And as you enter the new floor, the walls are suddenly very austere and white.

Beth: Like your mom?

[group laughter]

Anthony: My dad.

Beth: No!

Anthony: My mom is short and brown.

[laughing]

Matt: Link has pulled out a penny and he is like really looking straight down that little gap between the elevator and the floor. And he is like staring, like—

Link: How far out does this go?

Matt: And he drops a penny down there.

Beth: They have cash in the future? They do not.

Matt: He drops a paper clip.

Freddie: He drops his cash app card.

Matt: I drop my cash app down there.

Anthony: So for...

Freddie: "I throw my cash app down there!"

Anthony: So you stand there waiting to hear the plink as it hits the bottom of the elevator, and you keep waiting for about 30, 45 seconds. And she's like—

Mae: We need to- we need to start walking.

Will: So there's just a carpet down there, so you don't hear anything.

[laughter]

Anthony: As you leave the elevator here. [quietly] Ding!

Link: [whispered] Oh my God.

Anthony: It's a very long way down.

Anthony: Every time you take a step, you can feel it echo throughout this hallway, this very blank hallway. And she goes—

Mae: This is the Department for the Acquisition, Destruction, Deployment and Investigation of Extra-Normal Stuff. DADDIES for short.

Anthony: And she starts—

Taylor: Wait.

Link: That's weird.

Taylor: That's what the acronym was on the front of the building.

Mae: Yeah. This is that... this is that building.

Matt: It's the same building.

Mae: This is- this is us.

Taylor: But we weren't in the same building! We walked in that room...!

Mae: So again, the up down room...

[laughter]

Mae: ...takes you from a room, and then it moves down or up—

Taylor: Oh, I get what you're saying. I get what you're saying, Taylor. That is weird!

Mae: —to a different room. The rooms are stacked on top of one another— It's just stairs.

Normal: So you're staring we're below the building that we were in before.

Mae: Yes. Correct.

Normal: So were we in China?

Taylor: With the same name as what you said!

Normal: Now?

[laughter]

Mae: No, it's the same building, it's not that far down.

Taylor: Why isn't everything upside down?

Mae: It's— you know what? Just imagine, it's not the up-down room. It's the stairs room.

Freddie: And then he grabs the lady and shakes her and he goes like—

Taylor: Then why didn't we take the stairs?

Link: Are there stairs?

Mae: There are stairs.

Taylor: Can we just verify that we're in the same—?

Normal: If there's no stairs out of this room, I'm going to freak out.

Taylor: I'd like to verify that we're in the same building.

Mae: Fine. Follow me.

Anthony: And she takes you the opposite direction to the direction she was going.

[off-mic claps]

Matt: I go up the stairs.

Anthony: And she goes—

Mae: Okay, we're following the fire exit signs.

Anthony: And she goes—

Mae: Stairs. All right, cool? Watch me.

Anthony: And then she opens up the door, then walks up the stairs and goes—

Mae: Follow me, come on.

Link: Yeah.

Taylor: Yeah!

Anthony: And leads you up, back to the room you were initially in.

Anthony: And she goes—

Mae: Okay. So this—

Link: Why didn't we just do this the first time?

Mae: Because...

Link: So much easier. I'm never goi—

Mae: We'll never do it again, the way down—

Link: I'm not going to that room again!

Will: [*dying off-mic*]

Mae: No, we'll do it again! I'll show you how much easier it is!

Link: I'm going down the— no! I'm going down the stairs!

Taylor: We're going down the stairs—

Matt: I go down the stairs.

Taylor: —lady!

Mae: Okay. Well I'll meet you down there and I'll show you, it's safe.

Link: I don't care.

Taylor: Yeah, yeah, yeah. Do that.

Anthony: Okay.

Matt: I go down the stairs.

Anthony: So she goes and she goes to the elevator—

Freddie: The moment she's gone!

Matt: ...*[laughs]*

Freddie: The moment she's gone!

Matt: We got you!

[clapping]

Freddie: *[laughing]* Taylor looks at the teens and goes—

Taylor: This is our chance to get deeper into this place!

Matt: T-Taylor...

[breathless laughter]

Anthony: So there's 69 buttons...

[laughter]

Anthony: ...in the elevator, and there's 69 flights of stairs.

Freddie: I thought she was taking the- yeah, she's taking the elevator.

Anthony: Yeah. So she's she taking the elevator—

Matt: So she's separate from us.

Anthony: —but you see a fire escape sign on the wall that mentions there are 69 flights of stairs here.

Freddie: *[quietly]* Nice.

Anthony: Going downward.

Freddie: So we're already at the top, right?

Anthony: So you're at the top.

Will: We got to go to the 69th floor and get that cash app back.

[laughter]

Freddie: So based on the number of stairs that we just walked up, how many floors down was the floor we were originally on?

Anthony: You're on floor 3B, as in, like, basement underground floors.

Freddie: 3B...

Matt: I mean I walk down. I go down the stairs.

Freddie: Yeah. Yeah, yeah.

Matt: Yeah, yeah.

Taylor: They can't stop us, guys. We can check out all the other rooms.

Will: What did Scary do?

Beth: Scary stayed in the elevator. She thought it was really cool.

Will: Yeah I think Normal took the elevator, too.

Anthony: *[laughs]* Okay. Well you guys go down to floor three.

Matt: And when the door's open, you don't see Taylor.

Anthony: Yeah, I was going to say. The doors open and she stands outside and she goes—

Mae: And now we have to wait for your friends to come out of the stairwe—
They are not—

Taylor: *[slightly off-mic]* Come on Link, let's go!

Mae: They're not coming out of the stairwell are they?

Freddie: You can hear it echoing from the door and it's like—

Taylor: *[slightly off-mic]* Let's keep going!

Matt: Just to clarify, I was just trying to run back to her. I just refused to use the elevator. That's all.

Freddie: Oh so you exited on the floor 3?

Matt: Yeah. I exit on her floor.

Will: Oh, okay.

Anthony: Okay.

Link: [*panting*] Yeah. Okay...

Anthony: And she goes—

Mae: Okay, you wait there. 20

Anthony: And she runs down—

Link: [*out of breath*] Don't ever put me in that thing... again! It's like an airplane but in a building. Hate it.

Freddie: [*laughs*]

Mae: Okay. I'm just—

Normal: We'll wait here! We're fine.

Mae: Yeah, no—

Normal: We'll wait here.

Mae: Yes, can you please? Yes. Please do.

Anthony: Taylor, you run down the stairs and you hear *huff, huff, huff* of two men in suits coming up.

Freddie: And then I'm going to bust down the door that, whatever that floor that would be—

Anthony: Okay. So you'll be on floor..

Freddie: —somewhere between... floor three and floor 20, right?

Anthony & Will: Floor 20!

Will: 'Ey...!

Freddie: Floor 20...!

Beth: Nice.

Anthony: So yeah, let's say it down five flights of stairs—

Freddie: I'll roll a d20. I'll roll a d20, see how far I go. How's that

Anthony: Yeah, go ahead.

Freddie: 11?

Anthony: Okay. So you're on floor 11 when you see two men in suits, rushing up from the stairwell.

Taylor: I guess this'll be as good as any.

Anthony: I really hope that Freddie dies this episode.

Beth: I do too.

[laughter]

Anthony: So you kick open the door—

[door clicks open and the ambient noise of air moving through a massive room starts]

Anthony: —and before you, you see a room that is so big that you have trouble conceiving of it for a second. It seems so large, and so cavernous. And as you look up, you see a spiraling trail that leads down the cave wall. Almost like a drill bit kind of thing like—

Freddie: Like the room in *Encanto*.

Anthony: Y...yes!

Beth: Actually. Yeah!

Freddie: [laughs]

Anthony: Yes. Like that, just like the room in *Encanto*. And it—

Will: [intensely] Multiverse.

Anthony: And it goes along the edge of this cave. Every so often along this wall, you see a door that is locked from somewhere. You just came out of one of these doors. And to your left and your right are doors that have... one has a golden lock on it, one has a silver lock. And the trail continues down deeper and deeper and deeper and you can't see the bottom. It just gets dark before you can fully reach the bottom.

Will: We cut back to—for just, like—this blank hallway with teenagers, just hanging out. Normal has drawn what he thinks is the layout of how an elevator works—

[giggles]

Will: —on the wall. And it's like—

Normal: I think it goes like th—?

Will: And it's completely wrong.

Matt: It's like a car... going upstairs.

[laughter]

Matt: It's like a room-shaped car going upstairs.

Will: [*laughing*] Yes, it's like, it's a room going up and down the stairs.

Normal: I think that's an elevator.

Scary: When you said that, like, an airplane is like an elevator is like an airplane, a building inside. Like, airplanes are like kind of buildings, aren't they?

