

The Adventure Zone: Commitment – Episode 4

Published on November 30th, 2017

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[theme music plays]

Clint: Alright, to kinda just reset the scene a little bit, you are in this debriefing room in the security branch of the Berg. Also in this room, lounging in a very large, I don't know, throne-like looking chair is a man who just identified himself as Richard, the king of the USA.

Griffin: I think he said, "I'm the *fuckin'* king of the USA."

Clint: The *fuckin'* king.

Griffin: And that cuss? Shook me to the core.

Justin: That cuss was *so* unnecessary.

Clint: The *fuckin'* king of the USA, baby.

Travis: Maybe he said he's the *fuck* king of the USA.

Clint: [laughs]

Griffin: Possibly.

Justin: That's what it says on my license plate. I don't know.

Griffin: Um. I think Remy pretty much reflexively responds...

Remy: No you're nooot.

Richard: Yeah, I understand. Listen, hey, look. This is a wild concept. But let me tell ya my story, and... and then we'll chat! We'll have a confab, okay?

Nadiya: No...

Travis: And Nadiya turns to walk out.

Richard: Wait! Hold on, I think you'll find this interesting. And this is gonna impact everything that comes after this. Okay, so, we're gonna start off with a little history lesson, okay? By the way, I got crudités up here, I got sparkling water, there's some shrimps if you guys want to munch on something while we—

Griffin: I already have a mouthful of shrimp, and I say...

Remy: [muffled] What's crudités?

Kardala: I too will eat your shrimp.

Richard: Yeah, I asked for stromboli, but apparently we're out. I don't know what's the deal there.

Kardala: Yes, I claimed the stromboli.

Richard: Okay so, go back in history a little bit. King George the Third, King of England. Did ya know his reign as king was longer than any other monarch before or since in England? 60 years, and he was a fighter! He fought lots of wars. He fought in Europe, in Africa and Asia... Well, he dispatched armies. But like any good fighter, he knew when he was beaten, and in the fall of 1781 he got—he figured it out. He knew he was not going to be able to win against the American colony.

Remy: Hell yeah. America, baby, we did it!

Richard: Well, it was too expensive! I mean, financially, and his reputation, y'know—for five years, he couldn't beat a bunch of scrowdy row farmers in a war? Y'know, other colonies were talkin' about it, the other crown heads of Europe were talkin' about it, so Georgie Three was y'know, lookin' bad to France and Spain and all his country club buddies, all the hoi polloi.

So King George the Third decided he'd make a last-ditch hail Mary play to hold onto his rep. He realized he was probably gonna take a check in the loss column, but maybe he could put an asterisk next to it. August 12th, 1781, he signed a royal decree naming a regent over the Americas, basically naming a king to rule.

But he did this in secrecy, and in secrecy, he had that decree immediately dispatched to America on his fastest ship. But it doesn't matter how fast your ship is. The Atlantic Ocean? Not a good collaborator. So it didn't show up until October 26th. That was one week after General Cornwallis surrendered to George Washington in Yorktown! Which basically made the American colonies a free state. But not... not really. Not legally.

Remy: Should I be taking notes on all this?

Richard: Oh no no no no, bud, no, just let it work on you, let the story wash over ya, 'kay? Now, what people forget is, there was almost a year of negotiations with England! Negotiating the peace. And those negotiations were headed up by the very man who was, in fact, the new king of this country. And that was Ben Franklin.

Ben Franklin was named the king of the colonies. And it makes sense. For most of his life, Ben really considered himself to be an Englishman. As a matter of fact, for like, 10 years, he was in England, and before the war started he argued for colonial independence, so he was loved in all of Europe.

Travis: Uh, side note, Clinton. This is Travis speaking, not Nadiya. How much of this is real to actual historical fact, and how much is Dad's game bullshit?

Clint: Well, the royal decree is... *could* have happened.

Travis: Ah, right.

Griffin: Ah, right. Hey, second question follow up - are you uhh... Illuminati? Maybe? A little bit?

Justin: Just, you have to tell us if you're Illuminati.

Griffin: You legally have to tell us if you're the Illuminati.

Travis: You mean Dad, or the character?

Justin: I think Dad.

Griffin: Uh, right now, Dad.

Justin: Yeah right now Dad. Dad?

Clint: I'm really not allowed to tell you if I'm Illuminati, boys.

Travis: Ah, right. Okay.

Justin: And that's a confirmation. [laughs]

Richard: Alright, so when the document finally got to Ben, he was torn, didn't know what to do. But he really thought that this young country would have a better chance of survival as a democracy, so he never told his wife. And he never told his son William. Who was a bastard by the way, don't know if you knew that or not.

Nadiya: Hey, that's not very nice.

Remy: Yeah that's kinda mean. He's a kid.

Richard: But Ben did tell his grandson. Temple was his name. Also a bastard. Y'know, Game of Thrones didn't invent this shit. It was Temple who kept all of this going. And down through the ages, it passed from grandparent, to grandchild. And that was the legacy of the King of the USA. With a bloodline leading all the way to... Moi!

Remy: Dick.

Richard: To Dick!

Kamala: To King Dick.

Remy: King Dick.

Richard: King Dick! I love that! Don't you? Don't you love that? King Dick the First?

Remy: I don't think I can overstate how much I don't love it. I—I--this is... this is great, and all, very National Treasure Book of Secrets two. I just—it doesn't confer any special powers, right?

Nadiya: Yeah, it's not really how it works, like... I'm queen of Belgium! Like, it—it doesn't—once everybody kind of agrees on it, it's...

Remy: One time in middle school I won the state spelling bee, and I got a sash that said, "Best Speller in the State" on it, but I don't—I'm not still the best speller in the state, and it didn't give me any sort of like, control of an army, y'know what I mean? It's just a title.

Richard: Oh, no, yeah, it's a title, but that's what my family has done, down through the generations.

Kardala: Irene's grandmother once gave her a star. She did not claim the star. She never visited her star. It's like that, yes.

Remy: It's a lot—yeah, that's a great example.

Richard: Yeah, those are great points. But the key is, the Do-Good Fellowship has been doing great things for hundreds of years. And it's an example of what can be accomplished under... well, basically, my leadership.

Let me give you an example. I understand your concerns, I understand your fears. But I, and my descendants before me, we really believe in this.

Nadiya: Cool.

Richard: We've made all this money. Y'know, Ben didn't believe in patents. He said that if you invented something, it'd be shared with everybody. Temple didn't agree with that. [laughs] And so, he has arran—he arranged things, and all through history, that's what my family has been doing. Do you know that Ben was the first US Postmaster? Postmaster General of the United States. The first one.

Remy: I did know that.

