

Dungeons & Daddies

Dungeon Master: Anthony Burch

Taylor Swift: Freddie Wong

Lincoln Link Li-Wilson: Matt Arnold

Normal Oak: Will Campos

Scary Marlowe: Beth May

Season 2 Ep.14 - Welcome to Earth

Will: Dungeons and Daddies is a rowdy, horny, violent podcast for grown ups. Content warnings can be found in the description.

Michael Barbarian: From the New Faerun Times, I'm Michael Barbarian. And this is The Daily.

[chill, jazzy, music plays and continues]

Michael: Today... Many moons ago four fathers from another realm came to our world to rescue their lost sons. Then back in their world, those sons unleashed an inter-dimensional chaos monster known as the Doodler. For years, the sons, Lark and Sparrow Oak, Grant Wilson, Nick Close, and Terry Stampler battled the Doodler in their world, until one day they did something drastic. Using a Ring of Swapping and something called an amplifier, they made us all switch places. So everyone in their world came to ours and we all wound up here in the forsaken hell-world of insanity and dare they left behind.

Michael: Now, recent reports suggest that their children—the children of the children of the four original fathers—may have returned to our new world, their old world, to rescue their fathers once again. Which has many concerned faerunians asking: are you fucking kidding me?

[beats of chill music]

Michael: It's Tuesday. We think. We can't tell because the Doodler has blotted out the fucking sun. God fucking damn it.

[intro music plays]

Freddie: Welcome the Dungeons and Daddies. Not a BDSM podcast, instead a Dungeons and Dragons podcast about... Well, this changed now, doesn't it, right?

Will: This changes everything.

Matt: No, well...

Beth: Yeah.

Freddie: Well, this one does. It's about four teens from our world...

Will: But not our world.

Freddie: But kind of not our world. There's a lot of questions that are going to be answered today, I think. My name is Freddie Wong. I play Taylor Swift, the ranger, anime loving teen in the group. Will there be anime in this world? Will Taylor be the Hayao Miyazaki of this world that we've entered now?

Will: *[laughs]*

Beth: Oh, no.

Freddie: You remember the movie, *Yesterday*?

Anthony: Yeah.

Freddie: The Beatles one?

Beth: The Beatles m— yeah.

Freddie: It's that but it's just like Taylor being like— trying to badly recount the plot of *Nausicaa*.

Will: Everyone's forgotten who Hayao Miyazaki is and Taylor's going to get this grift on by being like, "So it's called Totoro," but it's his OC of Totoro.

Freddie: Yes, his OC of to—! "And he has a sword!"

[laughter]

Matt: It's not a sick mom, it's a mom that's been captured by a bunch of bad guys.

[laughter]

Matt: Totoro... His mom calls Totoro and he's like, "Listen to me very carefully, here's what's going to happen next." Shit that'd be a good movie

Freddie: I'd watched that. Taylor would watch that. And that's what Taylor's plan was, is the first...

Matt: All the cops are like, "We can't help you kids!" And like if only there was only somebody that could help us save our mom from the Yakuza!

Freddie: Yeah! The mom gets kidnapped by the Yakuza.

Matt: Yeah.

Freddie: And Totoro is this forest spirit. Oh, she meets him at a bus stop and that's— instead of waiting for a bus at the bus stop with her...

Matt: No, it's like Moana—

Freddie: ...with her kid sister..

Matt: —and Totoro can't save the mom until he gets the sword but he lost it because there's some sin he did back in the day and he needs to re-discover his warrior-like ways.

Will: Hey, what, is this Story Break?

Matt: Yeah.

Will: What's going on, boys? [*laughs*]

Matt: All right. Sorry.

Freddie: Taylor's rad fact for today. Totoro... he's always imagined as a samurai movie. There. Done.

Matt: Okay.

Will: Okay.

Beth: Okay.

Anthony: Alright.

Freddie: That's why he's going to try and bring to this world. He's going to try and pitch that.

Matt: Okay.

Beth: That's the one I haven't seen. I haven't seen *My Neighbor Totoro*.

Will: It's good.

Matt: Woah, that's a good one. It's classic.

Beth: I know.

Matt: It's great. You should watch it.

Freddie: Big teeth.

Matt: Yep.

Freddie: Big teeth in that one.

Beth: Love that.

Will: Dentists love him.

Matt: There's a bus, but it's a cat. It's kind of weird. Hey everybody. My name's Matthew Arnold. I play Lincoln Li-Wilson, the school-at-home soccer kid who's the protective palatine of the group. Continuing halfway, halfway mark. We're on the Wednesday of the senses here.

Will: *[laughing]* Wednesday... *[speaking]* It's the Hump day.

Beth: The Hump Day of senses.

Matt: The Hump Day of senses.

[laughter]

Will: What's our Hump Day sense, Matt?

Matt: It's going to be a sound. And a little dark, but I think Lincoln kind of just... Maybe he doesn't even realize this, but his favorite sound, if he were to really think about it, is actually the sound of silence in the house. When both of his dads have closed the door and he's just alone for a second and he's just by himself. He's actually...

Will: Whoa.

Matt: Yeah, I think he's a little smi— I think he's just like, it's like, "You know what? I feel free. I'm alone. This is good and maybe this is what..."

Will: What does he do when he is free? Does he just like, get that ice cream that they won't let him get? Or what does he...

Matt: Yeah, he just gets ice cream. He just relaxes. He just doesn't have to put on a smiley face with his dads. He doesn't have to do anything. He just like, he just wants to be left alone sometimes.

Freddie: What does he do? Does he flop on the couch? Does he like, y'know...

Matt: Play some FIFA looks at... But y'know, sometimes he even looks at pictures of him and his dad and misses him for a little bit but...

[group laughter]

Matt: But then he is just happy that he's, y'know, He can just fucking be himself and just not have any pressure on him.

Freddie: Strong son.

Will: Be himself. More or less the same guy.

[laughter]

Matt: The same guy without that pressure.

Will: Without that heat.

Matt: Yeah.

Will: Hey everyone, I'm Will Campos. I play Normal Oak, a mixed up mascot in a strange new land. A strange new world, if you will.

Anthony: Star Trek, colon, The Strange New World.

Beth: *[laughs]*

Will: Star Trek, colon Strange New Worlds. Strange new Normals. My Normal fact this week is that ever since seeing Taylor and Link get super into Laffy Taffys, and being left out of that...

Anthony: That's great.

Matt: We were super into that.

Will: He's felt really left out and he really wants to impress them by getting a Laffy Taffy joke published. So he's been writing in and submitting Laffy Taffy jokes. And you can read all of the jokes that Normal submitted if you become a Patreon member and subscribe to get our bimonthly zine, The Teen Tribune, because you can see the whole letter. But I'd sample some of the Laffy Taffy jokes...

Freddie: These are crazy good, Will.

Will: ...that Normal has written. So here we go. What's the opposite of a stink bug?
[pause] A de-odor-ant.

Beth: Mm...!

Anthony: Wow.

Matt: Okay, that's pretty good.

Freddie: Jesus.

Matt: That's a good—

Freddie: Those are too good for Laffy Taffy.

Matt: That's a good one.

Will: Where do clams post their selfies?

[*pause*]

Beth: Where?

Matt: Shel—

Will: On so-shell media.

Beth: Oh...!

Freddie: [*laughs*]

Anthony: That's good.

Matt: Mmkay!

Will: Why did the driver bar in the HOV lane?

Beth: Why?

Will: They had carpool tunnel syndrome.

Beth: 'Ey...!

Anthony: Wow!

Beth: Ha, ha!

Freddie: Holy shit, Will!

Matt: Those are good.

Beth: That's pretty good!

Anthony: Wow!

Will: This, as you can tell, is clearly just a way for me to try my... Because when Freddie was like, "oh, this would be the hardest thing in the world." I was like, "I bet I could do Laffy Taffy jokes." So yeah. There you go.

Anthony: Wow...

Beth: Well there you have it!

Freddie: Here's the problem, Will. They're too good.

Will: They're not too good!

Matt: No! Laffy Taffy has some good jokes!

Will: Laffy Taffy is the apex of the joke candy world.

Matt: Freddie, you gotta look at some Laffy Taffy.

Freddie: They're just one step too good.

Matt: I'm mostly just amused at the fact that Normal thinks Taylor and Link are really into Laffy Taffy.

[*chuckles*]

Matt: It reminds me of this one time where some friends, when we were in school, they went to like, the batting cages and I wasn't there. And I heard they went to the batting cages and I was like, "Oh my God. I want to hang out with them. They were super into baseball." And I got a mitt and a bat and I told my dad I was into baseball now. I was like, "Hey, I got all my stuff. We're going to the batting cages." They were like, "Eh, that's just a thing we did once."

Beth: Oh my god.

Matt: "We don't like baseball." I was like, "Oh yeah, neither!"

[*laughter*]

Matt: "You guys are really into Laffy Taffy!" It's like—

Anthony: That's great.

Matt: We bought them at a gas station once, Normal. It's okay. We're not into it.

Anthony: It's like when your grandma would see you holding an R.L. Stein book and she's like—

Matt: Yes!

Anthony: “Oh so you fucking love R.L Stein books and you're getting them when you're 35.”

Beth: *[laughing]* It's like when you got me... 69 boxes of Sour Patch Kids!

Matt: Yeah!

Anthony: Oh yeah!

Beth: Very kindly!

Anthony: Yeah, pretty much

Matt: Beth like, “Sour Patch Kids. She ate some. She loves them. I must get her...”

Anthony: Yeah, she stole some of my Sour Patch Kids, so I was like, “well I guess fucking loves some Sour Patch Kids then.” And I bought her 69 boxes of them.

Freddie: And wai— Hold on. For whatever reason you couldn't get it shipped to your place...

Anthony: Yeah.

Freddie: So Anthony just texts me, he's like, “Hey, can I send something to your place?” I'm like, “Yeah, sure. Is it like, for the podcast?” He's like, “Yeah, yeah.” And then I look at my door and like, literally, it's stacked up to my chest. I still have a box of these motherfuckers. We couldn't go through these things.

Anthony: This— some are in my car. There's no way to get rid of them.

Beth: The little bags inside, they have three of them.

Matt: Three!

Beth: But it's like, I'm exhausted...!

[laughter]

Beth: ...by the time I've opened them!

Matt: It's so much plastic.

Beth: [*laughing*] By the time I've opened the...

Anthony: Yeah. It was truly one of those wasteful things.

Beth: [*a bit off mic*] I appreciated it though. Hi! [*on mic*] I'm Beth May, and I play Scary Marlowe.

[*gasps*]

Matt: She's back!

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

Freddie: Phew!

Beth: Uhm...

Freddie: Tryin' out different...

Beth: Yeah! Fun fact is that the closest that she and Terry Junior ever got to bonding was when he was just dating her mom, and she was kind of like, "Oh I don't know about this dude. I don't know about any dude at all, et cetera." And he gave her some lemonade but called it demonade because it was strawberry lemonade and red. And so she thought that was pretty fucking dope and cool. But then he really wanted to watch *Fly Away Home* which she considered a papaganda AKA dad propaganda.

[*laughter*]

Freddie: Papaganda!

Matt: Nice! That's good!

Anthony: Wow—! Oh my God, that's what *Taken* is.

Matt: That's good.

Anthony: That's all those movies.

Freddie: *Taken* is papaganda!

Beth: Papaganda.

Anthony: That's very good. Did you make that up?

Beth: Yes.

Anthony: That's super good.

Beth: I bet I didn't make it up. I bet it's out there.

Anthony: Ah, whatever. You're probably the most popular person to say it.

Will: Is *Fly the Way Home* with the one where Anna Pacquin has to like...

Anthony: With the geese!

Will: She's like—

Beth&Matt: Yeah!

Will: —the Maverick of geese—

Beth: Yeah.

Will: —and she has to lead them on a like...

Matt: Yeah.

Beth: Yeah, with Jeff Daniels.

Will: That's right.

Matt: My dad took me to see that movie also.

Beth: It's Jeff Daniels, right? I think it is. I don't know.

Anthony: Probably. He was... in every movie back then. It was the law.

Freddie: There's definitely that movie and like... *October Sky* occupies a very specific genre of like...