Normal: Yeah. An airplanes really Just a building with wings, Link.

Link: Yeah. Well I don't... Okay? Why are you coming at me?

[*all laughing*]

Link: What's that about?

Anthony: Cut— Cut back to Taylor Swift. So you see all this. You see these doors. There's one next to you that has four jeweled locks on it that draws your attention and you feel, deep in your heart, "something powerful is in here that I can use." To your—

Freddie: I pull out my ninja rocks...

Anthony: Okay.

Freddie: ...and I throw it at the jewels on the door.

Anthony: Okay it doesn't do anything.

Freddie: Shit. There goes one of my ninja rocks.

Anthony: But to your right—

Matt: Pff—Pick it up.

Anthony: That's to your left.

Freddie: I pick it up. I pick up my ninja—

Matt: *[laughs]*

Anthony: Yeah, you can just pick it back up. That's fine. To your right is a door with a copper lock on it. You almost feel like this whisper of like—

Whisper: *[whispering]* Hey. Hey man, there's something good in here for you. Come on, just pick the lock.

Freddie: I'm going to look at it and then—forgetting that I'm being chased—I'm going to try and kind of tug on the lock and see if I can shim the lock using any number of improvised tools in my go bag.

Anthony: Okay. Give me a Sleight of Hand roll.

Freddie: *[dice roll]* Uh, 13.

Anthony: So with a 13, you try to lock pick this door, you shim it, and the lock pops open. But then you feel something from within the lock react poorly to your attempts to open it.

[barely audible shifting off-mic]

Freddie: Okay. I'm scared now because Anthony...

Will: What the fuck?

Beth: Woah...

Will: He's got cards out?

Freddie: ...has reached next to him...

Matt: What?

Freddie: ...and he has a bunch of index cards.

Will: This is such a power move. Because he was all like, "Oh no, I didn't even plan for you to go in this room! Oh no!" And then he's got fucking stuff for it? Jeez Louise.

Freddie: So just to paint the picture, folks. Anthony has three stacks of colored index cards. I'm drawing one now from the pink stack. *[sharp slap of a card draw]*

"Curse. Voiceover narration. You think out loud for the entirety of the next adventure."

Will: *[laughing]* Oh no! *[laughs]* No!

Anthony: So as you open this door, though you also— inside what seems to be a small green humanoid person...

Will: What?

Freddie: What?

Anthony: ...who, in one hand is beckoning you forward. And in the other hand is holding what looks like a phone. And—

Will: What the fuck?

Anthony: He goes—

Green Person: *[quietly]* Hey, come here, come here. Help, help. Help me out, and I'll give you this, come here, come here!

Freddie: What kind of phone?

Anthony: It looks like an iPhone 20.

Will: That's 10 iPhones ago.

Anthony: Yeah. No, it's kind of old for your eyes.

Matt: It pretty much just looks just like the iPhone right now.

[laughter]

Anthony: Yeah it looks like... *[mumbling]*

Will: There's slightly— There's 12 camera lenses on the back.

Freddie: I'm like—

Taylor: Woah! It's like a mini Piccolo, from Dragon Ball Z.

Mini Piccolo: Uh, sure. Yeah. Whatever, man. Whatever. C'mon, c'mere, you gotta help me out of here. I can't— Just grab me by the hand and then walk me out of here. Come on.

Taylor: What's your deal, Piccolo?

Mini Piccolo: Uh, they put me in prison for bullshit reasons.

Taylor: It's funny because, y'know, Piccolo is like a small flute. And you're already—

Matt: Who are you talking to?

Freddie: Myself. This is my voice over narration.

[laughter]

Freddie: This is my head.

Anthony: Did you— Did you—

Freddie: This is what you're hearing.

Anthony: *[laughs]* Oh yeah, it's what you're saying.

Mini Piccolo: Why are you talking?

Taylor: I'm saying it's funny because a piccolo is already a small flute.

Mini Piccolo: Kid, just get me out of here!

Taylor: But this, you're needing to—

Mini Piccolo: Just take my hand and lead me out of this room. That's all I need.

Taylor: I don't know, what's in it for me?

Mini Piccolo: This! This is the Four Seconds of Fame. It's an item that allows you to record four seconds of audio or video. Those four seconds will then immediately show up on the social media feeds of every human being on planet Earth.

Will: Oh my God! What?

Freddie: And I know this?

Anthony: That's what he tells you.

Freddie: I grab his hands so fucking hard, bro!

[laughter]

Anthony: Okay. So you lead him out of the jail cell and he goes—

Mini Piccolo: Yippy, I'm free!

Anthony: And he hands you the Four Seconds of Fame. So now I'm giving you this card.

Freddie: I've gotten a yellow card here.

Anthony: And as he says that, the woman who you met—

Matt: [*quietly, chuckling*] Kills him.

Anthony: —and then the two armed men, burst in through the door behind you and they go—

Guards: No! No!

Freddie: [*laughs*]

Anthony: And, and he goes—

Mini Piccolo: Yes, yes!

Anthony: And he snaps his fingers and he vanishes entirely. And they go—

Guards: Oh, no! Oh, God—!

Freddie: As they're doing that, I quietly hide the phone from them.

[*laughter*]

Will: Just take a video of this cave and put it online.

Freddie: And I turn it on and I turn it around and I record myself, selfie mode, in this room. And I go,--

Taylor: What up, Taylor Stans?

Matt: [*quietly, off-mic*] One [*mumbled*], Two...

Taylor: If I disappear...

Freddie: [*laughs*] Are you counting it down?

Anthony: Yeah. You need four seconds.

Matt: Go. One... [*fades off*]

Taylor: Okay. What's up? Taylor Stans? It's your boy Taylor Swift here. They've gotten me in some government—

Anthony & Matt: Stop.

[*group laughter*]

Anthony: Okay. So immediately e—

Freddie: I get a push notification.

Anthony: Yeah, you get a push notification...

Freddie: Like, "You won't—" it's got a full thumbnail and everything. It's me like with my hands up. "Ooh!"

Anthony: Well, you can do audio or video. So I'm assuming you did...

Freddie: Video, video, video...

Anthony: Oh, so you did video.

Freddie: Oh, oh, oh! Audio, no, you're right!

Anthony: So you just see— You just see—

[*group laughter with claps*]

Anthony: [*wordless vocalizing*] So don't see— You hear nothing. You just see his face against a wall.

Freddie: It's on my YouTube channel, which all of a sudden has a bunch of people watching it.

Anthony: Yeah. All of a sudden you get 8 billion views.

Freddie: But it has no audio.

Anthony: But no audio.

Beth: Wow.

Freddie: Wait, does this break? Because at the bottom it says, "Break Roll at 15. Charisma."

Anthony: So the way that these magic items work that I've made is that you can use them as much as you want, but after you use them, they have the chance to break. So because that's a Charisma item, you're going to roll a d20 and add your Charisma modifier. If you don't get higher than it's a break number, which in this case is 15, it breaks.

Freddie: Okay.

Anthony: Forever.

Freddie: Rolling... [*dice roll*]

Anthony: And you have to rip up the card.

Freddie: It's a 12. So that's done.

Anthony: So that's goodbye to that cool card!

Will: Oh well!

Freddie: I'm tearing it up.

Anthony: All right.

[*clean paper tear*]

[*ad break*]

Anthony: So the woman takes you all into her office and she sits you down. In four seats that she has asse— Well, three seats that she's assembled, and then she brings another one in for Taylor.

Freddie: Taylor's already in one of the seats. He's in the center most facing and he's already kicked back.

Anthony: Main character seat?

Freddie: Yeah, the main character seat.

Anthony: Okay. Well she—

Matt: Lincoln just stands in the corner.

Anthony: [*laughs*]

Mae: Okay, that's fine. It's time to talk to you about the reason that you're here. We are at war with an enemy who has already won. T—

Link: Oh, well, then why are we...

Taylor: Well what's the point?

Scary: Yeah...

Normal: Wh- what are we doing here?

Mae: Well let me keep— keep going—

Scary: Okay...

Mae: I didn't come here just to say one sentence— I have a thing.

Link: Oh.

Taylor: Oh. She's got a thing, everyone.

Mae: You know what? I've got a whole, this will explain, you know what? I'm not going to bother. This will explain it.

Anthony: And she takes out a video cart with a TV on it. Like the kind at school that meant you were going to watch Magic School Bus instead of do work.

Normal: [*gasps*] We can watch Magic School Bus?

Mae: You're not going to watch Magic School Bus.

Anthony: And she presses play on a—

Normal: 'Cause that show got dark after the red shift happened and you know, the...

Scary: Oh man, yeah.

Normal: The new seasons are weird.

Scary: I still get nightmares, bro.

