

Dungeons and Daddies

Dungeon Master: Anthony Burch

Glenn Close: Freddie Wong

Darryl Wilson: Matt Arnold

Henry Oak: Will Campos

Ron Stampler: Beth May

Episode 42 - Henry's Father and the Chamber of Secrets

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

Freddie: The dungeon roommates are not experts, and their advice should never be followed. Jenny insists she's a sexpert, but if there's a degree on her wall, I haven't seen it. Also, this show isn't for those with infernal heritages, which I mention only so you tieflings out there know how cool they are for listening. What's up, you cool tiefling?

[My Brother, My Brother, and Me intro theme plays]

Vampire: Hello, everybody, welcome to *My Goblin, My Goblin, and Me*, an advice show for the present age. I'm your vampire roommate, Vlad—

Goblin 1: I'm your first goblin, Jenny Kaa—

Goblin 2: I'm your 30 under 30 treasure-hunting luminary goblin, Dom Wook-Uskra

Vlad: *[unenthusiastically hums guitar riff]*

Jenny: Oh no—

Vlad: *[continues to hum]* I want to suck!

Jenny/Dom: Your blood!

Vlad: I want to suck!

Jenny/Dom: Your blood!

Vlad: Welcome to “I Want to Suck Your Blood,” this is a podcast within a podcast where I talk about delicious meals, and I am so excited this week! I almost sucked the blood of an elf named Henry Oak, who was in our dungeon solving puzzles with his two kids!

Dom: Yeah, that was really weird. We’ve never seen kids in here before. Something’s up with that.

Jenny: He was so nice! He didn’t even want any treasure, he just wanted to find out more about his own history. He was nice to us... you didn’t suck his blood, did you?

Vlad: Believe me, I wanted to! But he had the cross and everything, and he had a problem with my whole vampire way of life, I mean, seriously, he was such a puss—

Dom: No!

Jenny: Stop it!

Vlad: What? It’s short for pusillanimous!

Jenny: You only looked that up after we told you it was problematic!

Dom: Ugh, you’re the worst. That’s it, I quit, I’m done.

Jenny: Yeah, we’re out of here.

Vlad: Wait, no, come back! It’s not too late to make a “three-creatures-chatting” comedy podcast! Come on, please!

[Dungeons and Daddies intro music plays]

Freddie: Welcome to Dungeons and Daddies, not a BDSM podcast, sort of sometimes a tabletop roleplaying game podcast about four dads from our world flung into the Forgotten Realms on a quest to rescue their lost sons.

My name is Freddie Wong, I am Glenn Close in this podcast. And Glenn Close has a cover band, he plays Christmas music. This week’s dad fact about Glenn— I was thinking about this cause Glenn’s about to take the stage here in the Oakvale, and I was just thinking about good concert stories, good gig stories from Glenn.

So one time, they were playing a Northern California outdoor mall— do they have outdoor malls? They don't have outdoor malls in Northern California—

Beth: Yeah, they do. Yeah.

Freddie: Do they? Maybe central California, maybe Modesto or Fresno or something—

Beth: Yeah, I used to live in Hamford near Fresno, and there was tons of— yeah. There was all kinds of crap.

Freddie: So he was playing, and, as is Glenn's sort of habit before every concert, he avails himself of the best the food court has to offer. So he was at the Hot Dog on a Stick, but something about either the hot dog, the stick, or the lemonade that he got didn't quite sit right with him.

But they were about to go on, so they were like "Glenn, we gotta go on," and he's like, "I can't, aw man, I gotta— ooh, my tummy hurts, I need a second—"

Beth: Well, you're not supposed to eat the stick!

Matt: You're not supposed to eat hot dogs—

Will: Someone left a fire in Santa's chimney!

Freddie: But, luckily for Glenn—

Will: He shit his pants.

[laughter]

Freddie: No, luckily for Glenn, he has— I'm, not sure if you guys—

Matt: Freddie's starting to be like my grandpa, he's kind of telling a story that I'm not sure where it's going... Okay, Freddie, where is this going?

Freddie: I'm not sure if you guys know this, but as a guitar player you can have a wireless system. You can play the guitar and it wirelessly transmits to your board, so it allows you to not be tied down by a cord. So he was like, "just start the intro to Jingle Bells, and I'll be playing from the toilet." So—

Beth: That's pretty dope.

Will: I refuse to believe this happened. I know this is a fictional podcast where you get to say whatever happened, but— He played guitar from the toilet during the gig?

Freddie: Yeah.

Will: How far was the toilet— what is the range on an electric guitar—?

Freddie: It's an outdoor mall, it's not that far— it's just around the, y'know—

Matt: Will, you're the ultimate CinemaSins of people's dad facts.

Anthony: Oh my god!

Freddie: Yeah, what the hell, dude.

Matt: You're always the one that goes in and doesn't— You're like, "excuse me...?"

[laughter]

Freddie: Yeah, that's what happened, Will! I don't care if you believe it, that's what happened!

Matt: Hello! My name is Matthew Arnold, I play Darryl Wilson, a stay-at-home coach dad who becomes a barbarian upon entering the Forgotten Realms. A dad fact, I guess— I just thought of this right now. I was just thinking about what Darryl's allergies were... Darryl doesn't know. Every time he goes to the doctor, he just puts penicillin, cause he thinks— But he doesn't know; no one's ever given him penicillin, he's never checked—

Beth: What?

Matt: They say "what are your allergies," and he just puts penicillin because he's always put it, but he has no idea if he's actually allergic to penicillin.

Will: What?

Beth: Wait, you could be— like, "yeah, just don't give me any antibiotics!"

Matt: Because you never have it! But he does have one real allergy. The one allergy he does know he has— because he refuses to get the allergy test, because he doesn't like needles— is, he has a latex allergy! And, he discovered that—

[various sounds of skepticism from the group]

Freddie: Wait, wait, wait, wait, no, no, no, no—

Matt: For about two years, he thought he was doing sex wrong.

Freddie: No, no, no, time out, time out, time out.

Will: Oh, here comes the fucking CinemaSins, here we go... Here we go, Freddie, with a fuckin' pedantic-ass fact!

Matt: Yeah, I researched this shit, so there's no way Freddie's knowing it.

Freddie: In episode 1, Henry talks about how he has condoms on his fingers, which are latex condoms. So—

Matt: Do I suck his fingers? What are you talking about? It has nothing to do with me!

[Freddie laughs]

Freddie: I knew some who had a latex allergy—

Matt: Yeah. It burns your ding-dong. It's not nice.

Freddie: No, no, no. You couldn't bring balloons to school when I was going to high school. Because—

Matt: Oh. Wow. I mean, there's various levels, I was just looking this up. And sometimes, people who have allergies to condoms, it takes a long time to get to a point where it's really bad, it's like, subtle burning, and then it gets— So that's like Darryl. Darryl didn't die, Darryl didn't lose his dong—

Will: He just thought God was punishing him?

Matt: Yeah. He was like, "why does it hurt all the time? I'm going too fast, maybe, this is the problem..."

Beth: I have been on about four Tinder dates with guys who have “spontaneously had latex allergies!”

[laughter]

Beth: “By the way, I didn’t mention that I have a latex— oh, well, I guess...”

Will: My name is Will Campos. I play Henry Oak, the fictional character, on the podcast *Dungeons and Dragons*—

Freddie: Really, that’s the name of the podcast, Will?

Will: Did I say Dungeons and— damn it!

Matt: Ding! “1. Wrong podcast!” Ding!

[laughter]

Will: “Wrong podcast, idiot!” Ding!

Beth: Guys, this isn’t going well...

Will: Oh, no. Oh, no. RIP, me.

Freddie: Fuck.

Beth: This is honestly one of those podcasts that I’m like, “oh, this is a good podcast!” I turn on this episode, and then they’re like, “fuck you,” jerking each other off for 25 minutes in the intro like I’m a friend of theirs? And I’m like, “shut the fuck up and talk about true crime!”

Matt: Beth, you’re the one doing the jerking! You can’t complain!

Beth: I— *[sighs]*. Mm. Yeah. I’ve been jerking the whole thing.

Will: I’m Will Campos, and I play the fictional character Henry Oak, on the podcast *Dungeons and Dragons*— God damn it!

[everyone laughs]

Anthony: You said it again! Ding! “2. God, guy can’t remember—”

Will: *[screaming]* No!

Freddie: No way! No way!

Will: Henry's allergy is that he's allergic to bad vibes, moving on!

Matt: God.

Beth: Let's go, let's go, let's go!