Anthony: Science teacher—

Freddie: Yeah!

Anthony: —doesn't want to teach today! So you're going to watch this while she grades. I'm Anthony Burch I've said enough about my life, I don't need to give you a dad fact today.

[laughter]

[intro transition plays]

Anthony: So when we last left our intrepid group of teens, you had sort of unveiled a lot of things. You had found out what Code Purple was, which was essentially that the world that you thought of as Earth—that you had grown up in, that you were born in—was actually known to others as the Forgotten Realms. And that Code Purple was a means of swapping all the people from one realm to another, that your dads all decided to do to avoid the Doodler’s influence. You opened the obsidian door that you were told not to open and it revealed an ancient, handsome, evil, maybe— yeah evil, warlock. Who is also Scary's patron, a guy named Willy Stampler. After trying to debate what to do with him, he disappeared.

Will: I'm sure that won't come back though, so that's fine.

Freddie: Yeah, that's good, though.

Beth: Yeah, that's fine.

Will: That's called putting a button on it!

Anthony: Out of sight, out of mind.

Anthony: And then you decided to head through the Amagara Fault door that led to the other dimension where your dads went, to the other realm. Which now you know of as Earth. You headed back through the door to Earth to find that there are no stars in the sky. It was completely dark. The only spot of anything in the sky was a small, purple, distant dot that represented a portal through which the Doodler—the creature that you're now looking at up in the sky—had inserted its eye to look at the other realm, which was where you grew up. The sun that you grew up under was actually the pupil of the Doodler.

Will: So I have a question. If we were looking...

Anthony: Uh, this ain’t— this ain’t gonna go good.

Will: If we were looking at the Doodlers eye the whole time, are we looking at the Doodlers butt now?

Anthony: Mm-hm.

Will: So we're just like— the Doodlers ginormous ass has blotted out the sky.

Anthony: Mm-hm.

Matt: The whole Doodler is so big, it’s like, the whole sky.

Anthony: Yeah.

Freddie: I love that we are going places that that little... baby cuck...

Matt: Where is this going?

Anthony: HP Lovecraft?

Freddie: Lovecraft has not even penned a single word about cthulu's butt hole, and here we are breaking new grounds.

Matt: So indescribable horror.

Beth: Breaking new ass.

Matt: He never actually described the butt hole. He'd always just fucking wave it off, like, "It's indescribable!"

[laughter]

Anthony: "Imagine something scary, it's like that!" Okay, coward!

Freddie: "It's like scary? Oh, whatever, oh, wow! Oh, break your mind to think about it! Ou-ou-oh!"

Anthony: That's full-on the like "insert a scene here" ass bullshit.

[laughter]

Anthony: So. Without any further ado, let's deal with the fact that you're all now completely alone and isolated in a hostile world that you don't understand, and that your parents are, or at least your dads are, here somewhere waiting for you.

Freddie: Taylor, like his ancestors before him, checks if his phone works?

Anthony: It does.

Freddie: What?

Matt: [gasps]

Taylor: Guys, I got a signal! What the fuck?

Normal: Woah!

Link: Yeah, me too.

Scary: Woah...

Will: I quickly turn around. Is there another door? Or are we just in the middle of a— Where are we?

Anthony: So when you look around, you see a whole shit load of darkness, pock marked by flames in the distance or nearby. It looks like you're on a road where there's basically a couple torches every 200 feet or so. As you look behind you, you see...

Taylor: They use feet in this universe. All right.

Anthony: You see the path sort of extending in the darkness behind you. There is no door. There's not an equivalent on this side.

Will: Hmm!

Anthony: It's an otherwise nondescript dirt road that heads into the distance.

Matt: So we're stuck here.

Anthony: Who knows? It seems like it.

Normal: Did anyone, uhm... Did we pack food or water before we went through the door? Did anyone remember to bring anything?

Link: I got—

Normal: Because I don't really— I built up a whole head of steam about getting through here to tell our dads what's what...

Matt: I hand Normal one of those Gatorade gel packs that you suck on. You know. If you're a runner, you know what I'm talking about.

Will: *[laughs]* Okay?

Matt: I got a couple of those in my pocket and I got a couple of power bars.

Link: I got enough food for a couple minutes but not much else though! But here!

Normal: Link, stop eating it! We need to save it!

Scary: Yeah.

Link: No, I'm giving them to you! I'm not even eating one! Oh my God, I have one in my mouth. I am eating it.

Scary: I like those Gatorade things because it's like you're drinking slime or something.

Link: Yeah, you want a green one? I got green and blue.

Scary: No, I'm not hungry right now.

Link: Okay.

Taylor: What you're re—

Scary: But you know maybe later.

Link: Hey, sorry about your grandp— I'm sorry... about your grandpa. Or whoever that... guy, Willy.

Scary: Oh Willy? I don't want to call him my grandpa because that then makes it kind of just dumb or whatever. But like, I don't know, like. Willy's a cool guy. I'm sure we'll see him again.

Link: Okay. I hope not. Uhm—! So.

[laughter]

Link: Oh God. Where are we?

Matt: Yeah, can we do— roll Perception?

Anthony: Yeah, sure, if you wish to.

Matt: [dice roll] Got a 10.

Freddie: Ah!

Matt: I'm just looking for the power bar.

Freddie: With a 10 you realize that Taylor has his everyday carry kit on him, which is enough food for him and him alone.

[laughter]

Will: [dice roll] I got an 8.

Beth: [dice roll] I got an 11.

Anthony: So all of you know that you are vaguely in another realm and that if the realms are stacked on top of each other like plates, then you're probably in a

similar, sort of, equivalent area to where you were before. Like if there is a San Dimas in where you grew up, you're probably in a San Dimas-ish location in this new realm. But that's all you know.

Taylor: Guys, this happens in animes all the time. People get transported to different worlds and we just have to use our knowledge from our world to do well in this one. That's all.

Anthony: Everybody's phone starts ringing.

[three different ringtones go off on top of each other, one is vibrating]

Taylor: Ah!

Link: Wh—!

Scary: Woah...

Taylor: Woah! I set mine to silent.

Will: Is their call ID?

Anthony: Yeah's your mother.

Will: Okay. I answer the phone.

[ringtones fade out]

Normal: Uh, Normal Oak speaking. Hi mom.

Rebecca: *[over phone]* Uh...!

Freddie: *[laughs]*

Scary: Is she calling all of us? *[laughs]*

Rebecca: *[over phone]* Uh— N-Normal! Where are you— where are you?

Normal: Oh!

Rebecca: *[over phone]* I've been, I've been waiting here with dinner ready for hours.

Normal: *[inhale through teeth]*

Rebecca: *[over phone]* What's going on? You didn't tell me you were going to be staying at somebody's house. It's been like, it's been, a day!

Normal: Mom! Uh! I'm on a field trip is probably the best way to describe what's going on right now. You know what Dad's been on an office trip for a long time, and then every time I try to tell you that it's something more important than that, your brain glosses over it and you don't understand?

Rebecca: [*over phone*] What?!

Freddie: [*laughs*]

Normal: I'm in another realm! I gotta call you back!

Will: [*laughing*] And I hang up.

Anthony: Okay. She goes—

Rebecca: [*over phone*] I—ua—!

Anthony: And you hang up on her.

[*techno ringtone plays*]

Matt: What does my caller ID say?

Anthony: Your caller ID says it's Marco. It's your dad.

Matt: Yeah. I pick up.

Link: Hey, D-Dad!

Marco: [*over phone*] Hey, are you...? Did I forget? Did you say you were gonna stay at somebody's house or something and I forgot?

Link: No! No, definitely not. I mean I'm on Earth or not? I'm away. I'm gone. Like, I'm where Daddy is. I'm— I don't know! Uh!

Marco: [*over phone*] What do you mean you're where Dad is?

Link: Yeah.

Marco: [*over phone*] You went to— You went to Seattle? What are you...

Link: No! No, no. Well... Uh...

Normal: That's a good idea! We're all in Seattle!

Link: I've never been to Seattle. Is this Seattle?

Scary: Yeah...

Taylor: Oh look, the Space Needle over there!

Link: Is Seattle dark? It's dark and gloomy...

Taylor: And it is, it gets 70, 80 percent cloud cover most of the year!

Scary: Oh my God, *Gray's Anatomy* is happening over there!

Link: Yeah...

Scary: Really old show.

Marco: *[over phone]* Wait. Okay. So you're on a field— You're in Seattle... and you waited... It's like 2:00 AM. You didn't think you should call me at any point between getting on the—?

Link: It's just been like, minutes.

Marco: *[over phone]* How did you get on the plane, you don't even have a...

Link: I didn't go on a plane! We went through a big door.

Will: *[quiet chuckle]*

Scary: Yeah!

Taylor: I went to another room with seats that then took off in the air!

Link: Oh!

Matt: I get what you guys are doing. I'm like—

Link: Oh, okay.

Freddie: *[laughs]*

Matt: I was like—

Link: Oh yeah, duh! I'm on a— I love you, and I will...

Freddie: *[laughing]* "I'm on a...!"

Link: No matter what happens, I love you. And... I'm on a field trip. You did sign it. You're so forgetful sometimes.

Will: *[laughs]*

Marco: *[over phone]* Okay...

Link: Remember?

Marco: *[over phone]* I feel bad that I forgot, but like—okay. You scared for a while there.

Link: Remember Catalina Islands? You go on a ferry. It's fun. We go snorkeling. WE— It's a week long camp!

Marco: *[over phone]* Uh, okay. Okay.

Link: All the kids are doing it. Don't check at school. We're all there. No kids are at school.

Anthony: So Marco goes like—

Marco: *[over phone]* Uh, uhm, okay. Yeah, I... I guess I did forget. Well, I guess, check- check in with me. Y'know, obviously.

Link: Yeah.

Marco: If you can. I love you.

Link: Yeah, of course.

Marco: *[over phone]* But yeah, no, the house is all quiet. There's no...

Link: Yeah. It's a nice sound there, huh.

Marco: *[over phone]* Whe— my boys are gone! Heh-heh. No, it's not— I mean, not to me. *[half-mumbling]* I... like hearing you play games and stuff. *[speaking]* But no. Okay. Yeah. Well, be- be safe, I guess?

Link: Have a good work week! I love you.

Marco: *[over phone]* I love- I love you too.

Link: All right. Bye!

Marco: *[over phone]* *[to himself]* Gee— I can't believe I forgot.

Anthony: And he hangs up.

[pop-punk girl band ringtone plays]

Beth: What's my...

Anthony: It's your mother.

Scary: Hello?

Veronica: [over phone] Hey! Are you...?

Scary: So, uhm, I've gone to Seattle... and...

Veronica: [over phone] Oh for fuck... Oh no!

Scary: Yeah. I'm going to be on *Gray's Anatomy*. The show is still going on.

Veronica: [over phone] Yes, I know it is.

Scary: It's season seventy... eight.

Veronica: [over phone] Yeah.

Scary: And...

Link: And we're snorkeling. Say we're snorkeling in case she calls my dad.

Scary: And I'm snorkeling!

Link: Okay.

Scary: If you call again!

Veronica: [over phone] Anytime I call you'll be snorkeling?

Scary: Yeah. That's what acting is about... because I'm going to be a big star on *Gray's Anatomy*. Uh...

Veronica: [over phone] I got to say I did not give you the credit. I thought this was some normal teenage rebellion stuff. I didn't think you would full-on run away. Like, what did I do wrong?

Scary: U-a—!

Veronica: [over phone] What did I do that made you so upset at me...

Scary: No, not— not like that, Mom!

Veronica: [over phone] ...that you didn't want to... Was it Terry?

Scary: I mean...

Veronica: [*over phone*] Was it, like, because you couldn't— Because Terry's not even around. You should be happy! I figured that would keep you home at least— Geez. Ugh. I guess...

Scary: No, it's not it's—

Veronica: [*over phone*] Well, I'm going to Seattle then. I have to— This is absurd. I'm not going to let you just...

Scary: I'm going to get Terry!

Veronica: [*over phone*] You're what?

Scary: ...I'm... on another... planet... and I'm getting Terry, and I'm saving him because I know that... uh... it makes you happy [*in a nervous chuckle*] or whatever... [*nervous laugh*]

Anthony: Roll Persuasion?

