

The Adventure Zone: Live in Dallas!

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[theme music plays]

Audience: [cheers]

Griffin: I'm... I'm wearing a sweater from J Crew.

Audience: [cheers]

Griffin: [snorts] Alright, alright.

Travis: And now I have to shed a bunch of pieces so I can operate as a human being.

Griffin: Let's uh, let's go behind the music a little bit. Let's say there's some pieces of Travis's sort of tunic-girdle situation that maybe, the armor—

Travis: He's had some off time.

Griffin: He's had some off time.

Travis: There was another piece that went about my waist, or attempted to.

Audience: [laughs]

Travis: And I... listen, hard living, y'know what I mean? I beat the Hunger and then I experienced the hunger.

Clint: [laughs]

Justin: "I saw seven birds." Oh hell yeah, fried, roasted, what's up? Fucking eat those for sure. Where are these seven birds? Why are you holding out on me? I'm starving!

Audience: [laughs]

Griffin: Hi everybody, welcome to The Adventure Zone live in Dallas!

Audience: [cheers]

Griffin: Sorry... sorry about the 'yee-haw' thing in the intro, I sat backstage for like thirty minutes and couldn't think of anything else to say.

Clint: Hey, it's us!

Justin: I was backstage. It was about three.

Audience: [laughs]

Griffin: I get nervous, I need to dial in. Speaking of... Do we want to talk about what Dad did today, or save that for MBMBaM?

Justin: No, no.

Audience: [cheers]

Justin: Save it for tomorrow. I've seen the numbers and I know some of y'all ain't coming tomorrow so buy your tickets. You're going to get a great vignette about our dad.

Clint: It's bad.

Griffin: You're right. We should get into it, because we got a lot to do today and we always run out of time. Do we have a timer? Paul? Paul? Paul? Paul?

Justin: Paul? Paul?

Griffin: Paul?

Travis: Pauuul?

Clint: Paul, ladies and gentleman!

Justin: Paul Sabourin!

Audience: [cheers]

Griffin: Thank you, Paul.

Justin: Go to paulandstorm.gov to hear some of their tracks.

Griffin: [laughing] That they make.

Justin: That they make. Paul and his imaginary friend Storm.

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: He swears he's real.

Griffin: Uh—

Clint: Wait wait wait, before we get started—

Justin: [laughing]

Clint: I'd like everybody to look at the back of the theatre. Everybody look at the back of the theatre.

Justin: That's where the emergency exits are.

Clint: Okay, you can look back up here now.

Griffin: [laughs]

Clint: That's where Bobby sits. Hey Bobby!

Griffin: Hey Bobby.

Travis: Hey!

Griffin: Can we get—actually—

Justin: Bobby—Bobby can't—hi, Bobby. Bobby's running the sound board up there. Bobby came to us before the show and said, "So what are y'all gonna be discussing tonight?" And I was like, "Well Bobby, that's a very hard question to answer my friend, hold on a second."

Clint: And he said, "Well, give me a shout-out, that way I can wake up."

Griffin: Can we get house lights for—

Audience: [cheers]

Griffin: —a second so we can see the good, good cosplay that's happening?

Justin: Yeah, house lights. If we could get house lights for a second?

Griffin: If you are—oh, there's Bobby with the strobe. Thank you Bobby.

Justin: Bobby's got a strobe.

Griffin: Can we get house lights? Is that... is there a switch, or... is there a dial that says maybe 'HL' on it, short for house lights? No, okay, then we can't get house lights. We'll do that after intermission!

Justin: After intermission.

Griffin: Let's get into the adventure, here we go.

Justin: Hell yeah!

Clint: Yeah!

Audience: [cheers]

Travis: But, but Paul, if I could grab a writing utensil...

Griffin: Uh, Travis needs a writing utensil.

Justin: Oh shit Paul, me too, dog! I'm so sorry!

Travis: We're children!

Clint: I need a stylus.

Griffin: Look at this.

Clint: Wow.

Audience: [cheers]

Justin: Alright, now—

Clint: Paul, ladies and gentlemen! Paul of Paul and Storm.

Griffin: Paul always carries around two big cups full of pencils in his hands. Okay. The three of you.

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: The three of you are standing in an empty office, featuring fairly humble trappings with two desks positioned side-by-side in front of a window overlooking an opulent city skyline. It's been about six months—hey, uh, everyone here's finished Balance, right? Okay, good.

Clint: Spoilers?

Griffin: Uh, maybe a little bit.

Travis: You've had time.

Griffin: It'll be light. It'll be light. It's the name of the—it's been six months since the Day of Story and Song, and your lives had only just regained some semblance of normalcy when you received a letter inviting you to this office on this day. The three of you are kind of hard to pin down, I imagine, now given the fame you've acquired.

Travis: Doin' book tours.

Justin: Separate lives.

Griffin: Yeah. Due to the fame you acquired, thanks to your heroism on that day. But the postscript on the letter was difficult to turn down, particularly for one of you. It read, "PS: Merle. C'mon. You owe us."

Audience: [laughs]

Griffin: And the door to the office swings open, and through it, you see the garage of the Goldcliff Battlewagon Racing League.

Audience: [cheers]

Griffin: Which is filled with vehicles being serviced by a dozen or so skilled mechanics, and through that door walk the dryads, Hurley and Sloane.

Audience: [cheers loudly]

Justin: Hell yeah.

Clint: You've heard of them?

Travis: So you're familiar?

Clint: Yeah. [laughs]

Griffin: And, uh—

Justin: Crystal Kingdom, I love this one.

Griffin: No!

Justin: Hell yeah. And they've got like, 80 crystals, and they're like, "We've gotta go back."

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: And Hurley says...

Hurley: Wow. To tell the truth, I thought there was a pretty slim chance you'd actually show up.

Magnus: I'm so bored.

Griffin: Was that Magnus or Travis?

Travis: No, that was Magnus. That's why he showed up.

Justin: The importance of character voices, folks. If you don't have a character voice before now—

Travis: I did it! That was—listen. That was clearly loud and booming, which is not how I normally sound.

Griffin: [laughs] And Sloane says...

Sloane: How have the three of you been?

Magnus: So bored.

Travis: Here, I'll wave. I'll put 'em over here.

Justin: Didn't want you to miss the best view in the house. If you put 'em up there, they're still—

Clint: That's blocking your view.

