

The Adventure Zone Balance: Here There Be Gerblins, Chapter Four

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Griffin: Last time on The Adventure Zone...

Taako: Gundren was sold or given to someone named "The Black Spider."

Barry: Gundren and his two brothers... the three of them have a claim to the lost mine of Phandalin. The cave's called Wave Echo Cave, and I know that's a silly name.

Griffin: You manage to find your way to the entrance of Wave Echo Cave. You see the body of a dwarf. It is, uh, it's Tharden. Tharden Rockseeker, one of the—

Clint: My other cousin.

Griffin: Yeah. He died!

Justin: I search Tharden's body for valuables.

Griffin: You notice that his boots are Magic Boots of Striding and Springing. Hanging from the ceiling, a giant black blob-mass—

Clint: I'm gonna hit it with my warhammer.

Griffin: The jelly just sort of splatters, and you send a dwarven figure just flying. You recognize it as Nundro Rockseeker.

Clint: I'll drink from the spring.

Griffin: You can actually all take this opportunity to take a little spring break, if you want. Oh, shit—

Clint: Spring break!

Griffin: I didn't even think about that!

Clint: Let's all go see Kenny Chesney!

Griffin: That's who you'd wanna see!?

Announcer: Double, double, toil and trouble. We're cooking up a fresh batch of danger for you this week in... The Adventure Zone!

[theme music plays]

Justin: Are there exits here on this level?

Griffin: Yep!

Justin: I mean, we came down the elevator, where are the exits?

Griffin: There's just one, around this sort of path leading around the spring. At the end of the path is actually a big iron door, the first door that you've seen in this cave. It is fortunately unlocked. You guys can go in fairly easily.

Travis: Does it say push or pull?

Griffin: It says something in Dwarven.

Clint: Which means "egress."

Travis: Okay.

Justin: I speak Dwarven, what's it say?

Griffin: It says—

Clint: I speak Dwarven!

Griffin: Uhh, it says "pull."

Clint: [laughs]

Travis: [laughs]

Clint: Should we check the room before we leave?

Griffin: It's not really a room to speak of, it's really just the path leading around the spring. There's not—

Travis: I pee in the spring.

Griffin: Aw, you do?

Clint: [laughs]

Justin: [laughs]

Clint: Well, no more drinking out of that!

Justin: Okay.

Griffin: Are you—you didn't.

Travis: I didn't.

Griffin: Okay, good.

Clint: I do.

Griffin: Oh gosh...

Justin: I leave.

Griffin: You do and it actually—it responds to your pee. It responds to Rockseeker piss.

Clint: Thank you. That was kinda what I was assuming.

Griffin: Yeah. Every—any body fluid that you've got in your body is sacred to this here mine.

Travis: [laughing]

Justin: [laughing]

Clint: I am going to spend the rest of my game here.

Griffin: Here, just spitting, and—

Justin: I wanna leave! I want—I go—

Griffin: Pissing...

Justin: I walk out the door. I walk out the door.

Griffin: Okay, you go through the door. What follows is actually sort of the longest stretch in this cave that you guys have been through. And you get the idea, just sort of from how this tunnel has been carved out, that this is like the heart of the mining operation in Wave Echo Cave. This is where they were excavating ore that they, y'know, were ostensibly turning into magical weaponry.

Magnus: Hey guys, I think this is the heart of the mining operation. I think this is where they were excavating. Was that right?

Griffin: You actually—all three of you just sort of know this. So you're just kind of being an ass.

Magnus: I just sort of know it.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: And I'm like, I'm kinda nodding like, "Yeah. Yeah, we know."

Magnus: No, I just—I feel it in my bones.

Griffin: All of you... yeah.

Clint: And we can't hear you because of all the damn coins jingling in your bag!

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: You guys are making your way through this cave, or through this tunnel, and you—

Clint: Can—can we—as we walk through, can we talk?

Griffin: Yeah, yeah!

Merle: I feel like I don't know you guys, I mean—

Griffin: Oh, this would be a perfect opportunity. It is a very—I don't know if you guys have ever walked through a mine before. It's a very long stretch.

Merle: Uh, I just feel like we've grown apart and I'm just, y'know...

Taako: So, how—

Magnus: Stop singing Kenny Chesney.

Taako: How does everybody think the adventure is going?

Travis: [laughs]

Clint: [laughs]

Magnus: I'd say a solid B. A solid B-minus?

Taako: So far so good by me.

Griffin: Are you saying the content of the adventure that you—

Taako: You don't hear this happening!

Griffin: Okay.

Magnus: Shut up, God!

Taako: This is just us talking, let us talk. Do you guys remember when we killed that goblin that looked like Common and sounded like Kelsey Grammer?

Magnus: Mm-hmm.

Clint: Today the part of Taako's being played by Emo Philips.

Taako: I don't... Do you guys think that's fair or accurate?

Magnus: Do you guys ever hear from Klaarg? He never writes.

Taako: I miss Klaarg.

Magnus: I miss Klaarg too. We should go back for Klaarg.

Klaarg: I miss you guys too!

Clint: [laughs]

Taako: [gasps] Klaarg!

Griffin: He's right behind—no. You—

Taako: Do you guys think this cave is haunted?

Travis: [laughs]

Merle: Okay, I take back what I said about talking and sharing. On we go!

Taako: Someone roll, someone roll to see if this—

Magnus: Do you guys have a girl back home?

Taako: Someone roll to see if they know if this cave is haunted.

Clint: I'm going to throw an awkward throw.

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: I rolled a 20.

Griffin: Yeah, everybody critical'd on the awkward throw.

Clint: 19.

Griffin: Listen, this is just like... y'know how sometimes you go to a work party—

Travis: Uh-huh.

Griffin: And you try to talk to the people there. But it's tough, y'know? You guys are co-workers right now, you're not friends. You're seasoned—

Travis: I show Merle and Taako inappropriate drawings that I got from a girl at another village and they get real skeeved.

Griffin: Yeah, I—and so are—is me and so are the thousands of people listening to the show right now.

Magnus: She's waiting for me back home.

Griffin: [flatly] Great.

Justin: Okay, are we at the end of—oh my god, this cave!

Griffin: Yep. You're at the end of the tunnel. It took you guys four days to get through it.

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: Four days of just nudies. And it sucked. It was the—

Clint: And eating mushrooms.

Griffin: It was the worst—

Clint: Eating mushrooms and nudies. This is like college again.

Griffin: It was just shrooms and nudes, and it sucked, and it was the worst four days.

Travis: But we grew closer as friends.

Griffin: You didn't. That's—

Clint: But somehow we're stronger.

Griffin: That's the shitty part, you didn't even do that.

Clint: [laughs]

Griffin: You make it to the end of this tunnel, and you reach a very strange room. It is... the floor of this room, it is a fairly large circular room. The floor of it is just this massive grate that looks super, super solidly built. It looks like the kind of thing you can stand on without worrying about it collapsing under your weight, and you know that because, on one side of the room is a bunch of super heavy duty looking mining equipment.

Travis: Mm-hmm.

Griffin: There's what looks to be some sort of like... medieval-fantasy jackhammer. There's a lot of handheld equipment like pickaxes and stuff like that. The centerpiece of this room though, is this giant, like... grinding

machine? It's got two rollers just sort of covered with spikes that you assume just like, people put stone in and it grinds down to fall through the grate that makes up the floor.

It is this huge thing and you see that and think, "Well, if the grate can hold up that thing, then we're probably aces." Surrounding the room, about eight feet up, is a sort of wooden ledge that circles the room that maybe somebody could overlook this grinding room from very safely.

There—the only exit from this room is actually up there, on that ledge, on the opposite side of the room that you guys just entered from.

Travis: Can we see down through the grate?

Griffin: You can. It goes down a very, very long ways. You're pretty sure you can't see the bottom of it.

Justin: Is there a ladder or anything up to the ledge?

Griffin: There is, yeah. On the other side of the room, where the exit is.

Clint: Is there any sign of Short Round and a bunch of kids in turbans running around?