Beth: [*dice roll*] A 2.

Veronica: [*over phone*] [*frustrated stutter*] Look, again, I get it. I started a rock band when I was in high school, I didn't move away to do it, but okay. If you're going to go start your own thing, you're gonna— you're gonna rebel, it's cute. But could you maybe not do it a plane ride away? Could you maybe just come back and— Ugh, I'm— [*sighs*]

Scary: You're not going to be able to find me. I'm sorry. I love you!

Veronica: [*over phone*] You're pretty active on social media. It's not going to be that hard.

Scary: Well, I...!

Freddie: [*laughs*]

Scary: Sometimes if you see something that looks like my soul...! And it's, y'know, a broken can of something... like pickles, and you're like, my soul feels like a broken can of pickles. Then you need to take a picture of and post it!

Veronica: Again, I'm not blaming you. I did the exact same thing.

Anthony: She says, drinking from a Topo Chico.

[group laughter]

Matt: So does she think Terry's gone?

Anthony: All of your parents think that your dads are on a work trip and then they'll just be back pretty soon. But they don't know when.

Scary: I'm just saying Mom, that sometimes I feel like a bottle of Topo Chico, where I'm like, nice and hard on the outside, but on the inside I have a deep hole. Y'know? That's what—

Veronica: [over phone] What kind of—?

Scary: [sighing] ...she said. Anyways.

Veronica: [over phone] [sighs] Oh, god.

Scary: You're not going to be able to find me so don't look.

Veronica: [over phone] Okay, great.

Scary: I'm too rebelled!

Veronica: [over phone] Great. Cool. Well I guess I have to call the police.

Scary: No! I—!

Veronica: [over phone] So I'll see you...

Scary: No, you don't— Fine! Fine! Call the police. See what I care! They're never going to find me!

Link: [short vocalizations]

Scary: Uhm. I... What?

Link: N-Nothing!

Veronica: [over phone] Look, when you get picked up for whatever it is, just call me. I will bail you out. I will be very angry, I'm not going to pretend I'm not going to be, but fuck— we'll deal with that. Okay? Jesus...

Scary: Whatever. I hate you!

[laughter]

Veronica: [over phone] Okay. Cool.

Scary: I love you...

Veronica: *[over phone]* I love you too. No, you don't. Bye!

Scary: Okay...

Veronica: *[over phone]* God damn it.

Scary: God damn it!

Anthony: She hangs up.

[buzz of a phone vibrating]

Freddie: I pick up the phone.

Anthony: Okay. It's your mom.

Taylor: Hello?

Cassandra: *[over phone]* What's... going on?

Taylor: *[sighs]* All right, Mom, you remember when you got the leading role in *That Time I Got Reincarnated as a Dakimakura*?

Cassandra: *[over phone]* Honey, I— I'm an anime voice actor. I don't remember anything.

[group laughter]

Cassandra: *[over phone]* It's just a paycheck to me. I don't care about the stuff I'm doing. It's just a paycheck.

Taylor: I just got isekai'd.

Cassandra: *[over phone]* Uh—

Taylor: I'm in another world. What time is it over there?

Cassandra: It's like— It's like 4:00 AM?

Taylor: Ah, time moves differently. You're probably not going to hear from me. I got like some big, big quests I got to deal with. Anyway, it's just like in those animes that you voiced in. Love you, Mom.

Anthony: Roll Per—

Taylor: I'll see you later.

Anthony: Roll Persuasion real quick.

Freddie: [*dice roll*] 3.

Anthony: She goes—

Cassandra: [*over phone*] Wait—!

Anthony: And then you hang up on her.

[*laughter*]

Anthony: And she does not believe you.

Freddie: And I turn around to everybody and be like—

Taylor: Well, my mom's taken care of and buttoned up. I'm not sure that any of your parents are... Those stories that you spun were any good, but I'm all clear.

Normal: Uh, guys, one second. I think I got way to handle this.

Will: And I call Agent Mae Hailes.

Anthony: Okay! She goes—

Mae: [*over phone*] Oh, Hey. Okay, cool. So did you... How long has it been since you went into the portal?

Normal: Hey! Mrs— Mrs. Haile— Miss Hailes. Hey there. Uhm, so we're... just walked through.

Mae: [*over phone*] Okay.

Normal: We're on the other side of the portal.

Mae: [*over phone*] So it's been like... a few hours on my end.

Normal: Great...

Link: Like a minute. Like a minute here.

Normal: We've been here about, I'd say, 30 to 60 seconds.

Mae: [*over phone*] Okay.

Normal: So we just got a bunch of freaked out calls from our parents? So we were wondering if you could maybe come up with a really good lie for where we are and go find out...

Scary: Just take care of that.

Normal: Could you just take care of that?

Taylor: A Seattle based lie.

Normal: Yeah.

Link: I just sent you a picture of me smiling. Did you get it? Do pictures still work on the phones over there?

Mae: *[over phone]* Yeah. It's a really harsh flash and you're in darkness so it's kinda— and you took it from a very weird angle so I don't know, actually what I'm looking at.

[laughter]

Scary: I just sent a picture...

Link: But how about we do a—

Scary: I just sent a picture...

Link: —picture like the four of us and say we're on a field trip and you send an update, you know how we get those weekly updates? Just be like, send a picture to our parents being like, "Hey, we're on— they're all on a fun field trip, whatever they told you."

Mae: *[over phone]* Okay.

Scary: Yeah. Could you send my mom this picture of this tattered flag and say "me?"

Mae: *[over phone]* I-I... I could. Yeah, I guess I could. If you can just text me the passwords to all of your social media, I can set up a fake field trip that you're all on.

Link: Uh, I'm not going to do that.

Taylor: Nice try! We've learned from the beginning of our lives—

Mae: *[over phone]* Yeah. That's...

Link: Look...

Taylor: —to never give your social media passwords to anybody.

Mae: [*over phone*] That's good info-safe practice, Taylor.

Link: We have our social media. We can— we'll make sure to update our social media with pictures.

Mae: [*over phone*] Okay.

Taylor: I got scheduled posts going for weeks. Don't worry.

Link: Guys, let's do a quick selfie.

Matt: So I hold the phone out...

Mae: [*over phone*] Look as Not Kidnapped as possible. Look as happy...

Link: Yeah.

Mae: [*over phone*] ...and cool and not about to be murdered.

Taylor: Oh, hold on. Hey, Normal, you're going to have to put down that newspaper.

Will: [*chuckles*] I...

Matt: Is there anything around that looks kind of picturesque?

Freddie: [*bark-laugh*]

Anthony: Uh... n-not really.

Scary: The fire?

Anthony: There's a bunch of torches and stuff.

Link: Oh yeah, like maybe we're on like, a museum. Let's be next to one of these torches.

Taylor: Let's all point at the torches, do kissy faces like, "Ooh, it's a torch!"

Scary: I'm looking serious.

Matt: Okay.

Normal: I'm going to do the little Korean, little heart fingers in mine.

Link: Okay!

Normal: Because I think that's fun.

Link: Well, I'm holding the phone, so I'm just going to like... big smile.

Normal: Okay. Just be careful with the flash, because we don't want it to look like a Blair Witch photo. Do you know what I mean?

Link: Yeah.

Scary: I want it to look like a Blair Witch photo.

Link: Oh.

Taylor: Yeah, so you're going to need to split the uprights on everyone's request.

Link: Okay. My photo will satisfy all your... all three of your requirements. Don't worry. I'll make everybody happy. It's going to be as broad and popular as a photo as possible. Here we go.

Matt: So I take—

Anthony: It's going to be a four quadrant photo.

Matt: Yeah. Four quadrant photo. Can I roll to see how good the photo is?

Anthony: Yeah. Just give me a straight d20 roll.

Matt: [*dice roll*] It's a 6.

Anthony: No, one's happy.

Matt: I don't show it.

Link: Ah—! No, I'm just going to send it to Miss Haile. You guys don't worry about it. It looks good.

Scary: Look, it looks like I'm smiling!

Link: Oh, whoops! I sent it!

Scary: It looks like I'm smi—What the fuck, man?

Anthony: Mae goes like—

Mae: [*over phone*] Woah!

Link: Okay, let's do another one?

Mae: [*over phone*] Okay. You all look really bad, but this looks like... Yeah, this is definitely... This will do it.

Taylor: Photoshop!

Mae: [*over phone*] You look bad the way that teens look bad in all their...

Taylor: Photoshop!

Normal: Also Mrs. Hailes, I have given you the login for my Pinterest account, which is my main social media.

Freddie: [*chuffed laugh*]

Normal: So I'm going to need you to go ahead and every day or so and like another cheer routine. Or if there seems like a really nice sensible normal kid outfit that you see on there, just like that and put it in the folder that says "style references."

Link: I'm going to give you my login to my LinkedIn, which is my main social media account.

[*laughter*]

Link: If you could just add, to really help the illusion, if you could just add, I don't know, like, museum tour guide above my lawn mowing that I have up there as my most current job.

Mae: [*over phone*] Yeah...

Link: That'd be great.

Mae: [*over phone*] And I'll reach out to every single person you're connected to unannounced asking for a jobs.

Link: Just my two dads.

Mae: [*over phone*] Yeah, just your dads.

Link: Those're the only two people on my LinkedIn.

Mae: *[over phone]* Sure.

Scary: Hey, Mae, I'm going to give you Taylor's password to his Pornhub Premium which is his—

Taylor: No!

[group laughter]

Scary: —his main social media account.

Mae: *[over phone]* Sure. Taylor, what stuff should I be liking so people don't think something's awry? Like what kind of stuff...?

Taylor: Excuse me, Scary.

Scary: I gave you my Facebook Messenger login. That's my entire life!

[laughter]

Mae: *[over phone]* You've already liked every single hentai on porn hub. I don't know what else...

Taylor: Yeah just keep... Here's what you...

Mae: *[over phone]* Just unlike and re-like them again?

Taylor: Listen. Most— No, no.

Matt: If he uses Pornhub premium it's because that's where the best pirated fan subs are. Not like...

Taylor: Yeah, yeah, yeah. Listen, Mae, here's the deal. You're going to need to sit on the new and trending page. Most people don't do that! Most people sort by something else. You're going to use "sort by new."

Mae: *[over phone]* No, there's so much bad there! There's so much bad stuff!

Taylor: Listen! You have to—

Matt: *[laughing]* *[quietly]* This is all cut.

Taylor: You have to wade through the garbage to find the gold.

Mae: *[over phone]* I'm not going to do that, Taylor. I'm not going to. People can think that you're missing, I don't care. I would rather them—

[group laughter]

Mae: *[over phone]* I would rather anyone think you're dead than me go through the new and trending on Pornhub. I won't do it. There's a ceiling to how much I will do as your intern, and you just found it.

[ad break]

Mae: *[over phone]* So you didn't come with any supplies or...

Link: Well, we didn't know where we were going. We don't have anything.

Taylor: I got my EDC!

Mae: *[over phone]* Okay...

Link: I got some power bars, and...

Mae: *[over phone]* Well the door, it's still open on this end so I think I can at least send things...

Link: Oh!

Mae: *[over phone]* ...one way.

Normal: Oh!

Link: I dunno, throw something over here.

Taylor: Weapons! Food!

Link: Well just test something.

Mae: *[over phone]* Okay.

Anthony: So she goes—

Mae: *[over phone]* I'm going to throw in a, a gun.

Link: Miss Hale, you're an adult! Don't just throw a... Is it in a case?

Mae: *[over phone]* *[stutters]* Uh...

Link: Unload it! What are you doing? Don't throw a gun and it might go off.

Mae: *[over phone]* Okay. In retrospect, I should have asked permission. I did it as I was saying—

Link: The first thing you test is a gun? Just throw a rock!

Mae: *[over phone]* Yeah I know! I thought you would need it! I thought it would be useful!

Link: I know, but just test something!

Taylor: No, that's smart. It's smart.

Mae: *[over phone]* It's too late. I already threw in the gun.

Link: Oh. Uh...

Taylor: Well where is it?

Anthony: Are you just going to wait there to see when it shows up?