Normal: The one where she goes inside the kids repressed trauma? That was the dark one.

Scary: That was awful. Oh God.

Normal: People said it was like the best episode of the show, but I thought they kinda overdid it.

Scary: And the swimming pool, I freaked out. And that dog died.

[pause]

Mae: Can I press play on the DVD player?

Scary: Yeah! Yeah.

Mae: Okay.

Anthony: So she presses play on the DVD player. An old Mustachioed man with white hair appears on screen. None of you recognize him. And then—

Beth: Is he hot?

[pause]

[laughter]

Freddie: Yeah. Anthony is he hot?

Anthony: Uh. No.

Beth: Okay.

Anthony: He was not hot when he was young and he is not one of those that breaks late.

Beth: Whatever.

[laughter]

[the sound of a tape deck clicking into place, the squeal of it starting up, and then the hum and an old TV which slowly fades out under the dialogue and is replaced by gentle but tense piano]

Ron: *[audio distorted like a recording]* Hi, my name is Ron Stampler. Welcome to DADDIES. The Department for the Acquisition, Destruction, Deployment and Investigation of Extra-Normal stuff, a Ron Stampler business enterprise. If you're watching this, then we failed. The Doodler is still loose in our reality, and we're too old or too dead... to continue to fight against it and its homies. It's acolytes, if you will. *E-hem*. This video is to remind you that you're not crazy.

[there's a bust of percussion in the music, and then back to piano]

Ron: *[on recording]* The world really is broken. But it can be fixed! Uh, Now that said, please don't involve our sons. Especially my son, Terry Jr. I mean, I guess I care about the other sons, too. Uh, they'll want to join DADDIES but keep them out, they shouldn't be responsible for our- our mess. Here.

Anthony: The video feed cuts and is suddenly replaced with the image of Normal's uncle, Lark Oak.

Normal: *[gasps]*

[music suddenly cuts out]

Freddie: Did someone— did someone write over this DVD?

Anthony: Uh-huh (affirmative).

Matt: Okay.

[short laugh]

[music comes back with another percussive moment]

Anthony: He says—

Lark: *[on recording]* If you're watching this then we failed too. We're dead or missing—

Link: What...?

Normal: *[gasps]*

Taylor: Wait—

Lark: *[on recording]* and the Doodler's still loose.

Normal: Woah!

Lark: *[on recording]* I wish I had a great plan for you, a hundred contingencies, but I've only got three things to tell you. Firstly, if all is lost, implement code purple. It worked once before, maybe it can work again, you just may not like what you find. Secondly, stay away from the obsidian door. Thirdly, no matter what happens, do not involve our children.

[slight pick-up in the music]

Lark: Normal, Link, Taylor. They shouldn't be responsible for our mess.

[*music finishes*]

Anthony: And the video cuts out.

Mae: [*with a big sigh*] Okay. So now that that's done... [*frantically*] What the fuck is going on? You're- you're the bosses now.

Link: What?

Normal: I'm sorry?

Mae: All of you are the joint chiefs of- of- of DADDIES. So this is your office now. Congratulations! You're my boss now tell me what to do. What do we do?

Link: What?

Normal: What do you mean— wha?

Taylor: Okay. First things first, lady. What the heck?

Mae: Like the video said, this is the Department for the Acquisition, Destruction, Deployment, and Investigation of Extra-Normal Stuff—or DADDIES. And your dads ran it. They were the chief agents.

Link: What?

Normal: My dad didn't run a super— You got me confused—

Mae: Sorry, your dad and your uncle.

Normal: You got me confused with another Normal Oak. My dad ran a shitty vegan ice cream store! This isn't— This is crazy!

Mae: You saw him in the video! Well, your uncle.

Normal: [*sighing*] Augh! Augh!

Mae: But your dad and your uncle worked together on the—

Link: My dad's a librarian, and an author, he wrote one book, and he's a librarian and he doesn't—

Mae: Your dad is a sniper.

Will: [*loud laugh*] .

Link: Wha...?

Mae: I've seen your dad kill monsters with a gun.

Link: He's great. No, he's a good striker on FIFA. He's a—What are you talking about?

Scary: Okay. Well, my stepdad is like, a total moron and like an idiot and embarrassing.

Will: *[laughs]*

Mae: Embarrassing, maybe. The other two, not so much. Your dad's... I mean, not you—

Anthony: She says pointing at Taylor.

Mae: I don't know. Again, I don't know where you're—

Taylor: Yeah, I don't know who my dad is.

Mae: *[scoff]* Euh...

Anthony: She grimaces. But he goes—

Freddie: *[laughs]* Gross!

Mae: No, your dads—and in one case, uncle—wanted to protect you from the knowledge of what's going on. Like you don't remember this, but I do because I'm in my thirties—oh God, I feel old.

Freddie: *[laughs]*

Mae: When I was like, five, all the sky changed from blue to red. Everything went fucking weird, and that's because your dads accidentally unleashed this weird chaos creature, this god—

Normal: Woah.

Mae: —called the Doodler.

Normal: Our dads turned the sky red...? Ho—

Mae: Indirectly, kind of, yeah. Everybody thought that the world was ending for a while and everything seemed insane. But after a while it seemed like,

"Oh, actually all that really changed was that the sky was turned to this weird color." Except people didn't know. People like me—

Anthony: She says pointing at herself, manically.

Mae: I was on the internet all the time, and I saw there were way more cryptid sightings. There were way more missing persons. The conspiracy theories were going nuts and I knew something was going on. And that's why your dads hired me to work for them because I'm a fucking go-getter and I saw beyond the veil. I saw that something's fucking weird now. So...

Freddie: "They recruited me from 8Chan."

[laughter]

Mae: They were protecting this town from incursions by acolytes of the Doodler. Like every so often there'll be an incursion and something will happen and the Doodler's acolytes or people who are obsessed with the Doodle or maybe the Doodler themselves— I don't really know. But something weird will show up and start fucking up people and trying to eat them or destroy them or whatever the hell, and, they were the ones who stopped them. And if you don't stop them, then they're going to take over the town and eventually the world, so they were basically keeping the world all together, but they're gone now, but you're the best thing I have, so now you have to do their job. I'm sorry.

Matt: I raised my hand.

Mae: Yes. Lincoln.

Link: Uh, here's the problem I'm having, maybe you can help me. One. You're an adult. So that means I should probably trust you, and you're probably smarter than me, so that's good.

Scary: [chuckles]

Link: But, two, you're saying that in order for this to be true, my dad would have to lie and my dad has never lied to me in his entire life. So you see the predicament? That's not possible.

Scary: Oh, yeah. Totally. Yeah.

Link: So like...

Mae: Lincoln...

Scary: Like no, Hey. I get it man. Like yeah.

Mae: What did your dad tell you about Santa?

Link: Oh! The first memory I have of Santa Claus, he sat me down and he explained to me that Santa is not physically real—

Mae: Fuck!

Link: —but could be real. And then it was kind of up to my choice to decide whether or not I want to believe it and they'd support my decision either way.

Mae: Well.. shit. That backfired on me. No that's great.

Link: I just wanted FIFA, so I didn't really care. You haven't told— So where's our dads? I need to save my dad!

Normal: Look, lady!

Link: Where's— where's— where's my father?

Mae: I also don't know where your dad is.

Taylor: Wait, is my dad part of this? The video mentioned me!

Normal: That's true. The video did say something about Taylor!

Mae: Oh yeah, it did... And you're Taylor.

Taylor: Yeah!

Link: And you don't have a dad?

Taylor: Well, I mean, obviously I have a cool dad. I just don't know where he is.

Link: Oh...

Mae: I don't know. I mean maybe by researching this stuff going on with the Doodler and all that stuff, you'll find your dad? I don't know. I got hired relatively recently.

Taylor: So you're saying we've got to do a bunch of work? And then maybe we'll be the ones to save the world?

Mae: I'm saying saving the world is the work.

Taylor: Heh!

Anthony: She says—

Mae: First you're going to need these.

Anthony: And she hands each of you a badge with your name and a picture of you on it. And she says—

Mae: At any time those badges you have around your neck, they might vibrate and that'll let you know that there's been an incursion and that you have to basically drop everything and stop it, because if the Doodler gets enough of a presence in this world or does enough fucked up shit, then a lot of people die.

Link: I mean, we're just kids. So how about we just don't do it. How about we go the cops to find our dads and how about you—

Normal: There's got to be, like, grownups that do this stuff, right?

Mae: They were, they were your dads!

Normal: That was it?!

Taylor: Oh...

Normal: There was just our four dads and you and a weird bunker?!

Mae: Your dads had the power of— Have your dads ever told you anything about Daddy Magic?