Justin: There's people right there. They need to—

Sloane: So pretty good then, or...

Merle: Yeah, good, they've been good. Yeah, they've been—

Justin: Actually, I think these two—Dad, too—I've got some people here who can't get a really good... yeah, there you are. Hello. Scuttle Buddy, you're so great.

Clint: Scuttle Buddy!

Justin: Hello.

Clint: I know, right?

Justin: Listen, you paid full price, you're gonna get the whole show, baby.

Sloane: So the three of you've been okay, or—

Magnus: Yeah, we've been good. I've been uh, training dogs. It's gone... okay. It's hard not to cuddle.

Sloane: That's always been my experience.

Travis: Now, was that Griffin?

Griffin: That was Griffin.

Clint: I got into HQ. I've been playing a lot of HQ.

Griffin: Okay, now this is Dad. Okay. Let's take a minute.

Clint: Oh, I thought you were asking me!

Griffin: Now, this is a podcast called The Adventure Zone in which we embody characters, and we don't necessarily answer questions as ourselves. And we're all guilty of this.

Clint: Oh, right, character voice! Right? Okay.

Merle: I've been playing a lot of HQ.

Griffin: Okay.

Audience: [cheers]

Clint: No?

Justin: Okay, but HQ doesn't exist in this world...

Griffin: No, it's a fantasy world. Technology exists.

Sloane: Taako, what about you?

Clint: Historical Quotient.

Sloane: Taako, I haven't heard from you in a... in a while.

Taako: Yeah, I'm rich now.

Audience: [cheers]

Taako: Could be richer, though. To wit, I'm here to promote my school, Taako's Correspondence School of Wizarding and Witchcraft. We're just trying to get the word out about the school. You can pay whenever you want, classes will start at some point. But we do encourage you... the slots are filling up quick, so you are gonna want to pay in advance if you want—when this exciting project kicks off, as soon as we hit some private fundraising goals... it's gonna be good.

Griffin: Uh, Hurley says...

Hurley: Well maybe we can figure out some kind of cross-promotional—

Magnus: You're a tree!

Hurley: Yeah. Well... like, half-tree, I guess?

Magnus: Awesome!

Taako: Very cool.

Hurley: Yeah, it's pretty cool. Bees can be a problem sometimes.

Magnus: Yeah.

Merle: Tell me about it.

Audience: [laughs and cheers]

Justin: Oh, my God. I literally, this moment that you are sharing with me... That's a wig, right?

Griffin: [laughs]

Audience: [laughs]

Justin: This moment, I realized, "Hold on a sec! My dad got a white wig."

Clint: It is a hot-ass wig, too. As a matter of fact... hey, look in the back!
[sighs in relief]

Justin: No no no, you're stickin' with it.

Griffin: Hurley says...

Hurley: Uh, well, things have been pretty good here for the most part. Took a while to clean the city up, but we managed just fine. Better than fine, actually. Now that the work's done, Goldcliff citizens are just dying for entertainment. The battlewagon business has been booming, and that's kinda why we called you all here. Why don't you take a seat?

Griffin: And she motions toward some chairs positioned in front of these desks.

Justin: I do that.

Griffin: Okay. Uh, Sloane takes a poster and unfurls it.

Travis: I rolled a nine on taking the chair, what does that mean?

Griffin: I think you sit down, but the chair scoots backwards and makes a toot noise and you have to convince everybody...

Magnus: Uh, it wasn't me!

Griffin: Sloane unfurls this poster, and you see a design advertising the Goldcliff Battlewagon Racing League Turbo Platinum Cup, which takes place later today at the circuit located just outside the city. And then, she unfurls it a bit further and it reads, "Featuring Guest Racers Merle Highchurch, Taako, and Magnus Burnsides, three of the Saviors of Faerun."

Audience: [cheers]

Travis: Now, I really—listen, you’re all great, and I love the way you reacted to that, but was it going to be like, “Yeah, so, would you like to watch? I got you some comp tickets!”

Griffin: Hurley says, uh...

Hurley: Looks pretty good, doesn’t it? This is our main event of the season, and... well, we need to make as big of a splash as we possibly can. Like I mentioned earlier, the folks here are hungry for entertainment, and because of that, several less scrupulous competing racing leagues have popped up in the city. Leagues that don’t prioritize things like... oh, say, the continued lifespan of their racers, quite as much as we do.

Griffin: And, uh, Sloane says...

Sloane: We’ve lost a fair chunk of our less discerning audience members to these leagues, but we’re hoping with the Turbo Platinum Cup today, we can reestablish ourselves as the premiere battlewagon league in Goldcliff and run those death races right out of town.

Merle: Let me speak for the group...

Travis: Okay, but do it in a character voice.

Merle: We’d be glad to. We know what you’re asking. Yes, we’ll sign the posters.

Audience: [laughs]

Taako: I’m ready.

Magnus: Available for sale in the lobby.

Audience: [cheers]

Griffin: And then you walk off into the sunset.

Justin: Thanks for comin', everybody.

Clint: Goodnight, everybody!

Griffin: Uh...

Taako: I'd rather not.

Griffin: Hurley says...

Hurley: Now, I understand you're worried given how hectic your last race with us ended up being.

Taako: Hectic?

Hurley: I mean... she...

Taako: You—

Justin: And then imagine I referenced something that happened in it.

Griffin: [laughs]

Clint: Yeah, because it was four arcs ago.

Taako: There was a shark tank!

Hurley: There was a shark tank. You did remember that. And she turned into, like, a giant vine monster, and that was pretty wild.

Taako: And the shark tank.

Magnus: Yeah.

Hurley: But listen, you really—

Merle: Sounds good to me.

Hurley: You don't have to sweat anything—gross. We don't—we've really gone legitimate since then. All of our racers are equipped with new and improved safety harnesses, they do the bubble thing, remember? But they also have a charge of... oh, what's that spell? *Spare the dying*? Merle, do you know that one?

Merle: Yeah. Yeah, yeah.

Hurley: You hesitated, so it seems—it seems like you're looking at a list of cards with spells you know.

Merle: [clears throat] Yeah, I got it.

Hurley: Okay.

Audience: [laughs]

Griffin: She says, uh...