Matt: Beth, bring us, bring us back.

Will: Bring it home, bring it home.

Freddie: Fuck...

Beth: Yo. Yo. My name is Beth May, and I play Ron Stampler, emotionally *[stumbling]* stunted step— shit.

[everyone laughs]

Anthony: Ding!

Beth: Emotionally detached stepfather— *[dissolves into laughter]* Emotionally detached stepfather, on the fictional podcast *Dungeons and Daddies*.

[hysterical laughter continues]

Beth: Fun fact about Ron—

Freddie: *[laughing]* I'm dying, I'm dying...

Beth: So, okay, I was gonna try to make fun of a Henry dad fact, but then, that's just not as funny as, like, living, apparently, right now. Fun fact about Ron is that his favorite dad fact is that... the word "dad" is from the mid-16th century, perhaps imitative of a young child's first syllables: "dah... dah."

Anthony: Oh.

Beth: "Dah...d"

Matt: So "da" came first? "Da" came first?

Freddie: No, “ma” comes first in almost every language.

Will: Ding!

[laughter]

Will: So, wait, I want to understand— Is it true that we basically just... Babies said “da” and then they were like, “that means dad now”?

Anthony: Yeah, the man was like, “that one’s for me! That noise? Was mine.”

Beth: I’m just on Google, Will, I don’t know.

Freddie: Generally, the first word that any infant will say is “ma,” because, if you think about the pronunciation and formation of it, it’s a—

Will: Cause it’s his mom!

Freddie: Well, no, cause it’s a basic vocal utterance, and then the movement is almost just mouth movement. You can make that sound without any articulation of the lips. And so the harder—

Matt: Ding! Freddie, she didn’t say that it was literally the first thing they said! She just said that they do say “da.” That’s what she said! So I’m dinging your ding!

Freddie: There’s some fascinating stuff about this, because, certain words like “older brother” and “younger brother” in different languages—

Matt: Anthony, just go, Anthony. Anthony, please—

Anthony: Okay. It’s me—

Beth: Most infants’ first word is just Jim Carrey saying, “smokin’” from—

[everyone loses it]

Will: *[Jim Carrey impression]* “Somebody stop me!”

Anthony: No, the first word is an Ace Ventura— they point at the vagina and they go, “do NOT go in there! Woo!”

[laughter]

Matt: Nice.

Anthony: I'm Anthony Burch, I'm your daddy master, and I'm allergic to bubble bath liquid.

Matt: Really?

Anthony: Yeah.

Matt: Wait, what's different in bubble bath liquid than normal soap?

Anthony: I think it was just one particular kind of bubble bath liquid I used when I was a kid, and I've just— I've never really enjoyed bubble baths that much, so...

Matt: So you've deprived yourself of bubble baths ever since, just because of one bad bubble bath incident?

Anthony: Once bitten, twice shy, baby.

Matt: Anthony, I'm gonna go over there and make you a bubble bath.

Beth: Aww.

Anthony: That's assault. That would be a form of assault!

[laughter]

[opening instrumental]

Anthony: When we last left the group, Henry and Ron and Lark and Sparrow and two goblins had gone to the topmost level of the dungeon and found a big reel-to-real film projector, and a woman who looked to be from the 1920s, who turned out to actually be Horse Sy-Oak, his bully from childhood in the visage of his grandmother.

Matt: I love it.

Anthony: Meanwhile, outside the dungeon, Glenn and Darryl and Ron's animated body, who doesn't sound like Ron—

Freddie: “Ron” in hand-quotes.

Anthony: Are basically preparing for some plan to potentially burn the forest down if they need to, using a grease fire and Erin O’Neil’s bird familiars. Why don’t we jump back into the dungeon?

[atmospheric echoing noises, static]

Anthony: Horse Sy-Oak goes—

Horse: *[air horn sounds]*

Anthony: With his mouth; he doesn’t have a phone or anything, he just goes—

Horse: *[makes more mouth air horn sounds]* Farted in your face, another Horse Sy-Oak classic! *[more horn noises]* Who are these two ugly things?

Henry: Jeez louise, aw, what the frickin’.... Jeeze! Gosh darn it! Horsey— *[pauses]* Horsey? Horse— why.... Why do I know who you are? Ugh, you’re that jerk from— oh, jeez, ow, my head hurts!

Anthony: He starts throwing gang signs, and he’s like—

Horse: That’s right, that’s right, I was better than you before, I’m even better-er than you now! *[horn noises]*

Henry: *[angry]* Will everyone stop messing with me? No one tells me what’s going on anymore! My dad’s like, “oh, go into this mystery dungeon,” then I go through six layers of frickin’ traps and nonsense... My sons show up, they’re immortal or something, I don’t know what the heck’s going on there. And then I see, I guess, a lady in a movie theater that’s a telescope, and then you fart in my face, just— will someone tell me who I am and where I come from?

Ron: I want to watch the movie!

Henry: *[angry]* Ron wants to watch the movie! Is there a movie, or is this just all a big goof? What’s going on?

Anthony: Lark and Sparrow raise their hands. They go—

Lark/Sparrow: We would like to watch the film!

Anthony: And Horsey raises his hand, he goes—

Horse: Yeah, ding-dong, dingus. Your dad basically—

Henry: Hey, don't you talk to my boys like that, whoever you are, sir!

Horse: The ding-dong-dingus was for you.

Henry: *[sputtering]* Well, I don't appreciate that.

[laughter]

Horse: Good one, good one. Nailed that one.

Anthony: And they're like—

Lark/Sparrow: Father! Father, you're getting owned!

Henry: I'm not getting owned, boys. This is actually a teachable moment, because the only way I get owned, is if I stoop to his level of being toxic and mean. You know, you gotta be positive—

Horse: *[mimics Henry unintelligibly and makes fart noises]*

Henry: That's very immature, Horsey. And that doesn't surprise me, just based on your pattern of behavior, but I hope you can grow someday.

[Anthony laughs]

Horse: Oh, sorry, how does it look to look at your own weird, ugly grandmother and know that I can do this to her?

Anthony: And he just starts punching himself in the face over and over. And he goes like—

Horse: Who's winning now, huh? Who's winning now?

Henry: I mean... That doesn't— You're hurting yourself, so, you know...

Horse: Nah, I don't feel nothing. I feel great! Do you want to watch this stupid movie or not?

Henry: Horsey... hey, it's been a while, and, maybe it's just because I'm coming back to this as an adult now, but.... Are you alright, man? You okay?

[laughter]

Horse: I'm doing fine. Every day I wake up, and I'm not Hen Ry-Oak, so I'm feeling pretty good, baby!

Freddie: Ohhh!

Henry: Hmmm. Well, you know, gee whiz. I hope you know it hurts when you say stuff like that, and I'm a human being just like you are.

Horse: Uhh, uhh, that's why I say it! That's the point of it!

Henry: Hmm... you know, maybe there's some hurt inside that you're not addressing? We'll talk about that later, I am pretty anxious to see...

Freddie: "I got some hurt right here!" He says, as he farts again.

Anthony: *[laughs]* As Horsey is saying this to you, you see Lark reach into his back pocket and he takes out a sock with something heavy at the end of it. It's not red, but you get the sense from the metallic smell that it is blood, like a weird, phosphorescent, multicolored, rainbow stain on the end of this sock, and he goes—

Lark: Stop being mean to my father, or you're gonna get a little hit from *[whooshing noises]* Sockrates!

Henry: Horsey, can we put a pause on this for a second?

Horse: Yeah, handle your ugly, dumb kids.

Henry: Sir, excuse me, that's rude. Lark, what is that? What do you got in the sock, there? That doesn't look safe.

Anthony: He goes—

Lark: Oh, this?

Henry: Can I see that?

Will: And I try to take it from him. Oh, I shouldn't have said "try," I should have said "take it from him." But I said "try," so...That's what we're going with.

Anthony: No, no, it's fine. He basically hands it to you, like a samurai handing their sword over, like it's an object of great honor.

Will: I receive it in kind.

Lark: Oh! Thank you, sensei.

Will: And I do a little bow.

Lark: This isn't appropriate, what we're doing, this is just— we like samurai movies. This is fine, right?

Henry: I don't know, I'm gonna have to get back to you on that one.

Matt: Henry Oak's gonna be thinking about that all day. "Was that correct?"

Will: Yeah, Henry's thinking back to— he's like— "y'know, I remember reading *The Criterion Collection* cover for *Yojimbo* and there was an essay but— I don't know, this seems maybe weird. But then, the kids go to karate and in karate they're your sensei!" I think maybe it's just 'cause Henry isn't really their martial arts master in any way, shape, or form, but— it's just complicated! Henry doesn't know how he feels about it yet.