Scary: No, my dad is totally lame! I just can't wrap my mind around the fact that the dude who was like... weeping at top six Steph Curry plays—like, he was this really old NBA player, but he was able to play into his eighties—

[laughter]

Scary: —because of some sort of...

Beth: [laughs] Fuck me. Anyways.

Mae: And then he made all that money from that golf show.

Link: He's the miniature golf guy, right?

Scary: Yeah!

Link: Aw man...

Scary: He plays miniature golf and then curling and corn hole. So he was a big member of the National Corn Hole Federation. Anyways. Uhm...

Mae: Yeah, the NCF.

Scary: So you're telling me that same guy—Terry!—is also in all this like metal monster stuff?

Mae: Yes.

Scary: ...Don't threaten me with respecting my stepdad, okay?

[chuckles]

Link: Okay. I. Okay. Fine. Our dads are adults, but there's other adults. Like why don't we just go, like Sheriff Johnson? He's an adult! He's better than we are!

Normal: You know the name of the Sheriff?

Link: Yeah! He's a really nice guy. What do you mean? You guys don't do any work around the community?

Normal: This is a town of 50,000 people. I mean, good for you—

Link: Yeah!

Normal: —being involved in local politics, I guess.

Link: No not politics, you know, just help out around—

Normal: I don't know the name of our state senator!

Link: —y'know, clean up the parks...

Anthony: If you know the name of the sheriff it's because he's definitely done something illegal.

Will: [laughs]

Scary: It's because you're a narc.

Link: No, Saturdays- Saturday is when we go clean up the park and the rivers. You guys don't do that?

Mae: Look, the reason you're—

Scary: Did you say clean up the narc? Narc?

Will: *[laughs]*

Link: Okay, whatever Scary! My point is there's other adults that could do this! We need an adul—

Mae: It's not about adults or not adults! It's about do they have the Daddy Magic. So your parents, if they didn't teach you about the Doodler, they didn't teach you about Daddy Magic, but there's some magical energy that they have that's powered by, I don't know, love or like affection for your kid or your dad or whatever the fuck.

Freddie: *[laughter]*

Scary: Uugh...!

Mae: And that allowed them—

Taylor: Uh! Boring! Lame!

Mae: I don't like it either! I don't care! But they—

Link: Aw, that's so sweet. I mean, my dad's probably the most powerful dad.

Mae: Oh God. Shut up!

[laughter]

Link: Hey!

Mae: They could tell when an incursion happened, and they could tell where it was. There was no technology of just what was in their souls or hearts I guess? And because you're their kids and because they all love you—and then I guess also you Taylor, I don't know. Maybe your dad loves you somewhere, wherever he is. But maybe you'll know too when an incursion happens.

Normal: Well, Miss Hailes I saw a spooky vision. I'm pretty sure my dad's in trouble. It sounds like this is related to that. So just point me where I got to go and we'll do it. We've got spirit, yes we do, as I like to say. So like. What do we do?

Mae: Well—

Link: *[getting teary]* This lady doesn't know anything!

Mae: So like—

Normal: Link. Bro?

Link: No! Be quiet! Y—

Normal: You got to get it together, bro.

Link: Hey! Get it together? Why are we even listening to you? And my dad lied? That's like the only thing...

Normal: Link.

Freddie: Taylor slaps Link.

Will: [*surprised, sympathetic, laughter*]

Link: Ow!

Taylor: If this is the only way I'll meet my dad, then dang it, I'll do it.

Normal: I don't know where you're getting that.

Mae: This might not relate to your dad at all.

Normal: I don't think this has anything to do with your dad. I- I really don't, but look, Link. It's crazy. There's a lot of stuff going on. I'm ready. I'm ready! Put me in, coach!

Link: [*anxious grunt*] Okay!

Scary: Link, Link. Listen to me, man. Okay. Let me try to fucking put this in soccer terms or something, right?

Link: Yeah...

Scary: So it's like either you can sit on the sidelines and cry about it, or you can step up for your team and your dad and get into some really dark angsty shit like the rest of us.

Link: Yeah, no, I want— I'm going to go on the field. I just might just be crying while I'm on the field.

Scary: Well then...

Normal: Well... okay!

Scary: Fine. Yeah.

Normal: That's fine! You can cry!

Link: Just... okay.

Mae: So first thing we need to do, probably, is go to the pay window. Follow me.

[ambient sounds of air being filtered through an empty, stone room; something dripping inside; sounds play for the first few sentences of narration and fade out]

Anthony: So the room you enter is pretty much entirely empty, except for the fact that there's a very large puddle on the other end of the room. And for some reason that's where your eyes go to first. Then as you raise your eyes to see what caused that puddle, you see a large wall that seems to be made entirely of raw meat that has a large hole in the middle that you with horror realize is a mouth.

Freddie: Eugh...

Anthony: And that there's saliva dripping from that mouth over sharp teeth with chapped lips and a big old tongue comes out—

Will: Ow!

Anthony: —and licks the floor and licks its lips and stuff. And it goes—

Wall Mouth: *[feral mouth sounds]*

Will: Oh my God, it's Face from Nick Junior.

[laughter]

Beth: Oh no! Oh no!

Anthony: Yeah. Nick Junior, the rat turned into that.

[group laughter]

Beth: Oh my god!

Matt: Yeah!

Freddie: What?!

Anthony: Yeah, that's right.

Matt: Oh shit.

Beth: Squeak. Squeak!

Anthony: Nick Junior the rat, his face alone survived and it turned into that wall. And it was like—

Nick Jr?: [*feral mouth sounds*]

Normal: Oh!

Link: God...

Normal: Oh God!

Nick Jr?: New meat, new meat. You will need this. *Uu-blaah...!*

Anthony: Four pieces of paper come out. And Agent Hailes says—

Mae: So we're at war. This is DADDIES. And for some reason, in order to actually get any equipment, we have to buy it from the vending machine downstairs.

Link: What, why?

Mae: And it only accepts these dollars. I don't know! I don't know! I started working here like two years ago. I'm still getting the hang of it.

Link: Two years is a long time to-

Scary: Two years is a long time.

Link: Yeah...

Normal: Do you have any idea how much the average high schooler has to learn in two years, lady? Like... Falling on deaf ears, frankly.

Taylor: I know about World War I, World War II... World War III...

Mae: I was an assistant! I learned a lot about the work that they don't do. And I learned how to get away with doing as little work as possible.

Link: And you're the only one...

Normal: Ooh...!

Mae: I don't understand why things work— Yeah! It was me and just those four guys! And they would leave and I would just stay here and play whatever the future equivalent of Candy Crush is on my phone.

Scary: I, no, I get it. Yeah, whatever.

Link: Maybe you could have been learning during that time.

Mae: Oh, fuck off!

Will: [laughs]

Mae: You're my least favorite one.

Link: Yeah, well...

Mae: So anyway! These are Daddy War-bucks, you need to hold onto these.

Anthony: I've made physical versions of these that I'm going to give you now.

Freddie: So we got to keep track of stuff?

Anthony: Yes. You can now keep track...

Freddie: Ugh!

Anthony: You, the players in real life, will keep track of the stuff you have.

Mae: Now, we're going to go downstairs, and I'm going to take you to the vending machine where there's stuff that you can use for your— I guess, missions? Okay, follow me.

[very quietly, a tone of running electricity plays under the room description and fades out as it ends]

Anthony: Agent Hailes takes you downstairs to a massive warehouse-like space. It is brightly lit, but from lights you can't see; it's like somebody turned on the fullbright in a level designer. That's for nobody. That's for people who make video games.

[laughter]

Matt: It's like a big light box.

Anthony: It's like a bi— Yeah, thank you.

Matt: It's like somehow the walls are just light.

Anthony: Yes, the walls are just... radiant light.

Will: Can you describe the level of anti-aliasing going on? Is there Z buffering happening?

[laughter]

Anthony: The HBAO is turned all the way up.

Freddie: Is there a Phong shading?

Anthony: There's this very big, very brightly lit empty warehouse. And in the middle of it is just a normal sized snack vending machine.

Will: Oh my God.

Scary: Hey, Normal, that vending machine's exactly your size.

Anthony: Fuck you!

[laughter]

Beth: Cut that out.

Anthony: No, that's good!

Beth: No!

Freddie: Nope! That's going in!

Beth: No.

Anthony: As you approach the vending machine, you actually see that like, oh it's not really normal size, it's just kind of far away. It's actually quite big.

[chuckles]

Anthony: And looking at the vending machine...

Freddie: Anthony, the way you paint...

Matt: What tension!

Anthony: That's how perspective works!

[group laughter]

Beth: That thing is—

Anthony: I know I'm explaining very basic human experiences to you!

Scary: Just kidding! That one is way too big.