Hurley: Anyway, death and dismemberment; it's really not part of the equation anymore. We figured we can give folks a show without getting too gruesome about it. So, you'll each have one of these harnesses out there, I'll be driving, and really, y'all appearing in the race at all is gonna be a huge attraction in and of itself. We don't even need to win.

Magnus: Bullshit.

Taako: Yeah we're—we will win.

Griffin: Uh, Hurley smiles, she says—

Magnus: And we're going to be amazing.

Audience: [cheers]

Clint: [laughing] Oh that was cheap. That was so cheap.

Travis: Yes it was!

Justin: So we're at that phase now, right? Where we're just...

Griffin: Just stand up on stage, "Play the hits! Uh, abra-ca-fuck you? I don't know."

Audience: [laughs]

Clint: [laughing] Glad we got that out of the way.

Griffin: Sloane says...

Sloane: I'll be up in the press box making sure everything runs smoothly. Teams cap out at four, and I've taken on a more managerial role in the organization anyway.

Magnus: Really put down roots.

Clint: [laughs]

Sloane: Aw, Jesus.

Audience: [mixed laughing and booing]

Clint: Aw, come on.

Travis: Come on!

Audience: [cheers]

Travis: That was as Magnus. Travis would never make that joke.

Justin: Let him weave—let him weave his tapestry.

Griffin: Sloane says...

Sloane: Also, there is a grand prize of six thousand gold pieces for the winning team, and I can—I can promise you, Merle, also, that the next time one of your kids is endangered by an interdimensional cosmic force of mass destruction, we'll just... go right ahead and save them again. Does that sound... equitable?

Merle: That's hitting me where I live, man.

Griffin: [laughs]

Magnus: You don't live with your kids, Merle.

Merle: No, I don't live with my kids. And we're all the better for it.

Griffin: So, Hurley and Sloane walk the three of you out into the garage, and you see several battlewagons being serviced. But the showpiece here is on a rotating platform at the end of the room. It's the Ram. And it's just how you remember it - sleek and black with silver armor plating, a harpoon gun mounted on the roof.

Clint: Can you do this in Denis Leary's voice?

Griffin: I don't think I could.

Clint: No, okay.

Griffin: It's got a long trunk that Magnus did so many stunts off of back in the day. And of course, a metallic Ram's Head positioned at the front. It's a thing of beauty, and Hurley says...

Hurley: I haven't made too many tweaks to the old Ram. It's hard to improve on perfection, but something tells me the three of you have learned some new tricks since your last go around, huh?

Merle: Ye—yeah—

Magnus: Nope!

Audience: [laughs]

Taako: You would think so.

Hurley: You look like you've leveled up like eight times or so...

Magnus: Oh! Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Taako: Yeah. We're still very judicious with our spell slots though, let's not go... wild.

Griffin: She says...

Hurley: Well, when we get out there, you're just gonna have to put on a good show. Nothing too gruesome, okay? I mean, you can't actually kill anyone, but still, folks might find some gnarly stuff—

Magnus: Question.

Hurley: Yes?

Magnus: Can't, or should not?

Hurley: Can't. I mean, the belts will allow you not to—they won't allow you to die.

Magnus: Excellent.

Hurley: Yeah. Uh, so flag's up in a couple hours, we should probably get a move on. Oh! That reminds me.

Griffin: And Sloane walks over to a crate and pops it open, pulls out a few items, and she says...

Sloane: I've got a little memento for you.

Griffin: And what she withdraws from the crate are three masks that you wore during your first battlewagon race.

Audience: [cheers]

Griffin: In the shapes of a bear, an owl, and a mongoose!

Clint: Now you told him! You told him that, didn't ya?

Travis: I was actually given this at C2E2, and it is my new favorite hat.

Audience: [laughs]

Clint: That's not surprising.

Griffin: Why didn't you have it when you came on before?

Travis: I was gonna wear it one way or the other.

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: I was waiting for just the right moment. My theatricality—no.

Griffin: Let's fast forward, 'cause we've have spent a long time—Jesus. You're outside now, whoa. And you're walking the streets of Goldcliff toward the circuit at the edge of town. And sure enough, the town's doing great. There are few signs of the attack that took place just earlier that year.

There's just sort of happy, well-dressed folks enjoying the pleasant weather. And one of these well-dressed folks, a male halfling dressed to the nines approaches the three of you and says...

Halfling: Good evening, gentlemen. Do I have the pleasure of speaking to Merle, Magnus, and Taako, three of the saviors of Faerun?

Taako: You tell me.

Halfling: You... tell me.

Audience: [laughs]

Taako: Yes.

Clint: He will.

Taako: Now.

Halfling: My—my name is Alfred deGaul, and I'd love to bend your ear just for a moment. I realize you're on your way to the big race, but I think you're going to want to hear what I have to say.

Taako: Sponsorship opportunity? I love it, talk.

Alfred: Oh, we could talk sponsorships all day.

Magnus: Oh no, you're becoming one voice!

Audience: [laughs]

Griffin: Uh, he says...

Alfred: I operate a humble but growing racing league here in town, called the Blaze Wings. Now I know you're probably thinking, "Hey, that sounds like we're describing an especially spicy flavor of buffalo wings. Perhaps the

type that a restaurant might offer as some sort of food challenge to its diners." But actually, no. It's a very good name for our organization.

Clint: [laughs]

Justin: [laughs]

Alfred: Now, I'm not sure what Hurley and Sloane have offered the three of you to participate in today's festivities, but I'd like to make a counter-offer if I might. All you have to do is walk away right now, and I will match the prize money offered for the race. Six-thousand gold pieces for literally no work at all.

Merle: No, they offered us ten.

Alfred: Ten thousand?

Merle: Yep. They said ten. Ten thousand.

Griffin: He, uh...

Clint: Euros.

Justin: Well, I'm gonna need you to roll a die, please, Clinton.

Clint: Okay.

Griffin: Yeah, roll a, uh, what's it called? Deception check.

Clint: That's this one?

Travis: Yep.

Audience: [laughs]

Travis: A six!

Clint: That's a six.

Griffin: I also—

Clint: I can read!

Griffin: I also rolled a six.

Audience: [laughs]

Griffin: I think he— I think he pulls out a pocketbook and he's like:

Alfred: Ten thousand... ten... we can probably make ten thousand work. We could do the last four thousand in installments maybe?