Matt: Yeah.

Anthony: Okay, cool.

Link: You guys want to sit around and wait for this gun?

Taylor: I mean, listen, it'll be irresponsible for us not to.

Mae: *[over phone]* I hope it shows up at some point, but okay. So it sounds like whatever connection we have through the phone, that'll keep our timelines in sync. So whenever we're talking on the phone, we're good. But... yeah, I guess call me if you need stuff.

Link: Oh. So if we hang up the time difference...

Mae: *[over phone]* Yeah.

Link: So we should hang up to see if the gun pops in right away?

Mae: *[over phone]* No, no, no. I think if you hang up and then you and I start talking again, it'll be like hours have passed for me.

Link: Oh...

Beth: Mm...

Mae: But either way, I'm sure the gun will come by at some point. I'm going to assume that this thing works and it's just on delay and I'll get some stuff together, like a care package for you.

Link: Wait... Okay. But is the gun going to land here? Or like, is the gun just going to fall on us? Like, is this hole following us, like a storm cloud and a cartoon? Or is the hole here?

Anthony: As you say—

Link: Is this our base operations now? Or are things just going to land on us at any moment?

[laughter]

Link: That's scary!

Anthony: So as you say that, a small purple portal opens up—

[sound of a portal opening, like whirring energy that sparks as it closes again]

Anthony: —behind you where you came in.

Taylor: Ah!

[tap]

Anthony: —and a gun falls out.

Matt: Okay.

Link: We're going to walk forward 20 feet and throw something else in it. See if this thing follows us.

Mae: [over phone] Okay. Let me grab a... A hair tie.

Scary: Uhm, could you actually send some Black Moon mascara?

Mae: [over phone] I don't... That's not... I don't have—

Scary: You have to shop for it.

Mae: [over phone] Yeah. Okay. Well, I can bring in the next— If you give me a bit.

Scary: Okay.

Mae: *[over phone]* But okay, yeah. So I'm throwing in a hair tie.

Anthony: And you move 20 feet forward and she throws in a hair tie and...

[portal sound]

Anthony: ...it shows up back where you started in the same spot.

Link: Okay.

Scary: Okay.

Link: So this is our drop.

Taylor: I guess it's time to build the base here. I play enough Fortnite to know.

Mae: *[over phone]* Well... save your batteries. Be careful. I'm going to get a care package together. You should see it sooner or later. Alright, later. Bye.

Anthony: And she hangs up.

Link: Well that's nice of her.

Matt: I call her back.

Mae: *[over phone]* Yeah, what's up?

Link: All right here. Throw something else in.

Matt: And I'm going to grab a rock and I'm going to try to throw it...

Freddie: Back into the portal!

Matt: ...into the portal. When I see the purple portal show up.

Freddie: Would it be better for you to kick it because you're a soccer guy?

Matt: Yeah sure, I'll kick it.

Mae: *[over phone]* Okay. So, you want me to...

Matt: No it's a rock. I'm going to throw it.

Mae: *[over phone]* So sorry. You want me to...

Link: Just throw something else in? I'm just going to see if...

Taylor: Something big!

Mae: *[over phone]* Okay.

Link: ...a little portal shows up.

Taylor: A hula hoop! A hula hoop!

Mae: *[over phone]* All right. Alright, just give me... I have to. I was inb be— Let me get to D.A.D.D.I.E.S. I got to get into my car and drive to DADDIES. Give me a second.

[laughter]

Mae: *[over phone]* And we'll— I'll I'll stay on phone with you so time doesn't—

Taylor: Oh, hold on, hold on, here's what we'll do, here's what we'll do...

Normal: No, what you— hang up—

Taylor: Hang up!

Link: It'll go faster.

Normal: —so that you get to D.A.D.D.I.E.S. quicker and then call us.

Freddie: Yeah, yeah, we'll hang up. We'll call you back!

Freddie: And we hang up, and immediately...

Link: Yeah, you call us when you get to D.A.D.D.I.E.S.

Mae: *[over phone]* Okay, cool.

Anthony: So the second you hang up, the phone starts ringing again.

[short little jingle with a vibration]

Anthony: And she goes—

Mae: *[over phone]* Okay. So I'll throw in a fucking... a napkin.

Anthony: And she throws in a napkin.

Taylor: Something bigger. No, something bigger.

Mae: *[over phone]* Something bigger?

Taylor: Yeah.

Mae: *[over phone]* Okay. I'll throw in a...

Link: A chair!

Taylor: An unfolded napkin.

[group laughter]

Mae: *[over phone]* I will throw in... Oh, here's a- here's a box of Lunchables for my fucking lunch I got from the fridge I was going to eat. So here's a box of Lunchables.

Taylor: Woah, woah—

Normal: What are you— keep your lunch! Don't give us...

Taylor: You eat Lunchables as an adult?

Link: Oh, hell yeah!

Mae: *[over phone]* Well, I want to see if they get rotten on the way in.

Normal: Oh, that's a good idea actually.

Scary: Oh...

Link: Oh, that's a good call.

Scary: Yeah...

Mae: *[over phone]* Yeah so like, are there perishables.

Link: What sort of Lunchables is it? I guess we'll find out. I hope it's the pizza.

Normal: Well they're Lunchables, they'll last forever. That meat is super processed.

Mae: *[over phone]* That's true. That teaches you nothing, I guess.

Taylor: Loaf of bread. Find a loaf of bread!

Link: No, I want the Lunchables. Toss them in!

[laughter]

Anthony: So she throws in the Lunchables...

Mae: [over phone] Well, I'll open them first.

Anthony: She opens the Lunchables and then throws them in.

Scary: You took the candy!

Taylor: There was a snicker bars in here!

Mae: [over phone] Yeah, what, I'm not fucking stupid!

[group laughter]

Mae: [over phone] Of course I'm going to take the candy.

[portal sound]

Anthony: The portal opens and an open lunch—

Matt: The moment the portal opens, I throw a rock.

Anthony: Okay. You throw it into the portal and the portal closes. And Mae says—

Mae: A rock. Okay. Ooh! Yeah. I got a rock!

Link: What?

Scary: Wow!

Mae: [over phone] Yeah, a rock landed just outside the fucking door.

Taylor: You're need to carbon date the rock to see if there's any weird—

Mae: [over phone] I'm not going to do that, but like...

Matt: What do the Lunchables look like?

Anthony: So the Lunchables look...

Freddie: Delicious.

Anthony: ...more or less normal.

Link: Wait, so can we just go back?

Taylor: Yeah, told on, hold on! If you do a big hula hoop or something we can dive through, and just go back!

Scary: Well we got to know what, like, kind of shape they're ending up in when they get back there.

Taylor: Oh, that's true.

Scary: We don't want to get there and be all old or whatever so let's throw—

Taylor: Or inside out.

Mae: [*over phone*] Yeah, I really don't know what it's like when... I would actually—

Scary: Let's throw the Lunchables back.

Taylor: Oh, let's throw Lunchables back. Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Link: yeah.

Mae: [*over phone*] Okay. Great.

Taylor: Throw another Lunchables in. So we're no—

Link: Yeah, we—

Mae: [*over phone*] How about I throw the rock back. I'll just throw the same rock.

Taylor: No we want—

Link: We need to check—

Normal: Wait!

Taylor: We need to still have Lunchables.

Will: And then Normal takes off his watch.

Freddie: Ooh!

Matt: Ooh!

Anthony: That's great!

Freddie: I love it!

Anthony: That's great.

Will: Throws the...

Normal: *[sighs]* Goodbye sweet, sweet—

Freddie: What kind of—

Normal: —Yugioh watch.

Link: She can send it back!

Will: I kiss it and I throw the watch the— wait. Mark the time, it's currently... 2:45.

Freddie: What kind of watch do you have?

Will: It's a Yugioh watch.

Freddie: Okay. Does it have a stopwatch on?

Scary: Well does it have the date or whatever? Because we don't know about...

Normal: No it just has the time, and honestly doesn't really work that well, but...

Matt: I also throw the Lunchables. I put the watch there.

Link: Here, just put the watch in the Lunchables.

Freddie: It's like a fucking Sierra point and click adventure right now.

Matt: I hand you the Lunchables.

Link: Just throw it all in there. We get multiple test subjects.

[laughter]

Scary: Nice!

Will: I also put a bug in there just to see what happens.

Matt: There you go, that's a good one!

Anthony: All right. You throw the Lunchable—

Will: And I spit in it.

[laughter]

Anthony: You throw the Lunchables, the bug, the watch, and the...

Matt: Spit.

Anthony: ...spit into the hole. And you hear Mae go—

Mae: [over phone] Oh! Oh gross. Oh no, no, no, no. Okay. So yeah, this has... this aged. I would say.. decently. I would say at least a week or so? The Lunchables have gone bad. The watch... Oh, weirdly it's still 2:45, so it's like almost an exact two week thing, I guess. When you're coming back through this... but I think the portal is different when I instigate it than if you find a way to instigate it on your end so I don't know. But yeah, it's a couple of weeks. This bug is very dead and the spit— It turns out spit, if you let it age for a long time it is maybe the worst smell in the world. So thanks for that Normal. Thank— I thought I was free of your scent, when you were on the other end of the universe. But it turns out you're still... It's like you're right here with me.

Normal: Oh.

Link: So we just—

Normal: That bug must have been really old if it was about to die in two weeks.

Link: Wait, so like, we could just get two weeks older if we just jump in and out?

Scary: And two weeks wiser, maybe.

Link: Wiser, maybe?

Mae: [over phone] Uh...

Link: Some voices dropping?

Mae: [over phone] Yeah, you'll have you'll have no food...

Scary: Oh.

Link: Oh...

Taylor: Oh...

Mae: [over phone] I can't— I'm not gonna send...

Normal: Well then we need to bring snacks on our way back. It sounds like—

Link: Okay.

Normal: —if we need to get out in a hurry, we can run through and jump here. But we are going to be... in a sort of bottle episode situation for two weeks. So...

[laughter]

Normal: We might want to bring some food or something to read.

Mae: [*over phone*] Well, again, you're running up the down escalator. There's probably a way on your end where you can open it in your way. And it's like more frictionless, like how came here.

Normal: If we reverse the polarity.

Mae: [*over phone*] Maybe!

Scary: Oh...

Link: Okay.

Mae: [*over phone*] That could be a thing.

Link: Well let's—

Taylor: We can sit here all day, throwing things in this hole—

Link: Well yeah I was about to say. Maybe...

Taylor: —but we need to deal with our present situation, team.

Link: One of my— Grant always said, the worst thing to do is like, you order something and then every time the waiter comes back, you're like, "Oh, now can I have water?" And the waiter goes, and then when the waiter comes back with water, you're like, "Oh actually, can I also have this?" I say, we get our order all together and ask Miss Haile everything we want all at once. So why don't you... Maybe we just hang up. and we just like—

Taylor: Ah, like to kinda put together an Amazon wish list for her.

Link: Yeah, we should get everything, because it goes really fast, right? Once we tell her. So let's just like, what all do we want from Miss Haile?

Scary: Hmm...

Link: Let's not waste her time. Maybe we just get a big order ready. What all do we want?

Anthony: Everybody roll Perception.

Beth: [*dice roll*] 9.

Matt: Everyone roll. Anthony's like, please... [*laughs*] move it along.

Freddie: [*dice roll*] Another 3?!

Will: [*dice roll*] I got a 1.

Matt: [*dice roll*] 4. [*laughs*]

Anthony: Wow! Okay.

Freddie: What is with the rolls this...

Anthony: So it's too late to do much of anything by the time you notice.

[*laughter*]

Anthony: If you had been paying more attention, you would've seen three lights in the distance approaching you slowly that—

Taylor: There are four lights.

Matt: Instead we're all writing down what flavor Lunchables we want Miss Haile to bring.

Freddie: Yeah! [*laughs*] Yeah.

Taylor: Uhm— make sure you got the one with the—

Link: Blankets! Won't we need blankets? We don't know if they have blankets in this world. We gotta— it's cold already!

Anthony: By the time you notice, it's because the light from these torches is casting itself onto the ground near your feet, and you turn around and you see three torch flames that illuminate pock marked faces that peak out from red cloaks.