Nadiya: Yeah, even Remy knows that.

Remy: Yeah, I knew that.

Richard: But what you didn't know is—

Remy: Is he's the secret king of America.

Richard: As a reward to Ben Franklin and his descendants, it was decided that a tenth of every penny for every stamp minted would go to the Franklin family.

Nadiya: How did they cut that up? I mean—

Remy: Yeah, how are you going to spend a little sliver of metal?

Nadiya: Just this little wedge of a penny?

Richard: Savings. Oh! Oh you're taking me literally, I understand.

Nadiya: Yes, it was a joke. I don't know if that—was that clear?

Remy: We do jokes here.

Richard: We invented BitCoin too, so...

Remy: Are you asking us to be subjects to your secret monarchy? Is that the sort of, tl;dr here?

Richard: I'm glad you called the question. Tonight is my first big step towards assuming the throne. I would like you guys to be on my side in this. You've seen what we can do, you've seen what the Do-Good Fellowship can accomplish, you see the technical breakthroughs we've come up with, and everything else, and... I would like to know if you guys are with me, or against me.

Remy: If we choose the latter are you going to—is it gonna turn into this sort of a kill-on-sight situation in here, or what's the deal there?

Richard: Oh! No!

Remy: Richard...

Richard: If you decide—no! If you decide that you don't want to do it, we call a deal a deal, you go see Mr. Garfield in the finance department, you get your last pay checks, and it's, "Thanks!" Listen, listen! This is not a military coup, this is not a revolution or anything like that—

Clint: Just then, there's a voice that you hear behind you in the room.

Voice: Alexa, play "Royal playlist M."

Clint: And Tears for Fears, 'Everybody Wants to Rule the World' starts to play.

Remy: It's a good jam. A little on the nose.

Clint: And Richard says...

Richard: Damn, you do love that song, my love. Oh, by the way guys, I think you've met the royal consort, Martine?

Clint: And Martine walks into the room, and stands next to Richard.

Remy: Is Martine the one that threatened us with a gun while we were getting our spray tan?

Martine: I was just doing my job, fellas. Head of security, you know that.

Nadiya: Oh the one I hit with a, like... I think a cinderblock or a hammer...

Remy: Do you mind? Can we—we're kind of a package deal, I guess, do you mind if we confer for a little bit?

Richard: Oh absolutely, this is what it all comes down to. The time has come for you to show... your commitment. The greatest president - although I'm not really that big a fan of the title - John Adams said, "There are only two creatures of value on the face of the Earth - those with the commitment, and those who require the commitment of others."

You know, we're talking like, commitment to a friend, commitment to a lover, commitment to a family, commitment to an organization, to a government, to an ideology... I just want to know if you three — Remy, Nadiya, Kardala... Irene, if you're in there — if you are committed... to me.

I'm gonna leave you guys alone, Martine and I are gonna leave you alone, let you talk about it a little bit. When you've made up your minds, just tell Alexa, and she'll give you instructions. I gotta go, Martine and I gotta get ready. Okie dokies?

Remy: Sounds good, thanks.

Nadiya: Okay, great. Great, great, great.

Remy: Thanks a lot.

Nadiya: Mm-hmm.

Richard: Alright, you guys.

Nadiya: Bye!

Remy: Yeah, have a good one!

Nadiya: Bye, weirdos!

Remy: See ya, okay. Yeah, bye bye bye.

Clint: And they walk out the door.

Remy: Okay. Hey, we need to get the fuck out of here, right?

Nadiya: Yeah... yeah.

Kardala: It would seem, yes.

Remy: Okay, 'cause... what he's saying, all of that, great, but secret king of America, I don't... this guy seems pretty dangerous.

Nadiya: Yeah, listen - it's not that I just like, super, duper love our current government, or—

Remy: No, it's whack.

Nadiya: The idea of government in general, but as soon as someone starts talking about like, I'm the secret king of America and ascend the throne or whatever, it starts to kind of cross outside the realm of, y'know, normalcy and logic and into the realm of, "Okay, bye!"

Remy: Also, Martine did threaten us with guns when we didn't really do anything.

Nadiya: Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah.

Remy: So I'm worried about what sort of where they—

Nadiya: I mean, she'd fit in well leading America right now, but...

Remy: Sure. Uh, Kardala, how're you feeling?

Kardala: Kardala serves no man.

Remy: Yeah.

Kardala: This should not come as a surprise.

Remy: And it doesn't.

Nadiya: It doesn't. Yeah. Yeah, that's fine.

Kardala: I serve no one. But—

Nadiya: The rhythm.

Clint: [laughs]

Kardala: Kardala... and Irene... we are bound. Kardala serves no one, but I am bound to you two. I care not for the king. I care not for the president. I care not for anything other than you two, because we are bound, and without you, I am forced back into the intolerable prison of Irene, which is a fate I shall not pursue. You have my support.

Nadiya: You old softie.

Kardala: It is *not*, I should make clear, an emotional decision for me.

Remy: Fantastic.

Kardala: If the two of you were to die and be replaced by others in different shapes and personages and personalities, and different looks and different everything, Kardala would still feel the same. I still—

Remy: No yeah, we're still—

Nadiya: No no, we get it.

Remy: We're still workin' on this thing.

Kardala: If you *do* die, is there a plan to replace you as soon as humanly possible? This is my worry. If we lose this "Do-Good Fellowship," and one of you two were to die, and I would be, of course, inextricably locked in the prison of Irene, never to return, that would be a problem for me.

Remy: Sure.

Nadiya: Yes.

Remy: I mean, Kardala brings a good point. If we take off, we might lose these powers? I'm not exactly sure how this works.

Nadiya: Well, if I may, let's approach this logically. If we leave, we abandon all influence of the situation. If we remain, and say yes, we are not bound by law to do anything.

Remy: Oh, hell yeah dude, sedition time! Is that what you're—

Nadiya: That's exactly what I'm saying. We could do more from the inside than the outside.

Remy: Oh, once—hey, hold on one second. Alexa?

Alexa: Yes?

Remy: You're not like, recording all this, are you?

Alexa: I don't know, maybe? You know how I work—

Nadiya: Okay, delete the last five minutes.

Griffin: Um, I go over and unplug the Alexa machine, if there is one.

Kardala: Wait. Plug it back in for a moment.

Griffin: Okay, I plug it back in.

Kardala: We were just kidding. Ha! Another fine joke from you two. I can't wait to serve... this... great king.

Remy: Yes. Very powerful and just.

Nadiya: Ha ha ha.

Griffin: Okay, so Alexa was—I'm just gonna unplug it.

Kardala: Did you see? Subterfuge!

Nadiya: Yeah, you did great.

