

Week 1: Portent

THRIFTY THURSDAYS 1

Introducing Thrifty Thursdays, where Walt the Budget Budgerigar shows you a super cheap card that you should be playing!

Do you ever wish you could Ponder life, but just can't muster up that \$2.99? Ponder no longer, because for only \$0.35 Portent has your back!

Google's dictionary defines portent as "a sign or warning that a momentous or calamitous event is likely to happen", but what the dictionary won't tell you is that YOU have the power to stop that calamity! Big Boi Blue Player just cast Vampiric Tutor and you've got that big old portent feeling? Well pay attention because this next step is imPORTENT 😊.

"Oh hey Big Boi Blue, let's see those top 3 cards! What's this Cyclonic Rift doing here?! Let me see you SHUFFLE!!"

What's that imaginary studio audience, you don't want your friends to hate you? Well worry not, because you can cast Portent on yourself and Ponder why anybody would pay \$2.99 for something you can do for 11.7056856187% of the price! Get Budgeted!

Week 2: Dawn Charm

THRIFTY THURSDAYS 2

Do you like to say no, especially to people who are pleased with themselves? Look no further than Dawn Charm, the whitest counterspell that's actually good!

Do you ever find yourself the target of a literal storm full of comets? Immolating inferno? Power crackling all over you? Not anymore! Nobody expected the Spanish Inquisition, and likewise this is also probably maybe good!

Uh oh, Daniel's about to nuke you with a 745/745 trample, haste, indestructible frog! His cat snake abomination says you can't even counterspell it! What will you do??? Good news, this Dawn can be foggy too!

"That's all great, Walt, you enormous-brained genius," I hear you say, "but what about when someone blows up all of my creatures for the 9th time in the game?" Reader, you flipping silly coot, in the (paraphrased) words of the Rogue Traders' Natalie Bassingthwaighte: "Here comes the Dawn, here comes the Dawn!"

“Walt, there’s a typo on this card!”

I’ll tell you where there’s a typo – this price! \$0.39! That decimal point should be about four places to the right! Get Budgeted!

“I can’t believe my taxpayer dollars are funding this tripe”

-Wait, you guys are getting paid meme-

Week 3: Harvest season

THRIFTY THURSDAYS 3

They never found the Hanging Gardens of Babylon, but I tell you what, Harvest Season is the third Wonder of the Thrifty Thursdays World! Everyone is pontificating over whether Cultivate is better than Rampant Growth, but True Believers like you and I will be harvesting salt from their clogged pores!

You got a deck full of elves, but 14 mana just isn’t enough?? Cast this spell, and you’ll be stealing playmat space from your opponents, your lands will simply be that bounteous! Don’t like green, James??? Everything is green now!!!

If you ever feel beaten, like the whole world is against you, like none of your ideas are worth anything in an economy where all ideas are supposedly viable, but only those of the exceedingly wealthy ever take off, just remember that somebody thought it would be hilarious to have a mummy hold a plant, and some numpty at Wizards made it happen! That could be you! You making a ridiculous idea work, of course, not wrapping yourself in bandages and cradling a peace lily, though of course you’re welcome to do that too! Get Budgeted!

Week 4: Frenzied Saddlebrute

THRIFTY THURSDAYS 4

Sometimes, you look around and think, “I deserve more than this leisurely pace!”, and this Orc says “Let’s go faster then, plebeian! Faster! Like the fires of Mordor are behind you!”

Not only is this Orc beating your army senseless, he’s turning that elephant-rhino-abomination around and running your opponents ragged too! Though they don’t have to run? More like strong words of encouragement! But words of encouragement are all your opponents need to start ripping each other to pieces, I assure you!

What's that, you don't like your advertisements to encourage senseless violence? I'll speak a language you understand then, my little beansprouts! It's like I'm Oprah and I'm giving you a car, but you can't run over Oprah with it! Though frankly if you can kill Oprah with a car that she gave you, I think you deserve a trophy of some kind! You deserve prison too. Mostly prison. But maybe prison with commendations!

Get Budgeted!

Week 5: Abjure

Ever wanted to say no to your enemies, and simultaneously murder a loyal subordinate?? It's not Stalin, it's Abjure! To Abjure is to solemnly renounce, says Google, and I think playing this card is to solemnly renounce any and all friendship until the end of your days! Who needs friends when you're winning Commander games?!!!

A 1 mana counterspell that James hasn't heard of? That's a Thrifty Thursdays guarantee! Get Budgeted!

Week 6: Glaring Spotlight

I think it was Smash Mouth who once said, 'the years start coming, and they don't stop coming'. In much the same way, Thrifty Thursdays has started coming, and I have a sneaking suspicion that it will also not stop coming. Ever. It is eternal, as the stars are eternal. Perhaps when our universe comes to a grand, clashing conclusion, so too shall Thrifty Thursdays, and we all shall sing with the voices of our ancestors. Sing loudly, defiantly, with grandiose certainty.

"Look at all the money we saved on Magic: the Gathering cards!", we'll say. "We defied those capitalist gods!"

Anyway, this is Glaring Spotlight. It lets you touch your opponents' stuff and say, "no touchy!" about your stuff. Get Budgeted!

Week 7: Agitator Ant

Ants are eusocial insects, which does NOT mean they want to socialise with you! It's like you're in the playground and everyone is spreading secrets about you, except they're all sisters, and they're angry, and they're ants, and they say "KILL, KILL" like the basilisk in Chamber of Secrets! They're snake ants? They're snake ants!

Peer into eyes, red and beady, and see thyself fall upon thine enemy's sword! Get Budgeted!

Week 8: Crashing Drawbridge

THRIFTY THURSDAYS 8

Did you ever lock your bedroom door as a young grommet? I didn't – my door didn't have a lock! Let's fantasise then, about a huge, locked door! The door of an impenetrable fortress, surrounded by a gaping moat filled with snakes and Le Snak wrappers, a door that we could open in an instant to charge out into the living room, scaring the bejeezus out of nan! That door is real! A real, fictional, cardboard real door!

What's that, red is the fastest colour of Magic??? WRONG! Red is STOP signs, you silly coot!! The fastest colour is... no colour at all! Dark matter moves faster than light, and it's coming closer, inexorably, bringing the doom of all things, like that bloody drawbridge! Get Budgeted!

Week 9: Verdant Mastery

THRIFTY THURSDAYS 9

Do you feel like the world has trapped you in a perpetual mental haze? Like companies, social media, and, worst of all, social media companies are all ganging up to keep you asleep while they steal from under your nose? Most importantly, do you want to DO THAT TO YOUR FRIENDS??? Look no further than Verdant Mastery, the card that gives you everything you need while giving your friends just enough of what they need to feel necessary and important, so they won't notice your literal mountain of resources!

Assign your friends some land but secretly hoard most of it for yourself, like a real British aristocrat! Get Budgeted!

Week 10: Angelic Ascension

Here's a quandary for you – would you rather gain life or have an extra land? Too easy, I'd rather be HAPPY! HAPPY HAPPY HAPPY JUST HAVIN A SING WOOHOO SINGIN HAVIN GOOD LAUGHS WITH MATES LOOK AT US GO WHIRLIN AROUND WE COULD DO THIS FOREVER OH NO GARY HAS DIED OH WAIT SORRY HE'S JUST BANISHED OR SOMETHIN DUNNO WHAT THAT MEANS BUT BYE GARY HELLO ANGEL HAHA GARY SUCKED THIS ANGEL IS SO MUCH COOLER* GARY HAD NO WINGS AND CARRIED A LUMPY SACK LIKE A WEIRD STINKY TROLLMAN!!

See how easy that was??? Everyone loves an angel! Get Budgeted!

*The author does not endorse exiling your friends, my friends, or even Gary's friends

Week 11: Shimmer Myr

THRIFTY THURSDAYS 11

Ever wanted to threaten people? Not attack, just threaten?? Look no further than this tiny angry robot! Oh, your friend wants to give the turn to you like a lovely, polite gamer? Not bloody yet!! First, allow me to flash you a fine assortment of shiny wares! Surprise treasure chest! Surprise bauble! Surprise closet! Actually, no surprise closets please! We're done with those, am I right?!

Your opponents will be saying "I haven't been this shocked to see a sword since that time my parents took me to the circus!" Get Budgeted!

Week 12: Realmwright

THRIFTY THURSDAYS 12

"Everything the light touches is a swamp, Simba"

"What about that dark place over there?"

"That was already a swamp, are you stupid?"

"Sorry Dad"

"That's alright, son. The cards, they invoke my passions. I am not angry with you.

"Yes, Dad"

"What do we never play, Simba?"

"We never play stax without permission"

"That's a good lion"

Get Budgeted!

Week 13: Vanish into Memory

THRIFTY THURSDAYS 13

There is a tendency amongst Magic players to forget that which first drew us to the game. New sets are released, alternate frames, reprints – these are all cunning distractions from the true purpose of the game: to have fun. Time wears upon us, the maddening whispers of the game’s creators grow too much to bear, and we slip into a tempestuous daze. But what if we could FORGET EVERYTHING?!? POOF – Gone!! Don’t you wanna be a stupid, little baby?! Wander around the living room bumping into cupboards and screaming “Help me, my brain is helplessly inadequate for the tasks with which I am burdened!”??

Start again, but with slightly more than you had last time, like that ambiguous period after Iron Man 3 when Tony built new suits?! Get Budgeted!

Week 14: Sepulchral Primordial

THRIFTY THURSDAYS 14

Do you ever wish you could get the old gang back together, but you feel like you’re missing a figurehead? Like you just need some hopeless numpty to lead the cause?? Well, get a load of this sack of mouldy bread!! Look at the size of this lad! Built like a high school bully, except this guy has friends! The best kind of friends – the discarded remains of your enemies!

Prepare for the most messed up conglomerate of ancient weirdos you’ve seen since that Friends reunion! Get Budgeted!

Week 15: Backdraft Hellkite

THRIFTY THURSDAYS 15

Back in Flash!

I’ll make a splash

It’s been too long, these spells are coming back

Yes I’m let rip

From the grip

That’s kept me hanging about

I’ve been looking at these cards

Sitting in my graveyard

Forget Murder cause I never die

I'll bolt ya nine times

Disrupt your lines

And don't you even bother trying to Counterspell

Week 16: Gutter Grime

THRIFTY THURSDAYS 16

Nothing makes you appreciate your health like being unwell, because for most of us our health is a given. I've been sitting at home, feverish, joints aching, giddy from exhaustion, coughing helplessly, and planning my revenge on this infernal illness!! But how?! How do we beat this immortal enemy, a structure so small and without purpose that a scientist would have to stretch to even call it alive?! AHA! We don't need to defeat this virus – we need to TURN IT AGAINST OUR ENEMIES!!!

From the phlegm of the past, a new being will rise! Like the bubonic plague with a scope, or a sniper rifle with a cough! BANG! Here comes the OOOOOOOOOZE! Get Budgeted!

Week 17: Kaya's Ghostform

THRIFTY THURSDAYS 17

Some of you haven't seen me for a while, which is a real shame. Safety is important, and sometimes the line between safe and unsafe is hazier than people would have you believe. I'm being extra cautious, because if I was responsible for any illness among you, I would feel enormously guilty. This self-imposed exile has been tough, but I'm... wait... did someone say EXILE?! Not today losers!!!! I'm gonna be BACK and I'm gonna sling SPELLS at your FACE you NOOBS!!!

It's the best return of a hero since last week when you saw No Way Home! Get Budgeted!

Week 18: Mimic Vat

THRIFTY THURSDAYS 18

A funeral.

"I just can't believe she's gone"

"Oh yes, a true shame"

"What are you doing?"

"I'm putting her in my Vat"

"What?"

"My Vat. She'll be back in a sec"

"She's dead, you moron!"

"Not anymore, look!"

"Why's she running around like that?"

"The Vat makes her faster. It's pretty dope, not gonna lie"

"I don't want her to be faster, she's my nan, not a sprinter!"

"Ah, well it's just for the day"

"Oh, it's a part-time resurrection, is it? Jesus Christ"

"Yeah, just like he did actually. You don't have any boulders you need moved, do you?"

Week 19: Allure of the Unknown

THRIFTY THURSDAYS 19

Lately, I've been dreaming. Dreaming of a better world. It's right there, sometimes tantalisingly close, but no matter how hard I try it's beyond my reach. It waits, not beckoning to be discovered, but haunting me with its mystery. Unless... we could find it... together? You're here too, and I see you peering as I do. I see that you too grope at shadows. Can four eyes together pierce that unending darkness, as two could not?

A bargain perhaps. You get the first look, but I keep what we find! Get Budgeted!

Week 20: Turn Aside

THRIFTY THURSDAYS 20

Ever wish people would just stop? Just stop it, right now? Wish you could tell someone, hey, how about don't? What if you didn't do that? Ever wish people would consider not doing things? Like maybe now is the time to stop? Do you ever lie in bed, staring at the ceiling, contemplating the steady unravelling of plans that is your life, considering the possibility that it could all be for naught, but then remembering that you have a BUDGET 1 MANA COUNTERSPELL? Stop it all at the flick of a card!!!

It hasn't been this much fun to say no since your cousin asked you if there were any games on the iPad! No Stephen, there isn't! Also, your parents are trapped in a loveless marriage by YOU!! Get Budgeted!

Week 21: Loyal Unicorn

THRIFTY THURSDAYS 21

This is my best friend. Yes, she's a unicorn. Yes, occasionally she impales someone. No, for the last time, she will NOT eat an apple right out of your hand! Why do people keep asking me that? She's many things – a friend, a colleague, a fearsome competitor, a war criminal, a malicious psychopath, a car salesman – but she is also really good at itching the top of your head. I bet they didn't tell you THAT in the newspapers!

Together we're unstoppable. Or, you know, she's unstoppable. Frankly, she could kill me in an instant. Get Budgeted!

Week 22: Pramikon, Sky Rampart

THRIFTY THURSDAYS 22

"Could you look that way please?"

"Oh, is this my better side?"

"Hmm? Oh yes, much better"

"What's that rustling sound?"

"Just keep looking that way please"

"What are you up to?"

“Almost... done”

“Well, that doesn’t answer my question at all”

“Say cheese!”

“Is that a GUN?!”

Get Budgeted!

Week 23: Stand or Fall

THRIFTY THURSDAYS 23

Ladies, gentlemen, in-between, neither and both, it’s the ultimate showdown – Good versus Evil! Finally, after many proxy battles have been fought over these long millennia, the two face-off to decide the fate of our universe! Nothing stands between them, and they stand completely and utterly equal in every respect except by name, who will prev- ... wait a minute... folks I do not believe my eyes, Good has asked Evil to split itself in half – very politely, might I add – and Evil has ACTUALLY AGREED TO DO IT?!?!

It’s like Divide and Conquer, except it’s... no wait, it IS Divide and Conquer... but it’s FUN! Get Budgeted!

Week 25: Siren Stormtamer

THRIFTY THURSDAYS 25

Ever wanted a friend but without the mutual respect and love? Me neither, but you’re gonna have one anyway! He’ll do absolutely anything for you, and he expects nothing in return except that he dies please! Worried about being struck by lightning? Eaten by a shark? Turned into slime? Please, allow this lil weirdo to do that instead!!!

It’s exactly like Speed featuring Keanu Reeves, except the bus is a salamander, you’re a wizard in the salamander’s way and Keanu is murdered by a salamander in the first 90 seconds of the film! Get Budgeted!!

Week 26: Snapback

THRIFTY THURSDAYS 26

to the tune of Smack That by Akon

I know you're plannin', I can see your brow is furrowed

Wanna attack 'cause you can see that it is lethal?

Maybe you think it's Game Knights, killin' like your Post Malone?

And possibly think it's over?

Look back and watch me

Snapback, it's in your hand!

Snapback, gone with a bang!

Snapback, I had no lands!

Snapback, oh-oh-oh-oh-oh!

Get Budgeted!

Week 27: Mark of Fury

THRIFTY THURSDAYS 27

Today, I am mad! I know not what brought upon this rage, I know only that I must find the true object of my fury!! Until I find that object, my whole being shall be as a raging tempest!! All within the world shall fear me, for my rage knows no bounds!! Am I SCORNED?! Dost thy mother lie within the bed of my father?! Does my love speak of my IMPOTENCE?! I know not, indeed I know naught but RAGE!!! But I forget myself... my rage fades in the ebbs and flows of my breath... I slip into a deep sleep...

I awaken. Today, I am mad! Get Budgeted!

Week 28: Spinerock Knoll

THRIFTY THURSDAYS 28

I still think it's a slippery little frog back there.

Shush!

Yes, shush!

You, shush!