[laughter]

Anthony: There are a bunch of things that you can buy from this. There are brass, silver, and gold keys. There's also jeweled keys that seem to be pretty expensive. There are healing potions, there are weapons, and armor, and there is a lock pick on the very bottom that seems to cost a lot. They all have different Daddy War-bucks amounts they take that I have put into our Discord.

Normal: My God...

Link: Okay, which one of these fin... help us find our dads? Like what are we—?

Normal: Yeah, is there like a dad detector in here?

Link: Yeah, what is this? Like...

Mae: So these keys down, there's a dungeon beneath us. Full of both monsters that your dads have captured and also potentially useful items that they've captured, sometimes both in the same room.

Taylor: Huh.

Mae: And those keys will open doors that lead to those things.

Taylor: That's where I was.

Mae: Yes. That's exactly what you did actually. You picked a lock instead of using a key, but if you want to get into one of those rooms without getting a curse, you use a key.

Taylor: Ah...

Anthony: And as she says that your badges all vibrate and come alive on your chest. You feel, within you, a surge of presumably what this woman referred to as Daddy Magic. You feel power well up within you and fill your entire body. And each of you, in this moment, become the Dungeons & Dragons character archetypes that you built into your sheets.

[laughter]

Freddie: Oh, hey!

Beth: Wow!

Anthony: You can feel yourself gain spells or abilities.

Will: Are you saying we have a Mighty Morphin Power Rangers ass moment right now?

Anthony: Yes!

Beth: That's so wild.

Anthony: I would say Sailor Moon, but yeah.

Matt: From our ID cards?

Anthony: Yes. Basically coming from your ID cards. Like you don't actually like to turn into a guy with armor and shit, but you can feel yourself get whatever...

Will: I turn into a teenager who thinks he's a cleric.

[*chuckles*]

Anthony: Yeah pretty much. You can now use those spells that you have on your character sheets and stuff.

[*comprehending 'oh...'s*]

Link: What is everybody? What are you, Scary?

Scary: I'm a warlock.

Link: Oh.

Normal: Ooho!

Anthony: So yeah. Scary, you feel the dark magic of a patron god that gives you your dark powers, and you feel that awaken within you and you become Scary the Warlock.

Matt: Ooh, can our ID cards—like reflective, like as it hits the light...

Freddie: Like a hologram?

Beth: Like holographic.

Matt: ...it says, like, "warlock?" Like that's their code names for each other?

Anthony: Oh, warlock? Yeah. That's fun.

Matt: That's kind of cool.

Scary: Yeah.

Link: Whoa. It looks...

Freddie: Your call sign?

Link: ...I'm a Paladin? That's pretty cool.

Anthony: Yeah. So you feel a good and just light welling up within you, Link, that fills you with the desire to protect and heal and help people. And that is the spirit of a Paladin.

Link: Just like a dad. Maybe you guys can call me Pal, like short for Palladin? Like, "What's up, Pal?"

Scary: I'm not doing that.

Link: "Hey, Pal." I'll call you Pal.

Will: Normal looks down at his badge and sees the word "cleric" on there. We blast into Normal's POV and a light pierces through the clouds of his soul and fills him with beautiful light. And it's the spirit... and it's the school spirit.

Freddie: *[giggles]*

Beth: Damn.

Will: And that's the spirit that he worships that brings his mighty powers forth.

Freddie: And then Taylor looks down at his badge and he's like—

Taylor: Aw man! Mine says "Park Ranger." ...Oh, "Ranger."

Matt: *[laughing]* Where did he get the "Park" from?

Taylor: Oh, there's a smudge...

[laughter]

Taylor: There was some gravy!

Anthony: So you feel within your soul the power of, uh...

Freddie: Aragorn.

Anthony: Yeah, Aragorn-ass bullshit. You feel being cool, and the guy who's in the corner of the tavern and dark and you fucking have a hood over your head. Like that whole fucking vibe! That shit, that's you.

Freddie: Kicking things, breaking toes! You know how it goes.

Anthony: You feel a ranger within you. And also! After that wave of magic and dopamine has passed, you feel peril. You sense it in the air. You feel that at the San Dimas Elementary School, something is awry. You have an image...

Taylor: *[wobbling dramatically]* Whoa- ah, ah...!

Anthony: ...of a child. You see...

Will: Thank you, Freddie. *[laughs]*

Freddie: I'm just trying to give a little bit...

Matt: *[mocking]* "Whuh...!"

Freddie: ...of...

Anthony: You see an image of a child...

Matt: We all look— I look at Taylor.

Taylor: Was this like the vision you guys had?

Link: No, we didn't really...?

Normal: I didn't make a dumb sound like that when I had my vision.

Link: Yeah what are you doing?

Scary: Yeah...

Taylor: Wasn't dumb, sounds cool!

Anthony: This is the vision you do have.

Taylor: *[same noise again but quietly]*

Anthony: So you sense the elementary school and then you see a child who's wearing a shirt that has something kids like on it, on the shirt. And he's...

[laughter]

Matt: Paw Patrol.

Will: It's like I'm there!

[laughter]

Anthony: Yeah.

Beth: Dman.

Anthony: Like the Paw Patrol. The Paw Patrol reboot, the gritty Paw Patrol reboot.

Beth: Yes...!

Will: Paw Patrol, Port Of Call New Orleans.

[laughter]

Anthony: Yeah, there you go.

Beth: Sick. Yes.

Freddie: This Paw Patrol is—

Matt: Vending machines that are bigger than they first seem, and kids in shirts!

[pause with laughter]

Anthony: "Didn't you use to listen to that podcast, Dungeons & Daddies?"

Anthony: "Yeah. The world building really took a nose dive."

[laughter]

Anthony: "It was just too immersive. I felt like I couldn't extricate myself from the tapestry that they wove with their words." So a kid wearing a Paw Patrol, Port of Call New Orleans shirt, uh...

[group laughter]

Anthony: ...is crawling out. See? It's funny now that we've all done it.

Matt: Yeah, it's good.

Anthony: Is crawling out of a building and he looks up and you can see on his face that all these wrinkles, like he's really, really old.

Will: [*gasps*]

Anthony: He has the body of a child, but he looks like he's 80. Like the—

Will: [*whispered*] Akira boy.

Anthony: Exactly like the kid from the beginning of Akira.

Matt: Oh Shit!

Taylor: It's just like the kid from Akira!

Anthony: I literally have it written down. "Like the kid from Akira."

Beth: Oh my God.

Anthony: Uhm— [*laughs*] And then that—*whhp!*—that dissipates. And Agent Hailes goes—

Mae: What did you see? Did you see? Did it work?

Taylor: We saw some Akira-ass shit.

Link: It was like a kid? Like a kindergartner? But was really old and looked sick and dying.

Mae: Ah, ah! Oh, okay! That's good, that's weird!

Link: That's not good!

Mae: I mean that's bad! It's not good, it's bad. It's bad. But it means that your ability to use Daddy Magic to locate weird doodler shit is working! So yeah, that's an incursion! We have to, like, go solve that.

Normal: All I know is that the kids of San Dimas Elementary are the future kids... of San Dimas High School. Which means they're as connected to the glory of our school as we are. So for future generations, for our school to prosper—and also to, I guess, help get our dads back? We better get over there and see what's going on.

Link: So this is what my dad did? All the time?

Mae: Yeah. Not all the time, all the time.

Link: Yeah, but...

Mae: He would go home and stuff.

Link: [*sighs*] Oh man.

Mae: If you're going to go out in the field, you might need some stuff. I don't know.

Link: The only thing I need is this right here.

Matt: I said that Grant was an author. So he wrote one book as a librarian and it's "How To Be A Good Teenage Boy."

Will: Are you fucking kidding me?

Matt: [*laughs*] Yeah.

Freddie: There appears to be a real book here.

Link: So the only thing I need is this.

Beth: [*quietly*] Oh my God.

Link: Let me just, I know my dad wrote something about being brave, and it seems like we got to be brave right now.

Normal: What does it say about bravery? Let's get pumped up here.

Scary: Yeah.

Link: It says... Oh... Uh. It says, "You don't always have to be brave."

[*group laughter*]

Link: "It's okay to ask for help."

Scary: Your dad sounds like a total pussy!

[*more laughter*]

Link: Uhm... Okay. Well... maybe really quick. So while we're doing this? First order of business, as your boss, like help, like search stuff about our dads while we go do this. And so hopefully when we come back, you got some more information?

Mae: Okay, I can do that.

Link: I was like, that's why...

Normal: That's a great idea. Yeah!

Link: Yeah. Can we do that?

Taylor: Yeah, don't just sit around and Google mangas that haven't been translated yet. All day.

Link: Yeah. Stop playing Candy Crush.