Ron: I think we need to saddle down. [chuckles] Maybe we got off on the wrong hoof? [chuckles again]

Henry: That's very funny, Ron. You're doing a good job. Hey, I appreciate you.

Horse: I don't get it, I don't get it. What's the dog laughing for?

Ron: Oh, we're just doing some witty... canter.

Henry: Ooh, Ron, that's really good!

Beth: That was really good, actually. Yeah, okay, cool.

Matt: Where's that inspiration?

Anthony: There's no inspiration in D&D 1.0.

Beth: Fuck!

[Matt and Freddie laugh]

Anthony: Lark and Sparrow say—

Lark/Sparrow: Oh, that was a weapon we found on one of our off-screen adventures with a group of mercenaries while you were away.

Henry: Hmm. I see...

Lark: Inside, you will note, is the head of a decapitated god.

Henry: A— excuse me!?

[laughter]

Lark: If Sockrates hits somebody, then they will take Wisdom damage, because the memories of the god will go into their brain and cause them a great deal of stress.

Henry: Oh my god, who gave this to you? Who are these bad mercenaries that let you have this?

Freddie: This very powerful weapon...

Henry: This is just— I'm keeping this with the gauntlets!

Will: And I put it in my bag.

Lark: Noo, why did I give it to you? Aw, Sparrow, never make that mistake again!

Will: Hmm, I sort of won the battle, lost the war, there, but—

Henry: Boys, Daddy can fight his own battles. Daddy and Horsey are old friends, and they're just catching up with each other, and... I can take care of myself, but I appreciate you—

Anthony: Give me a Dex save.

Will: I got a 15.

Anthony: You barely dodge out of the way as Horse Sy-Oak comes in for a noogie. He's got his arm out, ready to get your head in the crook of his elbow, and he goes—

Horse: Oh, he's getting a bit quicker, getting a bit— ohh, I like the chase, baby!

Will: Does he still look like my grandma?

Anthony: Yes.

[Freddie laughs]

Henry: Hey, hey, hey, no noogies, okay? Look, is this all a big bully-Henry prank, or is there something for me to learn up here?

Horse: Oh, no, this is real, this is real. Bear-Ry said somebody's got to stay here and encourage you to watch the thingy, and then I volunteered, so... you should watch the thingy.

Henry: I am gonna watch this thing.

Anthony: Okay.

Henry: But— oh, jeepers, I don't know about the B-O-Y-S watching this...

Sparrow: Father, father, father, father... Father, father, father. As you know, Lark and I have been reading the Wikipedia entries for the films that you and mother will not let us watch.

[Freddie laughs]

Henry: That was the compromise, so you would start reading. You're right, that was the trade-off.

[Matt laughs]

Sparrow: I have read about every *Saw* film, 1 through 7—

Henry: You read the *Saw* movies!?

Freddie: Holy shit. Holy shit.

Beth: Oh my gosh.

Sparrow: Frankly, I don't see the appeal. Frankly, I don't understand.

Henry: That's not— oh, jeez, this is explaining a lot about the last couple of Halloweens we've had in the house.

Sparrow: Yes.

Henry: Okay, boys, this is a big boy grown-up moment, but this has to do with our family, and we're gonna experience it together, cause you know I'm an open book. If anything— okay, here's what we're gonna do. If I say " earmuffs," you have to put your hands over your ears.

Lark/Sparrow: Mm-hmm?

Henry: And if I say "eyemuffs," you have to turn around. So if I say "ear and eyebuffs," you gotta close your ears and eyes, and turn the other way. Okay?

Lark/Sparrow: Of course. And these morality points are being tracked that we may later get the gauntlets, correct?

Henry: That's true. This is all going towards the gauntlets.

Lark/Sparrow: Fantastic, fantastic.

Ron: But, boys, it's okay, because if you have to cover your ears or your eyes, I will read you a Wikipedia passage from a movie that you would not be allowed to see.

Lark/Sparrow: Ooh.

Henry: I will let Ron do that, as long as I can approve the movie.

Lark/Sparrow: I'm delighted at this potential. This is what we in the biz call a win-win.

Henry: You're right, let's watch the film!

Anthony: Horsey goes—

Horse: Alright, everybody take your seats, ding-dongs. This is gonna be kind of a long, monologue type of thing, and you're just sort of gonna have to get details from it.

[Beth chuckles]

Henry: Okay, thanks, Horsey.

Horse: But also, if you want to interrupt, I can pause the movie, just, whenever.

Freddie: For goofs and riffs!

Horse: Just so you don't feel like you're sitting, listening to me.

[projector whirrs to life]

Anthony: Okay, Horsey jams his face into the side of the reel-to-reel projector, and it begins to grind away the mud on his homunculus face as it starts to turn. And he goes—

Horse: This is fine, this doesn't hurt, this is normal, I love this.

Anthony: And a light shoots out of the front of the projector and illuminates the back wall of this room.

Will: Why did he jam his face into it? I don't understand...

Horse: This is how I turn it on. Needs a little juice.

Henry: Oh, okay.

Matt: Horsey is the best character, by the way.

Horse: Needs some face juice, nerd. If you were cool, you'd know how to do this. AV club forever, nerds!

[laughter]

Matt: Yes.

Beth: No.

Anthony: An image flashes on to the back wall. And, you see the same woman you just saw shove her face into the reel-to-reel—

Will: What, no previews? Am I right?

Freddie: God.

Will: We don't fly along and there's a big popcorn floating in space, and then it pops—

Anthony: Yeah, it's a big ol' rollercoaster with horrible— the fantasy equivalent of 3D imagery. And people going, "wow!"

[Freddie hums theme music]

Anthony: A big horrible 3D soda with really bad fluid dynamics, but it doesn't have a brand on it, cause they don't want to offend any of their non-sponsors.

Matt: Are the goblins going bonkers right now?

Anthony: They're like, "WAAH!" They're so psyched. "What is this!?"

[laughter]

Anthony: So, once the coming attractions are done—

Will: Aw, *TENET* still hasn't come out.

Beth: Dang.

Will: Probably a *TENET* trailer.

Anthony: You see what you now know as presumably the image of your grandmother, who is investigating a science facility, which you now realize is the room that you're in, albeit one that's more new and clean and also filled with insane cultist people.

Will: Anthony, would you say that something happened in this room? And she is in the room where it happened? *[giggles]*

Freddie: God. *[sighs]*

Anthony: Correct. Her and her friends Eliza and Peggy. So, you see her with some friends, you see the friends— immediately the first thing you see is that one of her friends, who's a very handsome Chinese man who you immediately have some untowards feelings toward—

Henry: Ooh!

Anthony: His face gets smashed in by some horrible monster that you can't quite tell because it's in the distance, it's out of focus. And, soon, you see—

Matt: No earmuffs or eyemuffs, there, Henry?

Henry: Oh! Uh, eyemuffs! Eyemuffs!

Lark/Sparrow: Father, it's over, I think it's too late for that.

Henry: Aw, man! I'll get the next one! This is a fictional movie, guys, this is a fictional movie.

Ron: Lark and Sparrow, "*Body of Evidence* is a 1993 American erotic thriller film—"

[laughter]

Lark/Sparrow: Go on...

Ron: "It originally received the rare NC-17 rating—"

Lark/Sparrow: Ooh!

Beth: Okay, I'm done.

Anthony: So, you see your grandmother scream in terror as something engulfs her. It's something the camera can't seem to pick up, it's an undulating, cloudy mass of film grain and hair and static, and imperfections in the film itself, like entropy made manifest. She screams, and it engulfs her, and then everything goes black.

And when she opens her eyes again, she's somewhere new. She, and the building she was inside - this building - are in a new world. And the static, the grain, it's seemingly gone... Except, you can see that there's a little of it in one of her wrists, in the veins, traveling under the skin. A thin thread of static and decay coursing through her veins like blood. Can you tell I wrote this down beforehand?

Beth: Yes.

[laughter]

Anthony: Then she stumbles into a bright forest, then she meets a tall, young-looking immortal, an elf, with elven ears, he's handsome as anything.

Will: Wait, so the camera's like— are we... how is this being filmed?

Anthony: And the sound of Horsey's face grinding against the reels, you can hear him going—

Horse: It's a memory camera, nerd! Look it up sometimes, read a book, oh my god! Stupid, sports-ass-loving nerd, geez. Why don't you go hike, nerd? Why don't you go post about it on your—

Matt: Ding! The security camera wouldn't be at that angle!