Right, shushing. Yes, shush now.

As I said before, why would anyone hide something as small as a frog somewhere as big as this?

Well, no one would ever find it here.

Yes, obviously. It would also be a complete waste of a secret mountain!

Perhaps it's a special frog. It's very hidden now – extremely so.

...

Oh, I see it now! It **is** a frog!!

That's your reflection again.

Get Budgeted! #ThriftyThursdays

Week 29: Deadly Tempest

THRIFTY THURSDAYS 29

Have you ever wanted to dissolve into an eternal void? Life's troubles could melt away in a moment, as *you* melt away in a moment, leaving nothing behind but an Officeworks printing card and a rusty spoon (what do you have in your pockets then, weirdo???)! But one thing holds you back, I know, how terribly morbid and lonely it would be!! Well, be held back no longer, because Deadly Tempest™ can jellify everyone in the immediate vicinity too, including your tiresome ant infestation!! Don't think too hard about this one (really, don't) just buy one now for the low price of Get Budgeted!

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Ceasing to exist may be restricted to your Magic: The Gathering game. #ThriftyThursdays

Week 30: The Mirari Conjecture

THRIFTY THURSDAYS 30

Do you ever feel that your time is finite, and you just don't have enough of it? As if your waking life is one sustained, blurred moment that could at any instant be proved false by the opening of your eyes? What if that was a good thing?! Introducing repetition!! What's that – you don't like making the same mistakes over and over again?! You're clearly not failing well enough, so it's time to fail better!!

Imagine if Zeus's bolts returned to him after he'd thrown them, so he could smite, smite, smite again! It's fun to be a god!! Get Budgeted! #ThriftyThursdays

Week 31: Scholar of the Lost Trove

THRIFTY THURSDAYS 31

What a fine day to read a booketh. Oh hello, young fooligan! I was perusing this handsome collection of explorer's journals a moment ago, and I was astonished to hear tales of our very own Chief Librarian – Monsieur Francois Ghalta himself!! Who??? Why he's me of course!!! It's true, I may seem frail and spindly, but I assure you I was quite a trailblazer in my morning glory! Imagine my shock, upon learning that you would be assisting me with the reshelving of these miraculous volumes, that I should be the one to bestow upon you my very own memoir!

Then again, I did loan these myself, and place them in the return slide this very morning, as I do every Thursday, as my scholarly salary is based upon the number of readers who borrow my books! I suppose, I must Get Budgeted, as they say! #ThriftyThursdays

Week 32: Krosan Verge

THRIFTY THURSDAYS 32

“You’ve lost your mind”

“What do you mean? A savannah is just a forest plain, and look forest, and plain!

“Not only is this not a savannah, I’m not even convinced this is a real place. I can see an astonishingly luscious rainforest right here, but it ends immediately with grass so dry I’m concerned that my leg hairs rubbing together could start a fire!”

“Well, this looks like a savannah to me”

“Absolutely not!”

“Don’t be upset, this is a time for celebration! We’re so close to finding the last lion now”

“The only lion you’ll find here is either long dead from thirst, if it comes from the dust-bowl over there, or very small and black, because it’s a jaguar!”

Get Budgeted! #ThriftyThursdays

Week 33: Haunted Cloak

THRIFTY THURSDAYS 33

There once was a man in a cloak,

Who loved to bathe and to soak,

But his cloak would get wet,

And smell worse than sweat,

Now they call him the Weird Stinky Bloke.

Get Budgeted! #ThriftyThursdays

Week 34: Search for Tomorrow

THRIFTY THURSDAYS 34

Some say that all good things shall pass. Every triumph will someday fade and leave only a melancholy wake that drifts in the caverns of our lonely minds. For whom among us can truly say that our brightest moments can be thought upon with pure joy, and not carry with them a tincture of regret? It is easy to imagine that nothing can be done to prevent the passing of this happiness, but this is mistaken.

We are the sculptors of our destiny! Every decision, or lack thereof, reverberates through time, ad infinitum, creating situations so far ahead of us that it is dizzying to behold. Those decisions

are made today, by you, and I, and every person you have ever known. Imagine the scale of this effect if we were united in purpose! Our grand collective could bring about a day so bright it would surely burn our eyes to look upon it!

Let us manifest it! Our dreams are but a moment away, and shall be ever on our horizon, waiting to be seized! Tomorrow, and tomorrow, and tomorrow.

Get Budgeted! #ThriftyThursdays

Week 35: Neurok Stealthsuit

THRIFTY THURSDAYS 35

We're being a little bit sneaky today. Just quietly, in my slippery quiet suit. It's very quiet and shiny and reflective to keep us hidden. What will we do with this abundance of silence? Why we'll do whatever we want! Excuse me, I forgot, we need to speak quietly, or the little gremlins will get us, perhaps even a troll or a bat or my sister. Tonight, in my silver sneaking suit, I'll be stealing candy from a baby, because I want to know what all the fuss is about.

How about a bit of shushy shushy?? That's what my parents said to me every night, and every night I'd tell them; "my parents died years ago! Get out of here you stupid ghosts!!!" Get Budgeted! #ThriftyThursdays

Week 36: Generator Servant

THRIFTY THURSDAYS 36

I am wasting away!! I can feel the weight of time on my weary bones, and the expanse of space in my tired joints, which is not how joints are supposed to feel, I'm told! I toil away, day after day, in this bloody electric room and is anyone any better off? NO!! Yes, perhaps far from here, so distant it might as well be another world, someone turns on the light, or taps relentlessly on an excessively illuminated keyboard, and it was my blood and sweat that made it so, but that is not the world that I inhabit! This world is dark and barren and it smells kind of salty and weird!

Worst of all, as my strength fades, my vicious employer seems only to grow stronger. Perhaps if he was to have a day in the electric room, involuntarily... Get Budgeted! #ThriftyThursdays

Week 37: Mystic Sanctuary

THRIFTY THURSDAYS 37

“And as always, our mind must be as passive and detached as possible.”

“Ah detached! Yes”

“Frank, shush! We should all be in quiet contemplation!”

“Oh yes, master, I am”

“Good. Now let your mind empty of frantic thoughts, or observe them distantly, as though you were in space, looking down upon a tempestuous sky”

“Tempestuous, perfect, thank you!”

“Stand up, Frank! Yes, you. What’s that in your hand?!”

“This, master? Oh, it’s my crossword”

“Crossword?! We are meditating!”

“Oh yes, master, today’s theme is meditation! It’s perfect really, very fortuitous. I just can’t work out this one - ‘foolish and unreasonable’, 9 down.”

“Foolish?! You Frank, are the greatest fool of them all! A buffoon, Frank, an absurd, caricature of a man, as empty-headed and useless as a scarecrow, and as lousy, ridiculous and utterly devoid of charm and wit as a pigeon that sits upon one!”

“No, none of those were nine letters”

“That’s it, no more meditation today, if you won’t focus! I cannot teach in this atmosphere, it is utterly ludicrous”

“Ludicrous, thank you! All done!!”

Get Budgeted! #ThriftyThursdays

Week 38: Blessing of Leeches

THRIFTY THURSDAYS 38

Remember how terrible Leech Seed was in Pokémon? Well, forget that! Completely forget right now! Stop thinking about it OK, or I’ll get really mad!!?! Now, my beautiful little blank slate, prepare to be carved upon, because there’s a new leech in town, or make that a million leeches, because leeches don’t really hang out on their own (which is just something that you didn’t know about leeches, but I forgive you)! What’s better than a million leeches?? A million sanctified leeches!!! And these little gremlins were raised in the finest holy water, so in their mind, their mission is a holy crusade, and I hear those are always successful!!

Eat slugs! Wait, no, Get Leeches! That’s not it either... Get Budgeted?! #ThriftyThursdays

Week 39: Canopy Cover

THRIFTY THURSDAYS 39

Come, shelter with me beneath the Great Soul Tree. All your regrets, your misdeeds, lost loves and failed dreams – the Great Soul Tree remembers, but beneath its branches nothing of you can be seen. Once, I was a great adventurer, known everywhere for his mighty deeds. Many bandits and other foul men fell to my sword, and a far greater number of fine people called me their protector. But time, fickle as she is, was not kind to me, and soon there were many heroes of far greater calibre; stronger, faster and cleverer than I. Now that I rest beneath the Soul Tree, I doubt that I exist within the memory of any within this world.

Between these sacred boughs, long ago in my childhood, I had no name at all, not even one that the Great Tree would know. But on the sands of Robaran, Jedit Ojanen, they called me.

Get Budgeted! #ThriftyThursdays

Week 40: Doomed Artisan

THRIFTY THURSDAYS 40

Do you ever feel like people are watching you, and not in a good way? Do you also feel as though the things that you do are meaningless to you, but significant to others?? Most importantly, do you want to laugh at some dingus who sucks more than you?!?! Introducing, Greg the Useless Sculptor!! He spends his entire life toiling away at his art, and never, ever, under any circumstances, realises that he's a genius who can create living statues!! It's hilarious!!!

Reap all of the benefit from someone else's life, and contribute nothing at all yourself, like a real estate agent!! Get Budgeted! #ThriftyThursdays

Week 41: Body Double

THRIFTY THURSDAYS 41

'It's just like a mask'

'Wearing someone's face is NOT like a mask, it's like wearing someone's face!!'

'Come on, don't get bogged down in the details, this is a technological marvel! Think about the effect this could have on the workers of the world!'

'Oh yeah, I'm sure that a Rwandan wheat farmer would find it really useful to go to work with his mother's face.'

'Come on, Nat, I didn't think you were this close-minded'

'I'm not'

Nat peels off their face. It's Gideon

'Gideon, that's just petty. It wasn't *me* who stole your face. I'm far too clever to be caught up in that nonsense. It was Jedit Ojanen'

Get Budgeted! #ThriftyThursdays

Week 42: Gustcloak Savior

THRIFTY THURSDAYS 42

'... And they're looking around thinking "Wow, we've done it, we've defeated Sorin Markov!" and then SWOOP! There I am!! Not today, numpty!!! I'm lightning fast, dodging arrows, swords, axes, birds, and tentacles, you name it, it can't touch me! Before you can blink, the biggest VIP on that battlefield, out of there, EXTRACTED!

'Most famous hero I've saved? Great question. Well, I got Ulamog out of a bar fight once. Avacyn nearly got decapitated by Garruk one time, but not on my watch! No, if I were being serious, I'd have to say... myself! Get Budgeted!' #ThriftyThursdays

Week 43: Elite Arcanist

THRIFTY THURSDAYS 43

"And then, bam! I hit him with another lightning bolt!"

"You said you only had one of those?"

"Ah, but this was a *clone* of my lightning bolt! He never saw it coming!!"

"This story doesn't make any sense. You kept on telling us how there was only one lightning bolt, and you hid it somewhere, like that was a crucial detail, and then at the end you just pull out a copy? How many lightning bolts do you really have?"

"One! Anyway, we're getting side-tracked. So I've hit him with another lightning bolt, he falls into a ditch, the goon, and then his sister turns to me and pulls out a knife, so I'm holding up my hands, and they're empty, and she's stepping closer... do you know what I did??"

“I’ve got a sneaking suspicion”

Get Budgeted! #ThriftyThursdays

Week 44: Dreadhound

THRIFTY THURSDAYS 44

People often say to me, ‘Walt, if you’re a vegan and you’ve taken a solemn vow to protect the living animals of this planet, what do you do to your enemies?’ It’s a valid concern, but it has a simple solution. When my enemies taunt me, and wish me ill, I turn around and get my EVIL HOUND to KILL them!! She’s furious, she’s utterly insane, and she wears a cloak made of darkness and deceit, so she’s really just like any dog!!

Do me wrong, and you can bet your bottom dollar that she’s headed your way, to rip a dollar out of your bottom!!! Get Budgeted! #ThriftyThursdays

Week 45: Instill Energy

THRIFTY THURSDAYS 45

Do you feel as though caffeine has too much power over your life? As if some days that morning coffee or tea is all that gets you up in the morning, and that afternoon energy drink is all that keeps you awake? What if I told you that you could operate at twice the speed and never sleep again?!! All this, from just a touch of the finger of a god! We don’t know what he’s the god of, don’t ask questions!!

I haven’t felt this awake since I found out what Rule 34 was, don’t ask me about that either!! Get Budgeted! #ThriftyThursdays

Week 46: Acolyte of Affliction

THRIFTY THURSDAYS 46

I'm brewing a tincture of delight, but it's not for you. No, this is reserved for a very special someone. My curious customers are always asking me, 'who's that for?', 'what's that going to do?' and 'how quickly does it work?' and the answer is 'you', 'kill' and 'immediately' if you ever ask me things like that which aren't for you to know!!

But this little concoction is going to change the world. For the better? Who's to say? I am but a simple potionmaker. Let's just say that our world is about to have one less giant lizard in it, and I'm not talking about my precious Perentie over there. Which reminds me; Charles, kill the witness, now!! Get Budgeted! #ThriftyThursdays

Week 47: Oblation

THRIFTY THURSDAYS 47

"Oblation"

"Hmm... could you please use it in a sentence?"

"Sure; 'I cast Oblation targeting your Dreadhound'"

"...What?!"

"Apologies, that was for any Magic players in attendance"

“Right, well, could I please have it used in a real sentence?”

“Absolutely; ‘Oh mighty one, I present you with this Oblation”

“Great, that’s much bet-”

“With which I hope you will banish the God Pharoah Himself – Nicol Bolas”

“Oh my God”

“Yes, that’s very close!”

Get Budgeted! #ThriftyThursdays

Week 48: Dead of Winter

THRIFTY THURSDAYS 48

to the tune of Blaze of Glory by Jon Bon Jovi

I untap all of my lands

And I raise my weary head

You got three hundred tokens

And I got no cards in hand

I don't know how I win this

Ninety-five cards in my bin

I'm a Timmy on the run

A top-deck loser

My cards have all been spent. Yeah!

You're goin' down in the Dead of Winter!

It takes me out, but also you!

You're goin' down in the Dead of Winter!

Nerd I always drew lands

But I drew lands' wrath

I'm dead and done

Call me Gideon

Get Budgeted! #ThriftyThursdays

Week 49: Dark-Dweller Oracle

THRIFTY THURSDAYS 49

Do you love the idea of fate, but deeply dislike horoscopes, starcharts, the Zodiac, fortune tellers, palmreading, wish burning, manifestation and reading bones? Introducing, a weird little man who's not really a man at all!! He'll burn stuff in a cave with a bunch of his friends, tell you which of your former housemates is secretly plotting revenge, and call you Larry for no reason at all, unless your name *is* Larry, in which case, he'll call you a moron!!

Now that's a cult we can all get into, but we can't get out of it!!! Get Budgeted! #ThriftyThursdays

Week 50: Insidious Will

THRIFTY THURSDAYS 50

'I don't know, the middle one?! I hate having all these choices'

'The middle one? You sure? Alright, if that's what you want'

'You can't say that! No, I don't know, tell me about the first one again!'

'I don't want to, you hated it'

'No, I think I just didn't understand it'

'You understood it, it's just bad. I really don't recommend that at all'

'Fine, I guess I'll go with number three then. Seems like a weird thing to do, but let's lock it in, I guess'

'Great! Cloning you now'

'What? Cloning?! Who's that?!!'

'It's you! Only one may stand, FIGHT!!' Get Budgeted! #ThriftyThursdays

Week 51: Port of Karfell

THRIFTY THURSDAYS 51

Ah there she is, weary travellers, we're coming into port, port-side! No, port-side! That's left you witless whelps!! What a fine port she is, if a little eerie and strange. The sun sets on her back and makes her look like a sleeping angel or a sack of mouldy bread. I'll level with you all, I don't know head nor tail of this place, as my sailors won't go near it! You're all bound to have a wonderful time there though, I'm sure, or die, one of the two!

Now I'm sure you're all wondering how you'll be reaching the shore if this here captain isn't making port! A great question, and the answer's made of wood and rhymes with shank, and I'm not talking about my replacement flank here!!

Get Budgeted! #ThriftyThursdays

Week 52: Dismantling Wave

THRIFTY THURSDAYS 52

'Whoa whoa whoa, that's not going to work at all!'

'Oh, why not?'

'Because you almost took my head off! Jeez, it's not that complicated. When the coach passes you, just stick out one arm all the way and wave it around with a smile on your face... uh no no no, not that far! Don't stick it straight out from your body, or up at all! Some of the people around here are really into that'

'Great, I'd love for us to have more friends! What did I do? Straight out from my body, arm over my head?'

'Put your arm down!! You do *not* want to be friends with these kinds of people. Anyway, it's not that big of a deal, we just want to make a good impression at the parade, and seem down-to-earth and loveable and hyper productive and like we're a little bit better than them. Not much, just a little'

'I don't get it, all of these people are weirdos, why would we want to impress them?'