Taylor: And playing games on your phone. That's the first order of business as the boss.

Matt: *[laughs]*

Mae: I'm gonna— I mean. You can't stop me from playing games on my phone.

Will: One whiff of power for these teenagers.

Scary: As your guys's boss, don't fucking ever talk to a woman that way.

Link: Oh...

Normal: I'm sorry Scary.

Scary: And Mae? You better fucking get to work.

[all laughing]

Link: Oh. Okay!

Anthony: Ladies listen to ladies!

Link: Know what actually. Yeah. Scary? I'm okay with you— Actually. I feel a little bit more comfortable if you're the... I don't want to be the boss. Are you guys cool with that?

Scary: Oh I definitely don't wanna be the boss either.

Normal: Look, all I know is...

Link: Scary's the boss.

Taylor: I'm the boss!

Scary: I'm not—

Normal: If we find my dad—

Scary: Taylor's the boss.

Link: No, Taylor's not the boss.

Taylor: I'm the boss!

Link: Taylor's not the boss.

Taylor: By vote!

Scary: I think it's fine if Taylor's the—

Mae: You're all the boss! Nobody gets to not be the boss. All four of you are the boss!

Will: So I slap the four daddy war-bucks against the vending machine. I say—

Normal: Give me the rowdiest, raddest bunch of keys this money'll buy!

Anthony: Okay.

Will: Also, are there any like good snacks in this bad boy? Like, are there like...

Anthony: Yes, there is one Snickers bar.

[laughter]

Matt: How, how much is that?

Anthony: That one is six daddy war-bucks.

Matt: Wow.

Beth: Damn.

Will: Six daddy war-bucks...

Freddie: Six daddy war-bucks...

Matt: Six daddy war-bucks...

Beth: Holy shit.

Anthony: So you put your four daddy war-bucks against the vending machine, and rather than accepting them through the dollar slot, it just absorbs all four of them and spits out two brass keys.

Taylor: We can use these in the Dungeon.

Normal: Hey, team of teens? Hands in the middle. Are you guys ready to do this?

Link: Yeah. Yeah! Let's go fi— let's run!

Taylor: Let me just say, real quick. Thanks everybody for gathering here today. And—

Link: Okay, we got to go.

Matt: Then Lincoln starts running...

Anthony: Okay.

Matt: ...down the thing.

Anthony: Are you going to take the elevator or the stairs?

Matt: Stairs. I'm not going on that thing.

Anthony: Okay. So then as you go down the stairs, the floor directly beneath this one, you feel an incredible intelligence on the other side of that door that is...

Link: Oh, I'm smart now.

Anthony: Si— no, you don't—

Will: [laughs]

Anthony: You don't become intelligent, you feel, you sense an intelligence. On the other side of that door.

Matt: [*laughing*] Why am I on the other side of the door?

Freddie: Ha ha ha!

Anthony: There's a sign on the d— you're not on the other side!

[*laughter*]

Anthony: The intelligence on the other side! You're on this side—clearly you don't have the intelligence... There's a sign on the door and next to the door that says “whale.”

Beth: [*hissing laughter*]

[*cackling*]

Anthony: And then there's a sign that's saying dungeon that goes, that has an arrow pointing down. So if you want to go to the dungeon, you keep going down, but there's also a hyper intelligent whale behind this door.

[*people trying to laugh quietly*]

Anthony: Darryl. ...I mean, Lincoln.

Matt: [*laughing*] It's funny that it says...

Anthony: I mean Matt.

Will: [*laughing*] I am just cracking up at just the— it's just a handwritten sign that says whale?

Anthony: It's not handwritten! It's official looking.

Will: That's even funnier for some reason. They're like “Alright we gotta get this sign printed.”

Anthony: They went to Kinkos.

Will: “We gotta a nice sign printed that says ‘whale.’

Matt: Stuck between like... You gave me like the fire hose, you're like, “run to the fire.” And as I'm running to the fire, you're like, “By the way, there's a door that says whale on it.” Like, I'm like—

Anthony: I'm just saying, you said— I'm setting up the space! I'm being consistent about the way this space is built out—!

[*laughter*]

Matt: [*laughs*] So like, I feel like—

Anthony: [*growing hysterical*] —and I'm telling you that there's a psychic, hyper intelligent whale beyond this door! You don't have to talk to him!

Matt: I feel like I sho—

Anthony: You have to fucking know he's there!!

Beth: It's Alan Rickman in Die Hard looking at the list of names!

[*group laughter*]

Beth: He's like—

Will: "Whale."

Beth: "It's built... whale."

Matt: I shouldn't go talk to it, but it's also, you explained that it's there. Well, okay, I'll...

Anthony: [*mic-blowing*] DO YOU WANNA DO SOMETHING WITH THE WHALE?

Matt: [*chuckling*] No, no. Let's move on

Anthony: OKAY.

Matt: Let's move on...

Anthony: SO YOU OPEN THE DOOR TO THE DUNGEON.

[*laughter*]

Anthony: FROM DUNGEONS AND DADDIES.

Matt: [*laughing*] You can't be mad at us, you told us that there's a whale...!

Anthony: I'M TRYING TO MOVE FORWARD! I'm trying to add momentum to this expository fire hose of information!

Will: You're the one who was like, "Stop the adventure to look at a whale," Anthony!

Anthony: I DIDN'T SAY LOOK AT IT, I SAID IT WAS THERE.

Freddie: You described it so alluringly...

Matt: You—

Anthony: CAN YOU IMAGINE HOW INSANE IT WOULD BE? IF I CAME BACK AFTER THE MISSION WAS DONE—

Matt: Yeah, you could have—!

Anthony: I WENT, "Oh, by the way, there's a whale there you didn't notice?" THAT WOULD BE OBSCENE.

Matt: *[laughing]* It's a big building! I could have just taken a path not next to the whale!

Anthony: NO THERE'S ONLY ONE STAIRWELL UP OR DOWN! So what do you want to do? You want to spend the keys? You want to go rescue the kids? What the fuck you want to do?

Link: I say we use these keys and let's go save some kindergartners, I guess.

Scary: Yeah.

Taylor: We got two keys and some old kindergartners. I say we blow these keys into some fucking hot locks.

Scary: Yeah. Let's do it.

[sound of moving air through a huge empty space plays for a few seconds]

Mae: Yeah, this is Ryton's Dungeon where we keep all of our uh... all of our weird shit. So yeah, go for it kids.

Taylor: It's kind of like a storage space!

Link: Who wants to open the door?

Taylor: I'll do it!

Link: All right.

Anthony: So you are going to pick one of these cards... and we'll see what's inside. And then, uh... I'll roll to see if there's a monster inside that room as well.

Freddie: *[sharp card draw]* This one.

Anthony: *[muffled dice roll]* I rolled a 2 on my monster table. Which means that the starved to death corpse of a lizard man is in there. You're safe.

Normal: Woah!

Scary: Damn...

Taylor: Lizard men are real?!

Normal: I'm- I'm pretty unfazed by anything I'm seeing at this point. So I'm just going to take this in stride.

Taylor: I will process this later.

Scary: Woah...

Link: You guys want to just go in and get the thing and bring it out here?

Freddie: I take the lizard man, corpse and I throw it off of the, like—

Taylor: Huah!

Matt: *[laughs]*

Beth: Oh my god!

Freddie: I clear it out.

Anthony: All right! Yeah, you hear it clatter to the ground. Where it shatters.

Beth: *[wheeze-laugh]*

Anthony: And yeah so what item did you find inside this room?

Freddie: *[clapping and dusting of hands]* Dust my hands and I go—

Taylor: It's called Die Another Day. "You roll a d20 and find out how you die. You can't share the result with anyone. Lower roles are worse, obviously. No matter what happens, the vision you see must come to pass. Period. Nothing you do can alter what you see."

Beth: Oh my God.

Will: What the fuck?!

Link: That's a horrible— put that away. Okay, let's just not use that. That's great. Let's don't use it.

Will: Wait, so you have to pick it up? Like how does it work? Like if you...

Anthony: You have to choose to use it.

Will: Oh, okay.

Beth: Damn.

Freddie: So what does this object...? Like what does it look like?

Anthony: Is a magic d20. That when you touch it, you can feel that this is what it does. That if you choose to roll it, it will show you how you die and will lock that death into fate forever.

Normal: What the fuck?

Scary: Holy shit.

Link: I hate that.

Freddie: I'm very—

Normal: This is the scariest thing I've ever seen!

Scary: Yeah...

Freddie: *[laughing]* Very gently set it down.

[laughter]

Anthony: You want to just leave it there? You don't have to take it.

Matt: You're like, "That doesn't count as a roll!"

Taylor: This seems like not a good thing to have, guys.