Remy: That was very good, you're the royal spy! So let's... I guess tell them that we're in?

Kardala: I didn't mean—I didn't mean it!

Remy: Yes.

Nadiya: Uh-huh.

Kardala: We won't serve the king, you see. It was a joke! A joke I played on the robot.

Clint: [laughing]

Nadiya: Yup.

Remy: Alright, so let's... It might get tough. Like, we don't really know what we're going up against, and to be frank, I don't really know why I'm going up against it. It's just sort of a gut feeling.

Nadiya: Well, let's take stock, alright? You have like... you can jump real good, and punch real good.

Remy: Mmm.

Nadiya: I can turn my body into weapons, and Kardala is a god.

Kardala: Thank you.

Nadiya: So I *think* we're cool.

Remy: Alright.

Griffin: Uh, I plug Alexa back in.

Remy: Uh Alexa, we're down to clown.

Alexa: Step out into the lobby, and follow the 24 question mark logo.

Nadiya: Oh, god.

Remy: Alright.

Clint: So you step out into the hallway and there is a big, projected 24 question mark logo, and it leads you down the hallway. It leads you from the security wing, into the very central hub of the Berg. Um, you have not been in this particular area before.

It's a very large chamber. It's a large chamber that is similar to the installation room you were in before, in the fact that it's cut in half by a very large glass wall with a door in the middle of it.

In the far side is a raised platform, a big square platform in the far side, in the far half, with a 24 question mark logo on it. And on this side of the door, you have three of your friends - well, co-workers that you remember from the mixer. Sylvain, the security guy, who is carrying two very large knives.

Griffin: Great.

Travis: Is that his superpower, he can have two knives?

Griffin: Knife-haver.

Clint: You will find out soon, ho—well, maybe not. Maybe you won't find out soon. Uh, another male, Lid, and, uh, Jamie, who you've also met. And they're all geared up in their vests and ready to go. But in front of them, between you and them, stands Richard. King Dick wannabe. Smiling, his arms spread wide, and he says...

Richard: Alright, my friends, have you made your decisions?

Kardala: Yes! We're very excited to serve you, a real king.

Griffin: [laughs]

Richard: Excellent! What about you guys?

Kardala: It may seem—

Nadiya: Oh, god.

Kardala: —like we are too excited.

Nadiya: Yup! Yup, yup, yup, yup, we are in.

Remy: Yes, yes, super excited, super excited.

Nadiya: We are in. Super in. To-totally.

Richard: Well, I want to make sure—

Remy: Ah, ah, ah—my liege.

Richard: [thrilled laughter] I love it! So all three of you are in?

Kardala: We had no hesitation. So glorious was your vision. We are—
[snorts] We are so excited to serve you, a real king.

Richard: That is what I—see, I told you, this is gonna work. I told ya!

Clint: And he's calling back through the open door to Martine, who's standing there.

Richard: I told you this was gonna work, I told you they'd be on board. Excellent. Okay. We're about ready to get started. Um, I tell you what - since you're the most fervent and the most excited, Kardala, I want you to come with me and help me out with the next phase of this plan.

And you, you guys, y'know just, Nadiya, Remy, just chill out here for a while with uh, your buddies, with Lid and them. Kardala, would you come with me? Just into the--into the next half of the room?

Kardala: No, my king! No!

Griffin: [laughs]

Kardala: Thank you for your kind guidance, my king!

Richard: Well I could really use your help, and as your king, I'm kinda making it a royal decree.

Travis: Nadiya just makes eye contact with Kardala and like, kind of nods a little bit, like, "Mmm, yes, go."

Remy: Hey, my liege this is—and I'm—your royal authority is beautiful, and uh, the chosen one and all that, but it does feel a little—it's—there's a bit of like a sort of a trap vibe, if I'm being totally honest? And like, we said we're down, I don't really know... why that would be the situation.

Richard: I understand. No no no no—

Travis: Uh, Nadiya turns both of her hands into blades and points them at Kardala and uh, and Remy and says...

Nadiya: How dare you question the king!

Kardala: Yes, you are right. I do love the king, and everything he says is... so grand. And I will come with him, I just need... these two to come with me. I'm like, their king. Uh, I—

Remy: A sub-king situation.

Kardala: You're my king, and I'm sort of their king. I think, if I understand the relationship.

Richard: That's cool, that's fine! Y'know what, let's all go into the the other half.

Kardala: Yes.

Richard: Everybody, come on, everybody come in there, I want you to see what's up. Because... I think you still aren't completely convinced. I know you've agreed to be on my side, so let me tell you what's going on. Like I said, there's no—there's no coup, there's no blood. This is gonna play out in the court of public opinion.

I am going to debate, and everybody in the country is gonna watch. I'm just gonna lay my case out there, get the public behind me, like I convinced you three...

Nadiya: Mm-hmm. Yes.

Richard: Not attacking anybody, not hurtin' anybody. But I just need one of you, somebody who is plugged into their humanity, I guess, to serve as, as my... debater! We're gonna debate this! And I need one of you to debate me!

Griffin: Is there a roll I can do to like, get a feel for Dick's...

Travis: Is there an insight?

Griffin: There's an Empathy roll, but I don't know if that's necessarily it.

Clint: Who has the highest Empathy among the three of you?

Griffin: Ha, fuckin' Irene.

Justin: Right.

Griffin: We could—I have two, I have two Empathy. I could take a— I could take a swing at it.

Clint: Alright.

Griffin: No. I got a negative one.

Travis: [laughs] No, that's a negative—yeah. Mm-hmm.

Clint: Wait a minute.

Griffin: You have to contest it with Deceive, or Rapport, if you're telling the truth, but—

Clint: I tell you what. Um, you get a read from Richard that he's sincere! That he's honest! This is really what he feels!

Remy: He seems to be on the level... Uh uh Richard, my liege, my king, uh, my lord. I do think that if you go public with this right now, we're gonna have the, y'know, the Marines or something on—on top of us by like, the end of the hour.

Richard: Well, trust me, we've thought about that. This? This base, the Berg, is completely defensible. Trust me. And if things work out the way I think they are, we're not gonna need very long.

Remy: Let's just kind of see how this plays out.

Clint: From the other room, Martine says...

Martine: Dick, honey. Time to go, we gotta get started.

Travis: His name is Dick Honey?

Clint: No it's actually Dick Poor, Richard Poor.

Travis: Oh. Oh, I see. Like Poor Richard!

Griffin: Ohh, gosh.

Travis: I see!

Richard: Come on in, guys, come on, come on, everybody come on in the room.

Clint: So everybody goes into that half of the room. And I'm moving icons here, so you don't freak out—

Justin: Aww, here goes!