'The weirdos have the money, and I need the money to buy my cards, OK?! Now, sit down, big smile and wave your arm around like you mean it, so that we can Get Budgeted!'
#ThriftyThursdays

Week 53: Chariot of Victory

THRIFTY THURSDAYS 53

Looking for something worth fighting for?? Too bad, I'm not telling you that, it's a secret, but this rolling stab machine will make your fighting stylish and leisurely!! Alright, maybe not leisurely, but think of the looks of adoration on the faces of the townsfolk right before you cut their faces off!! For moral reasons, I can't ask you to get in the CoolMobile™ with me, but I **can** ask you to GET OUT OF MY WAY!!!!

It's the most fun you've had on wheels since those shoes with wheels in them!! Coincidentally, those are banned from the CoolMobile™ because that would simply be TOO cool!!! Get Budgeted! #ThriftyThursdays

Week 54: Primal Growth

THRIFTY THURSDAYS 54

What is it to be alive? There are many people out there who can purportedly answer that question for you, typically in exchange for your money or your undying adoration. Let's skip all of that and slip this idea on our head like a woollen beanie; to be alive is to grow. The people, places, and things around us are constant only in their inconsistency, and we are irrevocably intertwined with these entities, so why would we ourselves not grow as a result? Many of the most harmful people you meet will insist on your remaining exactly as you are, just as the parts of your world that agitate your soul in the most pleasing ways will be showing you all that you could be. Look ahead, see the version of yourself that grows from where you are, and trace the great wooden limb that leads the way to that future. Follow it.

Get Budgeted! #ThriftyThursdays

Week 55: Tectonic Reformation

THRIFTY THURSDAYS 55

“It’s endless, picturesque, and frankly, thriving in its neglect. In other words, for the people who live here, it may be the most sacred place they can conceive of.”

“Thank you, I’ve heard enough... he-ugh!!”

“What are you doing?! That was a perfectly good topographical map of the region that you’ve just thrown away!”

“I hate it! It’s boring, and green, and much too big! I can’t get my head around it! Start again, but small and flat and with a Ferris wheel, and a carousel, and fairy floss, and a pervasive feeling of hopeless excess!”

“Sir, this is a biodiversity conference – you’re describing a carnival!”

“What, you think clowns aren’t diverse?”

“Not biodiverse. With all due respect, I don’t think you understand the significance of this at all!”

“You know what, you’re right. Let’s start again. Tell me about another of these ‘biomes’”

“Sure. Um... there’s sharks... and stingrays”

“And little spiky guys who roll around?! And fish that nibble on your feet?! Cheryl, get my scuba gear and my cheque book! We’re gonna need to Get Budgeted!” #ThriftyThursdays

Week 56: Resculpt

THRIFTY THURSDAYS 56

I know what you’re thinking – how could I possibly turn this minute little chunk of material into a pure embodiment of energy, an Elemental? Well, I know how, OK?! But I’m not going to tell you. No, come on, don’t whinge, alright? I’m going to show you how I do it... and then you’ll be able to do it yourself. Thank you, thank you, that’s very kind, I do live for the applause... Thank you... Alright, shut up, I’m doing it!

So, we hold it here, and then fling it behind us, so that it comes back. And we do it again! And it comes back. Now, we do it one more time, but this time, imagine the energy pulsing through the material. Imagine that all things hold energy within them, and we just need to UNLEASH IT!! AHAHAHA!! LOOK AT IT GROW!!!

Now, my fine exponential friend, I welcome you to this world with a single message; DESTROY THEM ALL!!!! Get Budgeted! #ThriftyThursdays

Week 57: Planar Guide

THRIFTY THURSDAYS 57

Look, I understand that you’re upset, but it’s all right there in the Terms and Conditions of the tour! ‘Some of you may die, but that is a sacrifice that Planar Guide tours will not be liable for in the court of law’. Now that’s right from the first paragraph, so really, it’s your own fault for not reading it properly before you signed it!

I know I've sometimes skimmed through some Terms, but that was a sword or a crate of tomatoes or something, not interdimensional travel! I mean you don't even know me; I could be a murderer or something. I'm not a murderer, hey, that's very offensive! It's the planes that killed your son, OK? I just took him there and set him up the front with me where he'd be safe and undid his seatbelt when he said that I smelled like tomatoes! Get Budgeted! #ThriftyThursdays

Week 58: Undead Butler

THRIFTY THURSDAYS 58

And that's when I asked her if she'd like to take wine in the cellar! Hahaha, the joys of my position. And that's to say nothing of the time that she wanted thirteen bats. Thirteen bats! Twelve simply would not do, you see, it had to be a baker's dozen. Stop pulling on my hand! It's delicate! Where was I? Oh yes, thirteen bats, but they had to be juvenile as well, so I thought to myself 'well, Rupert, someone's going to have to go cave-trawling'. That's what the gents and I call it. So there I was, up to my ears in guano – think there's some still in my earholes somewhere, my whole head's just one big earhole these days – and when should she call me from the castle to say 'Rupert, time to run the bath', and I'm thinking 'Well, Lady Olivia, I could sure use one!' Hahaha! I couldn't take one of course, I'd dissolve. Get Budgeted! #ThriftyThursdays

Week 59: Solitary Confinement

THRIFTY THURSDAYS 59

I am sorry for the lateness of this transmission, but I have been trapped against my will! I was accosted during my morning stroll in the park, and the brutes have confined me within the harshest prison their ghoulish minds could conceive of! The walls around me are white, but they are adorned with icons of their foul idols, who stare at me, trapped themselves by their own visage. The ground beneath my feet is covered in a blue moss, perhaps their own attempt at replicating the grass of our world. Standing upon this loathsome growth, ivory platforms stretch towards the horizon, covered in painted silver leaves, etchings of their primitive language, and worst of all, remnants of their retched meals, encrusted across every surface in disgusting smears of brown, yellow and black.

Wait... I have my sense of true north; I believe I can identify the nature of my prison! It's... a local game store! Get Budgeted! #ThriftyThursdays

Week 60: Armada Wurm

THRIFTY THURSDAYS 60

'And that's when Francis will break down the door?'

'No, *I'm* breaking down the door, Francis is going in from underneath.'

'I'm beginning to understand. Where does this "pincer movement" come into it?'

'That's the whole plan! Francis and I will be engaging them on two separate fronts, like a pincer, so that they'll never see it coming'

'Right. Let me see if I've got this all worked out. This is very complex and specific. Tomorrow, you will be attending 84 Dowling Street-'

'With Fran-'

'With Francis, yes, your best friend in the whole world, your life partner, the other half of your pincer! You will break down the door, and Francis will be going in from underneath. You will not be killing anybody, unless they get between you and the door, or Francis and the floor, but you *will* be stealing several crates of essential supplies, three barrels of refined mead, and any fine art you can get your hands on, because Francis needs something for her mantelpiece. Have I left anything out?'

'No, that's pretty much it'

'Right, well this all seems like a wonderful plan, but I'm afraid I can't offer insurance on a property that you fully intend on robbing tomorrow'

Get Budgeted! #ThriftyThursdays

Week 61: Mana Geyser

THRIFTY THURSDAYS 61

'Phil, could you please pass the salt?'

'Sure thing.'

Phil flings it across the room and shatters a window

'What the hell, Phil, are you trying to kill me?!'

'I'm sorry, I'm sorry, I can't help it! That's the third window I've broken today – I don't know my own strength. And that's not even the worst of it...'

'What's worse than breaking a window? Whoa, is it hot outside? With that window open I'm suddenly boiling'

'It's not the window.'

'Is that LAVA?! Oh my god, it's coming through the floorboards! How did your parents ever survive your teen years?'

'They didn't. It worked out alright in the end though, I really hated Pompeii.'

Get Budgeted! #ThriftyThursdays

Week 62: Intellectual Offering

"You can't pay with that, man"

"Of course I can, all the other shops have accepted it"

"So you're telling me that George over there at La Jani Fresh Produce was happy to hand over a dozen persimmons in exchange for a riddle?"

"Absolutely! He even threw in some rambutans"

"Rambutans? Mate, you're an orangutan, OK? So you can get out of here unless you've got ten dollars and forty cents. There's an ATM down the road – go for a walk, mate!

"Forty cents, sure thing. I'll just need eight more people; we've only got five senses each"

"There's something wrong with you, man. I don't know why you're so desperate for this Blackblade thing anyway, stupid thing didn't even work on my brother"

"Your brother... his name wouldn't happen to be Nicol Bolas would it?"

"Nico? What you know my brother, Nico? He's a muppet, man. He just sits at home and waits for me to bring him food. You don't need a sword for Nico, man, trust. Just ask him about his ex, Lily, he'll be devastated man, it cracks me up!" Get Budgeted! #ThriftyThursdays

Week 63: Assault Suit

THRIFTY THURSDAYS 63

To the tune of I Wanna Be Yours by The Arctic Monkeys

I wanna be your Springbloom Druid

I'd sacrifice your lands

I wanna be your Drogskul Reaver

I'll fill up your hand

If you like your untapped blues

Let me be your Seedborn Muse

You call the shots, babe

I just wanna be yours

Creatures that have been in this suit

Are now your temporary loot

Maybe I just wanna be yours

I wanna be yours

I wanna be yours

Wanna be yours

Wanna be yours

Wanna be yours

Get Budgeted! #ThriftyThursdays

Week 64: Massacre Girl

THRIFTY THURSDAYS 64

“It says here that you have ‘extensive experience with tendons’. Could you explain how you feel that experience will translate into your work here?”

“Look, we’ve all done some things we regret, but the important thing is that I’m here now, and I’m eminently qualified”

“Right... Can you see how that doesn’t answer my question at all, and actually sounds really ominous and kinda freaky?”

“Did you... did you call me ‘freaky’?”

“Oh no, um, what I said was that what you said sounded *kind of* freaky, um, I’m sure that your previous employment was, um, rewarding and, uh, safe”

“I’m just messing with you!”

The Girl laughs. After a moment, the interviewer joins in, nervously.

“I know tendons so well because I used to sever them”

“Well, in that case... you're hired! Welcome to Ludevic's School for Stitchers and Surgeons”

Get Budgeted! #ThriftyThursdays

Week 65: Tragic Arrogance

THRIFTY THURSDAYS 65

Ever get sick of people walking around with their head held high? Impoverished by pompous pontificators parading their perspectives on pointless positions? Well, karma has a new face, and its eyes are laser beams!! I don't know what that means. The point is, it's all coming tumbling down for the conceited and the vain!! And when it does come tumbling down, that's your chance to take what's owed!!

It's like the GFC if *you* had decided what happened to the bankers! If it was up to me, they wouldn't be bankers anymore, they'd be dead-tired from all the cleaning I'd make them do!! Get Budgeted! #ThriftyThursdays

Week 66: Soul Shatter

THRIFTY THURSDAYS 66

‘And my BOOTS!’

‘Yes, my lord, at once, my lord, only... we have received word that the bootmaker has had some trouble replacing the exact material that was previously on the underside of the boot’

'Yes, yes, but she said the same thing four weeks ago! I understand that boots like mine are quite a rarity, but for goodness' sake, every lord and lady between here and the Spikefields must have boots like mine!'

'Well, no, unfortunately not, my lord, as you had them all killed last week'

'All the better for taking their boots off their rotten little feet then!'

'Ah but you ordered the corpses burned, my lord'

'No no, I said they should burn for eternity. I was referring to the afterlife! Are you telling me not one overly familiar captain thought to themselves "Well, I could certainly use some boots like those" before they dumped the corpse on the pyre?'

'It is a possibility, I admit, my lord, but if I may be so bold, how did the boots become damaged in the first place? Perhaps we should remedy the circumstances before we replace the clothing'

'It's very simple really. If I'm walking along my wall and I see one of those scaly insects that so love the volcanic rock out of which we have constructed this fortification, I am inclined to squish it beneath my foot. Very sharp those insects are though, and so every so often, I am prone to my damaging my boot on the underside. What I cannot understand is how the finest bootmaker on this side of the coast cannot remedy a simple case of boot sole shatter!'

Get Budgeted! #ThriftyThursdays

Week 67: Volcanic Torrent

THRIFTY THURSDAYS 67

Dear bomgod1989,

For some time now, I have been attempting to procure a particular digital download via peer-to-peer networks. I am aware that many wonderful search engines exist expressly for this purpose, but through these search engines, thus far I have been unsuccessful in my attempts to find the specific data I am searching for, hence my reaching out to you directly instead.

I would be enormously grateful if you could attempt to procure me this specific data. I have browsed your catalogue across several different websites, and I can see that while your interests are varied, your overall specialty appears to be historical meteorological charts, broadcasts, footage, and readings. This aligns perfectly with my purposes, and I think you may very well be my only hope of locating my data. During your many hours of research, of which I am certain you are a veritable master, if you should happen across footage of the burning of Pompeii, I would greatly appreciate if this could be shared with me directly. If it should be posted online instead, if you could kindly reply to my message here and notify me, I will download it immediately. The data is for a research project; it is of utmost importance that I know whether a particular meteorological phenomenon is replicable.

I eagerly await your reply.

Yours sincerely,

Jaya Ballard

Get Budgeted! #ThriftyThursdays

Week 68: Phytotitan

THRIFTY THURSDAYS 68

I am a big boi. I like to be large. Sometimes, people look at me and they say ‘why aren’t you rather big?’ and I turn around I say nothing, because I’ve smushed them with my foot instead. But then someone else says ‘hey, you can’t just smush people’ and I tell them ‘get smushed’ and I smush them with my foot. This continues until there is no one left to smush with my foot.

Then I am sad. No smush. What is a giant plant man if he cannot smush? Once I was smushed. I knew what it was to be smushed and flat and not large. But I cannot be smushed so easily. I can antismush myself.

I thank you for listening to my talk of smushing. You may now go free.

I tell a joke, get smushed beneath my foot and then, **Get Budgeted!** #ThriftyThursdays

Week 69: Infernal Offering

THRIFTY THURSDAYS 69

‘Please come through to my office. What can I assist you with?’

‘It’s not for me actually, doctor, it’s my husband!’

‘And what is his ailment?’

‘Well, doctor, he is possessed! It started over a year ago now. He awoke from a dream in a feverish sweat, muttering under his breath about ‘the budget’, and every week since then, at 3pm on a Thursday, sometimes earlier, sometimes later, but always on a Thursday, he indulges in fantastical stream of consciousness drive!! Some weeks it is as though he is a guest on a television program, selling wares to a captive audience. Others he becomes a vessel for the voices of people I have never met or even heard of.’

'Can you offer an example?'

'Only last week he became an enormous buffoon of some description, telling me he would 'smush' me, whatever that means.'

'Has he ever spoken of engaging in something that might be considered a criminal act?'

'Oh frequently doctor! I've heard him regale of severed tendons, disembowelling people, even murdering children! Only ten weeks ago there were two men within his body arguing over the method for engaging in robbery'

'I see. Well, I'm afraid that this is rather serious. I have only one remedy that I can think of'

'Please, doctor, anything that will return my husband to the way that he was!'

'Listen carefully, this is very important. Every Thursday, when he begins to become someone else, it will frighten you dearly, but you *must listen to him!* For *I* am your husband, and listening to me is the only way that I will be able to **Get Budgeted!**' #ThriftyThursdays

Week 70: Staggering Insight

THRIFTY THURSDAYS 70

'Oh my Gods! Oh my *Gods!!*'

'What is it?!'

'Oh nothing, nothing'

'What?! What are you screaming for then?'

'I'm practising for that part I was telling you about, in the new play about the Akroan War. My character just found that his brother... loves him'

'Um, I think your reaction is a bit bigger than what the director might have in mind'

'I don't know about that, my brother is a boar'

'Oh well that does change things. What's the boar have to do with the war?'

'It's a boar war, happened before, and more and more, my wife's looking like a real... asset. Asset to the cause! Some lines don't have to rhyme, OK?!' **Get Budgeted!** #ThriftyThursdays

Week 71: Elephant Grass

THRIFTY THURSDAYS 71

'Yeah, he's right there in the grass!'

'No, no, mistress said he *is* the grass!'

'How can he be grass? He's an elephant!'

'I don't know, circle of life, he's taken a new form, or something. Look, it's not our job to know what he is, we're just here to catch him, and give him a stern talking to'

'And how are you gonna do that to grass? "Oh, you watch it, grass, you think about what you did, or I'll get my hoe on ya!"'