Travis: Wait wait, to be fair, he—

Merle: Down.

Travis: He gets a plus one to deception.

Griffin: Okay, yeah.

Travis: So that's a seven.

Griffin: That's a success.

Alfred: Yeah, I can make ten thousand work.

Merle: I meant ten thousand *down*.

Audience: [laughs]

Alfred: How much is the juice?

Justin: [laughs] You got points runnin' on it.

Merle: The vig—the vig is another five Gs, man.

Taako: Hey, listen. We're the saviors of Faerun. Heroes of the land. We don't need to discuss this. Yes.

Clint: [laughs]

Taako: You have a deal.

Magnus: Wait... Can we get it up front?

Alfred: Sure, just sign here on this contract, and uh—

Magnus: You got it!

Griffin: Alright, he shows you a contract!

Travis: Magnus signs and then walks towards the Ram.

Audience: [laughs]

Griffin: He hands you a bag with ten thousand gold pieces in it.

Clint: Down.

Griffin: Down.

Justin: Wait, ten thousand apiece?

Griffin: Total, to split.

Travis: Oh, no, fuck off! Wait, hold on!

Justin: Oh! Okay.

Audience: [laughs]

Justin: Hey... do you have a plan for if we just take the money and run?

Alfred: Well you seem like good, enterprising folks who—

Clint: [laughs]

Justin: I'm talking to Griffin!

Griffin: No.

Justin: Okay, um, 'cause Taako says yes. I don't understand why these other two did. Taako says, yes, I will take that offer.

Travis: Oh, I was just gonna take it and then still do the race anyway.

Justin: That seems—okay.

Griffin: Wait, did you just say that out loud?

Travis: No!

Clint: That was Travis' voice.

Travis: Okay, wait, let me run it back. [rewind sound effect]

Magnus: I would never!

Justin: Okay, Merle, hurry up and talk us into doing this, 'cause I think that it's the—

Griffin: I think he's good. No, I think he does it! You hand him a contract, and he hands you ten thousand gold pieces, and he says...

Alfred: I'll talk to your people about getting the rest of the money to you.

Magnus: Sounds great.

Alfred: Sounds like we have a deal! Well, I'm gonna turn my back and walk away now, and not pay attention to where you go from here.

Audience: [laughs]

Alfred: See ya!

Griffin: And he does! And now you have ten thousand gold pieces.

Travis: Yay!

Justin: Yeah!

Audience: [cheers]

Clint: Can we buy some shit?

Griffin: Uh, no.

Justin: Hey, I know that it probably seems like that was really scummy of us, but we're gonna give some of it to a local Dallas charity.

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: Now you feel bad! Now you're the bad guy!

Clint: Who deserves five thousand fantasy gold pieces?

Justin: Whoa, whoa, whoa.

Travis: Five thousand?

Clint: Oh, right.

Travis: Come on, Dad. Two thousand.

Griffin: Okay, so, it's a short while later. I guess you've headed to the circuit and taken your places for the race. You're sitting inside—

Travis: After buying a lot of candy.

Griffin: Yeah. You're sitting inside of Hurley's wagon within a large crate, just like last time, positioned at the starting line, and the engine is puttering. Fortunately, you're—

Travis: Pumping in time? Does the green light flash, the flag go up?

Griffin: Oh, stop.

Audience: [cheers]

Griffin: Fortunately, this wagon runs on an arcane core, so there's no fumes to inhale, which I only just thought of while I was prepping this part.

Clint: [laughs]

Griffin: Merle, you're in the front passenger seat. Taako, you are standing in this cut-out space in the roof, where the harpoon gun is mounted, and Magnus, you are on the trunk, connected to the car with wires that you have attached to loops on your harness. Basically, the same arrangement as last time. And Hurley says from the driver's seat...

Hurley: Okay, it's a sold out crowd today. We're not racing for the fate of the planet or anything, so let's just have some fun out there.

Magnus: Let's murder!

Hurley: What's... what?

Magnus: What?

Hurley: What did you say?

Magnus: What did you say?

Hurley: I said let's have fun.

Magnus: Yeah!

Taako: I... I still don't understand why I have to do this. That nice halfling said that he'd give me money not to.

Magnus: All we had to do was put some ink on paper. That means nothing in this world, there's no lawyers or anything! What are they gonna do, take us to centaur court? Come on!

Taako: Some of us have businesses. I'm an LLC now.

Griffin: There's no lawyers. But there's necromancers...

Clint: Ohh.

Travis: Alright.

Griffin: That's nothing. [laughs] I'm not... no. And outside of the crate, you hear two high pitched beeps, and then Hurley says...

Hurley: I love this part.

Griffin: And then a third beep, and the door to the crate drops, and Hurley slams on the gas.

Justin: Hell yeah!

Travis: Woo!

Griffin: And you are temporarily blinded as you emerge from the crate, and quickly, your eyes acclimate to the sunlight, and you try to take in your sort of chaotic surroundings. The circuit is nothing like the last track that you raced on. If you remember, it was just kind of out in the desert with these pylons that people watched through.

Clint: Yeah, I remember.

Griffin: It used to be illegal, but now it's totally, uh, totally cool here. There are actual stands now, reaching upward a couple of stories surrounding the track, just filled with people. There's no need for the viewers of this sport to remain anonymous anymore. And there are fifteen other battle wagons on the course with you tonight, and their designs are just as diverse as you expected, but there's far too much movement and dust being kicked up for you to sort of take down a mental list of them.

And for several moments, Hurley shifts her wagon through several gears as you weave through the crowd, until several hundred feet from the starting line, the wagons fall into an order. You're in fifth place. Let's roll initiative.

Audience: [cheers]

Justin: Uhh... Hoops has 13 plus three, 16.

Travis: I have a six plus two, eight.

Clint: I have an 18, plus...

Audience: [cheers]

Justin: Base setter. That seems like a good sign.

Clint: Where? Yeah! Plus two, 20!

Griffin: That's a good roll. Okay. Y'all, I live in Texas, I feel really guilty about the 'yee-haw' thing.

Audience: [laughs]

Griffin: I know that ain't you. Okay, anyway. Hurley drafts behind the vehicle in front of you, and then pulls alongside it, bringing you into combat range. This wagon, like those you've faced before, has a peculiar design.

Travis: Ooh!