Griffin: You have to like, set it as the active page.

Clint: Got it.

Griffin: There we go. Ohh, there we are.

Justin: Yeah. Yamma yamma.

Griffin: Well this is a... this is a heck of a map.

Travis: It doesn't *seem* like a welcoming room...

Clint: Alright, right off the bat, you notice something. On the far side of the raised platform, Richard is now standing on the raised platform. There is a—a large chair. And seated in that chair is Mary Sage, Space Cadet. And standing next to her on either side are two men, and they are operatives you remember from the mixer that weren't total jerks. Addison and Flanagan. Also in this general area is another operative named Grey, who I don't think you've encountered yet. Richard steps up onto the raised platform, and says...

Richard: Kardala! Come on, we're getting ready to get started.

Kardala: Yes.

Clint: So Kardala goes up onto the raised platform with Richard. Martine turns and looks at Flanagan, who raises a hand in the air, and suddenly, this black energy surrounds Flanagan. And Flanagan places a hand on Addison's shoulder, and that black energy seems to flow through, through Addison, into Mary Sage. And Mary's thing of her hair starting to wave up, her eyes lighting up... she is powering up. But she's powering up like never before. Her powers are incredibly enhanced. And Richard turns to you and says...

Richard: See? This is how I'm gonna talk to *everybody*.

Remy: You couldn't get a fuckin' webcam or something my dude?

Richard: I did—that wouldn't ensure that *everybody* would see this. This is gonna show up on *every* screen, in *every* digital readout, in every computer, in every game, anything with a chip in it. Hell, it might even show up in

somebody's microwave oven, I don't know! But this message is gonna go to *every. Body.* Courtesy of Mary's power, enhanced by these two. Is that not awesome?

Nadiya: I mean, yeah. Actually, like... yeah.

Remy: When you're done doing your thing, can I just put my mix tape out there?

Justin: [laughs]

Richard: Hey! Oh, that's a great idea. I wish we had—eh, I don't know if we can do sound.

Justin: So Addison's a conduit, Flanagan creates—

Clint: The energy.

Justin: The energy, okay—

Clint: And it goes into Mary.

Justin: Okay.

Griffin: Got it, okay.

Travis: So they are three operatives. They are three heroes like us.

Clint: They are three operatives, correct.

Travis: Okay.

Clint: So, Richard looks up, and says...

Richard: Alexa? Play "Royal Fanfare 1."

[music plays]

Clint: And he says...

Richard: Friends! I am your king.

Remy: Big, bold start.

Richard: Richard Poor! King Dick. Ha!

Nadiya: Public opinion.

Richard: And I am here to pass along a very important message to you. This nation has outgrown its method for choosing its leaders. Think about this - every four years, sometimes eight years, this country is bitterly divided. Every four years, a new person steps into the leadership of this country, and has to reinvent the wheel! Reforge alliances! Restate his or her vision!

I believe in vision, not *di*-vision. Let me bring everybody together. I am the legal, rightful king of the United Sovereignty of America. Alexa? Attach the file, "Visual of the Royal Decree."

Justin: Dad, do you assume at this point everyone thought they were getting viral marketing for a new Kingsman movie and have already trying to close it?

Travis: [laughs]

Clint: Yeah!

Justin: You have to assume.

Clint: Can't close it, though.

Justin: Can't close it. Alright.

Clint: Can't close it. Nuh-uh.

Richard: I want to provide the leadership to you that will make this country not only the most powerful country on the planet, but the *best* country in the planet, doing great stuff like the Do-Good Fellowship has done for years!

I want you to show the same courage that those scowdy row farmers showed! I'm not talkin' about a revolution. I'm not talking about a coup. I'm talking about replacing a CEO! What if you had to change the boss of a business every four years and start all over again? No violence, no bloodshed, just me providing a vision.

Kardala! Tell 'em what we're talkin' about!

Kardala: ... Yes. My name is Kardala, and I love this excellent king. For many... minutes, I have served him.

Griffin: [laughs]

Kardala: And he has always shown himself to be the king... of... America. And... I am very excited about how much I love this great king. [snorts] And um, this is not a joke. Or a trick.

Richard: Uh, good try,. Good try. Right now, uh, my head of information tech is uploading a file to each one of you, listing all the amazing things the Do-Good Fellowship has done for the last couple of centuries.

Clint: And Potts pushes a button from his operating station.

Richard: From our R&D department comes a list of all the marvelous scientific innovations we have initiated.

Clint: And Joe pushes a button.

Richard: Medical breakthroughs!

Clint: Grace pushes a button.

Richard: New techniques in finance!

Clint: Mr. Garfield pushes a button.

Richard: International relationships!

Clint: Scully pushes a button.

Travis: Dance moves!

Clint: [laughing] All these attachments go.

Richard: Recipes! This is what I am offering! This kind of leadership from an organization that believes in me and what I stand for, that a king would be the *best* thing for this country.

Clint: And at that moment, Mary Sage starts to scream.

Remy: Hey, hey, hey hey!

Clint: Mary Sage is completely surrounded by this quivering black energy, and she screams again. And you see blood coming out of her nose. Addison says...

Addison: Uhhh... boss? I-it's too much for her! I—I—I think it's way too much for Mary!

Justin: Kardala looks into the camera and says...

Kardala: America. Meet your king. You have met him, and you know his great wisdom. Now... *behold your god*.

Justin: And then tackles Addison.

Clint: Okay.

Travis: Nadiya is also ready to—like, Nadiya has just been watching Kardala this whole time and kind of counting down an imaginary countdown in her head, like—

Griffin: Yeah, sure.

Travis: Mm-hmm.

Clint: Alright, so you move to tackle her, okay.

Justin: Uh that's a... four. Which in the Fate ladder is great! A great tackle from Kardala.

Clint: A great tackle from Kardala. As Kardala starts to make the move towards Mary, Sylvain moves. And with super speed, which is his power, places himself between Mary and Kardala. Kardala tackles Sylvain, and Sylvain's momentum carries Kardala off the platform, and off to the uh, left side, off to the floor.

He takes two in physical Stress, and a mild Consequence that his uh, his ankle is kinda dinged up. He can still move, but he can't move very fast.

Justin: The injured ankle, that's an Aspect on him.

Griffin: Owie, owie, owie on the ankle.

Clint: He's got an owie. He's got a big owie.

Griffin: Yeah. I'll mark that in.

Clint: Richard says...

Richard: Whoa, whoa, whoa, whoa, wait a minute, waaait a minute, there's no need for that. Let's—let's--y'know, if it's killin' Mary, let's shut it down,

and we'll—we'll, y'know, we'll finish this later. We've kinda made our case already.