Link: No, it's not. But maybe we give it to somebody else or something. Maybe it's worth something.

Normal: I mean, yeah. Maybe we'll meet someone who wants to know how they're going to die. Let's...

Link: Just wrap it up in like bubble wrap or something.

Taylor: I'll put it in my go bag.

Anthony: So do you want to use your other key?

Will: Uh— yeah.

Matt: Y-Yeah.

Beth: Yeah.

Normal: I hope we get something more useful than that.

Link: I mean, yeah, that's a useless— that's a useless...

Beth: I think that would be useful!

Anthony: Just so you know, the brass keys, the ones that are cheapest tend to be things like this that are fuckin' like wild and weird. That are, maybe you can find a clever way to use these, but they don't have an immediately obvious...

Beth: Yeah.

Anthony: ...use. The things that require silver keys are tactical. They're more useful, but less like, they're not like direct violence. And then the things that require—

Beth: Well, wish we'd known that earlier.

Matt: We just have to save some kindergartners I guess.

Beth: Yeah.

Anthony: And then the gold key will get you things that are just straight up— they're called violent items. They will just do damage and hurt things and stuff.

Beth: I like that.

Anthony: So. You're going to open another brass door and I'm going to roll to see if there's a monster inside.

Will: Normal's gonna open this one.

Anthony: Okay, Normal.

Normal: This one looks good over here. This door's giving me a good energy. I feel good about this one.

[dice clatter]

Anthony: 18.

[clunk of a door unlocking]

Anthony: So inside there is a living ancient gold dragon.

Normal: Oh! Cool! There's a dragon in here! Wow! Oh my God!

Anthony: Massive, massive room.

Normal: Did you guys know that the Chapparral dragon is the mascot over there?

Matt: Link—

Normal: Guys, take a look at this!

Matt: Lincoln runs back up... like—

Scary: Woah!

Normal: It looks nice!

Matt: Runs away.

Will: Is this a nice dragon?

Anthony: Uh... roll perception.

Will: [*dice thunk*] I got a natural 20.

Anthony: So with natural 20, you can tell... that all this dragon likes to do is protect treasure. It's friendly to anybody who's not coming after its treasure and it can be easily swayed if you can give it something that it believes is more valuable than what it is protecting.

Taylor: Hey dragon, you want to know how you die?

[*group laughter*]

Matt: That's what I was thinking. Yup. Do that.

Anthony: Roll persuasion?

Freddie: [*dice roll*] 13?

Anthony: All right. I'll roll, I don't know a Wisdom saving throw against it. [*dice roll*] It also got a 13.

Beth: Damn...

Anthony: Uhm...

Taylor: Do you want double or nothing dragon?

Beth: Yeah. [*laughs*]

Dragon: [*deep gravelly voice*] How would I double or nothing knowing how I die?

Matt: Lincoln, realizing this dragon is not dangerous, slowly peaks his head around the corner.

Link: I just don't even know why we need to persuade you. We were all arguing about which one of us should take it. Because if you knew how you die, that's pretty great, because you would know! Like, then you'd be...

Taylor: Let me ask you this. Do you know someone else who would want to maybe know that? Cause this dice freaks me out.

Normal: Plus think about how hilarious it would be, if someone comes in here and tries to steal it from you, and then they roll it and then they're going to get, got killed by an ancient dragon for stealing the treasure. That's like a perfect, ironic trap.

Anthony: That's— I feel like that's convincing enough you don't have to roll again. You were right on the cusp, you tied. So that's good. So he goes—

Dragon: Alright, give it over.

Anthony: And he takes the dice from you. And he hands you...

Freddie: And we all watch to see if the dragon rolls...

Link: Are you- are you gonna roll it?

Anthony: What:

Link: Are you gonna roll it?

Dragon: Do I want to roll it.

Link: I dunno, just curious how a dragon dies.

Dragon: Just let me think.

Anthony: And he's going to roll a Wisdom saving throw, to see if it's something he wants to roll or not. [*dice thunk*] So 10. Dead in the middle.

[*laughter*]

Freddie: Could go either way.

Anthony: Right in the middle.

Dragon: I could go either way. I could maybe roll. Like maybe not. Now it's going to be a 50-50. If it's evens, I'm going to roll it. It's odds. I'm not going to roll it.

[*chuckles*]

[*dice roll*]

Scary: I guess you don't have to decide right now.

Dragon: It's evens I'm going to roll it.

Scary: Okay.

Will: [*laughs*]

Dragon: All right. Daddy's looking for old age in his bed, surrounded by his loved ones. Here we go...

[*laughter*]

Dragon: Here we go...

Will: Do gold dragons have big beds?

[*dice thunk*]

Dragon: 16!

Normal: [*gasps*]

Anthony: All right. So he sees something and he goes.

Dragon: Nice.

Freddie: [*laughs*]

Scary: Damn.

Dragon: Pretty good.

Normal: Well!

Scary: Okay, so can we have like whatever you're...?

Dragon: Yes. Yeah. So here, here you go.

Anthony: And he hands you. What does he hand you?

Will: I got the Ring of Invisibility but also Blindness. "A small glass ring that when worn grants the wearer a complete invisibility at the cost of complete blindness, both effects remain active as long as the ring is worn and become inactive upon removal.

Freddie: Ooh! That's clever.

Will: It's by Eli Goldwag. Thanks Eli! Wow!

Taylor: Looks like we're all ready to go. But like... y'know. We need a ride.

Mae: Yeah, sure. You can take the company van, I guess.

Link: Oh, none of us can drive.

Normal: I—

[neigh incomprehensible second of crosstalk]

Link: Scary, can you drive?

Scary: Like legally?

Link: Yeah. I mean, of course. What other kind is there?

Normal: I- Illegally.

Scary: Yes I can drive.

Link: Okay!

Anthony: So Link you notice when you head out to the parking lot that your dad's van...

Will: *[gasps]*

Anthony: ...is here. And as Scary presses the key fob, it lights up.

Link: *[gasps]*

Anthony: So the company car is, essentially, your dad's van.

Link: What, how did he get to the airport—?

Scary: *[groans]* Kill me it's a minivan.

Link: It's so safe. What are you talking about? It's got lots of room and there's snacks in the back. It's great.

Scary: Yeah well a ship in the harbor is safe, but that's not where ships get laid.

Freddie: *[laughs]*

Link: What? Okay. Well, are you going to drive it?

Scary: Yeah.

Link: Don't dent it.

Scary: Okay. No, righty, tighty... Let's see here.

Will: Beth's— *[laughs]*

[group laughter]

Scary: All right. You guys like fucking metal, right?

Matt: What type of van is it, Anthony?

Anthony: So yeah. You see your dad's Nissan Quest. What? Do you want it black. What color do you want it? What color is your dad's Nissan Quest?

Will: What colors do the Nissan Quest come in?

Beth: Yeah...

Will: That's the real question.

Matt: I mean what...

Beth: But this new one comes in...

Matt: Yeah, what color did it come in 2040 or wherever we are.

Will: No, but it got discontinued. This is a classic car.

Matt: Ooh!

Will: There's a classic v—

Will: This a mint condi— This is like the dad in Ferris Bueller's Day Off with his Ferrari that he washes with the diapers.

Beth: Ah.

Matt: Mm. Oh Grant's definitely like, built this car from scratch.

Will: Like Grant takes this thing— yeah.

Anthony: Who you love? You love a van.

Matt: A gross beige color is pretty good.

Will: [*laughs*]

Beth: Yeah.

Matt: Like champagne? It's like a champagne...? Yeah.

Will: [*laughing*] Champagne!

Freddie: Sandstone?

Anthony: Your dad's champagne Nissan Quest.

Freddie: Augh!

Will: It's still got all the custom trim from 2016, including like a built in PlayStation 3.

Freddie: [*laughs*]

Normal: Aw, sweet! We can play *Kill Zone*!

Will: Cause yeah, this is a pre self-driving car car as well.

Matt: But also like... out character, how much has Scary driven?

Beth: Probably not at all.

Matt: At all?!

[*laughter*]

Beth: [*dice roll*] But! I just rolled a 17.

Matt: 'Ey! [*laughs*]

Will: Yeah! Boi!

Beth: Yeah.

Anthony: You get there with really no problem.

Beth: Yeah.

Anthony: 17's better than I drive on a daily basis and I'm an adult.

Matt: There's a really—

Beth: The car, like, lurches, into the...

Anthony: *rr-rr!*

Beth: [*laughs*]

Matt: There's like a tense moment where at a red light, a cop stops next to us, looks at us. And we all look at him and the cops like... gives us a little shrug and then just drives off. And like—

Link: Oh my God. That's so close, guys.

Taylor: Dude, we almost got arrested!

Link: We almost got arrested!