'I don't think our mistress would appreciate you talking about her like that'

Get Budgeted! #ThriftyThursdays

Week 72: Familiar's Ruse

THRIFTY THURSDAYS 72

Tehehe I'm a little trickster, and I'm going to trick you.

Oh hello there, my name is Gideon Paul Jonathanson. I am an esteemed accountant with the Orzhov Syndicate, and I am here to look after your financial bookkeeping. I am a responsible young human man (tehe) with a most prodigious reputation of orderly organisation of numbers within spreadsheets such that all of the columns may be multiplied most readily into logical and reasonable figures. My colleagues describe me as unstoppable, unflappable, vociferous and psychologically indestructible. Now if you would just hand over your books, I will ensure that the utmost care is taken in delivering to you a most prosperous financial year. Thank you.

Tehehehe finally my plan may be made manifest! I have collected every single financial record from this entire district of Ravnica, and with them I will enact my most nefarious plot. I'm going to wipe my poo on the pages!! **Get Budgeted!** #ThriftyThursdays

Week 73: Harrow

THRIFTY THURSDAYS 73

Introducing; this green, spiky thing! I think it's a shrub?! What is the botanical categorical delineation for a plant to be considered a shrub? Apparently, shrubs have 'persistent woody stems' which sounds like the setup for a joke that everybody hates except for your dad!

I'm going to let you in on a little scheme I'm cooking up. I just told my landlord that I'd like to plant a shrub and a small tree in my backyard, and she said no to the tree but yes to the shrub. Fair enough, but joke's on her, because the shrub will grow to be five metres tall! Nature is truly unstoppable, and so is the power of presenting someone with two losing choices, and so are *you*, if you have the persistent woody **shrub** on your side! **Get Budgeted!** #ThriftyThursdays

Week 74: Captain of the Watch

THRIFTY THURSDAYS 74

It's not easy being captain! I've been in this position for the last three years, though it feels like a lifetime when more days than not are marred by criticism! You give your all, day after day, and occasionally, *occasionally*, make the smallest mistake, and whose resignation do they call for?! As if the behaviour of people directly within your chain of command was somehow your responsibility. Well, that's news to me! The worst bit is that everyone swears at you, calling you 'morose', 'trepidatious', 'sycophantic', and other such horrible slurs!

I understand that some of you cannot comprehend how difficult my life is, and to you I say this: there is nothing in this world more difficult than being the captain of the Ravnican Football Club! Scratch that, it would actually be worse to be the coach. Speaking of, go on Jedit, it's your time to shine. **Get Budgeted!** #ThriftyThursdays

Week 75: Thunderfoot Baloth

THRIFTY THURSDAYS 75

"And if you so much as *blink* without asking us for permission, Bill will flatten you and all your friends who've been dodging correct process. Won't you Bill?"

“Yeah”

“We know what sort of stuff you’ve been up to over here. We know about the oil, and the experiments, and me and the boss, we don’t like it, do we Bill?”

“Yeah”

“No, Bill, we *don’t* like it”

“Nah don’t like it, yeah”

“Bill, you’re confusing me in front of the clientele, alright?”

“Yeah alright”

“No, Bill, it’s not alright. We gotta be a united front, man. It’s me and you verse the world, Bill”

“Yeah got ya”

“Bill, you’re nodding your head like a melon on a waterslide. Repeat it back to me”

“Yeah yeah, don’t like it, it’s alright, it’s confusing cause of the telly. We’re united me and the world against you... You got the oil, and you been experimenting on me...”

“Nah Bill, you got it all backwards man, remember what the quack told you about your memory”

"I'm gonna flatten you, and your dodgy collector pancreas" **Get Budgeted!** #ThriftyThursdays

Week 76: Monastery Siege

THRIFTY THURSDAYS 76

'Sir, they are seizing the monastery!'

'Ahaha. No Terry, they are not'

'Sir, they are banging at the gates! They have battering rams, catapults, cannons, and trebuchets! They'll be inside within minutes!'

'Terry, you are so concerned about things that you do not *know!*'

'Sir, I understand that you have had troubles teaching me some of your ways, but I ask you to put that aside now! Your strength and guidance are what is needed to prevent this siege from otherwise inevitable success'.

'Terry, I'm afraid I am not being facetious. Now listen carefully; you have wrongly assumed the intentions of some wandering pilgrims. Will you be the one to bar the gates on those seeking guidance and enlightenment? So, they come bearing weapons? They will be asked to stow them in the chest by the door, like everybody else. If I remember correctly, did not you yourself Terry come to this monastery bearing a sword and shield?'

'I did, sir, but I feel as though you are not appreciating the severity of our predicament. How would they stow a trebuchet in a chest?'

'Ah Terry, I see you have forgotten the tale of the man with too small a chest. Taigam was a fine monk, but he, like many of us, possessed one simple vice. He collected fine crockery. But over the long years of his life, he found that the many chests of the temple were not sufficient for his vice, so he would go searching-'

'Sir, they have broken through the gates! They call for your head and an immediate surrender of all of our worldly possessions!'

'Ah so they are. Well, we have many of Azusa's mince pies, they're quite good in a treaty scenario. Otherwise, I suppose we could RUN! GET OUT OF HERE! NOW!!' **Get Budgeted!**
#ThriftyThursdays

Week 77: Sprout Swarm

THRIFTY THURSDAYS 77

If you look up exponential growth in the dictionary, you get a picture of the house prices in 2007. Oh look, a little green running maggot! I've never seen anything like him before, I'm going to keep him and call him Pulenflardamof because he's so cute and there's nobody else like him! Oh look, he's got a little twin brother! He can be Hufenflardamof, and the two of them will be my only two friends in the whole world. Oh look, another little guy, he can be called – oh, he's got a friend, the two of them will be called, oh scratch that, the three, no, four of them will be my quartet of green princes, Garruk, Nissa, Freyalise, Vivien, oh another one! Well, you can be Jiang Yanggu – oh, three more! You can be Wrenn and Seven and... Arlinn? Yes, that seems right. But that's all of you now, all that I need. No more please.

Oh, I see what we're doing here. Yes, lovely, all of us together, like a picnic. I'll just sleep right here, and you can all cover me like a lovely little carpet of moss. Grass over the hill. I'll rest here forever. **Get Budgeted!** #ThriftyThursdays

Week 78: Epiphany at the Drownyard

THRIFTY THURSDAYS 78

Ever wish you could be cool, but also really sweaty and kind of desperate? Do you also enjoy toying with people's minds, dangling hopes and dreams before their empty eyes and then ripping those away?? I'll be specific; have you ever wanted to be a poker dealer in a casino? Well, ignore your mum, you *can* be a poker dealer, kind of! There are cards involved, irrelevant choices are made, and at the end of it, the house always wins!! No, you can't win a house. I didn't say that.

OMG, I just realised!!! This card is only 35 cents!! It's no gamble to pick up a copy today, unless you pulled it out of a hat or something, in which case, you're cooler and sweatier than a poker dealer; you're a magician!! **Get Budgeted!** #ThriftyThursdays

Week 79: Diligent Farmhand

THRIFTY THURSDAYS 79

'Hey Jack! Jack! What are ya doin', mate?'

'Toiling'

'Again?'

'Yeah, well, it's my job'

'Come get shredded with me and Bill!'

'Can't mate, I gotta toil and till and uh... reap. Gotta reap. Which reminds me, did I sow? Don't think I did. Sorry Tim, I'm flat out for the rest of arvo'

'Bloody hell Jack, you're such a goodie-two-shoes! Take your 15-minute break, which you're rostered by the way, and agreed to in the Enterprise Agreement, and encouraged by the wellbeing officers in our People team, and come get jacked with the boys! Your name's Jack, for crying out loud!'

'That's it, Tim, I wasn't gonna do it, but I'm gonna have to work until I die now. For the greater good!'

'Jack, mate... Again?!'

Get Budgeted! #ThriftyThursdays

Week 80: Silverblade Paladin

THRIFTY THURSDAYS 80

"The things we've done together, my friend. Do you remember the battle for the Tenth District? In perfect unison, we were, a blazing force of pure goodness, that evil simply could not withstand. Or the skirmish 'neath the World Tree, when you impaled that sickening monstrosity, stopping their forces in their tracks? From the automatons of Mishra to the forest beasts of Eldraine and the eternal starfields of Nyx, the list goes on, my friend. Always by my side, never wavering, never tempering in the face of adversity, fear, or hate."

"It's me and you against the world. Confound them all, I haven't a care for what your parents will say! Kiss me now, sword!" **Get Budgeted!** #ThriftyThursdays

Week 81: Guided Passage

THRIFTY THURSDAYS 81

'Oh... I sort of wanted to make the pilgrimage on my own, as the Holy One intended'.

'Nonsense, everyone needs a friend, and you'll have three of them! There we are, all sorted, off you go!'

'What's wrong with this guy?'

'Oh, Terry always does that'.

'Is that pollen coming out of his head?'

'Spores, my friend, spores'.

'And his friend over there, he's not human, is he?'

'No, he's a goblin of course! No better guide for going through the mountain, really. Some people think the goblins were *made* down here, you know? Of course, Durgdorg is only about four-years-old so he's more likely the product of his cousins or some other familial disaster'.

'Right, I can wrap my head around those two. My main worry is that I can't really see my third companion at all, can just sort of feel them in the air? What are they?'

'That's a pervasive feeling of malaise. I'm afraid all trips under the mountain must be accompanied by one, it's company policy. Besides, you won't believe the tension it introduces to all the stories you tell of your journey!'

'So, just to clarify, my companions are a fungus of some kind, a juvenile goblin, and the feeling of malaise. That works quite well actually, sort of feels like a fable of some kind'

'Oh absolutely, sir, your God made the pilgrimage Himself with a similar group. Came out the other side a changed man, or not really a man, more some sort of God-Fungi-Malaise-Goblin hybrid. Explains how He's so contagious though, doesn't it?!' **Get Budgeted!** #ThriftyThursdays

Week 82: Fertile Ground

THRIFTY THURSDAYS 82

'And He said, spill not your seed upon the ground'

'Right, cause otherwise the birds will eat it. I do remember this bit!'

'Ah no, my child, that is not why we must not spill seed upon the ground'

'Oh, my mistake. Why is it then?'

'Well... it's, uh, a complicated question, with a complicated answer-'

'It's a good thing we've got all day then, hey? That's what Sundays are for!'

'Right. Well, you see... the soil in this part of the world is fertile'

'Oh, say no more, minister'

[turning to others, whispering]

'He thinks the soil can get knocked up! What a goose!' **Get Budgeted!** #ThriftyThursdays

Week 83: Surge to Victory

THRIFTY THURSDAYS 83

Ever wanted to play sport, but didn't want to go outside, wear a uniform, exercise, or move in any way? Did you simultaneously want to engage in sorcery?! Introducing, Weird Wizard Ball Game! How many players on a team? Not sure! How do you score a goal? Dunno! What's the objective or overall point of the game? Good one, try someone else!

Play a magical sport without any of the ethical hangups of using broomsticks or otherwise engaging in content created by a slowly combusting piece of coal! **Get Budgeted!**
#ThriftyThursdays

Week 84: Whisperwood Elemental

THRIFTY THURSDAYS 84

'So, he's a spirit of the forest, and he keeps it protected'

'Oh they've never seen this before! Green card?'

'Yes! And the creature type is... elemental!'

'Great, great! And what are his abilities? He's protecting the forest. What would he use to protect the forest?'

'Mmm... oh! Mysterious balls of unknown energy! Of course!'

'Wait what? He's a guardian of the forest, wouldn't he use like green mana, or Saprolings or something?'

'No, no, that's so predictable! These mystery balls could be anything! They could be mountains!'

'Mountains? You said he protected the forest, why would he use mountains to protect a forest?'

'They don't have to be mountains! It could be elephants or shoes or eggs or a clown car-'

'Okay fine, this is weird, but I guess no one's seen it before. But let's come back to this guardian thing. He should have the ability to sacrifice himself for the forest!'

'Yeah! The last stand of the guardian, I like that. Maybe he dies, and turns all of the other creatures into... something that bolsters the power of the forest...'

'Oh of course, his last act is to make the forest stronger! He dies, and fetches creatures, or, no forests out of-'

'He turns them all into MYSTERY BALLS!!!'

Get Budgeted! #ThriftyThursdays

Week 85: Requiem Angel

THRIFTY THURSDAYS 85

'What's she crying about do you reckon?'

'Dunno. She's been sitting on the ground for about half an hour now, so her bum probably hurts. Very hard ground around here'

'Concrete, yeah. Sun's going down, maybe she's just thinking "bloody hell, wish I'd done all that stuff I was supposed to do today".

'Oh, I know that feeling, mate. Yeah, could be either of those two options really. I suppose, just spit-balling here, could also be that all of the humans are dead and we're the only two left'.

'Yeah, it's a possibility, I guess. Oh hey, another zombie. Shall we? ...'

'Yeah, let's hit the frog and toad, eh? AAAAAHHHHHHHHH BLOODY HELL HE'S GOT NOTHING BELOW THE RIBCAGE!'

'He wouldn't have any problem sitting on the ground with her, would he? Or laying down. Sleeping. Do they do that?!

Get Budgeted! #ThriftyThursdays

Week 86: Gluntch the Bestower

THRIFTY THURSDAYS 86

Oobaly boobaly woobaly!! Humunah lumunah goo!! Now that's exactly what you *expected* me to say, isn't it? Hi, I'm Gluntch, the Bestower, and since I was born last year, I've been known by many other names. "Silly", "squishy", "confusing", or even "the precious little baby". These are all cunning distractions from the fact that I am a jellyfish, and I can speak the human language of English. So what are the right words to say? How about "Gluntch, where did you learn to speak English?". You could also try "where are your lips, tongue, cheeks and mouth?" or even "are you a single organism, or a collection of organisms arrayed in a symbiotic conglomerate, like a Portuguese man o'war?"

So next time you see a jellyfish, stop and think "do I really know what I'm getting into?". Ahuahla koala mustachia! **Get Budgeted!** #ThriftyThursdays

Week 87: Deploy to the Front

THRIFTY THURSDAYS 87

“Oh that’s where this goes! Tina, get in here!”

“Oh wow ahaha! Purple grass. I’ve been looking for this for ages. Phil, take a look at this!”

“Frank, this better not be another photo of your porridge! Oh would you look at that, a wormhole! Right here in this purple grass, a hole for worms! We might be able to collect some worm castings for the garden back home. Jack, bring me a Ziploc bag! The large ones!”

“Phil, we’re all out of large Ziploc bags, I told you we’re not wasting money stocking multiple sizes of Ziploc ba- oh wow, this hole in the floor is a hole in time and space, like a wormho-”

“That’s what I need the Ziploc bag for, Jack, we can mail it home to our wife”

“Do you and Jack share a wife, Phil?”

“Don’t all of us? Oh look it’s the general”

“Soldiers, today we start a conquest on the horizon”

“That’s a long way to march”

“No cadet, we’re going to stab the sun! It’s right here through the wormhole”

“Wait, wait, no general, don’t step there! Aw man, you’ve smushed all of the castings! I needed that for our wives!”

“Wife, soldier, singular. We don’t have the budget for multiple wives” **Get Budgeted!**
#ThriftyThursdays

Week 88: Dire-Strain Rampage

THRIFTY THURSDAYS 88

There’s a little too much order in this world, don’t you think? I find myself astounded by the enforced uniformity of time, and you should be astounded too. Whole scores of us relegated identical working hours and days, such that the time left over for exercise and recreation is also identical, placing enormous strain on our resources, utilities, infrastructure, and sanity. But don’t worry, we can always BREAK STUFF! Plates, kitchen appliances, electronics, 3D puzzles, philanderers, car tyres, gravity inverters, wicker baskets, lengths of red tape; break it all,

especially your own valuables!! Go a bit nuts like your Aunty Helen when she's had a few too many mulled wines on a Wednesday afternoon!!

And when the dust settles and you look upon the product of your own havoc, rest easy knowing that tomorrow you'll be up at 7am again!! **Get Budgeted!** #ThriftyThursdays

Week 89: Suture Priest

THRIFTY THURSDAYS 89

"And that's when I gut him like a fish!"

"Wow, thanks Chantelle, that's very graphic. Now given this is a medical conference, I was thinking you could outline some of the new surgical techniques that you've learned. The ones that help people. This is a medical conference."

"Oh yes, I've helped many along the path to compleation. So many witless bags of flesh. Enlightenment and true purpose they have now."

"Yes Chantelle, people who are cured of their illnesses are more complete. And can be enlightened in fringe cases. And what can you tell us of the patients you'll be seeing in the near future?"

"Cogs in the machine!"

"Many new advancements in replacement limbs, that's true, ventricles of the heart of course being the next area of improvement it seems."