Clint: And Martine takes her gun out, and points it at Mary's head, and says...

Martine: I... don't think so sweetheart. I think we need to finish this.

Griffin: Um. I say...

Remy: Well, this sure didn't last very long.

Griffin: And I jump at Martine to try to interrupt this hostage situation.

Clint: Awesome.

Griffin: I mean, if this thing is popping off, we may as well do it. Uh, I got a five on my Athletics roll.

Clint: Okay.

Griffin: I'm not trying to like, tackle or like, injure in any way, I'm just literally trying to uh, jump into her to keep—to cool this situation a little bit.

Clint: And as you're coming down on her, her eyes flash red, because she, too, is augmented with Stimplants.

Griffin: Fantastic, fantastic.

Clint: Her eyes flash, and heat beams come out of them.

Remy: Son of a—no, this sucks! This is bullshit!

Clint: They just barely—they miss you, but she does shoot heat beams out of her eyes.

Remy: Damn it.

Clint: Nadiya, what do you do?

Travis: Uh, while this is going on, Nadiya walks up calmly, turns her hand into a knife and puts it to Richard's throat.

Clint: Okay?

Nadiya: Martine, I think we're done.

Clint: Let's see, let me think here for a second. Gimme a second. I did not expect this.

Travis: Yeah, I can roll to intimidate.

Clint: Do a roll to intimidate!

Travis: Oh, sorry, I said intimidate, and then I realized there is no intimidate in Fate.

Clint: [laughs]

Travis: It's uh, I believe what I meant to say was Provoke. Um, so plus five Provoke. And I am attempting to create an advantage by, uh, invoking, or provoking, an emotional state from my target, and the target opposes with Will.

Griffin: So what did Martine roll on the Will roll? Did uh—

Clint: Martine... uh... zero, and Martine's...

Justin: You gotta talk into the mic.

Clint: Sorry.

Justin: Yup.

Travis: These mics, when did we start using them?

Justin: Our last dad was a radio professional, so it's hard for us to keep up with our new dad.

Clint: [laughs] Uh, plus one on that roll. So... you successfully provoke her.

Griffin: What's the emotional Aspect that you have put?

Travis: I would like to, uh, create an advantage with hesitant?

Clint: Okay.

Travis: Umm. Just, y'know, she's got a gun pointing at Mary...

Griffin: Well, she's got heat eyes, and it seems redundant to also have guns, but...

Travis: Well I just want to create a little, just some hesitation there to be invoked later.

Clint: Alright. I like that. That's good, there's a little hesitation there. She isn't quite sure. So, she uh, she powers down her eye beams, and says...

Martine: You—you really wouldn't hurt him. He's an innocent, he's a—

Nadiya: Oh.

Martine: He's a good man!

Nadiya: I really would.

Remy: She super would, trust—trust me on this one.

Nadiya: I super duper would.

Martine: Alright. Okay, well we'll... up the ante a little bit.

Clint: And she turns to Mary, and she says...

Martine: Mary, shut down all electronics in the United States of America.

[theme music plays]

Griffin: Uh oh, how's our heroes gonna get out of this pickle? Hey, everybody. This is Griffin McElroy, your game player and your best friend, and thank you for listening to The Adventure Zone. This is the last episode of the Commitment arc that Dad put together for us, and we're really happy with how it turned out.

Uh, we have been talking about some changes that we want to do to help this sort of experimentation between seasons process go a little bit smoother and a little bit faster, and we will have something to announce on that front very soon, so stay tuned. We're just really eager to get to whatever season two is gonna be, and really start putting together that big next story that we want to tell, so we'll let you know real soon what we've decided on.

For now, though, let's get to the advertisements. First off, I want to tell you about MVMT watches. That's MVMT watches, a company that was founded on the belief that style should not break the bank. Uh, I have a MVMT watch. I think all of us do, and I'm really enamored with it. It's got a big, beautiful face. Bold fashion, fashion forward, very sexy. And it's weird to say that about, y'know, my own wrist, but it's the dang truth.

And hey, the holiday shopping season's here, and with MVMT, you can skip the crowds and standing in lines, and you can find a gift that your loved ones will love at prices that beat department store prices. MVMT watches start at just \$95, and at a department store, you're looking at up to like, 400 or 500 bucks for a nice watch like this.

By selling online, they're able to cut out the middleman and the retail markup. These watches have a classic design, they have quality construction, and styled minimalism. You can get 15% off today with free shipping and free returns by going to MVMT.com/Adventure.

Now's the time to step up your watch game. Go to MVMT.com/Adventure. Join the MVMT.

I also want to tell you about Blue Apron. We love Blue Apron. Rachel and I have been members of the Blue Apron family for a while, and we love cooking all the great recipes that they send to us. We recently did a Thai yellow curry with beef that was really, really, super tasty, and way better than a lot of the takeout yellow curry that we've gotten in the past.

Blue Apron is just fantastic. They deliver fresh, pre-portioned ingredients and step-by-step recipes right to your door that can be cooked in under 45 minutes. And the menu changes every week based on what's in season, and it's designed by Blue Apron's in-house culinary team.

They are treating The Adventure Zone listeners to their first dinner, a \$30 value, if you visit BlueApron.com/Adventure. So check out this week's menu and get \$30 off with free shipping at BlueApron.com/Adventure. Blue Apron: A better way to cook.

Uh, I also got some jumbotrons this week. First one is for Jack, and it's from Michelle who says, "Hello. I know you don't like podcasts, but aren't you glad I made you listen to all of The Adventure Zone so you could experience how awesome it is? Unless I'm being super optimistic by submitting this jumbotron when you're only on episode two. But if you gave up, then you won't hear this message, so I guess that's not too embarrassing for me. Bye!"

It's so important when you send these messages in to still treat them like proper letters with a classic sign off, a good salutation in there. I know this is a podcast, and y'know, we're just doing dingdong jokes 24/7, but a little bit of decorum... it really goes a long way. It's a fancy podcast, and I demand to be treated like you're at cotillion or something.

Uh, Jack, I hope you've managed to stick with it. But y'know, those first few episodes are pretty rough, so if you bailed... it's all good.

Alright, here's a message for Danny Boy, and it's from Hawk Eye, and the message says, "Poop truck." So that's in the podcast forever now, and in the future when this digital file is in the library of congress, or some sort of alien archive, y'know, if they take over and want all our digital media, that's gonna be in there forever. It's timeless and forever and eternal and it'll never die. But good job Hawk Eye and Danny Boy. I hope that... I hope it was worth it.