Griffin: It resembles a metallic, fifteen foot long caterpillar, with five segmented, armored compartments, each with a pair of sharp, iron legs that skitter quickly across the racetrack, pounding the dirt as it runs. The vehicle's sole passenger, a clean-shaven dwarven man, is controlling the caterpillar from inside of a glass-domed cockpit on the front segment. He eyes your vehicle, and starts to steer the caterpillar into a collision course with your battle wagon. Merle, you're up first. Uh oh.

Travis: Don't fuck up.

Clint: I'm going to cast...

Justin: Okay.

Merle: I'm going to cast—

Travis: No. No, you were right. Unless Merle is announcing, to the car, "Hey, everybody!"

Justin: "Big news, everybody!"

Clint: Merle casts *shield of faith!*

Griffin: On?

Clint: It's a shimmering field, appearing and surrounding a creature of your choice within range, granting it a plus two bonus to AC for the duration.

Audience: [laughs and cheers]

Griffin: Who are you casting this spell on?

Clint: Uhh... oh, um...

Audience: [laughs]

Clint: Uh, Taako! On Taako.

Griffin: [laughs]

Clint: I cast it on Taako.

Griffin: Okay! Alright! Taako, you have plus two AC.

Clint: You have a shield!

Travis: I'm the fucking tank!

Clint: He has—

Griffin: Doesn't matter! Alright, you cast the shield on Taako.

Travis: It's like you ran a marathon, and you made it to the last ten feet and then went, "What?" And then made a hard right.

Griffin: Hey, don't meta-game. Don't meta-game, this is beautiful. Merle had to make—

Clint: It'll always work out!

Griffin: Merle had to make a panicked, command decision, and he just did Taako. This is like that episode of Friends where they were all the back—hold on, everybody—there’s a backseat in a taxi, and they hear what they thought was a gunshot, and then Joey jumped in front of Ross, and Chandler’s like, “What the fuck?” But really, he’s diving for his sandwich. [laughs] Fuck!

Audience: [laughs]

Travis: Fuck, that’s good!

Griffin: Taako, you’re up.

Clint: And you’re welcome.

Justin: So what’s happening now?

Griffin: Caterpillar is getting closer, almost like it’s going to act next.

Audience: [laughs]

Justin: Uh... I am... going to... cast a little evocation just to get things started. Uh, I am gonna cast... I’m not checking texts, by the way.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: He’s checking to see how the MaxFunDrive is going.

Justin: Yeah, uh, still time to don—anyway...

Audience: [laughs]

Justin: Uh, okay. I am going to cast... *immolation*.

Griffin: Oh!

Clint: Ooh!

Justin: “Flames wreathe one creature you can see within range.” I’m counting the—

Griffin: Yep.

Justin: It’s a creature.

Griffin: The caterpillar—the vehicle, or the driver?

Justin: Inside the driver would be safer for us, so I’m going to say—

Griffin: Inside the cockpit?

Justin: Inside the cockpit.

Griffin: Okay, sure.

Travis: Inside the driver.

Griffin: This is horrible. These safety harnesses will save you from death. I don’t know how that works if you fill his cockpit with fire.

Justin: Burn him from the inside!

Clint: [laughs]

Travis: I did ask—

Griffin: His charred corpse steps out of the cockpit. “Yeaaahhh...”

Travis: I did ask for clarification between ‘can’t’ and ‘shouldn’t.’

Justin: It’s like—no, it’s like prison! I’m killing one early so they know not to fuck with me.

Griffin: Yeah, okay.

Audience: [laughs]

Griffin: Okay, roll that beautiful bean footage.

Justin: So, you have to make a dexterity saving throw.

Griffin: Uh, I got another six.

Justin: Dang, I got it.

Griffin: Wait, plus two. Eight.

Justin: [blows raspberry] No. That's a big N-O on that one, good buddy. You're gonna need to take 7d6 fire damage.

Audience: [sounds of horror]

Clint: [singing] Burn, baby, burn!

Travis: Don't worry, he has a safety harness on.

Griffin: Okay. Okay.

Justin: You're also gonna be burning for a minute.

Griffin: Oh, hey, hey, hey. Hey, hey, Juice? Do not worry about that part.

Audience: [laughs]

Griffin: I think the 7d6 is uh, *juuust* gonna get me. Go ahead and roll your d6. Actually, wait, I can do a—

Justin: Also, y'know what, this is like, neither here nor there, but you are also um, shedding a bright light in a 30ft radius. [laughs] I don't know if that's...

Clint: [laughs]

Travis: And the crowd goes wild.

Audience: [cheers]

Griffin: Uh, I got a 34.

Justin: Wait a second, hold on, hold on, hold on. What's up? There you are.

Travis: Just want everyone to know. Not surprising. Bear hat, very warm.

Griffin: 34 fire damage, as you just see this dwarven man like, "Ehh?"
Fwoosh!

Travis: [laughs]

Taako: You'll be fine!

Griffin: And then there's a 30ft radius bright light...

Audience: [laughs]

Griffin: And that's cool.

Justin: And it makes a spotlight on Taako, and he goes...

Taako: Sign up for my school!

Audience: [cheers]

Clint: [laughs]

Griffin: I think for added effect, too, the cockpit is soundproof, so you just see like...

Clint: [laughs]

Justin: That's gonna make good podcast listening, Griff.

Griffin: Uh, and they are not dead, but...

Travis: Sad.

Griffin: Beaten. Vanquished. However, uh, he was going to act next. The caterpillar was on a trajectory to collide with the car, and I think it still sort of was moving in that direction, and tries to trample over the vehicle. Everybody make a dexterity saving throw.

Travis: 18 plus two, 20.

Justin: 11.

Clint: Five?

Griffin: Wowzers.

Clint: Plus one, six!

Griffin: Oh, that's good! No. No. Magnus is safe. Uh, Taako and Merle, you take 22 points of piercing damage.

Justin: Hatchi matchi!

Griffin: As the legs—

Clint: Wow. That sucks for you, pal.

Travis: You too, dog.

Griffin: And with that, the caterpillar just goes completely over you, and then I think it just tilts over and falls to the side and crashes into the side barrier of the track, taken down.

Clint: Aww.

Justin: Aww.

Travis: I was gonna do something so cool, too.

Griffin: Well, there's more wagons.

Travis: Okay.