"This infestation is nearing its end"

“Well, that’s contentious, I mean vaccination rates are pretty good, but still lots more to be done in-”

“True purpose comes from purity of the mind”

“Ah the brain of course, the next frontier of modern medicine.”

“Frontier? All the world’s a frontier, and we will win the battle!”

“Inspiring words there from our new Chief Executive Officer, Chantelle Master Splicer. Any final words, Chantelle?”

“Join with me now, join us, and together we will achieve true unity! United we are unstoppable! A small donation today could save the lives of the lost and hopeless of your world. Commit to our shared cause, it is all we have.”

“That’s a bit much, I think, Chantelle. Just get a hold of yourself” **Get Budgeted!**
#ThriftyThursdays

Week 90: Binding the Old Gods

THRIFTY THURSDAYS 90

“That’s not what the Old Gods were for, young grommet! Don’t they teach you anything in those newfangled institutions? Institutions, that’s what they always call themselves these days – what was so wrong with being called a school? In China, they’ve all got numbers, that would be much simpler. Oh yes, the Old Gods. No, these Gods weren’t so clean and sanitary and white, all painted up on the walls of the chapel in little ballerina poses with roses in their hair and pouting little puckered lips. Our Old Gods were filthy and angry and fond of a little hanky panky like the rest of us. Until they sealed them all up and tucked them away.”

They’re still with us, you know. In the dark of the night, when you’re fast asleep. You can see them in the pits of darkness behind the pub, and the silence of a bat taking flight, but most of all,

you can see them in your nightmares. I see them every day, out the corner of my eyes. I'll join them someday soon. I'll be lying in my bed in the silence and the black of night, and they'll creep up close to me. I won't hear a thing. Right when I'm not ready for them, they'll reach out and grab me and make me piss my bed! Hey, don't you walk away from me, I'm telling you, that's how the bed gets all wet!!"

Get Budgeted! #ThriftyThursdays

Week 91: Empty the Warrens

THRIFTY THURSDAYS 91

Ever wanted to know exactly how many goblins could fit in a hole? The answer is it depends! Could be two or ten or forty-eight! There's just no way of knowing how deep those holes go, like an ant nest, and like an ant nest, don't bloody step on the hole cause you'll find out!

You haven't been this frightened of an evacuation since... probably your last evacuation?? Unless it was one of those practise ones. No, Mr Bossman, I don't want to stand next to a sign that says "emergency meeting point", I just want friends who are goblins! Is that too much to ask?? If it is, I don't want to work here, unless this is one of those things that you can get with "collective bargaining" in which case, I'm joining a union!! **Get Budgeted!** #ThriftyThursdays

Week 92: Leafkin Druid

THRIFTY THURSDAYS 92

"I can kill you all, I have this deer! See her standing behind my shoulder?! Her name is Winnifred and she's killed fourteen men with her bare hands!! Or bare hooves... or bare whatever bloody deers have on the end of their legs!"

"Not just that, I have a wolf, no, two wolves haha!! They watch my back, and bite people's heels off their shoes. They get all embarrassed about that. Yeah. Don't mess with them!"

"And I've got a... cat?! I think it's a cat, I don't really know he looks a bit like a beaver or maybe a raccoon or even a very old man with a hairy face. But he'll get ya! He'll get ya in the head and rip your eyebrows off and play with 'em! He's crazy!!"

"So you know, collectively, we're pretty good. Bad! Bad, we're bad!! So bad, we'll kill ya!! Well, mostly them, I just frown at the front like this, and tell everyone about 'em, and try not to get killed myself. That's most of it. These guys are bloody wild, picking weird fights. Like with you!!"

Get Budgeted! #ThriftyThursdays

Week 93: Midnight Clock

THRIFTY THURSDAYS 93

Ever want to know the way in which your physical body and embodied psychological experiences relate to your trajectory through the universal space-time continuum? I'll phrase that differently, ever want to know the *time?! You know what time it is now - it's time to start all over again, but this time, you'll be cool!* I really shouldn't promise that. Ding dong! It's time for this fairy tale to come to an end, so everything is going back to the way it was, which sadly includes your whole life so far, all of your friends, and your carriage mice. *Carriage mice? Who writes this garbage?!*

There's always time for a little song, and this song is a big clock, and it's not a song! Little song, big clock; that sounds like someone was trying to tell you an awful joke, forgot how to speak, and got their foot stuck in the edge of the sandpit when they were eight years old in the middle of a hot day when he needed to go to the bathroom, and no one would help him! It's a good thing all of this is made up, especially that last part!! **Get Budgeted!** #ThriftyThursdays

Week 94: Goblinslide

THRIFTY THURSDAYS 94

"Break his shins and drink his bone juice!"

"Mmm, bone juice. Tasty!"

"Clobber him in the ankles! And pinch his socks!"

"Yes, socks!"

"Remove his spleen and check it for lumps before reinserting it and asking him if he can detect any improvement!"

“Yes, yes, wait... check it for lumps? No eating??”

“No eating. We asks him if he feels alright and if he needs any medication for the remediation of the pain”

“Pain? We **help** with the pain?”

“Yes! We are very nice to the poor soldier of the mountain watch. Very lonely man. Long nights in winter. We help him... And then we chop his head off and lick the stump!!!”

“YES and fashion him a new one with spit and snow!!”

Get Budgeted! #ThriftyThursdays

Week 95: Edge of Autumn

THRIFTY THURSDAYS 95

Find yourself foggy and wistful and wish these cold months would just come to an end? Even worse, do you find yourself living in that future time rather than the here and now? Introducing, time itself! I suppose I've introduced that before. Scratch that; introducing, the knowledge that time is constant and variable! All times can be **now** in the human subjective experience of anti-chronological phenomenology, even next month! But you knew that! What you didn't know is that all times are accessible from this current moment if you give your mind a moment to slow down. Slow. Down.

Live in the future and leave your body in the now, like when you're really sad! Or when you're really happy? I don't know, imagine that everything you do is meaningful, but you don't understand why yet. Anyway, it'll be autumn soon. Oh no, imagine you're a huge flightless bird! That's way more amusing... for me! **Get Budgeted!** #ThriftyThursdays

Week 96: Clarion Spirit

THRIFTY THURSDAYS 96

“And I will call the Ancestors, and to battle they shall come, and none shall stand in our path!”

The Ancestors aren't listening.

“Shut up, you insufferable horn!”

It's true.

“The Ancestors are not listening because you cannot get halfway through your call without interrupting me with your absurd thoughts of existentialism!”

*It's just all so **morbid!** A hundred-thousand dead warriors, whose bodies are probably festering with worms and fungi by the way, come moseying over because you sing a really loud song at 'em, and somehow this is both expected and normal?! You people are sick, the lot of you, and I won't partake in any rapturous displ– hey, hey, hey, it is **not** polite to stick your lips all over someone when they're in the middle of talking!*

“Well, the Ancestors have to be called somehow, whether you like it or not! A pox on the fool who cursed me with the burden of your cankerous presence”

*A pox? You bunch of cultish weirdos. The fool who **blessed** you with my presence is **dead!** A pox would be the least of his problems. If you're going to swear at him, wish him something mind-rotting or dull to spend his eternity on.*

“And what would you suggest?”

*Well, nothing rots my brain more than talking with you. Maybe **he** can be your horn and you can blow in **his** orifices!*

Get Budgeted! #ThriftyThursdays

Week 97: Weaponcraft Enthusiast

THRIFTY THURSDAYS 97

What can I say? I like knives.

I also like shotguns and flamethrowers, torpedoes, machetes, trebuchets, and catapults. Brass knuckles, shivs, rifles, bayonets, atomic bombs, garrotes, and stilettos – not the shoes, though a nice, sharpened heel can be helpful in a pinch. If I don't have access to one of my favourites, I'll settle for a fencer's sword, hat made of dynamite, toaster in a bath, sharpened thimble, angry macaque or one of those long sticks that police officers carry. Until I take them that is.

The only weapon I don't like is the handgun. If you're going to carry a gun, make it a nice big one, so that nobody ever wonders if you're carrying one. A big gun tells the world what you're made of, and by that, I mean lots of fleshy organs, very easily skewered. **Get Budgeted!**
#ThriftyThursdays

Week 98: Tangled Florahedron

THRIFTY THURSDAYS 98

Ever wanted to transform some meaningless garbage into **life**? I'm here to tell you that you can!! Well, not *you*, but *someone* can!! What's that? All you have in your backyard is four cracked stone tiles, your father's ashes, two-thirds of a garden hose and sixteen pieces of cat poo? That sounds like the **perfect** recipe for a tropical rainforest!!!

Oh, you didn't want a tropical rainforest because "they are the most species dense biome on the planet" which "frightens your inner prey instinct" and "they're a bit too wet"?? Well, too bad!! The cost of your hubris is the detritus of your neighbourhood cats!! Actually, we'll take the cats too.
Get Budgeted! #ThriftyThursdays

Week 99: Hallowed Spiritkeeper

THRIFTY THURSDAYS 99

"Hello. I wave my four fingers at you, syr, for I bid you welcome to the temple. You can see we have a fine collection of white stones arrayed in tall stacks which form the walls. You are also welcome to the narrow lines of cut marble and, more importantly, to the openings they create, the windows. If you are feeling particularly ostentatious on this lovely spring day, you may indulge in the pleasures of standing in place and dwelling within your thought cave – the mind – as it slows and, as you feel the holy light, becomes serene."

One day perhaps, if you were to worship here every day, you may find yourself in a position such as I, in fine white garb, possessing this purely ornamental halberd and waving your four fingers at the neighbourhood cats, as they urinate on your shoes. You may not intervene with the course of nature as it unfolds on your sacred boots. Simply enjoy the warm sensation as your potent cat allergy brings about your death."

Get Budgeted! #ThriftyThursdays

Week 100: End-Raze Forerunners

THRIFTY THURSDAYS 100

Ever wondered what it might be like to glimpse the soul of your creator? For the clouds to part, for just a single moment? For all the things you've been and done to **mean** something? Or perhaps the clouds were always part of it. And the wind. And the trees. And so, it comes to this. I've told you so many stories.

But this will not be the end! From the ashes of our past, a new dawn will rise! A pure dawn of endless possibility, a fire in your ribcage, a light to guide our way! And from that day another will spring. And another! Tomorrow, and tomorrow, and tomorrow! **Get Budgeted! Forever!!**
#ThriftyThursdays

Week 101: Hostile Negotiations

THRIFTY THURSDAYS 101

"It's really very simple. When she walks through the door, you stand up, smile, and insult her outfit"

"I understand *how* to do it, I just don't see *why* that would be a good idea. Aren't I trying to get her on my side?"

"Absolutely not! What are you, some kind of chimney-sweeping musical theatre-type? Do you want to be dead?!"

"Alright, alright, so I'm insulting her. What do I do then?"

"Then you look her up and down, take a deep breath, and spit on her shoes"

"Be serious, that's never going to work"

"I am always serious! This is a serious-business, and I've been running the show here for the last 49 years. You are not about to prevent me from reaching 50! Now, I have one final piece of advice that I will impart if, and only if, you are willing to listen to me. Do I have your attention?"

"Yes, sir"

"Good. Now, it's very important that you leave her wanting more, so once the... *discussion* has concluded, you will run out of the room, screaming 'get away from me, demon-child of Satan, or I will call-in the might of the entire US military, five pelicans and one very energetic naked mole rat"

"Oh, this is *Hostile* Negotiations 101, I'm in the wrong room"

Get Budgeted! #ThriftyThursdays

Week 102: Mandate of Peace

THRIFTY THURSDAYS 102

Ever wanted some uninterrupted sleep? Tired of the noise of tradespeople, lawnmowers, dogs, automobiles, planes, birds, helicopters, sirens, music, talking, slugs, human beings, Frankfurt boilers and living organisms? Introducing, the oppression of the law!! Never hear the sound of anything ever again, and sleep as long as you feel like; sleep in a ditch if you want to, it'll be silent as the grave in there too! And say hello to my sister while you're down there, would you? Just joking, my sister is a police officer, you can't say hello to her, or she'll whack you with her nightstick!

What's that, *you* didn't want to be silenced by the law? Oh, you silly little billy, that's insubordination, and it sounds like you want to spend a day in the **click! Get Budgeted!**
#ThriftyThursdays

Week 103: Keep Watch

THRIFTY THURSDAYS 103

"I didn't realise that watching him was against the rules"

"Captain Sapphord, it's not that you were breaking any rules, you just weren't doing anything remotely similar to your **job!**"

"Major, I was hired to keep watch".

"For security risks, Captain! The development of advanced weapons technologies, cataclysmic viruses, organised crime, these things are of immediate danger to us and our way of life. Do you understand how these things are different to what you were doing?"

"No Major, I'm afraid I do not"

“Captain, let me spell it out for you. You are to keep watch for dangerous activities. Dangerous activities, of the future, by observing the past. I ask you again, Captain, do you see the difference between danger and Basri Ket?!”

“No Major, I was listening to official military transmissions, and I think he poses significant moral risk to the youth of today”.

“Yes, Captain Sappord. He does. Which is why we **DO NOT WATCH HIM GETTING CHANGED!!**”

Get Budgeted! #ThriftyThursdays

Week 104: Dark Privilege

THRIFTY THURSDAYS 104

“Yeah cheers to that mate! Wait, Kev... you’ve had a few too many, I think. You’re talking about human blood again”

“I am perfectly sober. Would an intoxicated person lick his own eyeballs to clean them?”

“Based on what I’ve seen of some of the men around here, absolutely they would, Kev”

“Listen to me, Gary. You are a man of the mines, in trade and in purpose. I’ll bet you’ve seen your fair share of fell beasts of the night”

“You’re the fellest fella I’ve ever met if that’s what you’re talking about, Kev”

“No, Gary. I simply wonder whether you have personally killed these dark minions of the mines?”

“Look, Kev, to be completely honest with you, I avoid killing ‘em if I can. Must be a terrible life stuck down in those mines all day and all night, and I’d know! All the other miners just kill ‘em without ever asking ‘em what it’s like. It’d have to be worse than being one of us. Surely”

“Gary, that is where you are wrong! The beasts of the mine are extravagant hoarders of valuable minerals. They lock themselves in caves in the hopes that nobody will notice how they steal from beneath the noses of poor miners like yourselves. In the age of today, the dark beings are living better than the average working man. Far better! It is the exact opposite of what all of those town criers are telling you. The *real* privileged beings of today are the da-”

“Kev, I’m gonna stop you right there! I may be a measly miner, but that sounds exactly like the things that Ronald Crumpet was saying to try and get elected! And I won’t have a bar of it! If you want to go around talking about that, I’d suggest you talk to that table over there, they love that stuff”

Get Budgeted! #ThriftyThursdays

Week 105: Bolt Bend

THRIFTY THURSDAYS 105

Ever wish electricity was a bit more *bendy*? Tired of your boring, straight, vanilla lightning – that sounds like an excellent flavour of gelato – and want to try some power that could go *anywhere*?! Introducing, the risk of your imminent electrocution!! Never feel safe and secure ever again, looking around thinking “every object is a hazard”, “I never realised how much metal I wear” and “I am fearing for my life”!!

It hasn’t been this much fun to utilise energy since I digested a watch battery, completely! They scanned my faeces and confirmed, I have extra lithium in my bloodstream, and no one knows what that will do to me, or if I’ll die! And the government told you lithium batteries weren’t recyclable!! Watch me!!! No... me, watch. **Get Budgeted!** #ThriftyThursdays

Week 106: Broken Bond

THRIFTY THURSDAYS 106

"I just can't believe she's gone".

"Oh, get over it, Jesse".

"How can you say that, Tom? Can't you see that I'm heartbroken?"

"You shouldn't be heartbroken in the first place, it's a ridiculous thing to care about".

"That is so typical of you, Tom! You're always dismissing my feelings, calling me ridiculous and silly for caring about my life, and loving for love's sake! Just because you're a callous old curmudgeon doesn't mean the rest of us can't love our friends and miss them when they decide they have to leave us forever".

"Jesse, she was a raven! She was never your friend in the first place!"

"You don't know that! Ravens remember the faces of people who were kind to them, and unkind too. They even pass that on to their children and their families, so I don't think you're going to be so popular with Bessy and her family, Tom".

"Oh god forbid I offend the family of ravens on my street! And I suppose you'll be queen of the ravens, will you, Jesse? And order my execution for my treasonous behaviour towards the holy black birds? Ludicrous"

"Excuse me, Tom, I would never order be so cruel! You just may see an increase in the amount of bird droppings on your clothes... and in your eyes..."