Griffin: Uh... oh I—sorry, for a second there I thought you were makin'—doing a Goonies thing.

Clint: [laughs]

Justin: I climb the ladder.

Griffin: As you actually walk into the room, the door on that ledge opens very quickly. It was kicked open, and exiting from it is a young orc woman who is holding the biggest crossbow any of you have ever seen in your lives. And—

Travis: I point at her and say...

Magnus: Hey! I do the kicking around here!

Griffin: And she has this crossbow levied on you. She is totally, totally ready for you, and as you enter the room she points her crossbow at you and just sort of stands there looking at you quizzically.

Merle: Easy, Magnus...

Magnus: Hello!

Clint: [laughs]

Griffin: She's just sort of sitting there like... you hear her go like...

Orc: [quietly] Ah, shit.

Justin: In Orcish I'm assuming, or in Common, or...

Griffin: She's speaking in Common, yeah.

Justin: Excellent. Uh—

Travis: I bow deeply to her.

Justin: I say...

Taako: Hail and well met!

Orc: Shh, give me—shh, shh. Shhh!

Justin: And then I think about, ugh, kinda cliché.

Orc: Sorry, just give me one second, I'm trying to...

Griffin: This is her speaking.

Orc: Uhh... I'm trying to figure this out.

Magnus: Is it a math problem?

Orc: No, it's, uh... I'm just—I just can't understand why other people would be here. I'm trying to figure out... whether to just kill you guys right away, I don't have a lot of time... Um... I don't—I don't like collateral damage, I'm not—it does not reflect upon me very well, I'm just trying to crack the, uhh... Crack the code of how other people could be... here.

Justin: Well—

Clint: May I say something?

Griffin: You can do whatever you want.

Merle: Have you heard the word of Marthammor Duin today?

Orc: What's that?

Clint: And offer a Watch Tower.

Justin: [snorts]

Travis: Okay.

Griffin: What do you mean?

Justin: Dad's witnessing.

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: You're spreading the good news of Marthammor Duin?

Justin: [laughs]

Clint: Yeah!

Justin: [Still laughing] Great opportunity!

Orc: Uhh, no thank you, I'm... spoken for. Um.... Okay. Here's this. Here's the best offer I can make you. Um... I'm going to ask you guys a question...

Magnus: Okay...

Orc: You seem like good—good people. Uh, and—

Magnus: Is it a riddle?

Orc: It might be, depending on sort of where you're at.

Magnus: I love riddles.

Orc: Great.

Griffin: Is this your character development?

Travis: Yeah.

Clint: [laughs]

Justin: Griffin, when you said development just now, were there air quotes? Just want to make sure.

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: Yeah, sure.

Orc: Depending on your answer to this question, it's gonna decide, I guess, what happens next.

Magnus: Oh, like a choose your own adventure!

Orc: Sort of, sure. Only... if, like, 90 percent of the pages were, "You died."

Magnus: Ohh, like you end up at the yeti?

Orc: Yeah, this could be a yeti-page situation.

Magnus: Okay, question on!

Orc: Are you here... for the [static noise]?

[pause]

Magnus: Uh... did you have something stuck in your throat, like a hair or something?

Merle: Ah, wait, wait, I can—we are not [imitating static noise] hunters.

Orc: Okay, so... I just heard like a crackly thing, which actually tells me everything you need to know. Uh, okay, you're not here for the [static noise] and that's great news for me, but I cannot have you guys getting in my way. So here's my solution, and I think you're gonna find it very equitable - I'm not going to shoot you with this giant crossbow.

Magnus: Great.

Taako: I'm... I'm for.

Clint: [laughs]

Taako: Go on.

Orc: Instead...

Travis: Oh?

Griffin: She reaches into her pocket and pulls out a small, sort of

handheld... I don't know, it looks like a game show buzzer. And she clicks it down with her thumb, and a ball of light emits from it and shoots into the air, and very quickly zaps the crusher in the middle of the room, the wheels of which begin to spin.

The rollers, the crushers inside begin to activate, and then the crusher itself seems to move. It seems to animate, as if it has just been brought to life beyond its normal mechanical capabilities, and it's causing quite a clatter and quite a racket, and when you look up from it, the orc woman is gone, and has taken the ladder with her, it looks like.

Travis: I know what to do. I contact C3P0 and ask him to turn off all the compactors on this level.

Clint: [laughs]

Griffin: So we're gonna actually go to initiative.

Travis: Against the crusher? [sighs] I got a... 12.

Justin: `Cha boy got 20.

Clint: I got one.

Griffin: Woof.

Travis: Damn.

Griffin: So this thing is deafening. It's very, very, very, very loud. There are some chains sort of hanging on the wall that are just sort of shaking and rattling. There are chains on the ceiling that are sort of shaking and— and rattling. There's a mine cart on the other side of the room that is shaking around. This thing is super, super, super loud. And it is alive, and it looks hungry and angry and... Taako, you are first in the order.

Justin: Excellent.

Clint: Is it moving?

Griffin: Oh yeah.

Clint: In our direction?

Griffin: Mm-hmm.

Clint: Of course.

Travis: Does it look to have some sort of, like, controlling area, like you would see on a like... construction equipment?

Griffin: Like a big red glowing weak point?

Travis: No, no, no, I mean like, you would have someplace to control it, if it's a machine. Is there like some sort of control panel or anything?

Griffin: No, this is a—it doesn't—it's just like a grinder. It's not like an exosuit; it's not supposed to be moving in this way. It is not supposed to be... alive. This is abnormal, this is a very powerful magic that you guys have never witnessed before.

Travis: Cool cool.

Justin: Uh, I cast... *thunderwave*.

Griffin: *Thunderwave*?

Justin: How close is it?

Griffin: It is—it's very close to you guys, it's about eight feet away.

Justin: Perfect, okay. I cast *thunderwave*. You have to make a constitution saving throw.

Griffin: 'Kay. What kind of damage does *thunderwave* do?

Justin: That is going to be 2d8 thunder damage.

Griffin: Okay... and what am I saving against?

Justin: Constitution.

Griffin: This thing has plus two constitution. I rolled an eight, that's a ten, maybe?

Justin: It's a 13, so no.

Griffin: Okay. Yeah, I'm—it is thundered.

Justin: Okay, so... we're gonna take 2d8 thunder damage... whoa, eight! Eight, 16.

Griffin: Holy shit!

Justin: —thunder damage, and it's gonna get pushed back ten feet.

Griffin: Really good news - this thing is actually weak against thunder damage.

Justin: What does that mean?

Griffin: It means you did double damage.

Travis: Whoa!

Justin: That's 32!

Griffin: Yeah, that's a—

Justin: Whoa!

Griffin: —big goddamn hit. Okay.

Travis: I hit it with my thunder axe.

Justin: How sweet does—Griffin, can you describe how sweet it looks when I do this?

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: This thing was charging you, about to grab you with its mighty, mighty jaws, that would have probably turned you into ground beef... if you knew what ground beef was, which you don't, or else you would know one of the—the legendary secrets of tacos.

Justin: [snorts]

Griffin: And just as it was about to make contact, you give it the 'ol Fus Ro Dah and send it flying across the room effortlessly like a—like you just punted an empty two-liter of Diet Mountain Dew.

Travis: When he does this, Magnus just turns to him, mouth agape.

Magnus: [dumbfounded] Whaaa?

Griffin: But it's still alive, and it's still threshing.

Clint: Agh.

Griffin: And... next in the order is uhh, Magnus.

Travis: Can I... can I get behind it?

Griffin: It's actually up against the wall now, because you just... it was just tossed.

Travis: And how high is the ceiling?

Griffin: The ceiling is about... 20 feet high. The ledge, the wooden ledge above you that the ladder was stolen from is about eight feet up.

Travis: Great. And how low are the chains?

Griffin: The chains from the ceiling? They're hanging down about, uh, hanging down about we'll say about 10 feet.

Travis: Great.

Griffin: There's also chains on the walls that are on the level with you that are just sort of hanging on hooks.