Will: [*gasps*]

Anthony: Two of the people are holding either end of a pole, and there's a large cage dangling from that pole. And inside is what looks to be a severed head.

Matt: O—!

Will: Eugh...!

Anthony: The person in the front, holding the torch smiles very, very, very big. And goes—

Red Cloak: Lost?

Link: Ah...

Normal: Uh...

Scary: Uhm...

Link: No!

Normal: No!

Link: We're right where we want to be.

Scary: Yeah.

Normal: Yep. Absolutely.

Link: It's our favorite spot.

Red Cloak: Smile for me?

Link: Uh...

Freddie: I throw up the finger.

Scary: I don't do that.

Link: Yeah.

Normal: Well, I'll always smile at a friendly stranger.

Will: And I smile.

Anthony: So as you smile, you notice that his smile is artificial. He has seemingly stapled up the corners of his mouth...

[*unhappy hums*]

Anthony: ...and his face looks like it has been subject to a whole lot of wear and/or tear in his attempt to keep that smile going. And the two men that are holding up the cage with the severed head go—

Red Cloaks: They— They have it! They still have it! Oh, they have it! It's dinner time boys!

Anthony: And all three of them drop the cage. They throw their torches onto the ground and they open up their cloaks and each of them takes out a knife in one hand and a syringe in the other. Everybody roll initiative.

Matt: Oh...!

Beth: [*dice roll*] 7.

Freddie: [*dice roll*] [*yelling*] Fucking 11!?

[*dice roll*]

Anthony: Stop using it.

Matt: Can I just have an advantage for some reason?

Anthony: Uh, absolutely not.

Matt: Okay. Well, I got 5.

[*laughter*]

[*dice roll*]

Matt: 2+3.

Will: I rolled a 6.

Matt: God.

Anthony: Freddie, it is your move first.

Freddie: Ha! Nice!

Matt: An 11 is the highest?

Anthony: 11 was the highest.

Freddie: How many people around us?

Anthony: There is a severed head in a cage. that, as it hits the ground, you hear it go—

Head: Uoh!

Anthony: You see its tongue exit from it and it pushes itself up so it can turn around and look at you.

Matt: The head did?

Anthony: The head did.

Matt: [*quietly*] Oh shit.

Anthony: And then there's three people wearing red cloaks who are... currently wielding a knife and a syringe, that are facing you now.

Matt: Does the head look like it's happy to be in the cage? Like... Is it trapped or is this just the way they move it around?

Beth: Or is it dead.

Anthony: It looks trapped.

Matt: I'm just wondering if maybe we have an ally in this head.

Anthony: Yes. It does not look psyched to be there. It doesn't look like this is a palanquin.

Matt: Okay.

Anthony: This is not a conveyance of honor.

Matt: Okay, okay. Cool.

Freddie: I'm going to put my hand on the hilt of my travel katana.

Will: Your Sharper Image, fold out travel katana?

Freddie: It's a fold-out travel katana for traveling.

Will: That's just called a knife.

[*laughter*]

Matt: It's a knife. A travel katana...

Freddie: It's a travel katana.

Anthony: Sure. I believe that Taylor would've brought a blade with him on this trip.

Matt: Yeah, yeah. Like one of those mini-katanas.

Freddie: Yeah, yeah. And I'mma go—

Will: A tonto?

Freddie: And I'm going to go—

Taylor: Stay back or I'll ha— be forced to unsheathe my blade!

Anthony: So that's your turn is telling them don't...?

Freddie: Well, what's their reaction to me saying such a fucking hard...?

Anthony: Roll Intimidation.

Freddie: Like such a hard ass thing, you know what I'm saying? [*dice roll*] 19!

Anthony: Wow. Okay, so you can feel them flinch though they don't drop their weapons or anything like that. Their gaze... All three of them stop looking at you and they start looking at your other friends. So you get the feeling that they are probably not going to attack you because they're a little bit intimidated by you, but the others are still up for grabs.

Taylor: These numbers are no good.

Freddie: I want to Zephyr Strike, but specifically I want to try and cut off the arm of one of these guys.

Anthony: So roll with disadvantage if you want to do something specific like that.

Freddie: I will roll... [*two dice rolls*] [*angry yell*]!

Matt: Jesus.

Freddie: A natural 1.

Anthony: Wow. So the sword gets... completely stuck in its sheath.

Freddie: That's what happens when you don't practice fast speed unsheathing and you attempt to make it go fast...

Anthony: Yup.

Freddie: It can get stuck. You got to keep it oiled.

Anthony: So what you accidentally do is you pull out the entire sword still in its sheath and basically toss it at their feet. So you have no sword right now. It is at their feet.

Freddie: And I go—

Taylor: Zephyr strike! ...Oh shit!

Anthony: The smiling one in front goes—

Red Cloak: Thank you. Thank you. So generous. Thank you!

Anthony: Now it is Scary's turn.

Freddie: Who has the gun?

Anthony: It's on the ground by your feet. Nobody picked it up.

Freddie: Taylor notices the gun by his feet and says—

Taylor: Hmm... should have done that.

Beth: I will... cast Vampiric Touch.

Anthony: Okay?

Beth: "The touch of your shadow-wreathed hand can siphon life force from others to heal your wounds, make a melee spell attack against a creature within your reach." Oh, is he not in my reach though?

Anthony: I mean, we could say you moved up to him and then did it.

Beth: Okay. On a hit, the target takes 3d6 necrotic damage and you regain hit points equal to half the amount of necrotic damage.

Anthony: Okay! Yeah. Go ahead. Go for it.

Beth: [*dice roll*] [*sighs*] Yeah, 11...!

Anthony: You lunge this thing with your hand burning with shadowy energy and it barely just moves its head to the right, and you just barely managed to whiff. Your arm is now over his shoulder and he goes—

Red Cloak: Ooh! Oooh! Close. Very close. I can feel it coming off of you though. Very close.

Anthony: Normal!

Will: Normal is going to cast Guiding Bolt! And uh... zap `em. I'm going to zap them real good.

Anthony: Okay.

Freddie: Hell yeah, dude!

Will: "A flash of light streaks towards a creature of youy—" This is what I tried to kill Scary with a couple episodes ago.

Anthony: Yeah.

Matt: [*laughs*] I realized that when Anthony said the damage was 4-d-6, I heard 46. So I was like, "Geez!" You're gonna kill...!

Will: Oh, I see. That makes sense. [*dice roll*] I rolled a 19?

Anthony: Wow. Okay. That'll do it.

Will: So that is 22 radiant damage to one of the ones holding the severed head.

Anthony: Okay! The one second closest to you, that Scary did not just try to punch. Your Guiding Bolt hits him and he explodes.

Will: Oh!

Beth: Nice!

Anthony: He just explodes.

Normal: Oh my God!

Scary: Woah!

Normal: I almost hit you with that, Scary! Oh, I'm so sorry!

Scary: Man—

[laughter]

Link: Oh my god!

Normal: I thought it was just going to stun him! Oh!

Anthony: Black, pungent jelly litters the ground amongst him and flies into the air. And he smells even worse on the inside. Much like a Tonton.

Matt: Oh my god.

Anthony: And he is instantly incinerated by that.

Matt: Was that one of the ones holding the cages?

Anthony: That was one of the two holding the cages, yeah.

Matt: Okay.

Anthony: And now is your turn, Link. By the way, when this happens, the other two cackle and they go—

Red Cloaks: More for me!

Matt: Oh God.

Freddie: Eugh...

Will: Don't like that.

Freddie: I don't like that!

Matt: I'm going to pick up the gun. I'm going to check its chamber and cock it and load it.

Anthony: Okay.

Matt: Because Grant— One of the few things that they do, and y'know, as I said, he was a sniper. I feel like occasionally...

Freddie: You went to the range! Yeah, he took you to the range.

Matt: Yeah, I went to the range as a fun thing, but it's like Grant was secretly being like, at some point Link might have to be able to shoot people.

Will: [*ominously*] The boy will need to know.

Matt: And I point the gun up in the air and I shoot and I go—

Link: You see this? This will F you guys up more than what he just did. And I got a lot more bullets where that comes from.

Normal: I mean I— I literally just exploded him.

Link: Yeah! Yeah!

Normal: I don't know that a little gun is going to do that much to scare them.

Link: Don't do— ah—! What are you doing? Just say it is even bigger. It's bigger than that one! And from my hands—

Normal: Yeah, it's real big. It's real scary!

Link: I got a bunch of them.

Scary: What?

Link: I'll shoot. I'll blow you all away if I have to! Wipe those smiles off your faces, just... calm down!

Anthony: All right. Roll Intimidation... I don't think you need to have disadvantage for it.

Freddie: Because it made a big boom.

Matt: Disadvantage? Have they seen a gun before? Shouldn't it be advantage? It's just... saw a big boom boom thing.

Anthony: Well, what happens is, one guy just exploded and your thing just made a loud noise and nothing happened to them, so they have...

Will: *[laughs]*

Matt: But I said it was...

Anthony: How would you take that?

Matt: Well, because I said it has more... Well...

Anthony: Yeah. Why would they believe it?

Matt: Alright!

Anthony: You just went, "This will be even worse!" And then you didn't do a thing.

Matt: *[dice roll]* Okay. I did a 13 Intimidation.

Anthony: Okay 13. I'll have them roll... Insight. *[dice roll]* They get— they literally got a 14.

Beth: Oh my god.

Anthony: They go—

Red Cloaks: Oh... is that a toy? Is that a toy for babies/? A baby holding a baby toy. Delightful.

Normal: *[super deep voice]* It's not a toy, son.

Scary: It's not a toy! Shut up!

Link: It's not a toy.

Matt: Okay, so was that my action?

Anthony: That was your action.

Matt: Okay. I'm going to cast Sanctuary. "You ward a creature within range against attack. Until a spell ends any creature who targets warded creature with an attack or harmful spell must first make a Wisdom saving throw."

Freddie: Ooh!

Matt: "On a failed save that creature must choose a new target or lose the attack or spell. The spell doesn't protect the warded creature from area effect, et cetera. The warded creature makes an attack, it goes away." So essentially. they have to do a Wisdom saving throw to attack. I'm going to actually cast it on Normal because Normal blew one of them up so I think... I'm just trying to guess who they're going to try to attack next.

Anthony: Sure.

Will: Normal gains the armor of self confidence because Link paid attention to him.

[laughter]

Beth: That's a co-dependence armor.

[laughter]

Anthony: The two remaining smiling men. It is their turn. So the one nearest to you, Scary, is going to jam the needle directly into your ear canal.

Freddie: Oh!

Will: Eeuh...!

Beth: Fudge!

Matt: No!

Freddie: Dude!

Anthony: Unless your AC beats— What's your AC?

Beth: [*off mic*] 12?

Anthony: Yeah. No it beats that. So the needle goes— and it's weirdly painless. It doesn't hurt you. You feel pressure, but you don't feel pain.

Beth: [*in Scary voice*] It's like a piercing.

Matt: I want to use Protection as a reaction.

Anthony: Oh my fucking God. What?

Matt: Oh, do you want to play Dungeons and Dragons or what, Anthony?

Anthony: No, it's just the ultimate like, "No, you don't get to do this thing!"

Matt: It's a reaction!

Anthony: Okay. What is it?

Matt: "When a creature you can see attacks a target other than you that's within five feet of you—"

Anthony: Okay.

Matt: "—you can use your reaction to impose disadvantage on the attack roll."

Anthony: Okay.

Matt: You must be welding a shield, but we already said that my shin guards are my shields.

Anthony: Oh sure. Okay, cool.

Freddie: Uh, w- wielding.

Matt: W-wielding.

Freddie: Welding a shield is something else.

Matt: Welding. I welded a shield.

Anthony: You must weld a shield!

Matt: I welded my own shin guards.

Anthony: Okay.

Matt: That's... a new...

Anthony: So—

Matt: ...rad fact.

Anthony: —he tried the attack again and whiffed completely. So his needle's right about to go into Scary's ear and then you bring your shin guards up—*whpsh!* Like suddenly you're resting your leg on Scary's other shoulder. And you block the needle with your shin guard.

Link: Leave my friends alone!