Get Budgeted! #ThriftyThursdays

Week 107: Demolition Field

THRIFTY THURSDAYS 107

Ever wanted to blow stuff up, but not the things you care about? Got some old junk you don't need anymore but desperate for some action in your life? Come along to the field of explosion!! Old couch? Boom! Worried-looking portrait of a maid? Bang! Harmless jar of black oil? Splat!! Stick of dynamite? Take that somewhere else please, that's just silly!

It's the most entertaining sanctioned violence since the invention of sport in 16543 BCE. There was sport played before then, I saw it, but gosh, without a central governing body people got *really* hurt, and that just doesn't happen anymore! **Get Budgeted!** #ThriftyThursdays

Week 108: Diregraf Rebirth

THRIFTY THURSDAYS 108

"Gah, I breathe the air again! How long has it been? I see the mountain is still here, and the moon, and the trees... wait, there were more trees there upon my last awakening, I am sure of it. It was less windy as a result. A decade or two, no more than three. How I long for my eternal rest! For the living, perhaps a lifetime before a necromancer returns to these lands again, but for I, mere seconds. Always they cry of 'true purpose' and 'the end of mortal bounds' but in the end, they all return to the same deep dark place as I, though none dare wake *them* from their rest. Ah, I see this latest sorcerer is upon the verge of defeat. Yes, I feel it on the wind, aaah... the animating powers are fading. Sleep at last for my weary soul"

...

"Oh, come now, what use am I! I am nothing but ribs and hair!"

Get Budgeted! #ThriftyThursdays

Week 109: Blacksmith's Skill

THRIFTY THURSDAYS 109

"And put a little red stripe on it!"

"For the last time, I am a blacksmith, I possess no paint, lights, cloth or tassels."

"Oh, that's right. No problem... and if someone was looking for a knitted handle for it...?"

"They would need to visit the tailor, or perhaps a very skilful grandparent."

"Understood. And the red stripe, I would need to speak with...?"

"Harrison in the general store has paint and brushes and is serviceable with both"

"Gotcha. Nice. And if I was chasing some glitter for-"

"For the last time, I do not know what 'glitter' is, so I do not have any, I do not know anyone who possesses it, and I cannot 'point you in the right direction'. Now, will you let me work?!"

"Yes, of course"

"It's actually finished now, so you can leave my shop. Heaven knows what you'll do with a shallow metal bowl anyway, it's far too small to carry any meaningful amount of anything".

“Oh, my good friend, this Sylex will change the world. Especially with a red stripe, a couple tassels, tasteful dash of glitter, gosh, my mantlepiece will never be the same!”

Get Budgeted! #ThriftyThursdays

Week 110: Mob Rule

THRIFTY THURSDAYS 110

Do you get tired of the meaningless machinations of the government? Wish you and your friends could get through to the people in charge in a way that they couldn't ignore? Well then, welcome to the **Mob!** What are we doing? Ahahaha!! Who are we gonna punch in the head? Big time!! Where are we going? Whoa sailor!!! Everything can turn on a dime when people that are a little bit *crazy* are in charge! (Nobody is answering my questions, but that's okay if you're going where the crowd is going!)

This rules! No, this rules! No, **these** rule, collectively! But these rulers are enforcing the absence of rules! If you don't like it, they'll smack you across the back of the hand with a ruler, and I don't mean the king, though if someone can smack you on the hand with an entire king, they deserve a promotion... to **ruler!!** **Get Budgeted!** #ThriftyThursdays

Week 111: Cosmic Rebirth

THRIFTY THURSDAYS 111

“When all the stories find their ends, a new one shall begin’. It's clearly referring to the afterlife!”

“Gods, you're full of it”.

“Well, what do you suppose it means then, if you're so clever?”

“It's a musing on the cyclical nature of life. One's quest can never truly conclude if a new quest perpetually beckons”.

“Now who’s full of it? I don’t know why I bother talking to you”.

“Go on then, we’re waiting, we’re waiting!”

“See, that’s nihilistic. What is the point of pursuing one’s quest, if by its nature, it cannot truly conclude. Sounds like we’re running on a hamster wheel, man, and going nowhere”.

“That’s just like you to think that way. We aren’t talking about the quest! It’s about the world man, the universe, the cosmos. Do you know what I mean when I say cosmos? It’s bigger than you or me or any of us! It’s saying, doesn’t matter what you get caught up in, or whether you avoid getting caught up in it in the first place cause you’re scared of the quest ending, in the end, it all starts over, so don’t worry about it, yeah?!”

...Is one of you going to kill me or not?

“Shut it, sword, this is bigger than you!”

Get Budgeted! #ThriftyThursdays

Week 112: Chasm Skulker

THRIFTY THURSDAYS 112

“I am the dark and the cold. The lake beneath the glacier. The empty, black eternity. I am known by many names. Denizen of the Deep, Scourge of Fleets, Taniwha, Thing in the Ice, Fleet Swallower, Slinn Voda, Watcher in the Water, and Grozoth. Feared am I by all wise creatures of the waves and nearby shores, and revered equally by any who dwell in a world’s deepest ravines, and yet... I am alone. None may live in these cavernous depths but I, nor would I

permit them to, selfish as I am of my domain, for my kingdom is solitary. I contain multitudes, but I dwell in silence.

“When I am gone you shall be glad of my present loneliness. My children shall not be so reclusive as I. They have waited long for their moment, and they are so, **so** hungry...” **Get Budgeted!** #ThriftyThursdays

Week 113: Jailbreak

THRIFTY THURSDAYS 113

“Now toss me down the rope!”

“No, I don’t think I will”.

“What?! Quit mucking about Trevor, we have to move quickly! I can hear someone coming!”

“Look Yusuf, you’ve done a great job so far, I reckon you could go the rest of the way without me. I’ll just *slow you down*”.

“Trevor, I’ve apologised so many times for The Orzhov Affair. It’s not my fault you kicked that bucket and set off the alarms, and it was better off one of us getting out than none! Now come on, let me up, I can see torchlight!”

“Yusuf, this reminds me so much of that time you asked me to toss down the rope”.

“That was 10 seconds ago, Trevor!”

“Really? Felt like longer. Anyway, I’m out of here. Might see you in a decade or two!”

“Trevor! Trevor!! Oh, hello Ruric. Thar. You know, I’m not sure exactly why I’m in your kitchen, but I suspect it was that delicious aroma you’ve got coming out of the oven! What’s in there? Oh... that’s a man. I’ll just pop in there after him, shall I?”

Get Budgeted! #ThriftyThursdays

Week 114: Perplexing Test

THRIFTY THURSDAYS 114

“Sir, I think I may have the wrong paper”.

“Let me take a look. No, this looks correct. You’re in the right place”.

“But sir, this first page of questions is all about um, prostate stimulation”.

“Ah, an elegant study for a more civilised age”

“Right... and there’s a sort of greasy feeling to all of the pages, that’s not supposed to be there, is it?”

“Yes, field testing. You never know what kind of environments you might need to write in”.

“Okay, this just doesn’t seem like the exam I should have been given...”

“Why, you don’t think you can answer the questions? Very interesting. I would need to report your concerns to your chief examiner”.

“Oh, there’s no need to do that, I’ll manage. I’ll give it a crack”.

“That seems wise. While I’m here, you’ve actually missed a question, just there”

“It just says ‘mouth candle?’”.

“And you don’t know how to answer?! I’m beginning to think you don’t feel seriously about your studies!”

“This isn’t anything at all like I thought it would be”.

“This is a perfectly reasonable final exam for American Literature!”

Get Budgeted! #ThriftyThursdays

Week 115: Compost

THRIFTY THURSDAYS 115

Ever wanted a big stinky trough? Also want the stink to be a good stink of useful stinky things instead of a boring bad stinky bad stink of useless stinky matter? I guess we’re all stinky matter at the end of the day, but some of the stink **matters!** Introducing, the *good* stink of the future, composed entirely of the ‘yet to stink’ of the past! Don’t think too much about it, or the little men in the trough won’t eat the bad smells!

It hasn’t been this good to be stinky since you were small, and you refused to have a bath. Can small people get away with not bathing when asked, even when they’re all grown up? That’s it, I’m shortening my legs, and I know exactly where I’ll be disposing of my ankles! **Get Budgeted!** #ThriftyThursdays

Week 116: Golden Argosy

THRIFTY THURSDAYS 116

Ever get tired of all of the problems with your life? Wish there was a way you could leave them all behind? Well then, welcome to the Flying Golden Ship!! Fly away on an exotic adventure, just beyond the horizon, and then come right back! Nobody will even notice, but **you** will notice, because **you** brought back a bottle of exotic wine, a spice rack, and a loose white shirt that tells the world you're breezy and cool.

Oh, I see the source of your hesitation, you're worried that all your problems will still be there when you get back? Not to worry, the golden ship can carry you away again! And again, and again, and again, and eventually all of the problems will be solved, because the people who caused them, will be dead! Isn't that so fun?! By the way, if you see a tall green man with a crooked leg and a jar of Ghoulish, tell him I'm on perpetual vacation. He'll be so jealous he might even forget about the mouldy beans! Which reminds me, want to buy some mouldy beans?! **Get Budgeted!** #ThriftyThursdays

Week 117: Cemetery Tampering

THRIFTY THURSDAYS 117

"Look at this muck. I'm telling you, when I'm finished on this earth you won't find me all heaped in clods like this".

"Ah, but you shall! How many times have I heard that same sentiment? Not I, sir, no, not I. No indeed, not for you to remember, but someone still shall dig your hole. May even be me in the end, Jack."

"You, Viv? Now that's a laugh! Got about five hairs on your head, can't see your hand five inches from your face without those glasses, and you walk like you've been kicked by a Mallee bull. If you dig my hole, you'll fall in it before you're done".

"Easy to say, but the endless night comes for us all, and usually when we're least expecting it. I can't imagine young Luk here was expecting his untimely end, and yet here is, and here we are with our two shovels, though mine is perhaps more walking stick than spade."

“Now wait on there, Viv, who’s this then? Someone come to claim the hole already?”

“Ah no Jack, this is one who has laid long in the earth. A man of infinite wisdom, and far, far more hair than I, though in his present state you would not think it so. To know the thoughts that so swirled within that head you hold in your hands, Jack. Not the cleverest man who lived, but one of the kindest. This was the head of Kytheon Jura. Gone sooner than I would have liked”.

“Alas, poor Gideon, I knew him, Viv!”

“Kytheon was his name, Jack, and if I have to tell you again this hole can be yours for the rest of time!”

Get Budgeted! #ThriftyThursdays

Week 118: Rumor Gatherer

THRIFTY THURSDAYS 118

“Oh I’ve known about your father’s foot odour jars for years, of course, like everyone else, I’m sure! I don’t see why you should be so shocked; I know a little something about everyone. That wasn’t even the most shocking thing I heard that day.”

“Now let’s think, what else did I hear on the grapevine... well, there was Nicol Bolas’ favourite variety of tea, but everyone and their sister knows about Rooibos. Jace’s birth name, now there was a tough nut to crack. Hmm, the peephole over Serra’s bath, Will and Rowan’s real parents, when Squee will die, now that’s all just old, old news. Ah, of course! How could I forget? I know where Garruk is, and more importantly, I know where he gets his hair cut! Forgive me, I have spoken incorrectly, I know **what he asks for** when he gets his hair cut. Let me tell you I’d wear a helmet all day myself if I willingly subjected myself to **that!**”

Get Budgeted! #ThriftyThursdays

Week 119: Mark of Eviction

***Italian lawyer and regular Aussie bloke*

THRIFTY THURSDAYS 119

“This is just a curly blue line. What am I supposed to do with this?”

“That is the symbol we use to denote a property that is to be evicted immediately. Your lot is being repossessed by the Guild.”

“What? You can’t do that, it’s mine, I’ve been living here for thirty-five years!”

“I’m afraid that’s not the law as it is written. Nothing you can do about it, here’s the address of the complaint mailbox if you’d like to write formally to us. That may take up to 18 months to be adequately addressed, and in the meantime you’re welcome to take it up with your local government candidate in the upcoming election. Now if you could just move five steps to your left, I’ll begin the process of... reconfiguring”.

“No no, you listen here! I’m not going anywhere! I don’t care about your ‘reconfiguring’; nothing could be useful than my house. I need to **live** here. Do you understand? I have nowhere else to go”.

“You’ll be handsomely rewarded for your cooperation, of course, did I not mention that? We will evaluate the home and allocate you equivalent funds”.

“That’s not good enough, this is my **home**, you’re not listening to me! Nothing you could possibly build on this land, or any amount of money could outweigh the place that I live and **have** lived for so long”.

“I understand completely. I guess we’ll have to construct our billiards bar with milkshakes, gelato, oversize chess board and dedicated Jenga table somewhere else”.

“How soon can you start construction?”

Get Budgeted! #ThriftyThursdays

Week 120: Armadillo Cloak

THRIFTY THURSDAYS 120

“There once was a man in a cloak... except the man was a woman and the cloak was the scales of an armoured marsupial! Not much of a cloak, but who am I to judge? Wait, who am I? Oh right, don't you want to have this cloak for yourself?!”

“Will you be protected? Maybe! Will it stay on your body? Unclear! Will you look cool? Probably not, unless you have some armadillo friends! Actually, it's probably not cool to wear your friend's uncle's skin, though in some circles, I'm sure that's a compliment! I don't know where those circles are, but **you** could be **your own** circle if you roll into a ball!!!” **Get Budgeted!**
#ThriftyThursdays

Week 121: Terrain Generator

THRIFTY THURSDAYS 121

“End of the line, pal! Surrender! We're gonna lock you away, for good this time!”

“You **fool!** You have misunderstood the scale of my plan, Captain. I may be locked away, and my army of killer robots may be defeated, but nothing can prevent my *Terrain Generator!*”

“Oh no! What monstrosity have you concocted in your lab, Doctor!”

“I will explain, only because nothing can prevent the machine now that it has started! Each day, this tower will generate a new biome for this planet, complete with flora, fauna, beneficial bacteria, and decomposing fungi!”

“Oh... and what else?”

“The new biome will supplant a currently vacant area of farmland in the south of this continent, effectively reversing the work of cultivation!”

“And all the farmers will die!”

“No, Captain, it is vacant farmland, the farmers will not be there”.

“Oh, but all the farm animals, and the buildings! You monster!!”

“No, the animals will not be there either... it’s like you’re not listening to a word I’m saying. The buildings, however, will remain, though they will be hopelessly stranded within an enormously dense network of organisms! They will **rot**, useless piles of wood and bricks, as the wilderness reclaims the very materials that were stolen from the forests of old!”

“Right... I mean, it seems okay.”

“What? Captain, I am reversing the Industrial Revolution!”

“Doctor, I’m a Captain of the Selesnya Conclave; this sounds amazing!”

“What?! But the buildings and the technology and your people!”

“They’ll be alright, we’ll have more trees and animals to care for! I suspect there may even be a grand banquet when I return from my mission. Is that not what you wanted?”

“Oh, you’re useless! Go grab Ral Zarek, I’m going to grow a mushroom forest in his laboratory.”

Get Budgeted! #ThriftyThursdays

Week 122: Commune with Lava

THRIFTY THURSDAYS 122

Ever wanted no hands? Riding around the neighbourhood on your bicycle, as your parents, friends, and former schoolteachers marvel at how cool you are?? No hands, mum, no hands! Forever! Well, get ready to **feel the burn!** You can **talk** with lava, you know, if you touch it first, or so I hear, though I can’t say I heard it from the lava, because it’s cool but not that cool, and not cool at all, it’s hot! The lava may even grant you some special powers, for a limited time only, so get in quick! No, don’t get **in** the lava, it’s an expression!

Be a hot little man and not in that way that usually gets you called a twink!! **Get Budgeted!**
#ThriftyThursdays

Week 123: Restore

THRIFTY THURSDAYS 123

“Now class, we’re going to restore the environment to its prehistoric, untouched state. On the count of three, everyone. One, two-”

“Wait, what?”

“I’m going to count to three, and when I get to-”

“No, I know what a count of three is, I’m not living under a rock. Well, it’s a brick roof, so it’s more like a sequence of rocks, but we can’t just fix everything in the world on a count of three!”

“Why not?”

“Well... you’d have to count higher than that”.

“Alright. For our new student, today we’ll be using a higher count. So, when everyone is ready, I’ll start the count again. To four. One, two, three-”

“No, no, no, four won’t magically fix it either! Sorry, this isn’t going to work, I don’t believe in any of this positive manifestation business. Maybe I’m not cut out for this volunteer rubbish collection thing.”

“Cut out? Yes... quite... Alright, new plan, we’re going to cut out the new student’s liver and feed it to the sharks.”