Travis: Great, great. My magic jumping boots, do they let me jump higher?

Griffin: No.

Travis: Mm.

Griffin: You're not Larry goddamn Bird.

Travis: Do my Larry Bird boots let me jump higher?

Griffin: No, you haven't found the Larry Bird boots yet. You've only found your magic jumping loafers.

Travis: [laughs] I take the chains down... as many as I can carry...

Griffin: `Kay.

Travis: And I'm... just gonna heft `em into the grinder.

Griffin: [laughs] Okay! You don't even need to actually make a roll for that. I'm assuming that you can confidently—it's a big target. You toss the chains into the grinder, and—

Travis: And as I do it, I raise my shield to protect my face. It's my moneymaker.

Griffin: Okay. Yeah.

Clint: Always gotta take care of the face.

Griffin: That's a good call, too. You throw these chains into the thing, and it was not built... for that. You gum up the works. You gum up the gully works. And it's almost like it just tears itself apart from the inside out. It is just in a heap of shrapnel.

The rollers are just torn asunder, everything is flying all over the place. You hear—it sounds like a hailstorm on your shield. And when you look up, there's just a heaping pile of debris that, horrifyingly, is still sort of... sort of rumblin' around. But it is decidedly taken care of.

Clint: [laughs triumphantly]

Magnus: Kudos all around, gentlemen.

Griffin: Yeah, that was a—that was a very quick grinder battle.

Justin: But I wanna make a perception check—

Travis: [laughing] The orc woman leans back in and goes, "How's it—oh, shit."

Griffin: "Oh shit, okay."

Clint: [laughs]

Justin: I wanna make a perception check to see if the idea of, like, when I was thinking about what would have happened to us if we had gotten caught in that. I wanna make a perception check to see if the concept of ground meat would occur to me.

Griffin: You...

Clint: That's justified.

Griffin: I'll give you half of the first clue that will lead you to the secret of ground beef. You understand that, if a thing were to be ground, it would be more easily digestible, and probably would be easier to season. But you haven't unlocked the seasoning secrets yet.

Justin: [laughing] Okay.

Clint: The quest continues!

Travis: I look over and Taako's just furiously writing down notes.

Griffin: This is the first step. You understand the concept of grinding.

Travis: He's just circled, "Ground? Question mark?" like eight times.

Griffin: Yeah.

Clint: Aw, if we'd had a cow here...

Griffin: Well, that's the thing, you wouldn't even know that beef would be the thing to grind, right? You could be like—

Clint: Yeah, but it would have been a heck of a thing to throw in it.

Griffin: No, it would have been sweet! But you didn't have that on hand, so you might be thinking about—

Justin: Alright, I wrote that down. I understand grinding.

Griffin: Ground rocks? Ground water? Can you grind water? You don't know, you're so goddamn stupid.

Justin: About tacos.

Griffin: About tacos specifically.

Clint: Who would have ever thought it was not chain proof?

Travis: I did.

Clint: ... I know.

Travis: I would say that Magnus did.

Griffin: Good job, good work. Next, uh...

Travis: Let's get up on that platform.

Clint: Yeah, can we climb the chains to get up on the platform? Wait a minute, wait, wait, is the grinder still—it's not moving, right? But it's still operating.

Griffin: It's just sort of like, little pieces of it are just kind of bumbling around. It's kind of—

Clint: There's no way to climb up on top of it to get easier access to the chains on the wall?

Griffin: Oh, no, no.

Clint: Or the chains on the ceiling?

Griffin: No, it's... it's everywhere. There are pieces of it in the wall, like embedded in the wall. It's—

Travis: You guys, it's only eight feet up. I just stand underneath it and just kinda put my fingers, like, interlace my fingers and go like, "Who wants up?" and just kind of heft you guys up there.

Justin: Okay.

Griffin: I like that.

Travis: How many gold did we get from the grinder?

Griffin: No gold.

Travis: Did we get a feeling of accomplishment?

Griffin: You solved the—you took one step towards solving the taco mystery. How is that not enough for you?

Travis: I mean, that is—

Justin: Enough for me!

Clint: How about rupees?

Travis: Do we get a sense of accomplishment and fulfillment?

Griffin: You feel good. You got a shit ton of experience points.

Travis: That's good.

Griffin: And you know what? Travis, I'll give you an initiative point. Or uh... inspiration point, because that was an inspired usage of chains.

Justin: And I will move the chains.

Griffin: You didn't move the chains.

Clint: He moved the chains!

Griffin: Into his grindage.

Justin: Come on, let's go.

Clint: So are we now up on that—

Travis: I'm gonna take a chain with me.

Griffin: Yeah, you—

Clint: Now we're up—oh, good idea.

Griffin: Just in case? Are you just gonna do this every time I introduce any sort of mechanic? You're like, "Ohh, I may need that mayonnaise later!" Like, no, that was the solution to the mayonnaise puzzle.

Travis: No, I just... I want it to like wrap around, like, my shield and arm and shit as like—

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: Makeshift armor.

Griffin: So you just wanna be more cumbersome?

Travis: Yep!

Griffin: Okay.

Clint: Maybe they're tire chains and they'll come in handy this coming winter.

Justin: Can we please move on?

Griffin: You make it through the... you make it up to the wooden platform, you go through the door that the orc woman came—

Clint: Kicked open.

Griffin: Yeah. The door is a little bit... busted, and you think like, "That woman's irresponsible with doors."

Justin: Mm-hmm.

Griffin: "This prob—this is not her home. She shouldn't just be—"

Travis: I use my carpentry skills to fix the door.

Griffin: Okay, yeah, you do that.

Clint: Let me guess, you're plus 25 in carpentry.

Griffin: No, I nerfed Travis' character while—before you guys got on. You weren't around for that, but there was a little bit of numerical tweaking that went on behind the scenes.

Clint: [laughs]

Travis: Apparently I was just too good at D&D.

Griffin: Yeah, you're too good at making—coming up with very high numbers for things.

Justin: Our rate of progress is just... it's staggeringly... staggeringly...

Griffin: This is the show!

Justin: The—this isn't the show!

Griffin: It can be!

Justin: I want some high adventure!

Griffin: Okay. High adventure.

Travis: That's beyond compare.

Clint: High adventure!

Griffin: You go through the door and you realize that it's actually a dragon's mouth, and now you're inside a dragon.

Clint: [laughs]

Travis: Whoa!

Clint: High adventure!

[theme music plays]

Griffin: Hail and well met, adventurers! It's me. It's Griffin, the dungeon master for The Adventure Zone, the podcast that you're currently listening to, with a quick mid-game break. Just wanted to do some quick announcements for the show, because this is the time that we do the announcements for the show.

Thank you all very, very, very much for listening to episode four, and presumably, the previous episodes. We've had a really great launch, and we owe all of that to all of you who have downloaded the show, who have left us ratings and reviews on iTunes, which it's still not too late to do. For people who are telling friends about the show, and getting them on board, we're still in that sort of early period where it's really important to get the show off to a really great start, because that traction is sort of what makes or breaks podcasts at the beginning.

So, anything you can do to share the show with a friend, leave a review on iTunes, anything you can do, we genuinely, very, very much appreciate it. A real quick big announcement – we have a website for The Adventure Zone now. It is TheAdventure.Zone, which will take you to our Tumblr page where we are collecting a lot of errata about the game.

Uh, new episodes for the show are still gonna be posted on our Maximum Fun page, which you can find at MaximumFun.org. There's a lot of great stuff you can do on MaximumFun.org. You can listen to the other great shows on the network, like *Sawbones*, *Jordan*, *Jesse*, *GO!*, *Judge John Hodgman*, *Bunker Buddies*, *Throwing Shade*, among so, so, so many others. And *My Brother, My Brother, and Me*, the other podcast that uh, me and Justin and Travis all do together.

You can also become a donor to MaximumFun.org if you really like the program. It helps support all of the shows on the network, and specifically us, if you choose us as the show that you want to donate to. So that's a really great thing you want to do, if you want to go above and beyond and really help us out.