Griffin: And I think as it falls, you see the cockpit tumble open, and you see this dwarf come out, and he just looks kinda like, singed. And he's just like, "Huh, oh well!" But he's totally fine.

Audience: [laughs]

Travis: And he kinda has a look, like, "Ugh, what a day."

Griffin: He kicks the dust, he's like, "B'aww, shoot!"

Travis: Well, next time!

Griffin: Hurley takes a turn with expert precision, putting you just behind, bumper to bumper, the next wagon in the order. This vehicle has a long, cylindrical body. It has a narrow cannon in front, a single, huge exhaust pipe at its rear, and just behind the cannon is a glass tank filled with a strange, yellowish fluid. It is a giant vape pen. Anyway.

Audience: [laughs]

Griffin: It has four gerblin passengers, all saddled on top like a rowing team. The rear rider sees your wagon behind them, and it shouts out, and suddenly, the exhaust pipe at the rear of the vehicle emits a massive plume of fog, obscuring your vision and hiding this vehicle and the entire racetrack from your sight. Magnus, you're up.

Justin: Of all the people to be up... well...

Audience Member: [indecipherable yell]

Justin: We got it.

Travis: Um, what is the—

Justin: We don't actually, but if we use your thing, everybody will know the jig is up.

Audience: [laughs]

Travis: Is the vehicle metallic?

Griffin: Yees.

Travis: Cool.

Griffin: Except for the vape, uh, juice container. The flavor by the way is...

Clint: Peas.

Justin: Mango.

Griffin: [yells] Pea-flavored vape!?

Audience: [laughs]

Griffin: Go to jail!

Audience: [laughs and cheers]

Griffin: Mango. It's mango mint, so you get those tropical notes and then you get like a, "Ooh! But... ooh!" Magnus, you're taking heavy rips on the trunk. What do you do?

Travis: Right now, I'm just enjoying it, frankly.

Griffin: I will say, sort of the mechanic here, 'cause this is kinda how it worked last time. If you want Hurley to reposition in any way or do any sort of maneuver to aid... specifically, I think this applies mostly to you, since your shit's all sort of physical.

Travis: How close were we to it?

Griffin: Just behind 'em, like, bumper to bumper.

Travis: Okay, great. So, can I get to the front of the car?

Griffin: Yeah, sure. You have to unhook yourself. Oh, no, the rails run front to back. Okay.

Travis: Yes, so I get to the front of the car.

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: And I deploy my magnetic charge.

Griffin: Oh, shit? What?

Travis: Yeah, my magnetic charge.

Griffin: I forgot I—you—yes!

Travis: Fist-sized ball that produces magnetic field that repels metal objects.

Griffin: You remembered you had a magic item!

Travis: Yes I did.

Audience: [cheers]

Travis: And I kind of, as I activate it, chuck it towards the vape pen car.

Griffin: Uhh, okay, what we have to figure out... I'm totally into this... Hurley's battle wagon is also metal.

Travis: That's why I threw it forward.

Griffin: Okay, but where are you kinda aiming it on the vehicle?

Travis: Forward.

Griffin: To the front of the vape pen?

Travis: To the exhaust pipe.

Clint: Hmm...

Griffin: Okay. Okay. Okay. Okay.

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: Okay. Uh, here's what I'll say. Normally, you could just be able to do this. You can't see because of the plume of fog. Instead of giving you disadvantage or anything, I think it's just a straight up like, attack roll of you throwing this thing, uh, plus dex.

Travis: 14 plus dex is a 16.

Griffin: Uh, yeah. Okay.

Justin: Wait. Wait, wait, wait. I thought he had disadvantage. Doesn't that mean he has to roll twice?

Griffin: No, no, no, he doesn't. He doesn't have disadvantage. That's what I said. Uh, okay. Uh, okay, you throw the magnetic charge—

Travis: I mean, plus, if it's an attack roll, I get like...

Griffin: Yeah, you're cool, you get like, plus a hundred. You throw the magnetic charge forward... into the exhaust pipe, Luke?

Travis: Yeah. Yeah, fuck it.

Audience: [laughs]

Travis: Listen, we got an hour and a half to get through this whole thing?

Griffin: Yeah, sure.

Travis: I throw it in the fuckin' exhaust pipe. Eyy. Boom.

Griffin: Okay, here's what happens. You throw it in the exhaust pipe, and it disappears as it goes into the exhaust pipe. And then the magnet... expands? I don't know how this would work.

Travis: Yeah, it sets off a charge of—

Griffin: It sets off the charge. Okay, I think the way that this sort of works is, the back half of the vehicle tears itself apart. I think it just rips itself apart, and now it's a kind of... maybe a little... a humble vape pen. They don't all have to be real long, folks. Uhh, I'm not doing that joke.

But the back half of it... And two of the gerblins just go flying. And shrapnel is shredding their bodies, but then they're like, "Heyyy!"

Justin: It's all in fun!

Griffin: It's great! And you have essentially taken care of half of the vehicle.

Travis: Okay, so that's my first attack.

Audience: [laughs]

Clint: [laughs]

Justin: Wait, and after you threw that...

Audience: [laughs]

Clint: For those of you listening at home, Justin is leaning over talking to Travis.

Travis: And when it lands and explodes, Magnus goes...

Magnus: Cotton!

Griffin: Yeah, yeah, sure.

Travis: Sick.

Griffin: Alright, and what do you do for your next attack? And look at that timer.

Travis: Are there more gerblins on the thing? They're still moving?

Griffin: There's two more gerblins.

Clint: We are hell on gerblins.

Travis: So it's a distance thing?

Griffin: Yes. Also, because you blew up the back half, the smog is no longer coming out. It is a broken vape.

Travis: Okay, I am going to need my Chance Lance.

Audience: [cheers]

Travis: I'm trusting... I'm trusting that it's gonna be there.

Audience: [cheers]

Clint: Let's pause for a moment.

Justin: Paulandstorm.gov.

Travis: Um, these were made, uh, by @saltysbunny on Twitter, who brought them for us.

Griffin: It's so fucking sick.

Travis: Thank you.

Audience: [cheers]

Griffin: Sorry, folks at home - Travis has a Chance Lance.

Travis: I have a beautiful Chance Lance.

Griffin: It's real.

Travis: I hurl—

Justin: Throw it at the audience, dude. Come on.