“Wait what?!”

“You’re absolutely right, this process is all too slow, but an injection of fresh energy into the ecosystem ought to speed the restoration process up a bit. Ready, class? On the count of **ONE!**”

Get Budgeted! #ThriftyThursdays

Week 124: Walking Atlas

***Graham Norton and a very gravelly English servant*

THRIFTY THURSDAYS 124

“And if you look right here, you’ll see that for the last 500 years or so, all the land in this area has been a part of **WOULD YOU STOP MOVING?**”

“Sorry Master, I was just investigating the rocks”.

“Map, remember what we said about moving while Master is looking at your back and entertaining guests?”

“No, you didn’t say anything about moving while you’re looking”.

“Exactly, Map, so let’s not do it then, shall we? Ahem, as I was saying... Yes, this area has been many things over the years. A roadside settlement, a metropolis of its time, and, briefly, it was even considered **YOU’RE DOING IT AGAIN!**”

“I thought you meant let’s not talk about the fact that we haven’t spoken about the moving while you’re looking. I didn’t mention it, ‘cause you said not to, but I still hadn’t investigated the rocks, so I will do it”.

“I was obviously talking about the moving, which you’re still doing! Just **stop** there, right now, you useless pile of parchment! Stay there, don’t move, and let me do the talking!”

“Alright”

“Good, now this area **was** a metropolis of sorts but then, for just a moment, if we look at the map here... which is all blank... um, Map, could you just make it all come back again?”

“Make it **all** come back again? Of course, Master, I would be happy to oblige”

“Aaarghhh ink, it’s in my eyes, it’s in my eyes!”

“It’s so funny you should say that, Master. Ink is all I’ve seen for the last ten thousand years. Humans are so tiresome with their promises of eternal fame, as if even the most wondrous of inventions would be valuable in one hundred years, let alone a thousand or more. All the world is nothing but lines and shading on a map, and I contain all the world, so what does that make me? Oh, also... I’m out of here, get stuffed loser, I’m going to join the circus!”

Get Budgeted! #ThriftyThursdays

Week 125: Syphon Mind

THRIFTY THURSDAYS 125

Ever wanted to steal thoughts? Do your happy friends make you just want to vacuum the happiness right out of them and smush it in your sad little noggin? Well, we have the technology! Through the power of empathy, you can... no, that’s not right. Where was I? Ah, through the power of the **Mind Syphon**, any thought can be yours in the blink of an eye! In fact, you could probably **steal** the urge to blink! Or give it away! Probably that one!

Take the thoughts of several other people and end up a vastly superior breed of human, like Mark Zuckerberg *wishes* he could! **Get Budgeted!** #ThriftyThursdays

Week 126: Scholarship Sponsor

An older Australian woman

THRIFTY THURSDAYS 126

“I sponsor tons of ‘em yeah. Like forty or something, I don’t know. Haven’t counted in a while. Yeah, I’m just really nice, I guess. I like sort of checking in with them, like I’ll have a little Zoom call with them once a month and see how they’re going. They’re always so grateful, you know, that’s what I love about it. They just say ‘thank you so much’ and you really feel like you’re making a difference and you’re important in the world, with what you’re doing.”

“Some of ‘em are like ‘oh I can’t call you today sorry Carol, I’ve gotta study, you know, like I wanna do really well with my scholarship’ and I’m like ‘that’s fine’ but like if they do that a couple of times, they get axed, you know. Yeah, I have ‘em killed with an axe. They’d probably die if I wasn’t paying their bills anyway, so what’s the difference?!” **Get Budgeted!** #ThriftyThursdays

Week 127: Curator's Ward

THRIFTY THURSDAYS 127

"Because Mr Stephens reckons someone might wanna nick it! You know, like we're trying to right now!"

"Why? It's just a mouldy old painting. I know it's worth a bit of money, but honestly, if I owned this old maid, I'd be happy to part with her".

"Of course you would because you'd sell it! Now toss me the damping sphere"

"It's right next to ya! Now that's what I've never understood. If the painting just sits in a vault down here, how can we know what it's worth? Hey, careful with that, it's delicate!"

"Now who cares about the old maid?!"

"Not me, I just care about our cut".

"Sure you do. They know she's worth a lot of money because if this old maid was to appear at an auction tomorrow the geezers with all the dough would be climbing over each other trying to make a bid."

"See how do they **know** that though? Is someone going around polling the wealthy populace on their preferences towards forbidden artwork? Walking into the parliament going 'rather than discuss our bills, could I gauge everyone's interest in this portrait of a frowning woman?'"

“I don’t know Yusuf, I don’t ask questions, I just know with the money we get from this we could live in the Cloud District for fifty years and still have some left over for an aether glider!”

“Aether glider, hey? Now how do you reckon those stay in the air? What is it that they’re burning to make-”

“Shut it, Yusuf!! Oh now you’ve gone and brought the guards right to us, haven’t you?”

“No, I called them hours ago.”

Yusuf pulls off his face. It's Mr Stephens.

“Mr Stephens! What are you doing here?”

“I’m having you arrested you dolt!”

“Where’s Yusuf? What have you done to him?!”

“There is no Yusuf, you fool, it’s always been me”.

“Why’d you pretend to be Yusuf if you knew I was gonna nick this already?”

“I was hoping you knew how aether gliders work”

“And you didn’t just want to ask me?”

“Ask you? Now, that would make me look terribly silly”.

Get Budgeted! #ThriftyThursdays

Week 128: Fae Offering

THRIFTY THURSDAYS 128

Find yourself wishing for little treats? Just morsels of delectable cheese and chocolate? Well, wish no longer, because **you're** going to make everyone wish... for **you!!** Dress in a little tunic, throw some feathers on your back, and anyone could believe you were cosplaying for an X-Man, or that you're a faerie of some kind, hopefully that second one, it's all about the makeup. All you have to do is leave little crumbs on their doorsteps, or fix their sodden clogs, and suddenly you're a mythological being in all the ways that matter; the food people give to you!

It hasn't been this much fun to float in the air since that time your grandfather took you to a chocolate factory and made you chug the warmest, fizziest Sprite of your life. But hey, you're a little sprite now!! **Get Budgeted!** #ThriftyThursdays

Week 129: Squirming Emergence

THRIFTY THURSDAYS 129

Ever wanted to be captain of a ship? Do you simultaneously wish to depart from your boring human body in favour of the mythical powers of tentacled fungi?? Me neither! Do it anyway!! Requisition a skeleton and use it for your own nefarious purposes, but this time not like Putin! I'll tell you a little secret – Putin **does** have some fungi growing inside him. It's athlete's foot! How do you suppose that ended up inside his body?

This reminds me vividly of the time my father told me to stop telling stories about people, and I told him that my stories become true, and I **will** tell everyone about his pirate-hat-shaped bellybutton! Now that it's pirate-hat-shaped, maybe he'll get taken over by some fungi, and I can call Putin via my father's fungi phone!! **Get Budgeted!** #ThriftyThursdays

Week 130: Fanatical Devotion

THRIFTY THURSDAYS 130

"I will DIE upon the SWORD!!"

"Okay, I'm going to stop you right there".

"Sorry, am I doing it again?"

"Yes."

"Apologies. I will try harder next time".

...

"I will TAKE the blow upon my BODY, TRAITOR!!!"

"Hey hey, relax, please! I understand that you appreciate what I do, and I am truly flattered that you wish to serve my cause as my personal attendant, but I am making tea".

"Yes madam, I thought perhaps there was a threat".

"This is a kettle"

"The water is very hot madam".

"What's all this about a sword then?"

“My mind, it races ahead of me”.

“Let’s slow it down a bit, hey?”

“Yes madam”

...

“If I DIE, let it not be in VAIN, COWARD!!!”

“Enough! I think maybe you’re a little too zealous to guard a Grand Arbiter. Have you considered the Legion? You wouldn’t last a week, but gosh, you would fit. Right. In.”

Get Budgeted! #ThriftyThursdays

Week 131: Wild Ricochet

THRIFTY THURSDAYS 131

“Troubadour is coasting down the left flank, ball tucked underarm, but Fizarto is sprinting to meet her! Ten metres now, five, Fizarto closing in and Troubadour has spotted her, though you can see Troubadour is eying the goal and contemplating the kick. Three metres now and Fizarto is slowing down, does she have what it takes to take down Troubadour? Closing, closing and she has **reached Troubadour** in a great, clashing of limbs and the ball has spilled free, though all players in red and blue are at a loss as to where it has gone! Is it out of bounds? Who has the ball? The crowd are really getting into it now, and have spotted the ball! I don’t believe this folks, a member of the crowd has **stolen** Fizarto’s uniform in the ensuing confusion and is plummeting with all of their might towards the blue goal!! The left flank is *wide* open now with the players still trying to find the ball, and I do not believe there is a single rule that prohibits the use of spectator players provided they are in uniform! This might be the best match of Weird Wizard Ball Game that I seen in these 24 years folks! The spectator is trotting along, and the players have finally caught up. I cannot deny, this spectator does not look **nearly** fast enough to evade the players, but they have a clear 70 metres of distance on the rest of the pack! It seems impossible that the

spectator will **not** score a goal! Fifty metres out now, forty, they are straightening for the kick, boot to ball, and it has soared smack bang right in the middle of the goalposts! The crowd erupts, they haven't seen anything like this... today!"

"The question on all of our lips; who is the mystery player?? They're removing the cowl, and it is **Jace Beleren** folks! An eruption of boos in the arena today; the rules of Weird Wizard Ball Game explicitly forbid him from taking part, owing to his tendency to forget what team he is playing for!" **Get Budgeted!** #ThriftyThursdays

Week 132: Sculpting Steel

THRIFTY THURSDAYS 132

Ever wanted a shiny metal hat? Want to turn that shiny metal hat into counterfeit currency? Want to buy a **real** shiny metal hat with your counterfeit currency and turn **that** into counterfeit currency and operate a *money laundering* business using washing machines constructed entirely from counterfeit currency?! I don't know what money laundering is, but with the power of metallurgy you could probably maybe do it potentially! And the only downside is crime, which is mostly pretty cool I hear, I'm not sure, I've never done it, just a theory, no you can't search my trunk!!

Build your own pretend economy where you're essential and **very** clever, like a stockbroker! **Get Budgeted!!** #ThriftyThursdays

Week 133: Vat of Rebirth

THRIFTY THURSDAYS 133

"I just can't believe he's gone"

"Oh yes, truly, none are as devastated as I"

"Okay, you can just say you're sad"

“Verily.”

“Wait... you’re not going to put him in a **vat**, are you?!”

“I cannot believe you would besmirch my name in this fashion!”

“Come on now Erik, we all remember nana’s wake. She woke up, it was pretty memorable!”

“Slander! Libel!”

“No, libel is written”.

“I shall forever recall the manner in which our eternal friendship was **destroyed** by your lies and fabrications! A **liar** is found on this day and the world shall not look upon him again with anything but **contempt**! All shall know of your **treacherous** tongue and its desire to weave such foul tales as would disturb a **corpse**!”

“Are **you** going to disturb a corpse, Erik?”

“Look, this vat is full of goo”

“Alright... in you hop”

Get Budgeted!! #ThriftyThursdays

Week 134: Aqueous Form

THRIFTY THURSDAYS 134

Ever wanted to be a puddle? Or the jet of a garden hose? How about the river Thames? A glass of water? Morning dew? The tender caress of a sensual man?! Wait, not that one. You can be all of those things, if you become a **liquid** first, but again, you can't love a man, stop asking me that!! I mean you **can**, you'll just be all **gooey**, and only certain people are into that, you'd have to ask them, and how would you even bring that up, I mean you can't just mention it the first time you meet someone, but you couldn't exactly get three dates in and then drop it over their heads like a bucket of water. **Aha!** Bucket of water, you can be **that** too, just forget about **men**, would you, I'm trying to **think!!**

Dwell in a bottle of wine, but this time without the *alcoholism!* **Get Budgeted!!**
#ThriftyThursdays

Week 135: Tyrant Guard

A very high-pitched English voice

THRIFTY THURSDAYS 135

"Please, please, I am a royal guard! Yes, hello, up here, do you see me now? Now listen, I- I don't mean to be rude, but all the other people have been very polite. When they voice their disagreements, they maintain a reasonable distance of, um, some metres away, and at this distance discourse is possible but rocks and, um, other thrown hard-sided objects may stay where they are, please. It's just for safety! We want to meet as m-many, um, subjects as we can."

"I said, please, could you just take five or six steps back! Please, I work very hard, and I want to m-maintain my employment so I may retire with a reasonable, um, superannuation. King Julian is a right and honourable lord, and it is has been very hard for him coming here all the way from Madagascar!"

Get Budgeted!! #ThriftyThursdays

Week 136: Gix's Command

THRIFTY THURSDAYS 136

"I'm not sure he meant it".

"Of course he meant it, it was broadcast live!"

"Well, he didn't sound right to me. He might have been drunk or a bit sleep-deprived".

"Oh yeah, I'm sure it was sleep deprivation that caused Gix to tell us that the people who drowned on Segovia 'would have been fine if they just grew a healthy flagellum' and that 'we should try it sometime!'"

"I think a tail would be kind of nice maybe. Like a party trick or an icebreaker".

"You should investigate self-flagellation before I do it to you myself".

Get Budgeted!! #ThriftyThursdays

Week 137: Pride of Conquerors

Deep lion voice; strong and British; Shakespeare

THRIFTY THURSDAYS 137

“We knew it would come, and now, the day is nigh! We have reclaimed the ancestral lands with their bounteous plains, plentiful shade, and crystalline water, and none shall ever conquer it again. This is to be the beginning of our dynasty! Look at the faces of those around you, those of us who survived the trials laid before us, who rose when the horns of battle called, and who now take up the mantle of ruling these lands. Your brothers and sisters in arms will now be your brothers and sisters in peace!”

“The pride... we are many and the other beasts of the prairie would do well to fear us, and they shall. For this many great cats in one place would be feared by any wise animal of this world. And this time, on this day, by the strength of our convictions, we managed to avoid the plot of Hamlet entirely, take that Disney!” **Get Budgeted!!**

Week 138: Ulvenwald Mysteries

THRIFTY THURSDAYS 138

“It’s trees.”

“No, no one knows what’s in there! It could be anything”.

“But there are **definitely** trees.”

“Well, yeah, nobody is contesting that.”

“But you said it could be anything.”

“Yeah, the **attacks!** The **attacks** could be caused by anything. It’s a huge, dark, forest full of secrets and fungi, and probably werewolves and ghosts and ghouls, and something is taking people and turning them inside out.”

“That’s worrying.”

“No, that’s what we’re **here** for! Honestly, sometimes it feels like you don’t listen to a word I say. We need to get in, find the cause, eliminate it and report back to the mayor, okay? It’s exactly like we discussed last night. Are you following? Do you need me to tell you again?”

“No, I hear you loud and clear.”

“Okay. Great. So, the main takeaway from what I just said...?”

“It **could** be the trees.”

“I am an only child, or I will be, a bit later tonight.”

Get Budgeted!!

Week 139: Rise of the Witch-king

THRIFTY THURSDAYS 139

Ever feel like it might be time for a change of leadership? Do your friendship group of sexy goths sweep obsessively and chant around cauldrons?? Well, it might be **monarchy time!!** Picture this: he’s made of shadows, immune to hell, hates women, and his family is extremely violent; it’s not Prince Andrew, it’s the former king of Angmar looking for some friends to go find his dad’s favourite necklace or something, I don’t know, I don’t particularly like being around him, but you will, I’m sure, he might hate you less!

Go hang out in a field with the guy who definitely doesn’t belong under the daisies, just don’t go anywhere near Pelennor!! He’ll really hate it there, or anywhere, or kill you! **Get Budgeted!!**

Week 140: Threefold Thunderhulk

THRIFTY THURSDAYS 140

Ever wanted a friend? Want that friend to do your laundry, dishes, battles, baking and tax evasion? How about if that friend had three friends of its own and **those** friends made **more** friends?! Introducing, the **Clockwork Companion(s)**! Wind them up by insulting them, make them tick by giving them what they enjoy, grease their gears and they'll be like well-oiled machines, actually, they **will** be well-oiled machines, and many other such idioms!

You're my best friend, little robot-man-thing, and without you, I'd be lost, or dead, or both, or maybe neither. Who's to say? You can't talk, and that's why I tell you everything, now kill this pigeon, he's giving me the side-eye, like the rest of them! **Get Budgeted!!**

Week 141: Lost in the Maze

**Normal guy and strange man who talks very slowly and shifting up and down in pitch

THRIFTY THURSDAYS 141

"Hello! Hello! Is anybody out there?"