But on TheAdventure.Zone, we are mostly gonna collect things like character sheets. Right now, we've got Taako, and uh, I believe Magnus' character sheet's up there, so if you want to see, y'know, what the like, game mechanics for those two characters are, you can check that out. We're also putting a bunch of fan art up, among other things. So yeah, TheAdventure.Zone is where we are going to be collecting a lot of that stuff from now on.

Uh, you can also tweet at us. We are [@TheZoneCast](https://twitter.com/TheZoneCast), if you want to just tweet with the hash tag, [#TheZoneCast](https://twitter.com/TheZoneCast). I think we're abandoning [#TAZCast](https://twitter.com/TAZCast), because it was a bad hash tag, you guys. It was just a bad hash tag. So yeah, tweet at us. We are going to start including characters in the show based on people who tweeted at us, including in the upcoming half of this episode, three characters who are named after Brian Lee – that's [@BrianLee](https://twitter.com/BrianLee) on Twitter – Killian Zuba on Twitter, and Renee Renuples on Twitter.

Thank you to the three of you for tweeting about the show, for spreading the word, and to everybody who has been spreading the word. We're gonna keep doing that. So if you tweet about the show, there's a chance that we might include you as a character in the campaign from now on, which... uh, I don't know, seems like an exciting opportunity to me. But I'm just making all this shit up as I go along.

That's it for now. Uh, thank you again so, so, so much for listening, for sharing the show, for everything. Uh, we did not know what kind of reception to expect for the show, and it has been nothing but flabbergastingly sweet. So, thank you all very, very much.

And now, back to... the adventure. Zone. Adventure. The Adventure Zone Adventure.

[theme music plays]

Griffin: You go through that door. You're going down a stone-wrought hallway. This was obviously not carved out by a mine. This is a... this was not carved out by mining equipment, I should say. This is like a—

Justin: Natural?

Griffin: --hallway that you would find in a building... made of stone, I guess. And you hear, reverberating down the walls, the sound of clanging, of metal, the telltale sounds of combat. And then you hear the woman—the orc woman that you encountered earlier yell...

Orc: Uh, help!

Travis: Oh, sure. Yep, you got it.

Justin: I shout out...

Taako: Eat a big'un!

Magnus: [laughs] God helps those who help themselves!

Orc: Could use a hand down here. It's uh... come on.

Travis: Okay, I run down there.

Griffin: Okay. Foolhardily?

Travis: [sadly] Yeah.

Justin: [laughs] At least he's honest.

Griffin: Guess that's what you do.

Travis: Magnus prefers action.

Griffin: Okay. You all run into—

Justin: I don't.

Clint: I waddle. Like a four-year-old baby.

Justin: I sit down on the ground, I'm not helping her.

Griffin: [laughs] Okay.

Travis: I get down there and say...

Magnus: Don't worry, I've got my—

Travis: And they're not there.

Griffin: "I've got my road dogs! Oh, shit."

Justin: I'm studying my book.

Travis: "We can do anything togethe—aww."

Griffin: Magnus—

Justin: My legs are sore from all these coins I'm carrying!

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: Okay Magnus, you run down the tunnel and exit out into a huge room. A massive room that almost seems like a quarry, almost seems like a... like a pit, like a mining pit where they would dump the product down.

That's on the far side of the room that the quarry is on. God, it's huge. It's a... 40-by-40 foot hole in the ground on the far side of the room. It is actually bigger than the floor of the room itself. The only other exit in this room is a... a giant iron-wrought door. A huge production, you wonder how they got it in here. It is very, very big.

Travis: How hard am I wondering this?

Griffin: You're like—

Travis: Do I need to roll?

Griffin: You're like, [gruff] "HmMMM."

Travis: I rolled a four.

Griffin: Uh, you... so you're not wondering very hard. You're like, "Ah, the door. Fuck it. Whatever."

Also in this room is the orc woman that you saw before, who has just been plastered to the wall with webbing. She is thoroughly webbed to the wall. She's almost entirely covered except for her head. And across from her, about 20 feet from her, is a drow, a dark elf, holding a staff that he has pointed at her. He's dressed in black robes. On the black robe is a—he's wearing a tabard with a white spider on it. Do you guys get it yet?

Travis: Yeah. He's like a spider.

Clint: He's the bl—oh my gosh.

Justin: Griffin, can I roll to see if orc women completely covered in ooey goey webbing is a fetish o' mine?

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: Yeah... Yeah, I guess.

Justin: I need to know if I'm gonna be distracted.

Griffin: Alright. I guess. This sucks.

Justin: [laughing] Okay, it's a six.

Griffin: No, you— it's not your cup of tea.

Justin: So I'm cool. [laughing] Okay.

Travis: I run in and hit him with the shield and try to knock him in the hole.

Griffin: Well, no.

Travis: That's what I do.

Clint: [laughs]

Griffin: That's not really how Dungeons & Dragons works.

Travis: Wait, let me roll... Success!

Griffin: M'kay. Um...

Travis: So he's dead now.

Griffin: Did everybody else run in, or is this just a Magnus situation?

Clint: Yeah, we're all in there.

Justin: I'm not in! I'm not helping her!

Clint: Alright. I'm in there.

Justin: I'm ambling.

Griffin: Okay. The Black Spider, the person you're assuming is the Black Spider, has his staff pointed at the woman who is webbed to the wall, but jerks his head to you and says...

Black Spider: Oh, what a fantastic development! Ah! We have guests, dear, how exciting!

Clint: [laughs]

Justin: Alright, that's weird enough that I'm gonna come in the room.

Travis: [laughs] "What was that?"

Black Spider: Oh, and a third guest, how exciting! We have even more guests, dear. We should make a place at the table for all of them.

Magnus: He seems nice!

Black Spider: Hello, hello. Welcome to my cave.

Griffin: Oh man, I can't—I just took my headphones off to hear what I sounded like doing this voice.

Clint: Yeah.

Justin: It's excellent.

Griffin: And it sucks.

Taako: I'm s—I just wanted to say, I'm so happy to meet someone else who talks normally.

Clint: [laughs]

Clint: "I want to be a Charlie in the Box!"

Black Spider: I love your cadence, dear. Where you from?

Taako: Uh, New Elfington.

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: Am I? ... Am I?

Griffin: Yeah, sure, you can be from New Elfington.

Clint: Write that down.

Griffin: Is that built on the ruins of Old Elfington?

Clint: [laughs]

Justin: We burnt it down 'cause no one could figure out why it was called Old Elfington.

Griffin: Oh shit, I need to retcon. There's something else in this room. Lying precariously towards, uh, close to the edge of the pit, you see an unconscious dwarven figure that, Merle, you recognize as—

Clint: [quietly] Gundren.

Griffin: The one, the only, Gundren Rockseeker.

Clint: [gruff] Gundren.

Justin: [gruff] Gundren!

Griffin: Um—

Justin: How did you forget the one fucking thing in this room—

Griffin: [laughs]

Clint: [laughs]

Travis: “Oh, and also the whole point of your quest is here.”

Griffin: I was too busy thinking about this great, great voice that I came up with for the Black Spider.

Black Spider: I suppose no introductions will be necessary.

Merle: Yeah.

Black Spider: I would like to know who you are, though.

Magnus: Okay, so you would assume that introductions are necessary.

Black Spider: I’m sorry, I don’t need to be introduced, do I? My reputation precedes me. Also, my spider tabard.

Travis: [laughs]

Taako: Who... who are you?

Black Spider: I'm the—The Black Spider.

Magnus: Guys, I think this is him! I’m—I’m Magnus.

Clint: Do we need to roll initiative?

Justin: Not yet!

Black Spider: Not unless you plan to strike me!

Justin: [laughing] Let's not.

Taako: Uh, I'm Taako. We're just here for Gundren; you can do whatever you want to—

Black Spider: Ah, your voice is like a song.

Clint: [laughs]

Justin: I use *mage hand* to caress his cheek.