Anthony: He goes—

Red Cloak: Oh! Oh ho-ho-ho!

Anthony: The other one.

Freddie: The other one!

Anthony: Bum rushes Normal and tackles him to the ground, succeeding at the Wisdom saving throw. So your sanctuary did not do anything. And he... oh-ooh! Gets a natural 20 to his attack.

Will: Uh-oh!

Anthony: So the needle comes down right into your forehead. Again, no pain, just a lot of pressure.

Matt: [*quietly*] Oh, God!

Anthony: And he just leans in and he whispers—

Red Cloak: [*whispering*] Think of your happiest memory...!

Anthony: And you feel your happiest memory beginning to conjure up inside your head. And you can feel that it is moving towards the syringe. And next turn... if he's not taken off of you, he's going to suck that right up into that syringe.

Matt: *[gasps]*

Will: So the first time I ran out on the field as Teeny the Teen? And...

Beth: Oh, God!

Will: ...everyone was cheering. Or at least I thought they were. Because the sound was amplified in my head of my own screaming. And—

Matt: Were your parents there?

Will: Yeah, they were there!

Matt: *[gasps]*

Will: And my dad was feigning enthusiasm, but I thought I was real.

Matt: Damn.

Will: And I was getting the crowd super torqued. You're saying all that's going through this syringe right now?

Anthony: I'm saying it is approaching the needle of that syringe, very much so. Okay, so we're back at the top of the initiative. So once again it is Taylor's turn.

Freddie: Okay. So seeing this guy go on... go on the needle, I'm going to just do a flying jump kick...

Anthony: Okay.

Freddie: ...to try and jump kick the needle— Or no, the body mass. I'm going to jump kick the body mass of this guy, who's on top of him.

Anthony: Okay. Go ahead and give me an attack roll.

Taylor: *[strange, kinda whiney, effort sound]*

Matt: That was not that.

Freddie: Yeah, what are you talking about? That was my attack roll. *[dice roll]* *[off mic]* Jesus. *[on mic]* Natural 1+3.

Beth: Oh my God!

Anthony: So you... you eat shit.

Freddie: I think, I feel like I kicked the syringe plunger and it actually...

Will: Deeper in?

Freddie: Yeah.

[laughter]

Anthony: Deeper in. Great. Yeah. So now it hurts.

[laughter]

Beth: God.

Normal: Now I'm forgetting when I got a new video game console for Christmas!

[laughter]

Anthony: So you just jump right onto the fucking smiling man's back and the plunger goes deeper in.

Normal: Ow, ow, ow, ow, ow!

Anthony: And yeah, now his top three favorite memories...

Freddie: [laughs]

Beth: Oh, no!

Anthony: ...are inside this syringe.

Will: A Slash film article?

[group laughter]

Will: [intensely] Normal's top 10 favorite memories and 1 we could do without!

Freddie: You won't believe number six!

Anthony: You won't believe number one!

Beth: Yeah.

Anthony: Yeah. Okay, so yeah, he's losing even more memories to this...

Matt: But he hasn't lost them yet.

Anthony: He hasn't lost the yet. They are now inside the syringe, but he is going to— He has to retract them for them to be fully gone from Normal. So that was Taylor's disappointing excuse for a turn. Now Scary.

Beth: I look at the dude who's sucking memories out of Normal.

Scary: Hey! You think you're hot shit? Only I'm allowed to be mean to Normal!

Beth: I cast Fireball.

Freddie: Bwuh!

Anthony: Okay!

Scary: Yo Normal! Shield, your eyes, dog!

Normal: What?!

Anthony: So, Fireball...

Will: Fireball's an area effect, isn't it?

Anthony: It sure is.

[group laughter]

Anthony: Sure is.

Beth: Oh, I didn't know that.

Anthony: That's fine.

Will: That's fine!

Anthony: So every creature in a 20 foot radius sphere centered on that point has to make a Dexterity saving throw. A target takes 8d6 fire damage on a failed save, or half as much on a successful one.

Scary: Sorry guys, I've got all this power and I don't know how to use it!

Anthony: Yeah. So Normal's basically pinned, prone, under this guy. So I'm going to say you have disadvantage on your Dexterity saving throw.

Will: Okay...

Freddie: I'm there too, I think, because I just did a...

Matt: But you're not pinned.

Anthony: Yes, you're there as well. Yeah. So both Normal and... and the—

Matt: Everybody. We're all with 20.

Anthony: I feel like yeah, 20's... How far would 20 be? Me to Freddie, is that 20?

Will: Well no, you're by Scary because you just blocked with a shin guard—

Matt: Yeah.

Will: So you're safe.

Matt: Oh.

Will: Assuming Scary didn't just also blow herself up.

Matt: Oh, that's true.

Beth: I mean—

Anthony: Well, I'm just saying was that 20 feet?

Beth: I...

Anthony: I'm trying to like... gauge in my mind, like...

Freddie: Yeah, I think so. I think it's just me and—

Beth: If I fucked up this bad, I think that Scary fucks up this bad.

Will: Okay. Fair enough.

Beth: Yeah.

Matt: No the point is like, I'm next to you so I probably am not...

Anthony: Okay, so everybody's in this thing.

Beth: Yeah.

Anthony: You cast a fireball... and it hits every single person. So everybody roll a Dexterity saving throw, and Normal and the smiling man that is being pinned by Taylor will roll with disadvantage.

[two dice rolls]

Will: So I got a 1.

Anthony: Ooh...!

Matt: [*dice roll*] I got 21.

Freddie: I[*dice roll*] got an 18.

Beth: [*dice roll*] I got a 9.

[*wincing hiss*]

Anthony: So Scary's spell save DC is 12. So everybody who got less than a 12, you are going to go ahead and roll yourself 8d6 fire damage.

Matt: What?!

Beth: Fuck me...

Anthony: Everyone that got more than a 12, you're going to roll yourself 4d6 fire damage.

Matt: Wh?!

Anthony: Now since Normal got a natural 1, I feel like every one of your dice, you roll twice and you take the higher of the two.

Scary: Uhm, okay, so like, are we... Even? For when you almost killed me? Do you remember when you almost killed me? Because that was like... totally not cool, man.

[*dice start rolling*]

Matt: I took 14 damage.

Freddie: I took 13 damage.

[*dice finish rolling*]

Will: Okay. So roll one was 30 damage. [*more rolls*] And, uh... roll two was 31 damage.

Anthony: Okay.

Will: Uh, Normal has 24 HP.

Freddie: Oh, no...!

Anthony: Alright.

Will: So Normal's, uh...

Freddie: Burnt to a crisp!

Will: Normal just got blasted hardcore and is in death save territory.

Anthony: Yes.

Link: Scary!

Taylor: Holy shit, Scary!

Scary: I—!

Link: Oh my God!

Scary: I said that we're kind of eve—

Link: No!

Scary: I never meant for this to happen!

Normal: [*horrible groan*]

Taylor: That was awesome!

Anthony: So what happens is there's an explosion of fire that lights up the night around you.

Scary: Fuck! Fuck! Fuck!

Anthony: The two remaining smiling men are immolated instantly. They just turn—
[*laughter*]

Anthony: They turn to fucking ash.

Scary: Well...!

Anthony: The head and the cage is like—

Head: Well do— Oh no!

Anthony: And then it gets—

[group laughter with claps]

Link: Mr. Head!

Anthony: And then it gets burned to a crisp immediately.

Matt: No! Never learn about Mr. Head?

Anthony: And it's flailing around inside of the cage.

Freddie: You know what it is? It's like the scene from *Terminator 2*.

[group laughter]

Anthony: Yeah. Exactly.

Matt: He's holding the cage with his tongue.

Anthony: Yeah.

Freddie: [barking laughs]

Matt: [like he's sticking his tongue out] Ehh!

Freddie: [like he's sticking his tongue out] Ehh!

Anthony: And the fucking skin gets blown off of his bones, but the tongue stays there—

Beth: Oh god.

Anthony: —and it's just a skull in there now. And yeah, Normal, the melting goo of the dying smiling man on top of you burns you even worse. So you take that 31 damage and you fall into death saves. You basically get knocked unconscious by this explosion around you. But hey! You're, you're out of combat. And you won, technically.

Will: I definitely feel like the incinerating blast has definitely incinerated Normal's tighty whities, which I think we're still the only thing he was wearing when he jumped through the portal?

Freddie: [barking laugh]

Will: So you've got a, a singed, unconscious, naked boy in front of you.

[ad break]

Anthony: Okay. So you're out of combat now.

Matt: I go quickly to heal him.

Anthony: Do you use Lay on Hands?

Matt: I do Lay on Hands. I can restore up to 20 HP per long rest. Who's all hurt?

Scary: I'm fine!

Will: *[laughs]*

Anthony: Literally everybody is hurt.

Taylor: Just a flesh wound.

Matt: All right. How does it work? Well now you...

Anthony: Well, Scary you rolled too, right?

Beth: I— yeah.

Anthony: Because you were in...

Beth: No, I haven't rolled yet, but I did get hurt. Yeah...

Anthony: Yeah. Everybody got hurt—

Matt: Okay.

Anthony: —because even if you saved, you still take half damage.

[dice rolls]

Matt: Yeah.

Anthony: So none of you is not hurt.

Beth: I got 33.

Anthony: Okay.

Beth: But I'm fine because I've got 67 hit points.

[laughter]

Will: *[quietly]* God, damnit.

Freddie: [*quietly*] Ah, damnit.

Anthony: So you're actually on fire right now, and it probably looks pretty cool.

Scary: Hey, I'm on fire right now!

Normal: [*dry vocalization*]

Matt: When I heal 20 he's back to 20. It's not like... the difference between the damage he took... Like there's no—

Will: Yes, you have to heal up my damage first.

Freddie: You're just at zero, yeah.

Matt: Okay. So you're just at zero essentially.

Freddie: I think so.

Matt: I'm just going to use it all on— because we can all rest. I'm just going to use it all on Normal. I do that thing like I'm going to make a bandage, but all I'm doing is I'm ripping my sleeves off and I'm making him a diaper.

[*group laughter*]

Matt: So like, I touch his shoulder and I heal him 20 and I also make him a little diaper. So now he looks like...

Freddie: Tommy Pickles?

Matt: No. He looks like Let Me Solo Her, essentially.

[*group laughter*]

Scary: Hey Norm, I think I've got an extra band shirt somewhere here.

Will: So Normal's eyes crack open. And with his hair still smoking, he looks at Scary and says—

Normal: [*dry and in pain*] We're... even... Oh... that hurt.

Scary: Yeah. Here you go. Here's the Harbor of Fuck shirt.

Normal: [*pained*] Thanks...

Scary: You look great, buddy.

Normal: [*pained*] Thank you...

Will: And I put the shirt on.

Normal: [*pained*] I'm just— glad we're all having a good group experience here. Were you guys all really scared that I might have died?

Taylor: Not really.

Link: Yeah, absolutely! We were also scared of Scary, that was so much power. Like—

Scary: I was more scared of how much power I had. That was pretty... wild!

Taylor: We need to rethink our group dynamic. If we ever get into any of these scuffles, it definitely feels like Scary, you're our cannon.

Scary: I just got to, like, know my own strength more because I've got so much of it. ...Yeah.

Link: Those guys, like... they had a head.

Freddie: Taylor drops to a knee and goes like—

Taylor: Will you teach me sensei?

Scary: Uhm... yeah, sure. I guess.

Taylor: Specifically how you did that fireball thing.

Link: Speaking of this, Scary, I don't know, like, there's just a lot of power in this place. Like check this out.

Matt: And then from my hand, the gun is now glowing because I cast Sacred Weapon on it. So as an action, with positive energy, the weapon is considered magical. It can add 1 to attack rolls, but also emits a bright light of 20 feet. It's like Sting.

Anthony: Oh cool!

Beth: Nice.

Matt: It's like a flashlight. So hopefully because it's really dark out here... so I got glowing gun.

Freddie: So it's just a glowing Glock here and it's...

Beth: Hell yes.

Matt: Casting light around. Be like—

Link: I don't know, here. Do you want to hold this?

Taylor: Yes.

Link: Okay. Here.

Anthony: I quickly unload and I take all the bullets out and I chuck them out into the woods.