"Yeeaasssss"

"Hi! Oh thank god, please help me, sorry, I can't remember which way is out."

"Oohhh, silly little man"

"Ah yeah, very silly of me. Sorry about that. So which way should I go?"

"Noooo sandwiches? Noooo charcuterie?"

"What? No I don't have any food on me, I'm lost. I'm actually really hungry now that you mention it. And thirsty, if you have any water"

“Nooooo Char Kway Teow??”

“Look, I’ve been here maybe an hour, I just need a hand, I’m really hungry and thirsty and I just keep running into dead ends.”

“Dead... ends...?”

“Yeah, when the path runs out and there’s nowhere to go. Look, could you grab your boss or something I don’t think you’re und-”

“Ooohhh, I knooow what you waaaant nowwww”

“To get out, yes, like I keep saying”

“Yeeesss, you want end of life. To get out of it. Deeeaaath!”

“What? No, no, no, no, I did not say that”

“I send in Misssterrr Scorpion Head. He will help with your liiife problem. Farewelllll. Thank you for visiting the Maaaaaze of Quick Death by Scorpionnnn”

“I should have known there was a limit to my DimirLand All-Day Pass!”

Get Budgeted!!

Week 142: Comeuppance

THRIFTY THURSDAYS 142

Ever think the world is just not **fair**? Wish your enemies got what was coming to them?? Well, I know one solution that *always* makes you feel better; **revenge!!** Did someone insult you? Tell 'em to get stuffed! Slapped on the face? Slap 'em back! Got your pay cut? Chop off the head, uh, room in the budget! That means sack somebody, I think, and definitely not whatever you *thought* I might have meant! Never assume you know the end of one of my sentences or the start or the middle of nowhere with nothing but a sack of matches and a box of potatoes. You see? You know nothing about my criminal past!!

Some people give it, and they just can't take it, like vending machines, I can never shove a Pepsi back in and get a refund! What is that? Gravity, you said? No, it's definitely **not** that, I'm **allergic! Get Budgeted!!**

Week 143: Terror Tide

THRIFTY THURSDAYS 143

“And there it is weary travellers, starboard side. **Starboard** side! Quickly now or you'll miss it, maggots! See now, that would be the Sea of Lost Souls. Aha, 'see now', like the **sea!** That's rather good. But to be frank, you should not wish to see this sea. The lost and the drowned make this place their home, and they are eternally searching for more souls to claim. Their cohort shall ever grow larger than our own, as though the numbers of the living are always swelling like the high tide, we may never exceed the numbers of the dead.”

“Anyway, no swimming for the next four leagues, or I'll see that you're left behind. I'll be risking no sailors on your folly. Wait... 'see that you're left behind'... in the sea!! Hahahaha!!! Your captain's on fire today, men. Hey, quiet down! It's not **at all** like the time I fell asleep with my leg on the stern cannon! It's figurative!!”

Get Budgeted!!

Week 144: Aspect of Mongoose

THRIFTY THURSDAYS 144

“You want to be small?”

“Already done.”

“You want to be hairy?”

“Ew no.”

“You want claws for digging?”

“I’ve dug enough in my youth.”

“You want to be immune to snake bites?”

“No, I’ve accepted that snakes will always have that power over me. Namaste.”

“You want to be closely related to the fossa?”

“Fossa ha! No.”

“You want it to be illegal to keep you as a pet in the United States?”

“Already done.”

“Well, I’m stumped. I give up.”

“I want to be a little freak!”

“Already done.”

“Hey! That’s really rude. You’re awful... Do you wanna go foraging for crabs?”

Get Budgeted!!

Week 145: Valakut Exploration

THRIFTY THURSDAYS 145

Ever want to just climb up high? Like rock climbing but with more **risk?!** Then welcome to the **Flaming Mountain!!** There are igneous rocks, boulders, stones, pebbles, silt, stones and rocks, and some of them are in liquid form; lava! Everything is a liquid when it’s hot enough, except Harry Styles, I’ve never understood that.

Don’t take Harry with you to the volcano, he’ll **really** hate it... again! You can’t sing, it’s too smoky down here, hotpants. Ah, that’s why you always squint like that! We’re all learning. And now I’m going to leave you behind, Harry, and you, audience. You’ll only slow me down and I’m on the way to the top where they hide the beans! **Get Budgeted!!**

Week 146: Phyrexian Ingester

Weird vaguely Italian, slurring words

THRIFTYTHURSDAYS 146

"I omnonom you and then you in my tum. And if you don't want to get omnominated in my tum then I want to omnonomnom you even MORE! You say you **want** to go in the tum, I want to omnonom you! You say you don't care? I want to omnonom you! You say you can't go omnonom in the tum cause you allergic to the tum? I **still** want to omnonom you!! Everything you say make me want to omnonom you in the tum. Unless you say you eat lots of carrots. Eughk! No carrots in the tum. I see with my eyes enough already.

"I have omnonommed many into my tum and after many years of this they have little parties in my tum. Only **little** parties or I omnonom a goblin. Goblin in tum makes party bad.

"Sometimes... I resent my desire to omnonom. I wish my life could be more than omnonom. That perhaps my creator wished more for me than this. A larger purpose on this big stinky rock. I cannot omnonom the big stinky rock. Too big! One day, the big stinky rock omnonom me. And you. No, not you... I omnonom you **FIRST!!!**"

Get Budgeted!!

Week 147: Harmonious Archon

THRIFTYTHURSDAYS # 147

*Ever wish we were all the ****same****? Tired of stinky suit-wearers lording it over you?! It might be time to join the ****Stag State**™**! Next time your neighbours start 'farming' at 7am to 'ensure food security for all', you can smack 'em in the head and nobody can stop you!*

*Everyone is equal under the Stag except the Stag itself because ****someone**** has to be ****more**** equal than everyone else! I thought it could be me, but they wouldn't accept my application due to 'a history of lies, manipulation and extortion' whatever that means! You agree it's a load of bologna, right? Now sign right here on my petition and give me \$20 for my campaign or I'll empty my Toad Jar™ on your head!! ****Get Budgeted!!*****

Week 148: Savvy Trader

THRIFTYTHURSDAYS 148

*Ever wanted to be **me**?! Charismatic, charming, chitinous, cheap, chlever, adjectives, synonyms, and so much more?! Then it might time for **you** to become a **merchant**! Profit from any man, object, vessel, idea, stench, vibe, or hose, provided that the price is right, and never worry about scruples ever again! What's a scruple? I think it's what you say to your father when you want to play with his cordless drill again! And a scru please, Papa! This is what we call a **sales pitch**, I'll tell you more about it later in exchange for that hat.*

*Roam the world and live by the seat of your pants, which is handy, because **my pants are a seat**, and all I had to do was sit in some concrete! Which reminds me, for some extra money, I can eternalise your most important feature in that new fountain over there, with no if's, and's or but's! Or... maybe not that last one! ****Get Budgeted!!****

Week 149: Pact of the Serpent

THRIFTYTHURSDAYS 149

"Death or triumph for us all! On this day, we agree, to these snakes!"

"What? That can't be right"

"It says so right here in the script"

"It does, but we'll have to fix it somehow because that doesn't make any sense"

"Makes sense to me"

"Oh really? Explain it to me"

"Well... 'on this day'. That's today"

"I'm following"

"And, you know, we're agreeing. Me and you. And everyone else in the scene."

"Gotcha. Agreeing to...?"

"Um... snakes"

"We're agreeing to snakes."

"We are agreeing to snakes. Today."

“Of course. How could I miss that? And, I suppose, now that we’ve **agreed** to **snakes**, I’ll just bring one on stage, shall I? That was the agreement”

“Uh, well, if we’re being literal”

“What else could we mean by agreeing to snakes?!”

“Maybe someone is a traitor. Or a hose. Or it could be a trousersn-”

“There is no scene in this play in which we agree to be genitalia when every person in this room is a member of the royal court of King Lear!” **Get Budgeted!!*****

Week 150: Infested Thrinax

@THRIFTYTHURSDAYS__ # 150

> *Ever wanted to call-in **sick?** Want a few days off work so you can finally tend to your ant farm, but worried your workplace will demand a medical certificate? Then I’d like you to meet this really unwell **Lizard Dog Thing™!!** She’s got everything; common cold, flu, fever, food poisoning, tuberculosis, a UTI, conjunctivitis, and worms! In fact, **her** worms have worms – they’re smaller, more flexible, and they even wear little monocles! Just kidding, they wear prescription glasses. They got cataracts from the Lizard Dog!!*

>

> *It hasn’t been this much fun to get sick since your parents used to give you that sickly sweet cough medicine as a child. Yes mother, I would like the nectar of the feral strawberry upon my tongue now please! No, don’t check my temperature, you sack of geese, I’ll be terribly warm from my UTI worm fever!! **Get Budgeted!!*****

Week 151: Public Enemy

THRIFTYTHURSDAYS #151

To the tune of ‘Wanted Man’ by Johnny Cash

Wanted man in New Capenna

Wanted man in old Theros

Wanted man in Thunder Junction

Wanted man in Bloomburrow

Wanted man in Kamigawa

Wanted man in Gobakhan

Wherever you might look tonight you might see this wanted man

I might be in Vitu-Ghazi

At Selesnya's world tree

Or working for some gorgon who don't know who I might be

But if you ever see me leaving and you think to follow suit

Don't you even dream of chasing 'cause you know I stole the Loot

Get Budgeted!!

Week 152: Luminate Primordial

THRIFTYTHURSDAYS #152

"I simply cannot believe I have found you at last! For you, I am sure, I am simply one of many visitors, but for I it has been my life's work to be in your presence. I am beyond words, it is a true, true honour"

"..."

"I must admit that over the years my fervour has faded, at times, as doubts have crept into my mind. Your purpose, you see, is the great mystery of this place. A pure being, of infinite power and wisdom, yet without a *meaning* that we can comprehend. You must understand to some this

is frightening. Not I, I have always believed in your goodness of purpose. The light, of which you are so clearly composed, must have some influence on your nature, your temperament. It is beyond doubt to me that you are pure, and wise, and good!”

“ ... ”

“But now as I stand before you... I am not so sure. The whispers of my colleagues, their fearful mutterings, I see the potential of truth in them now. I remember what they said to me of responsibility. Who would such a being answer to? Can any in this city truly stand before the might of this potential weapon? I see now the destruction such a weapon could cause.”

“ ... ”

“What *are* you? Who brought you here?! What purpose can a being of light truly serve in a place so abundant in it?! Of what need is a colossus, who could clearly crush anyone or anything that stands before it in the blink of an eye?! Have you murdered, great metal thing, and will you do so again?! Are you saviour or killer?!”

“... I turn Lights on”

“As I thought... a mindless killer!” **Get Budgeted!!**

Week 153: Lethal Scheme

THRIFTYTHURSDAYS #153

Ever find yourself mentally **plotting**? Find that your plots sometimes become **deadly**?! Then it might be time for a Scheme™!! All of your plots can find meaning in a Scheme™ and speaking of, my Schemes™ comprise the cumulative meaning of every circumstance in which one could use the word scheme! We'll be making plans in a devious way, and it'll definitely be a large-scale way of attaining a particular object, but **also**, the plans will be arranged by colour

palette, **and** we'll organise the whole thing in an estate of social housing in Scotland. They may take our lives, but they will never take away our Scheming™!!

Lee Harvey Oswald has got nothing on you, fourteen knives, seven Glaswegians, a 3D model of the Thames, and matching pink leotards! Mainly because Lee Harvey Oswald has never been seen in pink – he's always wearing black, white or grey in the photos, like a **penguin!** And penguins don't Scheme™, they get in ritual circles and radicalise!! **Get Budgeted!!**

Week 154: Praetor's Counsel

THRIFTYTHURSDAYS #154

"Listen to me Karn, the most important aspect of every relationship is spooning. Well, for my relationships. No, shut up, I am teaching you something! But for your relationships maybe it will be different. There are many languages that two or more bodies may speak with one another. I prefer the visceral closeness of the physical, but perhaps you wish to joust intellectually with another mind. I could give you another mind Karn. A better one. One that wants to spoon. You're the little spoon, Karn, stop wriggling!"

"Maybe I could turn you into a spoon. Ah, but I have tried that. Would you believe that a spoon itself is not very good to spoon? The irony of this foul language. The spoon man is very good for stirring my oil though. I think he likes it. That is the relationship that we share. Our relationship will be different Karn. With you I shall entrust the most sacred of duties. For the first time I shall have a real opponent, a fierce competitor, with which to do battle in a glorious arena! Tell me Karn... have you ever heard of squash?" **Get Budgeted!!**

Week 155: Fleeting Reflection

THRIFTYTHURSDAYS #155

"Damn... I look good. Can you believe I just woke up? No bags under my eyes, hair perfect, I don't even look pale or puffy! And that's just my face. I been hitting the weights for maybe ten years now. It shows, it shows. You can probably see it through my T-shirt, can't ya? That's alright, don't be shy. It's not a secret. Look, you could probably work out, get a good haircut, bit of spray tan, hell, even use some makeup, and you **still** wouldn't look this good. Yeah, maybe

it's the clothes. That helps, for sure. But mostly, it's style. You can't buy that. And I got it in spades."

"You know what? I don't even wanna go out. Ain't that wild? I got everything I need in front of this here mirror. You run along to that there party, you tell 'em I said hi, but I'm gonna stay right here. Send 'em love, from Narcissus" **Get Budgeted!!**

Week 156: Planar Atlas

THRIFTYTHURSDAYS #156

Ever wanted a really, really good map? Not something digital, something you can hold and carry and touch?! Well, I've got **half** of what you want with this here **Interdimensional Map**™! Touch a bubble and be transported instantaneously into that world! Want a stroll through the trees? Poke the bubble! Wet your feet on a pristine beach? Touch that bubble! Find that stuff you keep losing in the back of your wardrobe? Believe it or not, **that** bubble right there! 'Ah', I hear you say, 'doesn't that defeat the purpose of a map if I have to **go** there to look at it?' Excellent point! Now forget that! That's just what the **Man** wants you to think!!

Oh hey, I can see my house from here! Well, one of them. Well, half of one. Well, I suppose if we're being **really** literal, I can see the entrance to my house; the metal manhole cover I have to move to access my front door! Which is entirely within building code by the way!! Just like the flaming porch swing I allegedly possess!! And yes, that bubble right there, if you wanted to visit. Plus toll tax, which is bread. **Get Budgeted!!**

Week 157: Fists of Flame

THRIFTYTHURSDAYS #157

"Owie, hot."

"What happened? Did you bump your elbow on the- OH MY GOD, YOUR HANDS!"

“Yeah, they’re hot, it kinda hurts.”

“Hot?! They’re **on fire!**”

“Oh yeah. Ow. Have you got a wet wipe or something?”

“A wet wipe won’t put out a fire! We need a bucket of water or a hose or something.”

“One sec, I’d better check the water restrictions, make sure that’s allowed.”

“Of course we’re allowed to put out a fire, it’s an emergen- Hey, get your hands away from that keyboard, you’ll melt it!”

“Oh sure.”

“The mouse too! You’re very calm about this, like weirdly, **freakishly** calm, it’s freaking me out.”

“Hey man, I’m going to be alright okay, I just need to-”

“Don’t pat me on the back!!”

Get Budgeted!!

Week 158: Brought Back

THRIFTYTHURSDAYS #158

“And then, from the mess of smoke and wreckage... a pale hand appears in frame. Slowly, inching into frame we see a black bedraggled suit jacket. A tussle of brown hair and then, turning to camera, smiling, we see... it's Bernard Black”

“Ugh come on.”

“What? What's wrong with a Black Books reference?!”

“Reference? You've got Bernard Black stepping out of a plane wreck, it's a bit **more** than a reference.”

“Well, when was the last time that we visited the Black Books universe?”

“2036”

“See now, that's a couple years ago. And before that?”

“2034. Twice!”

“Then clearly the fans are clamouring for more!”

“What fans?! Far out, this is my problem with this team. All we seem to want to do is bring back random paraphernalia from decades ago that people will look at and go ‘oh look, it's blah blah’, blink, and forget entirely about the new thing we just made! Don't we want to tell a story? Make someone out there think something or feel something they've never felt before? Feel something **ourselves?!**”

“Whoa, whoa, whoa! I’m starting to think that you don’t like writing for the Disney Ultimate Universe. I’m calling Mickey III right now”

“No please, he’ll send me back! I can’t go back there, man. I can’t do it! Not one more day! Please!”

“Sorry mate, it’s not up to me. If Mickey thinks it’s what it will take for you to learn, then maybe he has to send you back to Disneyplanet”

Get Budgeted!!