Travis: [laughs]

Black Spider: This is a little bit forward.

Taako: Thank you darling. Listen, we're just here for uh, Gundren. You can do whatever you want to with, uh, the Orc woman.

Black Spider: Oh, Gundren's purpose has been served. Uh, if you want, you can take him and go, sure!

Taako: Excellent. Pleasure doing business with you.

Black Spider: Oh, I'm sorry, I will need a bit more of his blood though.

Magnus: How much more?

Taako: No, that's not going to work for us.

Black Spider: Uh, about a little pint. A couple pints. How much blood does dwarves have?

Justin: [laughing]

Magnus: More than you'd think.

Taako: Darling, I didn't catch your name. Give it to me one more time?

Black Spider: Uh, it's Black Spider. It's not my Christian name, though.

Clint: [laughs]

Magnus: Guys, I know how this works! If we figure out his name, he's banished.

Black Spider: I'm not the Beetlejuice.

Magnus: Oh.

Clint: Okay. While Taako is talking to him, I steal all the gold back out of Taako's bag...

Justin: He doesn't know I have it! Okay. So, okay, does the—Griffin, sidebar—

Black Spider: I have to--I'm curious to ask, if you don't mind answering a few questions? Uh, no pressure if you don't want to. I don't—I want you three to feel very comfortable here.

Merle: Oh, please, feel free!

Black Spider: Uh, how in the fuck do you know about this magical cave mine?

Merle: Craigslist.

Black Spider: I doubt that's true. Don't tell me, are you here also for the [static]?

Magnus: No...? Yes...?

Merle: Screw the [imitating static], I'm here for my cousin!

Black Spider: Uh, which one? The—

Magnus: The orc woman.

Black Spider: The only surviving one, I'm guessing.

Justin: [quietly] Oh, God, this guy.

Merle: I'm naturally drawn to helping my cousins, so...

Travis: Okay, I attack Black Spider. Fuck this shit.

Clint: [laughs]

Justin: No! No, wait—

Clint: Wait, maybe there's a peaceful way to solve this!

Justin: Maybe there's a peaceful way to figure it out.

Travis: It's not peaceful, I'm gonna kill him.

Justin: I do think—okay. Alright, Dad, we need—

Black Spider: I see your friend's—I see your friend's hand where his hip be at. And I don't—

Justin: We need to deal with these things one at a time, okay? I'm talking to him. Dad says he wants to go help Gundren.

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: Can we address that? He's doing that.

Clint: And I think—and I think Magnus ought to go rescue web woman.

Black Spider: Ohh, no, she's mine.

Justin: No, Magnus has to decide what Magnus is gonna do.

Clint: I know.

Justin: Merle is helping—

Clint: Right.

Justin: His cousin.

Black Spider: Do what you want, just—I do need—do need—

Justin: Now, mm...

Clint: How about if I—can I do some kind of check on—

Griffin: Gundren?

Clint: On Gundren?

Griffin: Yeah, sure. Maybe a first aid check just to sort of see, scope him out? How he's doing?

Clint: Okay.

Griffin: You won't see—you're not—he won't—the Black Spider probably won't let you over there to heal him, but you can sort of check on his condish.

Justin: What is first aid against, Griffin?

Clint: What do I roll?

Griffin: Is there not a first aid skill?

Justin: No.

Griffin: Is there a healing skill?

Justin: There's medicine. Medicine.

Griffin: Medicine.

Clint: Medicine. Okay, so I roll...

Griffin: A d20 and you add your medicine.

Clint: Okay. 15.

Griffin: Okay. He's alive! That's great news. He is alive, he's living, you can see he's breathing, but he is unconscious. But he's living, so you still got the one cousin.

Clint: Can I—okay, so he's still alive. Okay.

Griffin: That means—the bad thing is, he's got some great boots. And that means you're out some boots. You're out some, some more—

Travis: Well, he's unconscious. I take the boots.

Griffin: Okay. No, I was joking about the boots.

Travis: Aww.

Justin: I'm just still talking with, uh, with...

Clint: Well, find out what's going on.

Justin: ... the Black Spider. Griffin, why is—why doesn't the Black Spider have a name?

Griffin: Uhh, 'cause he's mysterious.

Justin: I told listeners that if they tweeted the link to our show that we might use their name for...

Griffin: Okay, fine, I've got one.

Taako: Uhh, just wanna ask one more time 'cause I'm still not clear, what is your, uh, what's your Christian name? What, what were you, your born name—I, uh, Black Spider sounds formal.

Black Spider: It's not very serious, is it?

Clint: [laughs]

Griffin: 'Kay, do you have a check—a persuasion check? Uh, do a persuasion check.

Justin: A persuasion check?

Griffin: See if you can squeeze his name out of him.

Justin: 14.

Griffin: Sure, that'll do it.

Black Spider: It's Brian, darling.

Clint: Brian Darling.

Taako: Brian?

Black Spider: No, just—

Clint: You related to Wendy Darling?

Black Spider: No, it's just Brian. You don't need to add anything else to it, just Brian.

Justin: We, uh...

Clint: [imitating Taako] What happened to your voice?

Taako: We need to take Gundren with us, we're going to take the woman, and can you tell us, uh... Here, you're a magic user like myself. Um, maybe you could tell me, when you say [static sound], I only hear [static sound]. Do you know why that might be?

Black Spider: Uh, that's a tricky situation, isn't it? Here, this'll be fun. The reason you can't hear it when I say [static sound] is because the [static noise, but much longer].

Magnus: Uh-huh.

Black Spider: [continued static] 'Cause actually, [static] so you won't be able to [static] until you [static].

Magnus: I caught all of that.

Clint: God, I bet your mic looks like a giant booger right now.

Griffin: I wasn't doing it with my nose.

Travis: [laughs]

Clint: Oh.

Black Spider: So, unfortunately I'm going to find the solution unequita—uh, unequitable, uh, unsatisfactory, and I uh... I'm afraid that this is where it ends.

Travis: I charge him!

Black Spider: Okay!

Griffin: He was not surprised by your action. Let's roll initiative. Let's get it on.

Travis: I got, uh, seven.

Justin: Whoa, natural 20 here!

Griffin: Holy shit!

Clint: Uh...

Justin: So 22 for me.

Clint: 16! Oh, yeah, 16!

Griffin: Cool. Top of the order is Taako.

Justin: What is he... now, is he on the edge of something?

Griffin: No, he's nowhere near close to the edge of the pit.

Justin: Like, how far is nowhere close—

Griffin: This room is really big. I mean, he's like a good 50 feet away.

Justin: Okay. Alright. Perfect. I am going to cast *burning hands* on the webbing.

Griffin: Okay. You also have... you have that spell sculpting, right? So that you don't immolate this woman?

Justin: Yes.

Clint: Right.

Justin: Yes, exactly.

Griffin: What is that—I mean, she has advantage on the saving throw, right?

Justin: When I cast an evocation spell that affects other creatures I can see, I can choose a number of them equal to one plus the spell's level. The chosen creatures automatically succeed on their saving throws against the spell and take no damage.

Griffin: Okay. Well, she's the only bonus target there, so...

Justin: Yeah, right.

Griffin: And you don't really need to attack. The webbing can't make a saving throw. It's webbing. It's not sentient.

Justin: Okay.

Griffin: So yeah, if that's how you're spending your action.

Justin: That is how I'm spending my action.

Griffin: Cool. You burn away the webs. She collapses to the ground but gets back up to her knees. She is conscious, and she looks at you sort of quizzically again. She doesn't know why you have done her this solid, but she says...

Orc: Wow, thanks!

Justin: Does she still have any sort of weapon as far as I can see?

Clint: Like the thing with the big button on it?

Justin: Or her crossbow? Is her crossbow gone?

Griffin: Her crossbow has been taken by the Black Spider. I just rolled initiative for her, though, so maybe on her turn, we'll find out.

Justin: Excellent. Okay.