Beth: I went to Chapman for this?

[projector whirrs, soft piano music begins]

Anthony: We see her meet this super-handsome elf, and we see the two of them slowly fall in love as she's taking pictures, and he's explaining the world to her, and they marry, and they have a son. And that son is Barry, you can just sense it by looking at him, even though he's a little baby.

And we see the static, that grain, that pinprick of chaos in your grandmother, that transfers into Barry. And it grows stronger, and bigger, and more opaque. And the child Barry grows up, and you see him studying, and learning magic, and bringing the creatures of the forest to heel, and teaching them to respect him and follow his instructions.

And travelers through the forest come to hear his tales, and his wisdom, and slowly he amasses a little community of people eager to hear the tales of dimensions beyond this one that his mother came from.

One day, he meets a human woman, a cleric, an adventurer named Autumn. And they fall in love, and they marry, and they have a son. And that son is named Henry. And you see, now, you're looking into the face of your young self. And it looks a lot like Lark and Sparrow, in a sense. You have a very strong family resemblance.

Beth: Aww.

Anthony: And the static, that film grain, that was in your grandmother and then down to your father? You see it pass from your father into you, and, again, it grows stronger, and it grows a little bit more chaotic.

[soft static mingles with the background noise, slowly growing louder]

Anthony: As Henry grows up, he constantly seeks the approval of his father, this larger-than-life figure who can command crowds of people with just his voice. But try as he might, Henry can't seem to live up to Barry's standards.

He makes art, but Barry finds it derivative. He casts spells, but Barry finds them weak. Barry seems to be more interested in the sound of his own voice booming out over crowds, than speaking to his own son, who seems to be a constant disappointment to him.

One day, Henry gets really angry when Horse Sy-Oak pushes him into some mud, and Henry comes back to his father, red-hot with rage and shaking. And rather than comforting his child, Barry gets angry at his own son for showing anger and showing negativity, and he chastises him for not being good enough to move past it.

Barry believes - and he tells all his followers this - that perfection can be achieved, but that Henry is, as of yet, incapable of doing so. Unlike himself, anyway. Barry learns how to shape the world; he finds a tree he considers to be perfect, and he replicates it over and over, and he makes a forest out of this one perfect tree. And he attracts people to this forest who are just as interested in finding perfection within themselves as he is.

And as Barry's commune grows in size, Henry's mother, Autumn, begins to grow cold and distant, even to Henry. In fact, we see her growing more and more fearful of Barry, to the point where, after a big speech of his, she gets so sick of his holier-than-thou-ness and his grandiosity, that she tries to stab him in the back, literally.

Matt: Whoa.

Anthony: He survives the attempt, but it's this incident that inspires him to create an anti-violence field around Oakvale. You see that he focuses all of his harmonic energies, while doing the most bodaciously flexible yoga, into a crystal. Once the crystal is made, you see people trying to slap each other, and it doesn't work, and now the anti-violence field is surrounding Oakvale.

Anthony: We see Barry, alone in his office, trying to create a sort of looking glass with which he can try to spy on other dimensions, and maybe spy the dimension that his own mother came from. And we get very brief glimpses of worlds beyond this one as he tries to attune this looking glass. We see radiation-scorched wastelands, we see neon megacities, we see vessels flying through the stars... but always, his attempts seem to end in failure before they really begin.

Anthony: Barry is furious, and, thinking that he's alone, he punches the looking glass as hard as he can, and he shatters it... but he's not alone. A young Henry is watching him from the shadows. Later, we see Henry, in his private study, mixing magical concoctions, casting spells, trying to repair his father's mirror. He's absconded with it from his father's office, and he's got it in his own room.

Anthony: And after many, many years of experimentation, of secret study, of hiding away from his father, of sleepless nights spent by candlelight as the static, the noise, the grainy anomaly inside of him grows larger and more erratic— after many years of that, success. The looking glass switches on, and it stays on. He can see another world, another forest in another dimension, unlike his own. But he can't just see it. He's drawn into it, pulled into it.

[shattering sound, and strong winds]

Anthony: Henry's body crashes into the mirror, shattering it, sending shards of magic and glass everywhere as he's pulled through the dimensions. His very mind is being torn out by the process of interdimensional travel.

Anthony: He screams, and his screams summon his father. But when Barry shows up, he only shows up a little too late as he watches his son pulled through a now broken mirror. And he knows that Henry is gone, but more than that, he knows that Henry has done it. That Henry has figured out what Barry could not.

Anthony: He takes a deep, calming breath. The look that comes over Barry is not one of anger or frustration, or even of concern for where his son has gone. It's a

faint smile. Maybe, the thing that made Henry special? Maybe that came from Barry, maybe it took so long for that specialness to show itself because Autumn's humanity and her imperfections polluted Barry's inherent wisdom.

Anthony: So, Barry thinks, "what I need to do is make another child who has more of my attributes and less of Autumn's, less of my wife's." So he makes another child out of the mud of the earth. And though he isn't a talented enough warlock to create a soul out of whole cloth, he can animate these homunculi with memories, the memories he has of his son, Henry.

Anthony: And so, into each new Oak child, into each homunculus, he puts a different memory of his time with Henry. And for the souls, he gains the help of a talented warlock, one from another dimension, who siphons the souls out of woodland creatures, and puts them into these homunculi. But none of these souls are good enough, because none of them are truly Henry. As Barry goes to gather more clay for the homunculi, the interdimensional warlock turns, and we see his face. It's Willy Stampler.

[film reel whirling continues, forest sounds fade in]

Anthony: Meanwhile, on the other side of the mirror, Henry's screams finally stop as he falls unconscious. And then he comes to in a forest, a forest unlike the one of his homeland. And he meets a beautiful hiker named Mercedes Garcia. And they fall in love, and they get married, and they have two beautiful boys.

Anthony: And that noise, that grainy chaos, passes into them— but not all of it. A third stays with Henry, inside of him, undulating and growing and maturing. And a third of it goes into Sparrow, and a third of it goes into Lark. And you get the sense that this creation, this unknowable chaos, is the same thing you saw when you looked at the horrible... dookie in the bathroom at Ballsdeep.

[sound effects cut out, group laughs]

Anthony: So, you now have lost your disadvantage—

Freddie: Aw, for a second I thought we were turning into a real lore podcast, then you referenced the one part where one of us looked at poop really bad. Like, oh, thank god, we're still *Dungeons and Daddies*!

Anthony: Yeah. So you lose your disadvantage on all that stuff because now you understand, to some extent, where it comes from. And the film goes white as the film reel runs out, and you just hear the slapping of the loose film as it hits the

other reel. And then Horsey removes his now-mangled mud-face from the projector, and he goes—

Horse: So, that's it. That's you.

Ron: I don't get it.

[laughter]

Ron: It was kind of entertaining, but then it was... I don't know, the last part just kind of lost me.

Anthony: So, Lark and Sparrow go—

Lark/Sparrow: Father, I do not understand, there was some sort of... there was some sort of creature and we have... we have some of the creature in us? And you have some of the creature in you?

Henry: *[dully]*... I don't know, boys. I... I don't know.

Will: And Henry is overwhelmed, and he's just staring at the flickering— that kind of white, flickering light. And it's like all of his questions have been answered, but none of them have. And he looks down at his two boys, and he says—

Henry: Well, I guess we'd better get out of here.

Will: He gets up and he says—

Henry: Thanks— thank you for showing that to me. Boys, boys, let's go.

Anthony: Your children, having not seen this side of you before, go—

Lark/Sparrow: *[stammering]* Of course, father. Yes, of course.

Anthony: And, as you go, the goblins are like—

Goblins: Bye, it was nice to meet you!

Anthony: And Horsey goes like—

Horse: Hey, you should go talk to Barry! Barry said he wanted to talk to you once you'd watched the movie.

Henry: Thanks, Horsey. That's what I was gonna do. But, thank you.

Will: And, so I— Henry just kind of wordlessly walks toward the door.

Anthony: Okay. And so—

Matt: Are you gonna roll on the encounter table?

[laughter]

Freddie: Yeah, yeah, yeah, roll on the encounter table, motherfucker!

Will: That's true, you do need to roll on the encounter table! We're still in Dungeons and Dragons 1.0. It's time to roll, do it.

Anthony: Okay. So, here's the thing about the third floor of a dungeon... once you hit the third floor, dragons get added to the encounter table. So if I roll poorly...

Matt: Wait, really?