Will: [*laughs*]

Anthony: So you head to an elementary school. You head to the elementary school, the San Dimas Elementary School. The exterior of the school seems to be pretty normal because it's Saturday there are basically no cars in the parking lot, but you can hear activity within.

Matt: So by normal it looks like a school at 6:00 PM. So it's like, nobody's here.

Anthony: Yes. But you hear a heavy breathing inside. You hear beeping... you hear a bit of moaning. You hear the whirring of machinery and a rhythmic, like, stomping.

Matt: Is there, are there any windows we can look at?

Anthony: Yeah. There's like, y'know how in schools they have those little windows inset into the door?

Freddie: You know how in schools they have windows?

Beth: [*chuckles*]

Matt: Lincoln will use his incredibly tall head...

Taylor: Hey Link, what can you see up there?

Matt: *[laughing]* His tall body...

Anthony: Okay so...

Matt: *[still laughing]* ...with the head on the top of it. To look at the window.

Anthony: From the angle you're at, you can see a very long line of kindergartners that is leading up to what looks like a...

[stressful string music starts with a steady, basey rhythm, like a heartbeat]

Anthony: ...opaque phone booth with a monitor attached to it. That has so many wires coming and going from it that it hurts your eyes to even look at them. On the other end of the room...

[the sound of someone running on a treadmill starts]

Anthony: ...you can see something running on a treadmill at a blistering speed. The something is vaguely humanoid, but the more that you look at it, the less that... humanoidness becomes vague and the more it becomes just incorrect. At first blush, looks like a person, but the more you look at it the less person-like it looks. The veins on its neck are bulging. They're about to burst.

[treadmill sounds fade out to focus on haunting high strings which add to the tense rhythm of the music]

Anthony: Sweat drips down—what you assume is 'her?'—skin in waterfalls that splash the ground and with a hiss evaporate into the air.

Freddie: Eughh...

Anthony: One of the veins in her forehead pulses bigger and bigger until it bursts, the open vein flapping in the air like an unended garden hose.

Beth: Oh, God!

Freddie: Oh my God!

Anthony: Her tongue lashes up and lashes the end of the vein guide to get into her mouth—

Freddie: Uh!

Anthony: —where she sucks fluid out of it, rehy—

Matt: What the fu—?

Freddie: What the fuck?

Anthony: —rehydrating yourself as the vein slowly grows flaccid.

Freddie: What the fuck?

Anthony: She spits out the vein and the vein retreats back into her head—

Freddie: Eugh...!

Anthony: —sliding in the forehead— under her forehead skin like a blanket. She breathes heavily, horrible breaths so bassey that you can feel them in your chest. You realize now that's what that moaning was, was her heavy, horrible bassey breaths. Um—

Beth: If I print out this description, will you sign it for me?

[group laughter]

[music still quietly going, all high strings]

Anthony: She's also, her fingers are tapping at three different sets of keyboards that are mounted to her treadmill. And the wires are trailing from those keyboards to the phone booth.

Matt: Ghostly white, he goes—

Link: *[stutters]* There's just a, there's a teacher. He's watching TV in there. We should probably— we should just go.

Scary: All right, let's go in.

Normal: Alright, sounds good!

Taylor: Alright, yeah!

Link: No, there's a teacher! There's nobody—

Will: I open the door to the— yeah.

Link: Oh God no, everybody!

Anthony: Okay. Do y'all go in?

Will: Yeah, I go in.

Beth: Yeah.

Freddie: We just bust in just a teacher. It's a safe adult.

Anthony: Okay.

Link: There's a monster!

Matt: *[laughing nervously]* Right as he opens the door I scream, "there's a monster."

[high strings play like an irregular pulse, speeding up]

Anthony: As you step in, two things happen. A) Lincoln says there's a monster, B) you see all the things I just mentioned to Lincoln.

Normal: Ooh...!!

Scary: Oh...

Anthony: And C—

[sound of door shutting and lock clicking]

Anthony: —the doors slam shut behind you and are barred. There's a line of kindergartners leading towards this phone booth. And on the other end of the phone booth...

[high string plays out, beating bass strings return]

Anthony: ...there are a bunch of old people just sitting on the ground, just looking very tired and looking very sad. So the woman on the treadmill is looking at the monitor on the phone booth. And on the screen, you see an old woman who is huffing and puffing. She's running as fast as she can to what looks like a bank and cashes a check. And the teller goes—

Teller: Hey, congratulations, Madam. Your balance is now \$1 million.

Freddie: *[cackles]*

Anthony: And the old woman looks into the camera, as if she's being filmed. She goes—

Woman: Time!

Anthony: The woman on the treadmill presses a large red button on the treadmill. And a number appears on a large electronic board that folds out from behind her. And it says 68 years, 2 months, 3 days, 12 hours, 34 seconds. And the woman, the Runner looks at this and she goes—

Runner: *[not at all out of breath]* Okay. So that means you are in... seventh place. Subpar! You will remain this age!

Anthony: And she presses a button on one of her keyboards, and the phone booth spits out the old woman that you saw on the monitor. The old woman goes and sits down with a bunch of other old people that also look like kindergartners and the Runner, She goes—

Runner: You're going to sit there until this entire marathon is over. Now! Who else wants to speedrun life to see who gets a million dollars quicker than anyone else?

[bass beats and stops]

[outro song plays; lyrics:]

Maxton Waller:

All our days
whisked away.
or is there something
more to say?
You know that no one knows us better than ourselves.

Used to tell myself it'll be alright,
Pretty lies let me sleep at night.
I know that no one knows me better than myself.

And I know I'll get this right.
It's just a matter of time til we
make it out
alive

We got to pick ourselves up and say:
not today, no, not today.
We live for tomorrow
beg, steal, and borrow,
break what we can't change.

We got to pick ourselves up and say:
not today, no, not today.
I don't need your sorrow
come back tomorrow
I'll be on my way

I'll be on my way.

[outro continues]

Freddie: Dungeons and Daddies is Matt Arnold as Lincoln Wilson, Anthony Burch as our DM, Will Campos as Normal Oak, Beth May as Scary Marlowe and myself, Freddie Wong as Taylor Swift. The theme song is "On My Way" by Maxton Waller, and there's a full version available on his band camp. Take a look at the episode description for a link, it's pay what you want! Brian Fernandez is our content producer. Ashley Nicolette is our community manager. Esther Ellis is our lead editor. Travis Reeves provides additional editing. Robin Rapp is our transcriber.

Freddie: Special thanks this week to our patrons, Eli Goldwag and Mae Hailes for providing names for characters and items. This show is supported by a patreon full of cool casts folks like Nicholas Smith, Dillon Gerald, Gigarou, Derek Robinson, Logical Nonsense, Notbluefalcon, James Donaldson, Alex, Levi Gillikin, Lizette Delgado, Wyatt Verchere, Howard Shapiro, Harlen Sinclair, Morgan Troup, Harrison Hapner, Calvin Chavez, Daria Kochis, Bryan Moreno, Grant Bowering, and Geri Khan.

Freddie: If you want to support the show, the best way to do it is to join our Patreon at patreon.com/dungeonsanddads. There's tons of bonus content! We do an after show where we talk about each episode, the week after release, we have a discord where we do live listens. There's bonus video, there's bonus audio, there's bonus multimedia, including two standalone, one-shot series in the Call of Cthulu and the Star Wars RPG system.

Freddie: We also just hit a Patreon stretch goal, so we'll be doing a cutthroat, regency adventure mini-series, featuring four eligible bachelorettes who must use their wits to attract a worthy husband before their rivals do, called Sons and sonsability. That Patreon stretch goal will be available to every patron at every level, So head on over to patreon.com/dungeonsanddads to learn more.

Freddie: Our website is dungeonsanddaddies.com. Our store is store.dungeonsanddaddies.com. There's a bunch of new merch in there if you haven't checked it out in a while. Twitter! is @dungeonsanddads. Subreddit is [dungeonsanddaddies](https://www.reddit.com/r/dungeonsanddaddies). Welcome everyone to season two. Our next episode comes out Tuesday, February 8th, we do new episodes every other week. And by the way, the off weeks are where all the Patreon contact goes just saying. Thanks for listening and we'll see you in two weeks!

[outro music plays out; lyrics]

Maxton Waller:

We got to pick ourselves and say
not today, non not today
we live for tomorrow

beg, steal, and borrow
break what we can't change

We got to pick ourselves up and say
not, no, not today
I'll be on my way.

[*music finishes*]

Scary: We don't have to talk about it.

Veronica: Great.

Scary: That's what my diary's for. Not that anybody's allowed to read it. But if they ever did, oh, what they find...

Will: What would, what would we find?

Scary: Well it's...

Freddie: Like, fanfic?

Scary: No!