Taylor: Wait, no, what are you doing?!

Link: Yeah, no, this is too dangerous for us. Especially like, we already got more powerful weapons than a gun and guns aren't a toy, but it's a cool flashlight. So like, here.

Freddie: *[laughs]*

Matt: I hand you the gun-now-flashlight.

Link: I'm like that's yours, man. It's pretty cool.

Scary: I kind of wish we knew what they were going to do with your memories Norm.

Normal: *[still a bit pained]* Yeah. I'm really happy that you got cool powers and a glowing gun...

[group laughter]

Scary: Yeah, me too!

Normal: I did almost die. I think I might have been dead for a second, I saw some weird stuff in there. Uh...

Link: Well, you have powers too, don't you? You could like— I'm hurt.

Normal: *[still pained]* Oh...

Link: We're all hurt. Could you help us?

Normal: *[pained]* Oh yeah, I'll get right on that.

Freddie: What happened—? Wait. So the syringe did it just... Right back in.

Anthony: He never managed to...

Will: Oh yeah. I pushed the plunger back in...

Anthony: Yeah.

Will: to my head and I go... *Shhhh.*

Anthony: Yeah, you keep the memories.

Will: And I go—

Normal: I'm good to go.

[group laughter]

Matt: Max Payne.

Normal: Uh, so...

Taylor: Hang on to that syringe, it might be useful.

Normal: Who were those guys?

Will: I look at their singed bodies to see if I can find any clues to who they were or what they wanted.

Anthony: *[laughing]* Uh...!

Taylor: They're carbon based life forms, that much we know.

Anthony: I think you can roll Investigation or Perception with disadvantage because they're burnt to shit.

[dice clack]

Matt: They're flammable.

Anthony: Yeah.

Taylor: They are flammable. Fire works in this world.

Beth: *[dice roll]* Well, that's a 3. So that's not going to be helpful.

Freddie: Taylor's seen all he needs to see. Oh, Taylor's going to also hang onto that memory syringe.

[dice roll]

Anthony: Okay.

Will: I rolled an 11.

Anthony: With an 11 you can see that they were pretty well-equipped for violent endeavors. You could see several knives, you could see bottles that have now exploded, but they were presumably filled of something that... matter— These look like survivalists. They didn't look like, y'know, city folk who are on their way from A to B.

Freddie: Ah, so there's a very post-apocalyptic vibe.

Anthony: They look like post-apocalyptic survivors, kind of, yeah.

Matt: Well not survivors anymore.

Freddie: Not survivors, no, no, no.

Anthony: Not anymore.

Matt: Nice.

Freddie: What about the head and the cage? I want to examine the cage. The head itself. What remains of the skull?

Matt: Well , the head's gone.

Anthony: The head is— Yeah, there's a skull in there now. Crispy and still— the few bits of flesh remaining on it are still burning.

Freddie: I stare deep into the eye sockets to see what edlritch insight I can gain.

Anthony: Okay. Roll ar—

Freddie: And I also wanna look at—

Anthony: Roll Arcana!

Freddie: And also I want to look at the, y'know, the cage.

Matt: Ooh, can I roll Arcana too? I got good Arcana.

Anthony: Sure, if you want.

Freddie: [dice roll] 8+2, 10. I squint a little bit and be like—

Taylor: This used to be someone.

Anthony: Correct.

Scary: Damn.

Anthony: That's about as much as a 10 gets you.

[dice roll]

Scary: We used to be someone, Taylor.

Matt: I rolled a 14+4, 18.

Anthony: 18! Okay, so within 18—

Freddie: I get shoved aside.

Taylor: Uh!

Link: What're you looking at?

Anthony: —you could see, even with most of the skin blasted off, you get the vibe from Arcana that this face that's in this cage was more well off than the men carrying it around. That he was...

Link: This guy seems like he was a...a guy about town. More well off than these other ones.

Scary: Well not anymore.

Will: Oh, does he have like some fancy jewels in his teeth or something?

Freddie: Yeah, yeah, yeah!

Anthony: Oh, that's fun!

Freddie: It's like—

Anthony: Most of his teeth are made of different metals. Different jewels.

Link: We shouldn't look too fancy around here because... this man got his head chopped off.

Freddie: I want to take the skull with us.

Anthony: So the teeth on this thing are all jewel encrusted.

Freddie: Oh!

Anthony: Like, they've had jewels grafted to every individual incisor and molar and bicuspid. So yeah, if you want to take that skull—

Taylor: Lotta cavities!

Anthony: —with all the bejeweled teeth...

Taylor: Better take this.

Scary: Alas, poor Yorick, we'll give them hell.

Freddie: [*faux spit-take*]

Anthony: So...

Matt: Is there any landmark around? I want to just take a look with our... When we got, now, our cool flashlight. So I want to take a look.

Anthony: Sure!

Matt: Cause my first thought is like—

Link: Probably don't want to go in the direction they came from? Is probably like a good... bit? But let's see if there's anything...

Normal: That's! Okay, yeah. I see what you're saying because it's like, we don't know much, but we know that direction, bad stuff came from there.

Link: Bad stuff!

Normal: So I'm thinking.. look, one direction's as good as another.

Link: Yeah.

Normal: We're looking for our dads. Right? Like what if we go down this other way...

Scary: One Direction was a shit band.

Anthony: Thank you.

Link: Also—

Normal: I really liked them!

Link: Yeah!

Normal: I like them and O-Town and...

Scary: Oh...

Link: Oh...

Anthony: They all come back.

Normal: All the other good oldie bands.

Scary: I regret giving you my Harbor of Fuck shirt. You're wearing pristine shred-age right now.

Anthony: Go ahead and roll Perception to get your bearings if you want to figure out where you are.

[two dice rolls]

Beth: 2.

Matt: 17+2.

Beth: I'm not doing well.

Matt: 19.

Anthony: 19!

Freddie: *[dice roll]* 3. Taylor's just kind of like looking for his...

Matt: I take the flashlight back.

[chuckles]

Freddie: Taylor's just trying to get the sword out of scabbard. Being like—

Taylor: Stupid fucking thing...

Will: *[dice roll]* I've got a 5.

Anthony: Okay. Link, you can feel like your eyes have adjusted a little bit to the specific kind of darkness that's at play here, and you can see that from this darkness that has blanketed the world, there are still little pinpricks of activity. Distant cities or distant towers. So the direction that the smilers came from, you can see... sort of a pillar of lights moving up into this sky. Decently high. You see a

lot of lights at the base, but there's one pillar that seems to ascend higher than the others.

Anthony: In the direction behind you, where the smilers were going, you see some more dim lights, but a large collection of those dim lights are nearer the ground, more of a village type of thing. And then to your left, you see one single burning flame that seems to be burning very brightly. Like, it has the brightness of a star when you look into the night sky, but it's at like, y'know, eye level for you. And it seems to be to your left.

Link: Alright—

Anthony: As you also look around and see more of the world, you cannot help but have your eyes flick upward at the undulating form of the Doodler that is overtaken the entire sky.

Beth: It's like he's twerking.

Anthony: You can s—

[laughter]

Freddie: I'm going to put "cthulhu twerking" into an AI image generator really quick.

Will: [laughs]

Anthony: Ooh, do that! That'd be fun.

Anthony: As you move the gun around that you took from Taylor, for a second the light hits some part of the creature above you—the Doodler above you—and you realize it's actually a lot closer than you thought. It's close enough that the flashlight doesn't dissipate entirely before it hits it.

Matt: Oh shit.

Anthony: And you see slimy scales undulating in waves, almost like it's an ocean of scales above you. And just the mere looking at that and realizing, "oh my God, how close it is," and the sheer size of it, your brain gets a sense for the scale. So give me a Wisdom saving throw.

Matt: All of us or just me?

Anthony: Just you because you're the one that saw it.

Beth: Oh.

Freddie: I'm still fiddling with my sword.

Matt: [*dice roll*] Uh 13+...4! Wisdom 4.

Anthony: Oh wow!

Matt: 17.

Anthony: Okay. Great.

Matt: Wise, is Lincoln.

Anthony: So you managed to keep your cool. Like it is...

Link: Ah...!

Anthony: ...very scary—

Matt: I just look away, really quickly. That's what I do.

Anthony: Yeah, you react to it however you like.

Will: How high up is it?

Anthony: So it looks like it's only about a hundred feet up, this particular part of it.

Will: Oh God...

Matt: Yeah... that's...

Will: Eww...

Anthony: It's real close.

Link: Okay, so. Here's the landscape team. A quick team huddle. We got where those guys came from. It's like a... you see, there's a big column over there of light?

Normal: Oh yeah!

Link: There's a small— looks like a small village over there, and there's like one really bright light there, and just don't ever look up.

Normal: Why? What's up?

Link: It's—

Will: And I look up.

[laughter]

Anthony: All right, go ahead and give me a Wisdom saving throw as you see the exact same thing.

Will: *[dice roll]* I got a 6.

Anthony: You get so scared that you just drop everything you're doing and run. So as long as you are outdoors, for the foreseeable future... which will probably be not that long. But as long as you are out of doors—underneath the obsidian sky, that undulates and is thriving and living above you—you'll have to roll not to lose your nerve anytime anything dangerous happens. And like...

Freddie: Ooh...!

Anthony: ...run in fear.

Matt: Oh, shit.

Beth: Okay...

Will: For the rest of the time we're here?

Anthony: No, no, no. Just until you basically acclimate more to the space that you're in.

Will: Okay. I look to everyone and say—

Normal: He's right. Don't look up.

Link: Yeah.

Normal: Don't do that. That's not a cool thing to do. Don't ever look up at the sky. It's really not great guys. I'm just telling you right now. It's very bad.

Will: And then I just take off running.

Link: Wait, where are you going?

[group laughter]

Scary: Whoa! Come back here!

Freddie: What direction does he take off in?

Will: I assume I want to get inside so I don't have to look at the bad thing anymore, right?

Anthony: Yeah. But...

Matt: It's all far away.

Anthony: It's all dark way to you, so.

Will: No, but aren't there like— He just pointed out that there's...

Anthony: Oh yeah, that's true.

Matt: I said there's a village, a bright light, and then a scary column.

Will: I get a roll— run towards the village.

Matt: Yeah.

Anthony: Okay! So the village is back towards the way that you came. And so as you're running... are you screaming or are you just...?

Matt: No, I sprint after him. Are we all sprinting after him?

Taylor: *[annoyed sigh]*

Beth: Yeah.

Taylor: I guess-

Matt: We all sprint after him.

Taylor: I guess Norm is deciding which direction we're going.

Anthony: So as you all sprint after him, you're running in the direction that that portal opened up where the gun and all that stuff came out. And as Normal is leading the way in his diaper and punk rock T-shirt...

[laughter]

Anthony: Just sprinting with terror. You see the portal open up in front of you again. And even in the darkness, you flinch and you're taken aback by a bright yellow color as the hood and then the windshield and then the body of the Pussy Wagon...

Matt: *[gasps]*

[laughter]

[portal sound effect and then the roar of the engine as it goes through, driving and then stopping on a road of dirt and gravel]

Anthony: ...drives through the portal with a couple of greasy hands around the steering wheel and you are about to hit it. And the driver hits the brakes as hard as they can, but it looks like it still might hit you. What are you all going to do?

Matt: I'm going to dive out the way.

Beth: Yeah. I'm going to drop and roll.

Anthony: All right. Everybody give me Dexterity saving.

[background dice clack]

Will: Do I have to roll to see if I lose my nerve?

Anthony: You already lost your nerve. You're already running.

Will: So I'm going to do a Dexterity saving, roll.

Anthony: Yeah. Just give me Dexterity.

Matt: *[dice roll]* A 12.

Beth: *[dice roll]* I got a 16.

Freddie: *[dice roll]* God! Natural 1!

Beth: Oh my God!

Will: *[dice roll]* I got an 8.

Anthony: Okay.

Beth: I got a 16+2... 18.

Anthony: All right.

Freddie: Taylor is so committed to like, the head down Naruto run, like samurai run with his hand on the hilt of his sword, that completely miss the fact that there's a car in front of them.