Anthony: Yeah, really. Genuinely.

Will: Let's see it.

Anthony: ...Okay, so when you open the door to leave the room... There's a dragon by the door.

[laughter]

Anthony: With its ear up next to the door..

Freddie: No way! No...

Anthony: And it's like—

Dragon: *[modified, deep and echoing]* Hey, man... that was a lot.

Will: Henry hugs the dragon and starts crying.

[laughter]

Dragon: Oh! Whoa, whoa, whoa.

Will: And he's just sobbing. Bawling his eyes out, gripping the scales of this dragon and just holding onto it for dear life.

Freddie: That's a Morale roll, please?

Anthony: So he rolled really bad, and he's like—

Dragon: Oh, I didn't really come for— This isn't my scene. I'm good, I'm good...

Anthony: And the massive dragon tries to slink away from you, and gently removes your hands from its—

Will: Henry just kind of lets it go, and then wipes his eyes and wipes some snot from his mouth and his nose and goes—

Henry: *[tearful]* I'm fine, I- I'm fine, I— let's go, boys, let's go. Let's get out of here.

Beth: Dog-Ron saddles up to Henry and his ears kind of flop down, he's like, *[whimpers]*. You know, like when—

Will: Henry breaks down sobbing and hugs Ron for dear life, like—

Henry: *[loud sobbing, gasping]* It's, it's okay— I'm okay...

Beth: And then Ron puts his head back, and he's like—

Ron: *[howls mournfully]*

Anthony: Lark and Sparrow begin to climb up your legs like in *Shadow of the Colossus*, and they manage to make their way to your shoulders, and they both hug you around the neck and they go—

Lark/Sparrow: Father, no, it's going to be okay!

Henry: It's okay, boys, it's okay, we're gonna be okay, just... *[sniffles]* It's alright, I'm okay, I'm okay, let's just— it's fine, let's get out of here, though, okay? Let's just go.

Lark/Sparrow: Okay. We love you, Father!

Henry: I—*[sniffles, even more tearful]* Don't say that right now, boys, okay? Just let me get out of here, let me get out of this— okay, let's go, it's alright, it's alright, let's go!

Will: And then, Henry is holding their hands really tight, more for his security than theirs, and he walks out of the dungeon.

[ad break]

[birds chirping]

Anthony: Outside the dungeon, Glenn and Darryl, you see Henry leave the dungeon with Lark and Sparrow on his shoulders like pauldrons as he holds their hands. And then, behind him, Ron the Dog—

Beth: Dog-Ron runs up to Ron, and is so happy to see him.

Anthony: Mustache-Ron kneels over and goes—

Mustache-Ron: Hey there, good boy!

Ron: Hey! I've missed you so much.

Mustache-Ron: I missed you, too.

Anthony: And he hugs you really close, and he puts his nose right next to your ear, and then you hear the familiar voice of Mr. Mustache going—

Mr. Mustache: Hey man, what's up? I was trying to wingman you, like, friendship wingman you. I just thought I could do some good. How you doing? How you doing? You feeling alright?

Ron: Oh, I'm doing pretty good, actually. I got some good tummy rubs down there, and, Mr. Mustache— I mean, *[loudly]* Ron...

Mr. Mustache: Nice save, good save.

Ron: Thanks. It means a lot that you've been, sort of—

Darryl: Uh, wait...

Glenn: I'm not....

Matt: Darryl's like—

Darryl: Excuse me, Mr. Must—? Is... Ron, is your mustache talking?

Beth: Ron— Dog-Ron turns over and he's like—

Ron: *[inquisitive dog noise]*

[laughter]

Darryl: Ron, we know you're still the dog.

Anthony: And the standing Ron goes—

Mr. Mustache: Uhh, I'm feeling faint, oh, my soul's going back into the dog now! Everything's confusing! Bye!

Anthony: And he falls over.

[laughter]

Glenn: That makes total sense! Wow!

Beth: Dog-Ron curls up next to body-Ron.

Will: Henry just wants to get out of this elf body, so—

Anthony: So Canary's here, so she goes—

Canary: Oh, are you done? I can put you back in your original bodies.

Henry: I- I'm done.

Will: And I set my boys down.

Canary: No problem! No problem at all! *[hums a jaunty tune]* Boop!

Anthony: And she boops you on the nose, and then, with a bright light on her finger, she goes—

Canary: Oh, crap! I probably should've gotten your body first!

Anthony: She goes back to where she let your body sit down, and she - boop!- into your body, and she does the same thing with Ron-Dog and Mustache-Ron. And now you are back in your original bodies, and your homunculi forms just fall over and they look like they're sleeping.

Ron: Hey, Mr. Mustache?

Mr. Mustache: Yeah? What's up?

Ron: I was wondering— I mean, I've got that dog right there, that dog body's ready to go...

Freddie: Oh my god. Oh my god!

Ron: If you wanted, you could have your own body! You could be a dog... Ron? But you could be your own person, you know? Really— cause you've helped me out so much, and I feel like the best thing that I could do for you, maybe, is to let you go, you know.

Mr. Mustache: But I still want to hang out with you, I like you.

Ron: Oh, I would love you to hang out with me, all the time! You're so close to me and everything, but I thought, if you want to sort of explore on your own, or just not have to let this old guy bring you down or whatever, you could just be a Dog-Mustache.

Mr. Mustache: Oh, I like this.

Ron: It's your choice, buddy.

Mr. Mustache: My choice is definitely yes! Yes, yes, yes.

Ron: Well that's great!

Anthony: Canary overhears this and she's like—

Canary: Did you need somebody to go back into the dog homunculus?

Ron: Yes. A friend of mine. A very good friend of mine...

[Freddie laughs]

Canary: Okay!

Ron: It's the mustache, it's—

[everyone laughs]

Darryl: I knew it! I knew you were talking to this mustache, Ron!

Ron: Well, now he's a very good boy mustache!

Anthony: Yeah, the mustache, now that the jig is up, immediately starts to move its tendrils, the little wisps at the end, he goes—

Mr. Mustache: Yes, I am a good boy! And now I will be... the best boy! The best boy! Yes, yes, yes!

Anthony: And it's punching the air with its little mustache arms. And Canary goes - boop!- and takes the soul out of the mustache, and it immediately droops, you look like Sam Elliot. And she just puts the soul of the mustache into the dog, and the dog immediately grows a new mustache at the front of its snout. And the dog is like—

Mr. Mustache: This is correct, this feels right.

Will: This is fine.

Darryl: Wait, I'm confused. Henry, did you guys just find the mustache down there? What- what happened down there?

[Anthony laughs]

Henry: No, no, no.

Darryl: What happened?

Henry: I don't know, man. It's really... *[sighs]* It's really fucked up— it's really frenched up, excuse me. It's really bad, and I need to speak with my father, like, right now.

Matt: Darryl, who's never heard Henry say the F-word like that, leans over to—

Will: I've definitely called Darryl the F-word several times in this podcast

[laughter]

Matt: But, the way you're talking... Darryl leans over to Glenn and is like—

Darryl: We might be getting that grease fire ready. Looks like it was serious.

Glenn: Looks like it was pretty hardcore down there. It's okay, we've got similar hardcore actions to be able to respond with, so let's just ride it out and see how this goes.

Darryl: Whatever you need, do you— should we like... what's the angle, what's—

Glenn: Yeah, do you need us to come with you? Are we coming in? Like, what's the plan here, man?

Darryl: Are we coming— We've got weapons, is this a talk? What's the game plan?

Glenn: Is this a talk, or, like, a "talk"?

Henry: This is a talk, this is a normal, boring talk. I'm sorry.

Darryl: Oh, okay.

Henry: It's going to be boring for you guys, but it's— I need to, I need to talk to him. So, um...

Darryl: Do you want some fries?

[laughter]

Henry: Yeah, man, I'd love some fries, sure...

Matt: I hand him a bunch of my fries that I've been chewing on.

Will: Henry just shovels them into his mouth, and just eats them all in one gigantic go. He's like—

Henry: These are delicious. Darryl, do you have any more of those beers, man?

Sparrow: *[scandalized]* Father!

Darryl: Oh... no. It was all in the car, it's all in the Beast!

Henry: Alright...

Darryl: I— hey, you go talk to your dad, I will find you beer, it'll be good beer, I'll make sure it's good beer with style. What do you like?

Beth: *[laughing]* I thought you were gonna go get the Honda Odyssey, somehow!

Darryl: I'm going to go get the Honda Odyssey, I'm gonna go get my beer, and then I'll bring it to you—

Anthony: Six years later, Darryl comes back with a beer.