Griffin: Okay. Next in the order is the Black Spider, who, on his turn, is going to reach into a sack that he has, and he pulls out this weird, little fist-sized, throbbing pod that he smashes on the ground in front of him. And then—

Travis: Have you guys noticed how much in D&D is very sexual and creepy?

Clint: "Throbbing?"

Griffin: There's a lot of things that—

Travis: He reaches into his sack and pulls out his throbbing pod? Really, Griffin?

Clint: [laughs]

Griffin: The pod explodes in a puff of green smoke, and from the ceiling, through cracks in the ceiling, crawls a gigantic literal black spider that climbs down a web and jumps in front of the figurative spider.

Taako: Oh, I get it!!

Griffin: And comes through this—

Justin: I just said that out loud.

Griffin: Okay, great.

Travis: Compare it size-wise.

Griffin: In the distance, you can hear the sounds of spores being shot into the air. Uh, size-wise? It's—it is twice as tall as you.

Travis: Oh.

Griffin: It is a very goddamn big spider.

Travis: Got it.

Griffin: That is his... uh, that is his move. Dad, you're next in the order. Merle. [pause] Now you got two black spiders.

Clint: Hmm. I am going to—

Griffin: Spoiler alert – this is—you're in final boss territory, so...

Clint: What?

Travis: So burn them spell slots.

Griffin: This is the Sephiroth of this adventure, so...

Clint: Alright, I am going to cast *sleep* on the dark elf Black Spider.

Griffin: M'kay.

Justin: Can we just call him 'Brian'?

Griffin: Yeah, Brian.

Clint: Brian.

Griffin: You know what sucks, though? The actual literal spider is actually also named Bryan.

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: But it's spelt with a Y.

Griffin: Yeah.

Clint: So Brian-with-an-I, I'm going to cast *sleep* on Brian-with-an-I.

Griffin: Okay.

Clint: Says I roll 5d8?

Griffin: Oh, shit. Okay?

Justin: What?

Travis: And then what?

Griffin: [laughing] And then you just have a number.

Clint: And the total is how many hit points of creatures this spell can affect.

Griffin: Oh, okay.

Clint: So I roll the d8 and multiply by five? Right?

Griffin: No.

Travis: Roll it five times.

Griffin: Yeah.

Clint: Roll it five times. Okay.

Griffin: Do it real quick.

Clint: Three!

Griffin: `Kay.

Clint: Four!

Griffin: Seven.

Clint: One!

Griffin: Eight.

Clint: Two!

Griffin: Ten.

Clint: Seven.

Griffin: 17. That is not gonna do it.

Clint: `Kay.

Griffin: So now—but now you know Brian-with-an-I has more than 17 hit points.

Travis: [sings, high-pitched] The more you knowww!

Clint: My plan is working!

Griffin: [laughs] That was a reconnaissance bad spell!

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: Next in the order is—

Clint: Wait wait wait wait wait! I just realized something. This works within a 90-foot action on all of the creatures.

Griffin: Oh.

Clint: Within.

Griffin: Uh, the—the—

Clint: Ninety feet.

Griffin: Bryan-with-a-Y also has more than 17 hit points.

Justin: Excellent.

Clint: [sighs]

Justin: Great, great afternoon so far.

Clint: [disgruntled mumbling]

Griffin: Next in the order is the orc woman, who reaches into her pocket, pulls out that buzzer, and says...

Orc: Here goes nothin'!

Griffin: And clicks it down, and another ball of energy, uh, pops out of it, and actually flies through the giant iron door. And she says...

Orc: Oh! Hm. Okay.

Griffin: And then you hear an extremely loud pound at that door. It's actually, like, a few rapid-fire poundings. Uh... Sorry again for this very sexual language. It's very rapid fire, like... [knocks against something quickly] Against the door.

Clint: Like Sheldon, on Big Bang.

Griffin: Come on, you can't keep referencing Big Bang Theory during this podcast!

Clint: I spelled it with two Gs!

Travis: Oh, okay.

Griffin: It's the Big-guh Bang! The door stands fast, though. And that is the end of the orc woman's turn.

Justin: Can I use a free action to ask her her name, so we don't have to keep doing this?

Griffin: Keep calling her 'the orc woman?'

Justin: Yes.

Griffin: Yeah, that's fine.

Taako: What's your name, dear?

Orc: My name is Killian. Uh, nice to meet you. Can we do the spider stuff now?

Clint: [laughs] Does it take an action—

Killian: Tell me about—no, come on, now that we're into this, tell me about your dad. Is that what you wanna do right now? With the double spider situation?

Clint: Can we open the door as a free action?

Griffin: You would have to figure out how. It's very, very, very big. It's, uh, it's like...

Clint: So it's not the door we came through?

Griffin: No, no, no.

Travis: It's the giant one that we can't figure out how they got it down here.

Clint: Okay, so it's not the grinder reanimated—

Travis: Wait, I got this, guys.

Magnus: Hey door, open!

Travis: [pause] Did that work?

Griffin: [laughing] It didn't work, no.

Travis: Ah, fuck.

Clint: Because somebody didn't remember his "please" and "thank you."

Travis: Oh.

Magnus: Please open, door!

Travis: Does it say push or pull?

Clint: [laughs]

Griffin: No, there's no dwarven writing.

Travis: Is there a crash bar?

Clint: Alright, forget the door I guess.

Travis: So is the spider up now, or am I up now?

Griffin: Sorry... yeah, it's Magnus.

Travis: Great. I'm gonna jump on the spider's back.

Griffin: Oh, shit! Okay. How're you—I guess an acrobatics check?

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: It's gonna make an opportunity attack against you if you do this.

Travis: Oh. Okay. Well, then, instead...

Justin: [whispers] Do it!

Travis: Okay, so what I'm gonna do is attempt to run past, and get one of the legs of the spider with my chain and trip it.

Clint: [snorts]

Griffin: Yeah, that's interesting, why not. So you're gonna... it's a very big spider. So you're gonna try and like, pull an Empire Strikes Back, like, AT-AT sweep maneuver.

Travis: Correct.

Griffin: M'kay. Interesting. I don't know how, physically, that's gonna work.

Travis: I'm very strong.

Griffin: You're gonna just try and like, whip it around one of its legs as you run by it and just sort of pull real hard?

Travis: Yeah!

Griffin: ... M'kay.

Travis: Listen, it's not a great idea, but it's a Magnus idea.

Griffin: Yeah, y'know what, that idea is decidedly Magnus. I guess—

Travis: Can I use my point of inspiration?

Griffin: Sure. I guess you're gonna make an attack with the chain.

Travis: Okay. So unarmed, or...

Griffin: Well, you won't be proficient, so just roll and make a strength check, I guess is what it's gonna be.

Travis: So that's a nine... 13... Um, yeah, so, 13.

Griffin: That's not gonna do it. Do you wanna use your inspiration to roll again?

Travis: Yes. Okay, so that's an 18.

Griffin: Yeah. Okay so you manage to whip this chain around one of the spider's legs, and you pull real hard. Uhh, I guess make another strength check, now that you've got the chain around it, to see if you have the strength to—

Travis: That is 20.

Griffin: 20? Okay. Yeah, fuck it, why not?

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: You pull really hard on this spider. You don't like, flip it over or anything, but the, uh, this side, it's—the four legs on this side sort of give out, and it sort of is prone now.

Travis: Cool.

Griffin: So, good job. You knocked a spider over.

Travis: And then I'm gonna use my action surge to attack it with my battleaxe two handed.

Griffin: M'kay, what're you attacking? There's a lot to attack.

Travis: I'm gonna attack his underbelly.

Griffin: Its underbelly is not exposed. You didn't flip it over.

Travis: Oh. What does being prone give me? Is there—

Griffin: You'll have advantage on the attack.

Travis: Okay. Well then, I'm going to attack its eyes.

Griffin: Okay, so you're gonna whip right back around and get to eye town.

Travis: Mm-hmm.

Griffin: Okay. Go ahead and make a...

Travis: No, that's not gonna do it. That's uhh... an 11, so...