Travis: Okay, yeah.

Griffin: [laughs] "Tragedy tonight as a..."

Travis: I hurl it at one of the gerblins. Is one of them driving?

Griffin: They're both driving.

Travis: What?

Griffin: It's like a bobsled.

Travis: Okay, but what is the—

Justin: Except one of them is a student driver.

Clint: [laughs]

Griffin: I will, say they're in a row.

Travis: Okay, I throw it at one of them, I don't fucking care. Yeah. Okay, so that's—now, that appears to be a failure, but... it is six plus ten, so that's 16.

Griffin: That's a hit, my friend.

Travis: Okay. Being a warrior rules! Um, and then it is—

Griffin: It's called fighter.

Travis: Ohh. Well actually, it's... I think bruiser or whatever? Oh no, ruff boi. Excuse me.

Griffin: Ruff boi.

Audience: [cheers]

Travis: I didn't do much damage. I only did six damage.

Griffin: Yeah, that's not very much.

Travis: But then I call it back to me.

Griffin: Okay, here's how it works.

Justin: How does the bubble handle piercing damage exactly? How does the vest—

Griffin: Here's how it works - you throw it, and you hit the back one, and it also goes through the front one. They both take six damage, and then, as you call it back, it does six more damage for a total of twelve damage. And with that, both gerblins—they're just gerblins. They...

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: Slump off the side of the wagon, and I think it just kind of just slows down.

Travis: And I turn to Taako and I say...

Magnus: What are the chances?

Griffin: Okay. We can't. Half the audience—half the time is spe—

Travis: I don't care what you think!

Griffin: You're losing them, Travis.

Travis: I do. I care very much.

Audience: [cheers]

Griffin: I think vape pen just kind of—half vape pen just kind of slows down, and Hurley has to steer the battle wagon around it to get in front of it. And then, you see just two more wagons. I put cars here. This is the only time I missed it.

You see two more wagons between you and first place, and as Hurley brings your wagon into range of them, it almost seems like they slow down so as to put you right between them. And that's when you recognize that these two nearly identical vehicles are working in tandem. They're both imposing figures, these eight foot high rectangles of rusted brass.

Each one has four antennae positioned at their corners, and they're all facing you. And from your position, you can just barely see these small, rectangular vents on the front side of these rectangular wagons, which you assume to be the view ports through which the racers inside are watching the track. The one on your left is outlined with a red trim around its edges, and the one on your right is outlined in blue.

Merle, you're up. Two wagons, one to the left, one to the right, big rectangles with antennae on them.

Travis: Get it?

Clint: Rectangles with antennae. Ohh.

Justin: [clears throat]

Clint: Okay, Merle casts—

Travis: Here we go.

Clint: *Gate!*

Travis: What? A third spell?

Clint: He conjures a gate—a portal linking an unoccupied space you can see within range in a precise location on a different plane of existence.

Audience: [laughs]

Travis: Okay... What?

Griffin: No, no, no. Good. Good, good, good.

Clint: Okay, and I'm gonna cast it... in front of the... blue one.

Griffin: Ah, you've disarmed the bomb! That's not how this works. It's fine. Okay, do I do anything? Or...

Clint: Uh... The victim cannot do anything, they just have to go into the gate.

Griffin: No. Travis, what's the fuckin' card say?

Audience: [laughs]

Clint: The portal is a circular opening, which... I need my glasses for the second half of this show.

Travis: You have a son.

Clint: Okay, thanks.

Travis: Let me just read it.

Clint: 'Cause I can't see shit.

Griffin: How big is the opening, Travis? Like the size of like a...

Travis: It is five to twenty feet in diameter. The portal lasts for the duration, which is up to one minute.

Griffin: Five feet in diameter, okay. You conjure a gate in front of the blue one, and it's five feet in diameter, and it's an eight—

Travis: Five to 20 feet. Five to 20.

Griffin: Five to 20 feet. Okay. What plane of existence are you sending them to? Don't say the Hunger, 'cause that's gone.

Clint: Oh, uhh... I'm—

Justin: What's up, you're welcome.

Clint: The astral plane. Y'know, where—

Griffin: [laughs]

Clint: Where astral shit hangs out.

Griffin: That's uh, the plane of the afterlife, and that's very good.

Clint: Yeah!

Griffin: So, okay.

Clint: Yeah, yeah, they're going there. To that—that plane. That's the plane.

Justin: Tell me more about these harnesses. Yeah, very good harnesses today I hope.

Griffin: We see... Okay. You see this gate appear in front of the blue one, and then all of you see the blue one just like, at speed with you, and then you see like, a flat line of like, blue fire, and then it passes through it and then it's just not next to you anymore. And then we cut to uh, Barry, Lup and Kravitz.

Audience: [cheers loudly]

Griffin: And they're talking to the Raven Queen, and she's giving them a dire mission. And there's windows. They're in the prison where they do all their work.

Clint: Yeah. Oh, this is good.

Griffin: There's huge windows outside, and you see the endless sea of souls outside, and they're talking, and it's a mission of much import. And then, just this giant car... just, *fwoomp*, falls past the window. And they all look to the side, and then they just look back, shrug, resume talking.

Travis: "Merle. Probably Merle."

Griffin: And then from inside, we see this uh, this halfling, and he's inside the thing just like, looking through the window at this sea of souls he's falling through. But he's just like...

Halfling: I'm okay, I guess? This one's weird.

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: Taako—

Justin: I know what the next live episode is gonna be. Going to rescue that poor son of a bitch.

Griffin: Taako, you are up. You just have the red rectangle wagon now.

Justin: Um... buh buh buh buh buh... Is it posing any threat?

Griffin: Yes. So, those antennae, now, have started to spark a little bit with electricity, almost as if they had you sandwiched between them that was gonna be a really cool, big attack, but then...

Clint: Ohh. Ahh. Okay, that's why you gave me that really shitty look.

Griffin: I gave you an excited look. That was very good.

Travis: Well, he didn't expect you to be competent.

Clint: Yeah, that's true. Fooled him.

Travis: [laughs] Yeah, it only took three years of hustling.

Griffin: What you got, Taako?

Justin: [sighs] Um, buh buh buh buh buh... I'm gonna do another magic.

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: What?

Justin: Here's one of the magics... And y'know, I'm trying to make it—

Griffin: Do somethin' fun.