Henry: It's okay, it's okay, it's okay. *[deep breath]* Guys, I found out some pretty jacked-up stuff about where I come from. TL;DR— that's a thing that kids say, right? Doesn't it mean, like—

Lark: Correct!

Henry: Trippy, long, dumb read, or something like that? I saw— I read an article about it... Anyway, in summation, there's some sort of Eldritch, interdimensional nonsense at play, and there's sort of a family curse in the works here, and I need to settle this dang thing once and for all.

Sparrow: Like the F-word!

Henry: Huh?

Sparrow: You said a curse!

Henry: Oh, a curse. No, I mean— it's not that kind of curse, boys. It's kind of a darker kind of curse.

Lark: Father, Father—

Anthony: And they're stroking your face like *Face/Off* and they're like—

Lark/Sparrow: You can never be cursed if you're who you are! We're the Oak boys, everything's going to be good.

Beth: Aww.

Henry: [*sighs*] Thanks, boys. I love you both so much.

Lark/Sparrow: Yes, now can we have the gauntlets?

Freddie: Glenn strokes his chin, he says—

Glenn: They said they didn't watch *Face/Off*, yet they know the *Face/Off* move, hmm...

Freddie: Glenn will remember that!

Henry: Canary, where is my father? I heard that he wants to speak to me.

Canary: Yes, absolutely! He'll just be waiting for you at the top of that temple. You shouldn't be stopped!

Glenn: Do you need us to come with you, Henry?

Henry: Yeah, y'know, I feel like we've been pretty split up from each other, and I just feel like I'm not as close to you guys as I used to be, because this adventure, we've been less— I guess it's only been a couple hours, but, I miss you guys.

Glenn: I think it's time to get the band back together, is what you're saying.

Henry: I'm pretty scared right now, and I could use my fellow dads to back me up.

Glenn: But it feels like Paeden and your kids should probably lay low...

Henry: I— whatever, man, fuck it, who cares? Let's just go, let's just do it, let's all go, let's go. I'm sick of this.

Matt: Yeah, I'm just bringing the kids. I'm pushing Paeden along, like—

Darryl: *[whispering]* Yeah, yeah, yeah, let's just go.

Paeden: Okay.

Will: Henry just starts walking towards the temple.

Matt: Is the walk long enough that Ron explains everything that happened in the video?

Anthony: If Ron wishes to, yes.

Darryl: Ron, are you gonna tell us what you guys saw?

Ron: What I saw? Uh, okay. So, there's a flashback to a long time ago, and this woman, she's in the wrong place, right? And so she goes to a different place, and then it's really scary, but instead of being scared she sees this hot guy, and she's like, "yo, let's get together!"

Ron: And they get together, and then they have, um. They have a kid and then... it's like, there's this creepy juice that gets into the kid, and the kid, uh—

[laughter]

Freddie: Creepy juice!

Will: Henry's at the door of the temple, he's like—

Henry: Are you guys coming, or what?

Matt: I don't care— do we know what happened?

Anthony: Yes.

Matt: We know what happened. We know what was— okay.

Anthony: So, the door to the temple is open and waiting for you, and the guards out front of the temple usher you in and say—

Guards: There's an elevator in the center, Prince Oak. He awaits you in the highest chamber of the temple.

Darryl: *[whispering]* He's a prince!

Henry: Great, great.

Freddie: As I'm walking by the guards, I go, like—

Glenn: Hey, they got some some french fries up in the food court over there, you guys should check it out.

[Beth laughs]

Anthony: And they go, "ooh, french fries!" And then they run.

Will: Henry's pretty over this, so he steps in the middle of the elevator, and he's just like—

Henry: Alright, what do we— is there a spell or something? What do we do?

Anthony: Once all of you are inside the elevator, it begins to rise, because it's a flat platform that's at the top of a tree, and the tree— you can feel this groaning, stretching, as the tree beneath you starts to grow and rise up with you.

Anthony: And as you rise up, you can see that the interior of this temple... there are trees damn near everywhere. It's not made out of wood, but there are the same beautiful tree copy and pasted all over the inside of this place as well, at different levels and different sizes... Almost in a way that doesn't seem— it's not symmetrical? It just draws your eye in a weird way, like, "why are there so many of these damn trees in here? What for?"

Anthony: And, a lot of graven images of Barry, being heroic, being handsome, doing yoga, speaking to large crowds of people.

Henry: So, that's my dad, guys. That's my dad. This is what I grew up with, is... all this.

Darryl: He seems like he thinks he's cool, huh.

Henry: He sure does.

Anthony: And eventually you reach the top floor, and there is a big closed door in front of you, and to the right, there is an open door. And through that, you can see

an older version of a woman that you saw in the film, who Barry married. An older version of your mother, Autumn, sitting in her room, knitting furiously.

Will: The look of anger on Henry's face melts. And he stops, and he says—

Henry: Mom?

Will: And he steps towards her.

Anthony: Your mother looks up, and she sees you. And for a microsecond, you see joy flash over her face. And then it's replaced with utter disappointment. And she just goes—

Autumn: Oh, he found you.

Henry: *[tearful]* Mom, it's me, it's- it's Hen. I'm— *[his voice breaks]*

Will: And he sort of stumbles towards her, nervously.

Henry: Hi, I, uh. I know it's been a bit, I got lost. Um. How are you, are you okay?

Autumn: I was better before you came back, son.

Henry: I missed you, Mom. *[sniffles]* I missed you so much.

Autumn: I...missed you, too, for... a little while. And then I thought, "no, it's good. You got away. You got away from all... all of this." But now you're back, and things are gonna be worse than they were.

Henry: I'm gonna fix it, Mom, I'm gonna make it better, okay?

Autumn: I...

Henry: I don't know what's going on, but I'm here now, and I'm gonna— whatever's going on, I'm gonna fix it. For us.

Anthony: Your mother takes the knitting needles into one of her hands, and she comes toward you, and she grabs you by the shoulders, and she goes—

Autumn: You have to find a way to kill him. This can't keep happening. Whatever is wrong with this family, whatever horrible shit has happened, it

has to end with you, and- and whoever those— those are your kids? You have kids? I'm a— I'm a grandmother... Holy shit.

Henry: *[tearful]* These are my boys... these are— this is Lark and Sparrow.

Autumn: ...It has to end—

Henry: *[voice breaking]* These are your grandkids. Mom, I'm—

Autumn: *[stammering]* I- I don't want to meet— *[shouting]* I don't want to meet them! I don't want to meet them.

Henry: ...Okay. Okay. I'm gonna go now. Um. I love you.

Autumn: *[stammers]*... Don't come back.

[Henry sniffles quietly]

Will: ...Henry turns and walks out the door, and closes it.

Anthony: You hear sobbing from inside.

Henry: *[subdued]* Okay, guys, this is gonna be tough. Just follow my lead in there, okay?

Darryl: Yeah. We have your back, man, whatever you need.

Glenn: Yeah, you got it, buddy.

Will: I turn to Lark and Sparrow, and I get down on one knee, and I say—

Henry: Boys, I love you so much. And, lord— *[his voice breaks, he begins to cry]*. Lord knows I have not been the best father to you, and I did not have the best father, and maybe I didn't— I didn't learn the stuff I should have learned to teach you how to be a man. And I'm sorry.

Henry: And if we make it through this, I'm gonna try to do better, and I'm gonna be tougher on you guys, cause, you know... Sometimes you just drive me crazy. You know, I love you so much, but sometimes you drive me crazy, and it scares the shit out of me. *[sniffles]*

Henry: You've got to learn to control yourselves... for Pete's sake, look at all this! I know you don't understand any of this yet, but someday you will, and you're gonna know that you've got to love yourself, but you've got to control yourself, too.

Henry: But, I don't know what's gonna happen in there, so...

Will: And Henry reaches into the bag, and he takes the gauntlets out. And he puts one on Lark, and he puts one on Sparrow. And, he says—

Henry: You two, protect each other, and love each other, and fight for each other no matter what. And you love everyone in this world, you care for everyone in this world, you never close your heart to anybody.

Henry: And... I don't know if I can ever tell you to stop being so crazy, maybe that's just a part of who we are, you know? Maybe it's just part of who we are, that we've got this thing inside us that we don't understand... And I'm not gonna tell you to be ashamed of it, I'm not gonna tell you to hate it, because lord knows I hated it in me, so long, and I fought it for so long, and look where it got me!