Griffin: Nope.

Travis: Advantage... 18?

Griffin: Yep. That beats his AC.

Travis: Great!

Griffin: Go ahead and do damage.

Travis: 1d10... so that's ten.

Griffin: Ten.

Travis: On its eyeballs.

Griffin: Good eyeball hit. He has lots of eyeballs, so you may have carved out a couple of them, but he still has more than enough to... to look. Do all of his looking.

Travis: But still. Did damage, knocked him prone.

Griffin: Yeah, good job.

Merle: Yay, Magnus!

Griffin: Okay. That is the end of the round. You hear another clamoring at the giant iron door, which has already started to buckle a bit, in the little, uh, in the, in the middle. Um... My throat gets so sore doing this goddamn podcast.

Clint: That's 'cause you're saying [static] every 30 seconds.

Travis: It's so much adventure.

Griffin: Yeah, it's all the adventure, it's wearing on my chords. Yeah, so this door has started to bend and buckle in the middle a little bit.

Magnus: We're going to have to get a contractor in here.

Griffin: Next, top of the order. Taako.

Justin: I'm gonna cast *magic missile* on the spider.

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: Not very creative, but that's where Taako's at today.

Travis: [laughs]

Clint: [laughs] "This is what Taako is into now."

Travis: He's a real meat-and-potatoes wizard.

Taako: Taako today is about—he's about efficiency.

Griffin: They can't all be chain, AT-AT sweep the legs Johnny maneuvers.

Justin: [laughing] I'm just gonna—how about I shoot magic ouchies at him until he dies from it?

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: [laughs]

Clint: [laughs]

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: This is how we do.

Griffin: So you make an attack? Or, no they just automatically hit.

Justin: Yes.

Griffin: M'kay. Go ahead and roll your damage.

Justin: And they dooo...

Griffin: 1d4 plus one.

Justin: Yeah. Three 1d4 plus one. Okay. Two... four...

Griffin: No, we've already established that all three do the same damage.

Justin: Okay, so three times three, nine.

Griffin: Nine. Okay. Uh... yeah, he didn't like it.

Justin: I wouldn't think so.

Griffin: Next in the order is team spiders. Team Brian. What does Brian even do, what's his story? I bet he's got spells. He does! Okay. Bryan-with-a-Y... wait, which one is Magic Brian? I'll just call him Magic Brian.

Travis: Brian-with-an-I.

Justin: An I.

Clint: I.

Griffin: Magic Brian looks at Taako and goes...

Magic Brian: Oh! It's very interesting. Is that—what is it called, *magic missile*? Is that what that was? It was unrecognizable, because this is how I usually do it.

Griffin: And he points his staff at you, and uses *magic missile*.

Justin: Is he shooting all three at me? Because he can do whatever he wants.

Griffin: Oh yeah.

Travis: Maybe a couple he throws at the big spider just to like, show that he can.

Griffin: You're in a magical wizard duel. You're in a wizard duel, Harry.

Clint: [laughs]

Griffin: That's a three. So three times three is nine, plus the extra three damage is 12.

Justin: What's—what's the extra three damage?

Griffin: 'Cause it's plus one.

Justin: Uh, okay. That takes me to zero.

Griffin: Oh, shit!

Travis: Really?

Justin: Yep. Only had 12 hit points.

Griffin: Brian goes...

Magic Brian: What's up now?

Clint: I really thought they were getting along, too.

Justin: Me too.

Griffin: So you're not dead, but this is the first time we get to learn about death saving throws. Isn't that exciting?

Justin: That is thrilling. What do I do?

Griffin: Well, you have to do it on your turn.

Justin: Okay.

Griffin: But that's it for Magic Brian. Spider Bryan is going to stand up and attack the person right in front him, which is Magnus.

Travis: Hello.

Griffin: Hi. Um...

Travis: Hi, Spider.

Griffin: You have a weakness to spiders, right?

Travis: Oh yeah, that's right. I'm afraid of spiders.

Clint: Oh, this patch is not working out for you, bud.

Travis: No, that was addressed in-game last time, that I'm not a fan of spiders.

Griffin: So I'm gonna give the spider advantage on the attack.

Travis: [sarcastic] Sweet. That's super cool.

Griffin: Um...

Travis: 'Cause the giant spider needs all the help he can get.

Griffin: He is just gonna sort of rear back and come forward at you and snap his spider teeth right at you.

Travis: Mandibles.

Griffin: His mandibos.

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: Uh, that's a nine plus five, 14.

Travis: No.

Griffin: 'Kay. And that is a 14 plus five, so 19.

Travis: Ahh, that hits. His mandolins got me.

Griffin: You take... you take five piercing damage and four poison damage.

Travis: Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm.

Griffin: Oh, I'm sorry, you make a constitution saving throw before you take that poison damage. Go ahead and do that.

Travis: That is constitution... seven.

Griffin: No.

Travis: So I'm going to take nine damage.

Griffin: And, uh... okay, you're fine. There's extra stuff it does if it kills you, but it didn't. So you're cool. That is it for the spider turn. Next up is Merle.

Travis: Ditto, could you real quick explain how saving throws work before we get to Justin's turn, so if Dad and I need to do something?

Griffin: Just real quick – Juice, whenever you start your turn with zero hit points, you must make a special saving throw called a death saving throw to determine whether you creep closer to death or hang on to life. So you will have to make one on your turn. It's basically the same as it was last time, or in the last edition.

You make three—you make a saving throw. If you get three successful ones, then you're alive. If you make three failed ones, you die forever. But people can help you out of it before that. If you are healed, you can be helped out of it, there's a lot of different ways you can be saved. Okay?

Justin: Okay.

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: What kind of a saving throw do I do, though?

Griffin: You just roll a d20. If it's above 10, you're good.

Justin: Okay.

Clint: I want—I think whatever's on the other side of that door is gonna help us, and I think it would be worth opening the door. So thaumaturgy allows me to instantaneously cause an unlocked door to fly open.

Griffin: Okay. Okay. Sweet-ass. You point your magic symbol at this giant iron door. Do you say any dope shit when you do it?

Clint: Yes. I do. I say...

Travis: "She thinks my tractor's sexy!"

Merle: [dramatically] For the—by the hoary hordes of Hoggoth!

Griffin: M'kay. I imagine that's some like, old man, like, Conan shit. But—

Clint: It's Doctor Strange, man. If Cumberbatch doesn't work out, I'm there for Marvel.

Griffin: Yeah, that'll be perfect casting. You point your holy symbol at the door. It is enervated with magical, or spiritual energies, and it flies open. And behind it, a light pours through, blinding all of you. And as your eyes adjust, you realize that they are headlights that are fastened to the front of a giant, mechanoid, bipedal robot, essentially. That has—

Travis: [gasps] Iron Giant!

Griffin: That has four arms. It's not exactly Iron Giant, it's not that sort of human figure. It—

Clint: [imitating Iron Giant] Suuupermaan.

Griffin: Almost looks like a tractor with legs.

Travis: Is it sexy?

Justin: What's the—

Clint: Kenny Chesney!

Justin: What's the robot's name?

Griffin: The robot's name—oh, should I do another Twitter?

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: [laughing] The robot's name is, uh... the robot's name is Renee.

Justin: [laughing] Renee?

Griffin: Yeah, it's Renee. Renee the Jackhammer Robot. And I call it Renee the Jackhammer Robot because you can also see, in lieu of arms, it has two giant jackhammers. And as soon as these doors fly open, it sort of flexes its jackhammer arms and sprints full speed towards the giant spider and just... rams right through it. Just—just stabs right through it. Both arms.

Clint: Yes! Haha!

Griffin: Keeps running, and dives right into the pit with the spider impaled on its arms.

Clint: Sweet!

Travis: [laughing] And Brian-with-an-I just goes, "Well, shit."

Clint: [laughs]

Justin: Hatchi matchi, I wish we—

Magic Brian: Bryan! Bryan-with-a-Y, no! He's—

Clint: And he jumps in after him!