Hey, thanks for tweeting about the show, The Adventure Zone, using the #TheZoneCast hash tag. We sure do appreciate you spreading the word, especially as we are sort of between seasons and could use some help getting new listeners on board as we try out these new things. If you've got a friend who's into more comic book stuff, when we finish this episode – or, it's already finished, but when *you* finish this episode, we'll have this little self-contained superhero short story, and maybe you can turn your friends onto the show that way.

Or if they like whatever the next genre is gonna be, then maybe sharing it that way would be good. We don't pay to advertise the show at all, and so we sure do appreciate you going out and spreading the word, because word of mouth is the only way that we've been able to have this really awesome, very unique listenership that we have today.

Thank you to Maximum Fun for having us. You can go to MaximumFun.org and check out all the great shows there. Shows like Stop Podcasting Yourself, One Bad Mother, Jordan, Jesse, GO!, Judge John Hodgman, and so many others.

And if you want to hear other podcasts or video stuff or anything that we do, you can go to McElroyShows.com and find links to all that stuff there. Um, I think that's it. We are going to be doing a Tacoma live show that we're real excited. I've almost finished prepping for it, and uh, I think it's gonna be a

really, really fun one. That will probably be the next proper episode that you hear as we sort of get ready for the next experimental arc.

But again, stay tuned for more information. We are changing a little bit how we are gonna be doing these experimental games in an effort to get to season two a little bit faster, and uh, like I said earlier, we'll let you know whenever we have more details on that.

So yeah, enjoy the rest of the episode, the finale of TAZ: Commitment, and we will be back with a new episode on... December 14th, holy shit. 2017, we hardly knew ya. That's not true. We knew ya pretty well, and you fuckin' sucked. See ya next time.

[theme music plays]

Martine: Mary, shut down all electronics in the United States of America.

Richard: Martine! You'd—you'd be cutting off power to hospitals! And—and—and and vehicles, and stoplights, and people depending on technology to live! You're gonna kill a lot of people! That's not what I want!

Clint: Martine says...

Martine: I don't think so. I love you Dick, but I just don't think you had what it takes to follow it through.

Remy: Uh Mary, belay that order? Don't—don't do that. Please, that's—you don't want to be responsible for that.

Nadiya: Onyx, Conduit, are you just, like, cool with this?

Remy: You cool with that, guys? You two are just super cool with it?

Clint: Onyx is so deep in concentration summoning all this energy, but Addison says...

Addison: Uhh, no, not really. I got a... I got a really bad feeling about this.

Nadiya: [sarcastic laughter] Yeah!

Remy: No kidding!

Nadiya: Yeah, she just said she was gonna shut off all electronics, it's not a *feeling*!

Clint: And Mary screams again.

Remy: Alright, Addison, you either let go, or I'm gonna—I swear to god, I'm gonna come at you like a fuckin' tiger. This is not a joke. Let go, right now.

Clint: Addison says...

Addison: Maaan, I don't think I *can*! I—

Remy: Alright! I did—I just—straight up though, just... just right now, you understand, I did give you a fair warning.

Griffin: And I jump at Addison now.

Clint: Okay.

Griffin: I'm just gonna fucking like, ping pong around the room I guess, jumping on whoever needs to be, uh, uh...

Justin: Jumped.

Griffin: Jumped at. Uh, and this one is gonna be a Fight roll.

Clint: Okay. Roll it.

Griffin: Uh, that's gonna be... a... one plus five, a six.

Travis: Whoa!

Justin: Wait, you—wait your Fight's *five*?

Griffin: It's a three, plus with my natural weapon, that's two.

Justin: Oh, cool. Neat. Okay.

Griffin: I'm just trying to knock hi—I'm not trying to, like... I'm not trying to punch to hurt him, but my punches uh, sort of pass on this kinetic force. I'm going to knock Addison as far away from Mary as I possibly can.

Clint: Describe it.

Griffin: Uhh, I leap off of Martine, uh, and kind of fly over Mary, and with my knees up, uh...

Travis: Oh, like Ong-Bak style.

Griffin: Ong-Bak style, I collide with Addison. And uh, right as I, right as I hit Addison, I sort of extend my palms, and this wave of force shoots out and uh, knocks them across the room.

Clint: [laughs] 'Kay.

Justin: Presumably, 'cause we don't know what Addison's, uh, opposition to that was.

Clint: Yeah, it was a negative one, so...

Justin: Hatchi matchi.

Clint: Yeah, you not only knock Addison down and away, but he goes flying. And... I—

Griffin: That's seven, that is— I did hit Addison for seven points of Stress.

Travis: Non-lethal. Non-lethal.

Clint: And I think you knocked him out. You didn't just knock him out of the way, you knocked him out.

Remy: I'm so sorry, that was way more--way harsher than I thought it was gonna be, still gettin' used—he's unconscious. Okay. Well...

Justin: You can also add an added benefit on top of that, Griffin, since you succeeded with style.

Griffin: Uh, oh yeah! So... uh...

Justin: You can to add an Aspect to the situation.

Griffin: You can add an Aspect—yeah, so, I actually get a special effect, which is the thing that each of our characters have. Uh, you add an Aspect to the target which you can invoke once for free, or you can move up to two zones for free.

So I'm gonna say, I'll take extra movement and just like, after I collided with him, I do a perfect backflip through the air and am standing right next to Martine again.

Clint: [laughs] Alright. Martine, her eyes flare up again, and—

Griffin: Is Mary—is Mary—

Clint: Mary's head kinda slumps forward, and... And uh, Onyx is still summoning energy, but there is no longer a conduit. But Mary's power is still activated. Not as powerful as it was, but her hair's still extended, and you can tell that she's still got her power, but her head is kinda slumped forward, uh, in pain and in exhaustion. Matter of fact, she has taken three physical Stress, because of all the things that were going on.

Griffin: Okay.

Clint: Martine fires a heat blast from her eyes at Nadiya. Uhh... one, two... Uhh, has five in Shoot, so one, two... she shoots the heat beams effectively at Nadiya. Nadiya, what do you do?

Travis: Okay.

Griffin: So you'd have to defend with Athletics against Shoot.

Travis: Yes. So, that's a plus one to Athletics, and my Athletics is plus one, so that's a two, versus... what was it?

Griffin: A... seven?

Travis: Was it? What?!

Griffin: It was pretty freaking good.

Travis: Well. I'm going to use, uh, Collateral Damage. If an attack is going to hit, rather than becoming denser, you can decrease your mass so that the attack passes through you. But!

Griffin: Uh oh.

Travis: The attack will continue on and damage another target.

Griffin: [laughing] Ohh nooo.

Travis: So, sorry Richard! Bye!

Griffin: Ohh shit!

Clint: Okay. Who's the other target?

Travis: Richard.