Henry: But, you have to love each other, and you have to love everybody. And I want you to treat everybody in this world like you treat your brother. Okay? Because I know the two of you love each other, and I want you to share that with the world. *[sniffles]* ...And if anything happens in there, you fight like hell for each other.

Anthony: The kids put their gauntleted fists together, and towards you, and they go—

Lark/Sparrow: Father...so long as we are together, it will be O-A-K.

Henry: Let's go.

Will: And I get up, and I open the door to the other room.

Anthony: As you open the door, you see an offensively well-furnished room. It's like a throne room out of your dreams. Every single piece of wood in here is filigreed with gold, there are infuriatingly tasteful and well-designed statues of Barry Oak surrounding the perimeter of the room, and in the center of the room you see Barry Oak himself, standing with a staff. And, why don't you go ahead and roll Perception. Or, Investigation.

Will: I got a 24.

Anthony: You see that, the crystal at the top of this staff, that's the crystal that you saw him making in the film after Autumn tried to kill him. And also, with a 24, you can tell that he's hiding something from you. There's something in this room that he does not want you to see. And you can also feel with a certainty— and, with a 24 you can know that this is actually separate from the hidden thing— you know that somewhere in this room is your anchor.

Henry: Hi, Dad.

Barry: Those tears can only mean one thing. You've seen the truth. Oh, I'm so proud of you for getting through...

Henry: What do you want?

Barry: I want you to stay here. Our whole lives, you, and I, and I'm sure your sons... we've always felt the sense that we were just... a little bit better than other people. A little bit more special. That there was something about us that was a little bit smarter, and more kind, and more empathetic, and we— We were always disappointed by other people.

Barry: And now you know why that is! It's because there's something incredible that was inside me, and now it's inside you and your children. You have this incredible thing, this thing that goes beyond words, beyond names, beyond understanding, some sort of god, some power, who knows? But it's within you!

Barry: I can teach you how to control that, because— my poor boy, you understand, I mean, no one knows better than you. Your anger can get out of control, you can lose a handle on it, bad things can happen when you lose control of yourself, and now you know how bad. And those two boys, I've been watching them from a distance, they are certainly something to behold... And if they ever lost control - and with your parenting style it is a little bit possible that they will - some very bad things could happen.

Barry: And I just want you to know that I care about you, I like you, and, while you are in Oakvale, we can learn this power together! We can learn how to harness it and use it for good! That's all I want.

Henry: No. Why? You—?

Glenn: Yeah, this place sucks.

Darryl: Yeah, fuck you, buddy.

Barry: Okay, well, obviously your emotions are— *[takes a breath]* Breathe deeper. In through the nose, out through the mouth.

Will: Henry sticks his hand back to the guys, like, “I got this.” Like—

[laughter]

Barry: I know you want to go back to your world. And, hey, for you, I would love that as well. I’m sure your wife, or whoever the mother of these two is, I’m sure she’s great. Whatever.

Barry: The thing is, if this power inside you, if you can’t control it properly, or you can’t control your kids properly? It could mean the end of the entire reality that you’re in. You could go back to your home, and your little human wife, and all your little human friends...They could be consumed in chaos and randomness if you can’t control them. And frankly, my boy? My poor son, you know as well as I do... you can’t control these children. You can’t control yourself! There is something superior in you, but you’re so afraid of it, you’re so upset at yourself for that specialness within you that it just manifests as all this rage. And it’s so cute that you won’t admit how wonderful you truly are.

Barry: But the time has come to accept that part of yourself. And I can help you. If you stay here, we can keep all the world safe, we can keep your children safe. We can find a way to bring your lovely wife here, perhaps! But you can’t simply leave, that would be foolish. That would be a classic Hen Ry-Oak blunder, as I used to say when you were growing up.

Henry: Dad, I... What do you want from me? What is this? Are you fucking kidding me? I can’t— what is this bullshit all about? Yeah, there’s some— some fucked up thing happened to our family, some bad thing happened to my grandma. And it passed on to you, and it passed on to me, and that’s just part of who we are, and we’ve got to deal with that.

Henry: But that doesn’t make us better than anyone, that doesn’t make us worse than anybody, it’s just a thing! Who gives a shit? So reality is a little more complicated than we thought it was, and there’s weird gods and

demons and who the hell else knows what's going on, but that doesn't make us better— it doesn't work that way!

Anthony: Barry begins to calmly do yoga, and he goes, “ugh,” and he's stretching, and he goes—

Barry: I was prepared for this, yes, yes, yes. The funny thing about anger, is it comes from a place of inferiority, and not quite believing in yourself sufficiently. And that's why you've never seen me to be angry, Henry, it's because I know—

Henry: [*scoffs*] Yeah, just passive-angry.

Barry: Yeah, I—

Henry: Give me a fucking break, you've been angry the entire time I've known you.

Anthony: Ooh. That's good. Roll a Persuasion, with advantage.

Will: Okay. Ooh, cool! Hey! I got a 19.

Anthony: Ooh! Okay.

Freddie: Ooh!

Anthony: So, for the first time, maybe in your life, as far as you can remember, you see his eye twitch. You hear his breathing, his practiced, rhythmic breathing... it goes a little bit off-tempo. And he flicks an eye in your direction, and he goes—

Barry: [*mockingly*] Oh, this will be delightful. In what way am I angry, exactly?

Henry: Dad, stop. Stop. Dad, stop. Dad, I love you, okay? Despite everything, I love you, and maybe I'm just seeing things a little bit more clearly now, but I think you're angry for the same reason that I'm angry.

Henry: Because the thing that's inside you, that's inside me, it scares you the way it scares me. And I'm angry because I can't control it. I don't think I'm perfect, I don't think I'm better than everyone, I think I'm fucked up! I think I'm a broken man!

Henry: And I try so hard— do you know what? You think my fucking favourite TV show is the sunrise? Man, I like *Cheers*! I don't fucking care about the sunrise! I'm sick of it, dude!

[all laugh]

Freddie: Oh, shit...

Henry: You fight it and you fight it and you squeeze it down more and more and more, and you know, I guess maybe your way of dealing with it is— *[sighs]* Shit, I don't know what it was like for you when you were a little kid with Grandma and Grandpa. You must have been so confused, it must have been so scary for you! And I don't know what you received growing up, but... this isn't normal!

Henry: And I don't mean to say that to shame you, I just— You don't have to be this amazing, perfect guy, you can just be Barry! That's all I ever wanted from you growing up, man, I just wanted a dad! People don't love you! People don't love you, cause you don't show yourself, you just show them this image of what you want to be! And everyone sees through it, but they're too scared of you to say anything. Well, I'm saying something, Dad!

Henry: You're angry, you're pissed off, just maybe accept that for a second! Maybe you're not gonna beat this thing, maybe there's not— shit, I'm rambling, man, I just... can we not? Can we just put this away?

Henry: *[sighs]* I spent so long hating you, even though I forgot about you, and it was the best thing that ever happened to me. But it was always in the back of my head somewhere, and here I am, and I've got to face it now, but...

Henry: Dad, I can't carry hate for you in my heart. What does that teach my boys? I just told them they've got to love everybody, which means I have to love you, and I love you, and I don't... I don't want to fight.

Henry: You know, Mom said she wants me to kill you! What does that say about you? What does that say about your relationship, man? Damn. Just, Dad, let's not. Just give me my anchor and maybe— who knows what's gonna happen? But I know that this isn't working. What you're doing, what you've been doing, isn't working, and it's not too late to change.

Anthony: Roll Persuasion.

Will: Do I get advantage on that one?

Anthony: No. It was great, I just can't keep giving you advantage.

[Will and Beth chuckle]

Will: Oh, I got a 17.

Anthony: *[pauses, scratches his face]* ...Okay. Okay. It's right on the edge of what I was gonna do. Okay.

Freddie: Will, stop edging our DM!

[laughter]

Beth: Yeah! God...

Anthony: Barry pauses for a second, and he moves through his Vinyasa. And he stands, and he says—

Barry: Fine. Not a problem.

[Will hums doubtfully]

Anthony: And he moves to a chest on his desk, a little chest. He opens it up, and he takes out a bottle of overnight oats. And you can sense once it's out of its chest, this is your anchor. And he holds it up in his hand and he goes—

Barry: Willy gave this to me. He said not to let you have it under any circumstances. He said to keep it hidden. I am choosing to ignore that direction from him. And now, I give it to you, Hen. My son.

Anthony: And he holds it out to you.

Will: Can I make a Perception check on my daddy?

Anthony: It would be Insight, but yes.