Matt: Well it's all those movies where the cool guy just stands there and the car slams the brakes and stops it right in front.

Freddie: *[barks a laugh]*

Matt: You're just doing that. You're like, "Yeah, he's going to stop right in front of me. I know this is going to look cool."

Anthony: Yeah. Which means you also have your head down with your hand on your sword. So it just hits you full speed in the fucking head. So take a 2d12 worth of damage, Taylor. Normal, you almost get out of the way the headlight clips you a little bit. So take a d8 of damage as you're knocked clear. Scary, what do you do that helps you avoid it? You just dive out of the way, like cool?

Beth: Yeah. I dive and roll. I slide tackle out of the way.

Anthony: Great.

Matt: There you go.

Anthony: And then Link...

Matt: I got a...

Freddie: Oh, it was lifted, so you slide tackle under it.

Matt: I got a 12.

Beth: Yeah.

Anthony: You got a 12? You get hit by the other headlight as you move to the side. So you take a d8 as well.

Freddie: I took 212 and Matt just takes a d8?

Anthony: Yeah, you got a nat 1.

Matt: You got a nat 1.

Anthony: It hit you in the head.

Freddie: *[sighs]*

Anthony: So the car screeches to a stop and the door opens and a familiar figure in a bright red suit comes out and goes—

Hermie: You, you... you rang? Oh no.

Freddie: *[laughing]* Oh no...!

Hermie: Oh, I'm so sorry.

Scary: Oh, my god.

Hermie: I did not mean to uh... drop in on you like this. Uh...

Scary: [*sighs*]

Taylor: Hermie, you just hit me with your car!

Hermie: I know! And I was trying to— as per our arrangement, I am your sidekick—

Scary: Arrangement?

Hermie: —and I was coming to save you.

Taylor: [*grunts*]

Scary: God!

Hermie: And yet...

Freddie: Taylor stumbles up—

Hermie: One of—

Freddie: —after having taken 11 damage from the car and I go—

Taylor: Give me the fucking keys.

Link: Are you Hermie or are you the Joker right now?

Hermie: What do you mean?

[*laughter*]

Scary: [*sighs*] I mean, there's this thing called acting, I guess.

Hermie: Thank you.

Taylor: You're welcome.

Scary: So are you acting or are you like...

Hermie: If you're asking me...

Taylor: Out of character. Are you in character out of character?

Hermie: If you're asking me my method...

Scary: Was anybody asking that? No.

[laughter]

Hermie: An expert never reveals his secrets so I'm glad you weren't asking that.

Link: Well, wait. Did Miss Haile send you here?

Hermie: Yes, yes. Your, uh, your Girl Friday, Mae Hailes, reached out to me and suggested that perhaps, mayhaps, I could come and protect you, as I swore my sword to thee, Taylor, as per our previous arrangement. We're now best friends and there was no taking that back.

Taylor: Yes. Yes. Correct. Eugh.

Hermie: Thank you. Yes, correct. Yes. I am your best friend. Sorry, everybody.

Scary: [sighs]

Anthony: He says, looking over at the rest of you. And says...

Will: I look at Lincoln and I'm like—

Normal: Spot's still open.

[group laughter]

Anthony: And he goes—

Hermie: Yes, I have brought some supplies for whatever this performance is that we're...

Link: Cool!

Scary: Okay.

Hermie: ...that we're— they're putting on here. So.

Link: Well, do you want to, I mean, you wanna... Are you going to stay? Or can you just leave this stuff here and go?

Scary: Y-uhm...

[laughter]

Taylor: No, he's staying with us as far as I'm concerned.

Hermie: I was specifically given this device.

Anthony: He says. And he pulls out of his joker blazer— [off mic clack] a little... It looks like an old PDA. There's three dots on it. And he says—

Hermie: Miss Hailes has suggested that you have this. She says that it is... None of these words mean anything to me but I did memorize what he said.

Freddie: Like a good actor.

Hermie: Like a good actor. I know my lines and her lines. She says this is a handheld incursion detector. She said that as your fathers appeared in different places of the school, that those places might mirror places in this plane. And that by following the coordinates for those incursion points, we might find where your fathers are.

Taylor: Oh...

Scary: Oh.

Hermie: So...

Scary: Well Hermie, welcome to Earth.

[laughter]

Scary: I mean, it's— We're on Earth, right?

Link: I think. Yeah!

Scary: Yeah. We thought we were before but...

Will: Anthony, am I still running?

Anthony: Uh...

[laughter]

Anthony: Yeah. And Hermie goes like—

Hermie: Oh, who's got a—

Will: You all look up, you see—

Hermie: He's got a bee in his bonnet.

Will: —that Normal has not stopped running. He got up from the car and is still just running towards this village off in the distance.

Matt: I'm sprinting after him.

Taylor: We have a car.

Scary: Yeah, sorry, we got a teen to catch.

Taylor: We have a car, hold on.

Freddie: And I fire up the Pussy Wagon and I pull—

Matt: As I'm running, I shake the gun like one of those self-starting flashlights, because the spell only lasts one minute at a time. So I'm like—

Link: Come on!

Anthony: Okay.

Freddie: So I'm going to drive the car in front and use the tailgate to receive Normal as he runs into it.

Matt: We all hop in the Pussy Wagon and chase after Normal.

Anthony: All right. So Normal is pretty quickly overtaken by the Pussy Wagon, I think.

Will: I believe I get to roll Athletics for that!

Anthony: Okay!

[laughter]

Will: Versus a driving roll as we're off-roading—

Anthony: Sure.

Will: —because Normal's just streaming across the ground.

Anthony: Sure.

Freddie: That's a good point.

Anthony: So roll your Animal Handling, Freddie.

Freddie: [*dice roll*] 2.

Matt: Well, you're not driving.

Freddie: I'm driving.

Matt: Hermie is driving.

Beth: I beg you to roll normal dice and not do the D&D Beyond.

Anthony: It's killing you.

Beth: This is insane.

Anthony: It's killing you.

Matt: Wait. Isn't Hermie driving though?

Anthony: No, he demanded the keys from Hermie.

Matt: Oh, okay.

Freddie: Yeah, Hermie's my sidekick.

Will: [*dice roll*] Uhm. I got an 18.

Freddie: [*loud*] Ha!

Anthony: *Pff.* Okay, so you— so you this while... What do you...

Freddie: I'm sitting here and I'm like—

Link: Taylor—

Anthony: How do you fuck up this. How do you fuck this up.

Freddie: I'm sitting there being like—

Taylor: Hold on. Before we go off road, I know that there is usually a switch where you can change the differential...

Link: All right, Taylor, you're navigator now.

Taylor: To two...

Matt: And I switch spots with him.

Anthony: He won't move.

Taylor: I think we need to go four-wheel drive...

Anthony: This is happening while Normal gets further and further in the distance.

Taylor: I'm buckled in, stay back!

Scary: What are—?

Anthony: So Normal, on his own...

Will: *[laughs]*

Matt: Oh, this village is close.

Anthony: He gets close enough to figure out what's happening.

Matt: Okay.

Anthony: Normal, as you— as you run forward, you can see a long, long... What initially from the distance it looked like, "oh, this must be a really big, really wide village. This must take up a pretty big amount of space." As you get closer, you see that it's actually a relatively small village, but with a really long line of people leading out of it. All of whom are holding torches. And as you run, you get up to the end of this line. Are you still terrified? Are you going to keep running? What are you going to...

Will: So I'm running, I'm seeing people and they're walking towards me? Like, out of the city?

Anthony: No, no. They're walking in the same direction that you're running, basically. They're all heading towards this village and you've just come into the end of what looks to be—as you continue to run, and you see people going like—

Person: No cutting! Well, actually it's okay if you cut. I would prefer if you cut.

Anthony: You see them sort of looking at you with dour faces and frustrated looks in their eyes.

Will: So Normal, like someone who's late for their flight and is trying to make his way through TSA is apologizing to every single person in line as he cuts.

Normal: Hi, I'm really sorry, but there's a giant scary monster in this sky. I really need to get inside!

Anthony: Great.

Normal: Excuse me, excuse me, excuse me!

Anthony: So you come to a couple of wooden gates that have a couple of guards there, but as they see you running up, they go like—

Guards: Oh! Absolutely. No problem.

Anthony: And o—

Normal: Thank you. Wow! This is really great customer service. Yeah. Did you guys see that though? Did you guys see the big, scary thing in the sky? We should all probably get inside. That's probably the thing to do! So, uhm...!

Anthony: So they open the wooden gates and as the wooden gates open... I feel like this would actually stop you in your tracks.

[heavy drum music starts]

Anthony: So you see the line is circling around the interior of this, sort of camp. And in the center of the camp seems to be a very large vat full of some... steaming, very thick, yellow, viscous fluid. And the smell is familiar and you can't quite place it. But you see a couple of people from that line are pushed by two of these guards into that vat. And they scream in agony as they begin to get burned. And you see a tube leading from this steaming vat of something yellow and these bodies. And it snakes its way up to what looks to be a bright red and yellow throne. It's bright yellow with dots of red around it.

Anthony: On this throne is a very large, very old man with a red polo shirt, and the tube is leading directly into his veins. And as the vat of this liquid begins the bubble, roll Perception right now.

Will: *[dice roll]* 18.

Anthony: 18. With an 18, you can immediately recognize that smell. It was the one time that Lark took you out for some non-vegan food.

Will: Mm...

Anthony: And he went—

Lark: Let me introduce you to pizza.

Anthony: And you can smell the cheese in that vat. You can see the throne that he's sitting on.

Beth: Oh my god.

Anthony: And you see, as the people who've been pushing into this vat, melt and die within it, the guards who just push them in, put their hands to their chest and then outward. And they say—

Guards: Better ingredients. Better pizza.

[group laughter]

Guards: All for the Papa.

Anthony: And he goes—

The Papa: *[some strange, wordless, throaty, laugh]*

Anthony: As the cheese enters his veins.

[music stops]

Normal: Well. I'm gonna go...

Anthony: And two big hands solidify on your shoulders and they go—

Guard: No, no, no. You're next.

Anthony: And they push you towards the big vat.

[outro music starts]

Freddie: Dungeons and Daddies has Matt Arnold as Lincoln Li-Wilson. Anthony Burch is our DM. Will Campos as Normal Oak. Beth May is Scary Marlowe. And Freddie Wong, that's me, as Taylor Swift. Theme song is *On My Way* by Maxten Waller. Brian Fernandes is our content producer. Ashley Nicolette is our community manager. Ester Ellis is our lead editor. Travis Reeves provides additional editing. And Robin Rapp is our transcriber.

Freddie: We are supported by a Patreon and some of the patrons who support us are people with names like MJ, Audrey, Fabulous Phoenix Boy, Mike McGarr, Roger Ho, Stikas, Ash Smelkinson, JigthyPuff, TheWill, Lemonshorts, Jen Finch a.k.a. UnseenLibrarian, Stephen Belsky, Tyson U, emjack10, Byron Head, Henry Swift, Anthony Melluzzo, Stephen Reilly, Carter Salois, Antonio perales, and Kieren Doyle. You too can directly support the show and get ad free episodes at patreon.com/dungeonsanddads starting at just five bucks a month.

Freddie: We have a vibrant and active discord community where we do events like live listen-alongs with every episode. The art that is generated by the community is stunning. We also do an after show after every episode it was called Talking Dads in the previous season; it's Talking Sons this season. [*transcribers note: it's called Teen Talk*] That's where you can get some behind the scenes banter, but more importantly, you can get ridiculous stories like the one time Matt completely obliterated an entire cafe and Edinburgh with a Coke bottle. That plus a whole bunch of bonus content videos, one shots, a whole bunch of stuff for you to listen and watch. That's at patreon.com/dungeonsanddads. Our website is dungeonsanddaddies.com, Twitter [dungeonsanddads](https://twitter.com/dungeonsanddads), sub-Reddit, [dungeonsanddaddies](https://www.reddit.com/r/dungeonsanddaddies). Next episode is coming out Tuesday, August 9th. We will see you then.

[*outro music finishes*]

Beth: Where does it say area of effect so I know not to do this again?

Anthony: It says it in...

[*laughter*]

Beth: Always read the fine print!

Anthony: Yes.