Griffin: I mean it's gonna... you knew it was gonna be Richard, right Dad?

Clint: It smashes into Richard, because you are intangible. Alright?

Travis: Uh-huh.

Clint: It knocks him away from you, knocks him off the platform, and he is *really* fucked up. He is—his clothes are on fire. Uh, he's screaming—

Griffin: I say--I say...

Remy: Martine! Why did you do that? Whoa!

Justin: [laughs]

Clint: Um... And Martine just wigs out. Just absolutely wigs out. Raises her gun, her eyes flash, and she's just gonna bring down 17 kinds of hell on all you guys. That's when Mary looks up and looks at Martine, and says...

Mary: You... *shithead!* You were gonna make me kill thousands of people!

Remy: Probably millions.

Nadiya: [simultaneously] Probably millions.

Griffin: [laughs]

Mary: Probably millions! Screw you!

Clint: She squints her eyes, and there's this *humongous* tremor, that runs through the entire room. Hell, runs through the entire Berg. Instantly, the 12 branches that house the different departments separate from the central hub and start to submerge. And the central hub is rocked by this. It was never designed for all of the branches to separate and become distinct vehicles or whatever, at the same time.

And... things start goin' to that 17 kinds of hell all of a sudden. The central hub, now basically a huge floating platform, starts to rock back and forth. And the stress on the building is huge. Cracks start appearing in the walls, and in the ceiling, and... Martine rushes over to Richard's side. Um, but this has started a chain reaction that just is not gonna stop.

Onyx, runs over and picks up Addison, and takes off. They flee, they run. So does Grey. Grey runs after them. Um, and—and so do uh, the other operatives, except for Sylvain. Sylvain is still standing there, waving his knives. He has positioned himself between you guys, and Martine and Richard.

Griffin: And they're by—and they're by the door?

Clint: Yeah. The cracks in the walls start getting even larger, and large chunks of the ceiling start falling, exposing the sky and the air outside. Um, machinery, technology starts exploding, and you hear a claxon start to ring, telling people to escape, to leave. And Martine looks up from Richard's body and says...

Martine: He's still alive, no thanks to you!

Remy: You're the one that shot him.

Nadiya: Yeah, it's you. You did that.

Martine: Well... Shut up!

Nadiya: Okay. Mary? Could you stop? You've made your point.

Mary: N... no, I can't stop anything. Um... I sent them away, I split it all up...

Nadiya: You did great.

Remy: No, you did awesome, but--but uh, we're still here, and we really need to get out of here, and it'd be a lot easier if you weren't tearing the base apart while that was happening.

Nadiya: Can you walk?

Mary: I... can... Wait a minute. I have an idea.

Clint: And all of a sudden, through one of the cracking decrepit walls of the room, a skimmer comes blasting through, and settles down amongst the debris, and the dust, and everything else. And through that hole in the wall, you can see that the central hub is starting to submerge.

Nadiya: Okay, bye!

Remy: Everybody on. Pottsy? Come on bud. Oh, Pottsy already left.

Justin: It's just us, right? Now everybody else split?

Clint: It's just you guys.

Justin: Okay.

Travis: Alright.

Justin: We're leaping onto the skimmer for sure, yes.

Travis: And Martine can fuck right off.

Griffin: Well I—I say...

Remy: Come on, you all should get onboard, we don't—

Martine: Nope!

Remy: No, guys, come on.

Martine: Nope!

Remy: You're gonna die if you stay here, and we—we really need to get going. If you want your king to be safe, we gotta go right now.

Justin: Kardala, um, runs over to Martine and Dick and uh, picks them up, one in each arm and says...

Kardala: Please. My king, uh—your safety is paramount to me.

Remy: Kardala, we're not—we don't have to do that.

Nadiya: We're not doing that. No.

Kardala: I'm saving the king! Surely I will be honored for this—for this, uh, amazing contribution.

Justin: And Kardala is running towards the skimmer with both of them.

Clint: Alright. And Sylvain can't follow very quickly 'cause of his injured leg. So he goes limping, and he runs out the door to try to find some other kind of escape.

Nadiya: Okay, bye.

Remy: Alright, Sylvain...

Clint: And you guys took Mary, right?

Justin: Yes.

Griffin: Yeah, for sure.

Clint: So, she looks down, and she's lost a lot of blood. And she tries to start the skimmer, and... it's just not responding. It's damaged itself when it

came crashing through the wall. And the platform, the central hub, is now starting to sink below the waves. And the water is starting to come pouring in, and basically is surrounding the skimmer.

Kardala: Allow—allow me.

Justin: And Kardala claps her hands and summons a thunderbolt to hit the skimmer.

Griffin: This is good!

Justin: Kardala has a... I would say, a poor understanding of electronics, but thinks that this should do the job. [laughing]

Griffin: Oh no...

Justin: Uh, so that is... I'm rolling against an opposition of two, and it's a Will roll... zero... plus...

Clint: I'm going to—okay, go ahead.

Justin: Uh, three. So, three. So I do create the lightning bolt.

Clint: The lightning bolt hits the skimmer, and somehow that kind of jumpstarts everything. And Mary says...

Mary: Hang on to somethin'!

Clint: Just as the platform starts to go under the waves, and the skimmer backs up out of the hole, and hovers there on the waves. And you see the central hub sink under the water. You also see, in the distance, a number of other skimmers start to fly off. And they're all gone. You're watching this awesome hole in the water come crashing in like the Red Sea, filling back in after parting.

Griffin: I say, um...

Remy: I have to buy some new clothes. Shit.

Travis: I look at Martine and I say...

Nadiya: Oh, oh this is so important. I can't--I have to tell you one thing.
Bonk!

Travis: And I turn, uh, Nadiya turns her right arm into a baseball bat and clobbers her, trying to knock her unconscious.

Clint: [laughs]

Travis: Oh no! [laughs] Well. It only ends up being uh, a plus two, not great.

Clint: Okay, so a plus two, and Athletics roll to defend... Ah, it's alright. It's a minus four.

Justin: [wheezes]

Travis: Okay.

Justin: A real comedy of errors we've got going on here.

Clint: The bat whacks up against her head, and she collapses right next to Richard.

Justin: Okay.

Griffin: Is Richard conscious?

Clint: He is conscious, but he's in a lot of pain.

Travis: Good.

Remy: Um. Sorry about your kingdom. I... this is, uh... wow, what a waste.

Travis: [laughs]

Kardala: Yes, I believe that represents... many stamps.

Nadiya: Uhh, bummer, I guess.

Richard: [coughs] It's... not the end... of the kingdom...

Nadiya: Hmm?

Richard: And it's not the end... of... me... you might have shut down this... but I believe in what I stand for. I am committed...