Freddie: I, too, would like to make an Insight check. Glenn knows not to accept cereal from strangers, and he narrows his eyes.

Will: I got a 10.

Anthony: Okay, so with a 10, you can't tell if he's telling the truth or not. Glenn, what about you?

Freddie: I got an 18.

Anthony: Okay, with an 18—

Freddie: Glenn's had a lot of bad deals, he's gotten a sixth sense for it, okay?

[laughter]

Anthony: Glenn's had a lot of condescending people offer him cereal!

Freddie: You don't do a lot of mall gigs without dealing with some of the scum of the Earth, you know what I'm sayin? Some of these malls, man, these guys, they don't get you paid. You're halfway across state lines before you even see a check! Nah, he knows. He's got a nose for it.

Anthony: So you can tell that the overnight oats he's handing to Henry are indeed the anchor. But there is something deeply, desperately, horribly important that he is not telling Henry.

Freddie: I use my foot to kind of nudge Henry in the back of the ankle a little bit. And I'm like—

Glenn: Hmm, Henry, I've been through a lot of deals... Something about this feels fishy. I don't like it one bit.

[Henry sighs wearily]

Beth: Can I roll Arcana? I weirdly have +4 in it, and I just want to see if I can sense anything that's kinda weird that isn't the overnight oats?

Will: Ooh!

Anthony: I like it.

Will: Check out the big brain on Ron!

Anthony: Yes, go ahead and roll Arcana for me.

Beth: Okay... that is a natural 1. You hate to see it.

[sympathetic groans from the group]

Anthony: Unfortunately, cannot tell.

Matt: I have +6 in Athletics, can I, like— is there anything I can lift that would tell me what's going on?

Beth: Yeah, do that.

[laughter]

Matt: Can I, like—

Will: The question on every jock's mind!

Beth: I've got it! Lift Ron up, and then I'll roll Arcana again, because I'll be higher up.

[laughter]

Matt: Higher point of view.

Beth: Yeah.

Anthony: That's very stupid, so yeah, go ahead and do that.

Matt: Alright, oh, great, perfect. Let me help you out. 'Cause Ron is short, I'm like, "let me help you out, here."

Beth: Yeah.

Matt: And Darryl picks up— even with a +6, he gets a 9. So I feel like Darryl tries to pick up Ron, and then he goes, *[groan of pain]*, and his back gives out, and he just kneels down and goes—

Darryl: Shit. Sorry, Ron, get off me, get off me. Sorry.

Freddie: *[laughing]* You fucking idiot!

Anthony: I'll give you all one more go. If one person wants to give me a Perception check.

Will: Okay, I'll give you a Perception check.

Freddie: Can I Bardic Inspiration you right now? Can I Bardic Inspiration you right now?

Will: You can Bardo me. Like, you just pull out your guitar and strum a chord? What do you do?

Freddie: No, I'd probably just kind of whisper some lyrics.

Will: What do you whisper?

Freddie: Having heard the Henry Oak album, he's gonna whisper—

Beth: Damn.

Anthony: The thing about Cartwright's pussy?

Beth: Yeah.

[laughter]

Beth: He's over there like, *[mimicking acoustic arrangement]* Yabba-dabba-do me, give my pussy a TED talk.

Freddie: Yeah, I whisper to Henry, I go—

Glenn: Henry... yabba-dabba-do `em!

Henry: *[splutters]* Uh, alright... I don't—

[laughter]

Matt: That's disadvantage. It throws him off his game so hard...

Henry: I don't— it's my dad, dude, what are you talking about?

Barry: What did he say? What did that one say?

Henry: He— don't worry about it.

Will: I got a 19 Perception, and then I'll— what does Bardic get me? I can roll a d6?

Freddie: You can roll a d8 to add to it.

Will: Alright, I'm gonna put some stank on it, then... I got an 8! So that's... something really high.

[impressed noises from the players]

Anthony: Wow, that's a 27. So, the check was for a 20. So you smash the check. So, you notice— it's so small, and it's so subtle, it's no wonder that you didn't notice it before. But there's a tiny, tiny, tiny little dot above the left eyebrows of Lark and Sparrow.

Henry: What...?

Anthony: And you remember that when Canary was telling you about the homunculi, when she pointed out Paeden, she said that was Barry's signature on all his homunculi. Paeden has that same dot in that same spot, and Lark and Sparrow have one as well, but it's very small and very subtle and you just now realized it.

Henry: Dad?

Barry: Yes, son?

Henry: Where are my children?

Barry: They're— they're right in front of you. They're holding very silly-looking gloves.

Henry: No, those are— they've got your little dot on them.

Barry: Oh... my commitment to my brand, I knew it was going to be— I knew I was going to regret that one of those days. Yes, yes, correct. Yes. Those are homunculi, with the souls of your children inside of them. Yes.

Matt: Darryl leans over to Glenn, he's like—

Darryl: *[whispering]* Henry can't be mad, because like...it wasn't really even his kids that we—

Glenn: Yeah, yeah, yeah. Technically, we are completely absolved of any parenting crimes that we did.

Darryl: Yeah, we're good. Yeah.

Glenn: Now, this is actually a plus for us. Probably a negative for us as a whole— Wait a minute... Did you do this to all the kids!?

Barry: No, no, I don't want your disgusting kids. No, no, no. Just the special—

[sighs of relief from the other dads]

Barry: Just these two beautiful boys.

Henry: Where are my children, Dad?

Barry: I wonder.. I wonder if you're right. I wonder if trying to tamp these emotions down is not the right move. If trying to hide this darkness inside of us, this chaos that's bubbling just beneath the surface, I wonder if that's just—perhaps in some way that's dishonest. Perhaps you're correct.

Anthony: And he, with horrifying speed, punches the air upward, just—phwoom! And the wooden surface of the floor that you're standing on, almost—or exactly—like an Earthbender from Avatar, a pillar of wood— a big branch, practically with a fist on the end of it, just a ball of a gnarled bunch of branches—just hits Sparrow in the face so hard he flies through the air and slams against the back wall of the room. And he goes—

Barry: I think, actually, I'd like to see your fucking anger, Henry.

Will: Henry, fuckin', turns into a bear. And he says—

Henry: Okay, then. Let's go.

Freddie: Ohh shit, it's on!

Beth: Fuck...

Freddie: It's on!

[outro music plays]

Freddie: Dungeons and Daddies is Matt Arnold as Darryl Wilson, Anthony Burch as our DM, Will Campos as Henry Oak, Beth May as Ron Stampler, and myself, Freddie Wong, as Glenn Close. Theme song and outro is All Right by Maxton Waller.

Freddie: We are supported by our patrons at [Patreon.com/dungeonsanddads](https://patreon.com/dungeonsanddads). You should probably check that website out, but in the meantime shoutout to Dylan Irwin, Ty Enrico, Milo Mitsong Is An Uncle I Love You Wella— that's a very long name. Milly Z, Christian Friend, Kay Burnett, Jim Pogle, Kyle Fisher, Jordan K. Thomas, Thomas Niebour, Kendall Hunt, Julianne de los Santos, Ezekiel Soir, Cody Kerker, Sarah Watson, Jasmine Phillips, Claire Roe, Nicholas Johnson, Asad Khan, Megan Fisk.

Freddie: Some things I want to tell you about— First of all, if you're in the United States, we're heading into an election. Have you registered to vote? Voting, as you know, is considered by many to be the ultimate pro-gamer move, so if you haven't registered yet, head over to headcount.org/daddies to get yourself properly registered to vote. We have a registration goal, and if we hit that, we're gonna do a bonus West Wing-style one shot full of intense, long-hallway walk-and-talk scenes. Head on over to headcount.org/daddies— get over there, register, it only takes two minutes.

Freddie: Our store is up with DFTBA now, and our shipping rates aren't totally wild, so if you want merch, head on over to DFTBA.com, click on Creators, click on Dungeons and Daddies. Check out what we have on offer.

Feddie: Follow us on Twitter @DungeonsandDads, Reddit.com/r/DungeonsandDaddies, or our website, dungeonsanddaddies.com. Thank you so much for listening, next episode's coming at you September 29, so we will see you then!

[outro music ends]

Beth: Listen, I don't want to spread hate on anybody, but if there's 17 minutes of things wrong with *The Godfather Part II*, it's like, shut the fuck up.

[laughter]

Beth: "Part II is a Roman number, it's not the number! It should be the doodley 2, just the 2!" Ding!

[all laugh]

Beth: "Whoa! *Godfather II* got fuckin owned on YouTube today!"

[laughter, fades out]