Magic Brian: He was my favorite spider boy...

Justin: In retrospect, I wish we'd been attacking Magic Brian this whole time. [laughs]

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: Yeah. Magic Brian's feeling right as rain. Magic Brian is so, so desperately sad. By the way, when this—

Travis: [laughing] He takes ten points of sad damage.

Griffin: When this robot did its epic spider tackle maneuver, it just barely avoided stomping on Gundren.

Travis: That's good.

Griffin: But he's fine. Yeah! I just wanted you guys not to worry about Gundren. 'Cause it doesn't—

Travis: Oh, we weren't. I forgot he was over there.

Griffin: Okay, yeah, good. 'Cause I also thought that might also be the case.

Justin: Alright, let's keep moving.

Griffin: Next in the order is... Next in the order is Killian, who doesn't really have a whole lot of options at her disposal. She pulls out the animator again and clicks down on the trigger, but nothing happens. So she just says—she just sort of walks over to one of the giant iron doors and sort of tucks behind it. She says...

Killian: Good luck, guys!

Merle: Typical orc.

Killian: If you find my crossbow, let me know, but uh, I'ma... I'ma go ahead and let y'all handle this. See what—see what you can—see what you can do!

Griffin: And that is the end of her turn. Next in the order is Magnus.

Travis: Okay, I'm going to rush to the side of my beloved Taako.

Griffin: Oh!

Travis: And I say...

Magnus: Now, this may be a little cheesy, but I can't let you go.

Travis: And I pour my potion of healing betwixt his lips.

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: I'm gonna need you to describe that a little bit slower.

Clint: Yeah. [laughs]

Travis: And he wakes up, and the word "cheesy" is what's stuck in his head.

Clint: It's another clue!

Griffin: [bursts into laughter]

Justin: [laughs] Griffin, grant me cheese!

Griffin: Alright... Okay, I'll grant you the word cheese. You can't possibly understand the idea of cultured milk.

Justin: [laughs] Okay, I've written cheese question mark—

Travis: [laughs]

Clint: [laughs]

Justin: On my sheet, so we know I'm—that's just in my head. "What does that word mean, cheese?"

Griffin: How does a healing potion work? Trav, do you know?

Travis: No. I just have it written down.

Clint: Where did you get it?

Travis: We got it from the Klaarg! We got three potions.

Griffin: You gotta write that shit down. "When you drink this potion, you regain 2d4 plus 2 hit points." So, Juice, if you wanna go ahead and resolve that...

Justin: Is that my roll?

Clint: Yeah.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Okay.

Clint: Wait a minute, while he's unconscious, can I check his stuff?

Justin: No. That's a 4!

Travis: Now, Ditto, is the potion—

Justin: That's an eight. Ten! Ten points!

Griffin: That was a good roll.

Justin: Back in the fucking game.

Travis: Is the potion of healing a minor action, or is that my action?

Griffin: Well, the fact that—if you had given it to him, probably not, but the fact that you actually used it on him.

Travis: Administered it.

Griffin: Yeah, that's gonna be your turn.

Travis: Great. Terrif'.

Clint: That's brotherly love right there.

Travis: And Magnus looks at the cleric and says...

Magnus: So, now it's your turn to attack, 'cause I did the healing.

Justin: [laughs] Whose turn is it, Griffin?

Merle: I'd like to point out, though, that I killed the spider, okay?

Magnus: No, you did great! I just saved our wizard. So... **Magnus:** He does it all.

Clint: The guy that's been stealing shit for the entire adventure.

Griffin: I think actually Renee the wrecker bot is the one that—

Clint: Uh, no no no no no, on we go.

Justin: Let's keep—come on.

Griffin: Next in the order is actually you, Taako. You can—

Taako: Excellent.

Griffin: So you are prone, but you can stand up for half of your movement. So you can stand up and still—

Justin: Well, I'm not going anywhere.

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: I stand up to my full, wizarding height.

Clint: Which is 2 foot higher with the hat.

Justin: Yup. Excellent. And then I shout...

Taako: Abraca-fuck-you!

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: And I cast *magic missile* at him!

Clint: [laughs]

Justin: Four! Oof. Oof, how does 15 points of damage taste?

Griffin: You actually—you blast him back a ways. The force of this spell hurts him a lot. He goes flying backwards, and he lands fairly close to the edge of the pit near Gundren. And he stands up and he is... man, all jacked up. He is bleeding from both nose nostrils. His shit is wrecked, but he is still alive. He says...

Magic Brian: It seems like you learned well from me, maybe. Did you

maybe take a few pointers from my rad *magic missile*? Or was that a Taako original?

Clint: [laughs]

Taako: I—I actually already said my one cool thing, darling.

Travis: [laughs]

Magic Brian: Oh, I see.

Taako: I don't have another... another thing.

Magic Brian: I understand completely.

Clint: Y'know, when they make a movie about this, Mike Myers is gonna play both of `em.

Justin: Mike Myers will play all the roles. He'll play all of us.

Magic Brian: It seems to me—it seems to be my turn.

Griffin: I keep sort of oscillating between like, Taako and German. I want to really land in the German wheelhouse. Let me try again.

Magic Brian: Ah yes, it seems that, ah... it seems that my goose might be cooked, huh? Ah, so, ah, just one more trick up my sleeve, and we'll see how you respond to this.

Griffin: And he grabs Gundren by the scruff of the neck—

Travis: Uh-huh.

Griffin: —and rolls off into the pit with him.

Travis: Oh shit!

Griffin: But then you see, at the same time, two small dwarven hands reach up and grab the pit. Reach up and grab the edge of the pit. And then you see two more small dwarven hands reach up and grab the side of the pit. And almost simultaneously, two Gundren Rockseekers pull themselves back up onto stable ground.

Clint: Who would've seen that coming?

Justin: I didn't.

Griffin: And, one Gundren Rockseeker, we'll call him the Gundren Rockseeker on the right, looks at the other one and says...

Right Gundren: Oh my god. Okay. I... I think I see what he's trying to do here. Listen, you have to understand, I'm the real Gundren Rockseeker. You have to believe me. I—I can tell you anything you wanna know about the Rockseeker clan, I can tell you anything you wanna know about Phandalin. You have to believe me, I'm the real Gundren Rockseeker.

Griffin: And the Gundren Rockseeker on the left says...

Left Gundren: [voice that sounds exactly like Magic Brian] No, you must believe me!

Travis: [laughs]

Clint: [laughs]

Left Gundren: This fellow on the right here is an impostor, I'm the real Gundren Rockseeker!

Travis: [laughing] How do we tell them apart?

Left Gundren: Ask me anything you want to know about dwarves.

Travis: But which one's the real 'Gundam' Rockseeker?

Magnus: Is it possible... that he has cursed the other Gundren Rockseeker to sound German and weird?

Left Gundren: That is exactly what he did! That is a bad boy! He's a bad boy with lots of—all kinds of sinister magicks!

Travis: I walk over and kick that one into the pit.

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: Which one?

Travis: The one who just talked.

Magic Brian: Oh nooo! The mystery is solved! You've solved my final riddle! [getting quieter, as if more distant] You are the new riddle masterrr...

Clint: Geez, how deep is that pit?!

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: [laughs] How loud is his voice?

Magic Brian: [tiny voice] Congratulations... You have proven yourselves quite the adventurers... oh, I've landed on Bryan... Bryan, ahhh...

Clint: [laughing]

Travis: [laughing]

Justin: [laughing]

Magic Brian: Bryan, I'm so proud of them...

Justin: [cracking up]

Magic Brian: [still in a tiny voice] I'm going to die now... my life is flagging from my body... I'll see my family... goodbye cruel world... [groans]

Clint: [also cracking up]

Justin: I cast *magic missile* at him again!

Magic Brian: Agh, that's very bad news... ow, ow, ow, oh, no!

Travis: [laughing]

Clint: And the Academy Award goes to... Brian!

Griffin: That was great shit.

Justin: That was good acting.

Griffin: That was primo.

[theme music plays]

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