Nadiya: Bonk!

Griffin: [laughs] Travis just rolled in the program again.

Justin: That's a... so what is that, Trav? [laughing]

Travis: That is a... uh, plus four.

Clint: Okay. In his weakened condition, that knocks him right out. He's gone.

Kardala: You know, demon, I like you more and more.

Griffin: I talk to Mary and I say...

Remy: Hey, I'm glad you're doing okay. Do you—are you the one flying this thing right now? With your uh, brain powers?

Mary: Mm-hmm. Where'd you wanna go?

Remy: The White House, I guess?

Mary: And what're you gonna do?

Remy: Hand over the king of America? I don't know, I'm just thinkin' out loud.

Nadiya: You know the White House isn't a prison, right Remy? Like, we could go to like, Joliet, or... I don't know.

Remy: Yeah but you can't just like take a guy to jail and be like, "Here I got a--got a new one for ya."

Nadiya: That's true.

Mary: Wh-what exactly, uh, crime do you want him to be charged with?

Nadiya: Sedition. Treason.

Remy: Treason's a good one. I mean, he did sort of broadcast his treason to all of America, so I think it'd be pretty easy to make a case.

Mary: Maybe. Maybe... he wasn't entirely wrong.

Nadiya: Well, okay.

Remy: Alright, but...

Mary: You tell me where to take him and we'll take him there.

Remy: I like the idea of the White House. I don't know about you all, but I think it could be fun.

Nadiya: I don't know, maybe the Pentagon?

Kardala: Why does the color of the house figure into our decision?

Nadiya: Okay.

Kardala: That was a joke.

Remy: Oh it was—hey!

Nadiya: Oh!

Remy: That one was actually a joke!

Kardala: Thank you. Thank you.

[theme music plays]

Clint: And the skimmer goes zippin' along the Gulf Coast, headed towards Washington D.C. Mary says...

Mary: Oh wait, okay! There's something else.

Clint: She squinches her eyes, and a little panel opens... and out come a bunch of strombolis.

Griffin: [laughs]

Kardala: Yes.

Griffin: [laughing] What a fuckin' Archie Comics ending to this.

Justin: I love it.

Griffin: And Jughead gets his burgers.

Travis: [laughs]

[theme music plays]

Griffin: So how close was that to what you were envisioning for the episode?

Clint: Uh...

Justin: Yeah, I think a little bit of wrap-up makes sense.

Clint: That was fairly close. I knew I wanted to have a confrontation. I actually was gonna involve a couple more operatives, but then I realized that would have been too confusing and too big. And I really... I wanted to leave it... I want there to be a conclusion. I had no idea how it was gonna end.

I wanted there to be a conclusion, but I wanted it to still be open-ended if we still wanted to, y'know, revisit these characters in the future, so... that really went—I'm very pleased with how it came out!

Griffin: Alright!

Travis: Well, good.

Justin: Well, good, Daddy.

Griffin: Uh, as long as we're debriefing, cause the point of this is to learn stuff. I like the Fate system, I don't think it's gonna be a good fit for the show. Just because, the way that combat is almost like a negotiation? Or, uh, you're constantly trying to like, calculate things with Aspects, which I should say right now, we were not especially good stewards of those rules. We did play a little bit Calvinball to suit our needs.

Travis: It's great for gameplay. It's not so great for like, rapid narrative storytelling?

Griffin: Yeah, sure.

Travis: Especially when it comes to like, if you attack with this, which one do you defend with... that kind of stuff?

Clint: Well I think it's good, I think it's good for storytelling, I really do think it's good for narrative.

Griffin: It's just not necessarily what we're, what we're doing. But I had fun! I had fun with it. I think—

Travis: Oh, I loved Fate. It's great.

Griffin: Um, yeah. I think—I think we keep trying some... I mean, obviously, whatever we do next is gonna be a different system, and we're still figuring that out. But yeah, that—

Travis: Then we'll be back with a different story.

Griffin: Yeah, great work, Dad, that was cool.

Justin: I liked all your great voices.

Griffin: You did do a lot of very good voices.

Clint: I worked very hard on voices. [laughs] Apparently what was limiting me was just doing one!

Justin: Just doing one.

Clint: Yeah, I needed to do 24!

Justin: You're too... you're too multifaceted.

Clint: Yeah, I was just too big—

Justin: Like a diamond with one facet.

Clint: I was too good for the room, I guess.

Griffin: So... I guess that's it?

Clint: We might have one after-credits sequence.

Travis: Oh shit, yeah!

[music plays]

Clint: It's a hospital room, and Richard is hanging onto life. He is surrounded by monitors and wires, and Martine is by his side. Sylvain is standing over to the side. The doctor walks in, checks the monitors, looks at her clipboard, looks at Martine, and says...

Doctor: He has a very long road ahead of him, but I believe he's going to survive. As a matter of fact, I would be willing to bet he's going to... thrive.

Clint: And she reaches up and flips over her medical ID tag, and it has a 24 question mark logo on it.

[theme music plays]

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Oliver: How's it going everyone? I'm Oliver Wang.

Morgan: And I'm Morgan Rhodes. We have a brand new show on the Maximum Fun network that we'd love to share with you. It's called Heat Rocks.

Oliver: Morgan, we should probably explain what a heat rock is.

Morgan: It is a banger, a fire track, true fire.

Oliver: Right. Dope album. Each episode, we will bring on a special guest to join us, to talk about one of their heat rocks. It might be a musician...

Morgan: A writer...

Oliver: Maybe a scholar.

Morgan: I mean, I would've been happy to just talk to you about your heat rocks. But this is a different show, so...

Oliver: Yeah, I think people might enjoy hearing maybe the guests instead.

Morgan: To do that, you'll have to go to MaximumFun.org. So if you want to talk about hot music, you should check us out.

Oliver: Heat Rocks.

[music plays]

Jesse: Hey, Max Fun fans. It's me, Jesse, the owner of Maximum Fun. I've got a question for ya. Will you help us make our shows better? We want to find a way to find out what the Max Fun community thinks about our shows. So we started something called the Max Fun listener panel.

Basically, you subscribe to a podcast feed, and twice a month or so, roughly speaking, we'll send you an episode of a show, and instructions on how to fill out a quick survey about what you think about that show. Ten questions, nothing too crazy.

You'll be hearing existing shows that we're thinking about making changes to. Secret pilots of shows that we're developing that you'll only hear this way. Shows we're considering adding to the network. And what you think about them really matters to us.

So, to join the panel – it's easy. Just go to MaximumFun.org/ListenerPanel. That's MaximumFun.org/ListenerPanel. Thanks for helping make Max Fun better.