Justin: Just trying to do something fun.

Clint: The people of Dallas deserve fun.

Audience: [cheers]

Clint: Give them some fun, damn it!

Justin: Oh, hell yeah.

Clint: Yeah, that was really...

Travis: I don't know what that means.

Clint: I know, I know.

Justin: I got you.

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: So uh, Taako extends his fingers, and you expect there to be like, fire and shit. But instead, you just get... [beatboxing] It's a bass. There's a bass line. And then he wiggles his ring finger, and a melody extends. [singing]

Griffin: Is he playing Drop Mix on the...

Justin: No, he's playing *Otto's irresistible dance*.

Audience: [cheers]

Justin: It's a sixth level enchantment. Don't worry about rolling, it says 'irresistible' right there in the title.

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: "Choose one creature you can see within range. The target begins a comic dance in place, shuffling, tapping its feet, and capering for the duration of one minute." That is on the driver, obviously.

Griffin: Yeah, sure. A hatch on the top of the vehicle pops open, and you see another halfling pop up, and is now sort of Teen Wolf surfing on top of this vehicle. And then, he just starts doing the cupid shuffle, but so hard. Like, hitting it so fucking hard. Just like, slide to the left like... [grunts] And then, he slides to the right, and he falls off the fucking battlewagon.

Clint: [laughs]

Audience: [laughs and cheers]

Clint: [laughing] And then pops up from the ground and goes—

Griffin: And he gives a big thumbs up. And he looks around and he's like...

Halfling: Where's my friend? That's my best friend. He's getting married tomorrow and I'm his best man.

Griffin: As you conquer the two electrified wagons and leave them in your dust, you see nothing ahead of you but empty track and the smoking rubble of a few of your competitors.

Travis: We're gonna wrap this up early.

Griffin: This has been a particularly battle-filled battlewagon race, it would seem, but there's nobody ahead of you to challenge your final lap. Behind you, though, is another story.

You turn in unison to the sound of massive footsteps and see, quickly approaching, a massive battlewagon in the shape of a tyrannosaurus rex. It is impressively to scale, with razor sharp fangs, small cute arms, and two massive legs that are currently bounding towards you, gaining speed. And it lowers its head to ram your wagon, and behind its eyes, you see its driver - a human smiling with sinister intent.

And then... the T-Rex explodes. As—

Travis: Aw, I was gonna say faster, must go faster, and you fucking stole it.

Griffin: Oh, say it.

Magnus: Faster, must go fast—

Griffin: And then the T-Rex explodes.

Travis: Thank you.

Griffin: As does the ground around and behind you. And when the smoke clears, the T-Rex is gone, and you see its racer flailing away from the scene but still pretty good. And then, you hear whistling from above, and then more explosions, which Hurley weaves through deftly. But the heat of the bombs is flashing against your face—

Justin: Oh shit, we're in the Red Zone.

Griffin: And you fall—nerd alert.

Audience: [cheers]

Griffin: And you follow the sound of the whistling upward, and find in the sky, three flying vehicles above you. A wide winged metallic bomber that's readying another salvo, a dragon-shaped vehicle with wings covered in bright red canvas, and a small wooden skimmer with an auto crossbow mounted wings.

Travis: Blaze Wings!

Griffin: And each of you—thanks, Travis, that's great. And each of these planes is towing a colorful banner behind, and when read together, they read, "Want a real race? Take to the sky with... the Blaze Wings."

Justin: [laughs]

Clint: [laughs]

Griffin: We're gonna take intermission, we will be right back. We've got posters and merch in the lobby. Go, and we'll be back soon. Bye.

[theme music plays]

Griffin: Hey everybody, this is Griffin McElroy, your dungeon master, your best friend, and your... big dog. Woof woof, where's my big dogs at?

Thanks for listening to The Adventure Zone, our live show from Dallas from earlier this year. Hope that you are enjoying it. We're putting up a live show this episode because Travis was on an extended vacation, and so, we needed some to cover for him. But we'll be back in two weeks, on Thursday May 31st, with a new episode in the Amnesty arc. So we're gonna be getting back to that soon.

But for right now, let me tell you about some of our sponsors. First off, I want to tell you about Casper. Casper is fantastic. They're a sleep brand that continues to revolutionize its line of products to create an exceptionally comfortable sleep experience, one night at a time. They offer affordable prices, because Casper cuts out the middle man and sells directly to the consumer.

We have a Casper mattress that we use in our guest room, and we get so many compliments from folks who are like, best sleep I've ever had, soft, good for back, great for dreams. Had sweet dreams, um, about Scott Bakula and his handsome body, and it was a great dream, and thank you to Casper.

Casper brand mattresses combine multiple supported memory foams for a quality sleep surface with the right amount of sink and the right amount of bounce. You can be sure of your purchase with their 100 night, risk free, sleep on it trial. You can get 50 dollars towards select mattresses by visiting Casper.com/Adventure and using the promo code 'Adventure' at check out. Terms and conditions apply.

I also want to tell you about Blue Apron. You know about Blue Apron. They're the number one fresh ingredient and recipe delivery service in the country. When it comes to dinner, let Blue Apron take care of the planning and the chopping while you do the cooking and the eating.

You'll enjoy delicious meals like popcorn chicken with sweet chili cabbage slaw, and cumin spiced wonton noodles with vegetables and peanuts, on the table in thirty minutes or less. With incredible ingredients and chef-designed recipes, Blue Apron lets you see what the power of food can do.

We love Blue Apron. I have made so many tasty meals with Blue Apron, and also learned how to cook things. I can cook the Blue Apron things, I can cook other things. I can cook a soup. I can cook a bread, and that's all the food I can think of right now. So check out this week's menu and get your first three meals for free at [BlueApron.com/Adventure](https://www.blueapron.com/adventure). Blue Apron: a better way to cook.

Got a jumbotron here, and for thi—did I call it a “chumbotron”? I'm gonna email Jesse and see if we can change the name of that. This chumbotron is about the *Once and Future Nerd*, which you can find wherever you get your podcasts. Or you can say hey to them on Twitter, Tumblr, or Facebook.

“The *Once and Future Nerd* is a tale about three teenagers from Pennsylvania who are transported to a fantasy world on the brink of civil war. As they take their new reality into their own hands, they meet a colorful cast of misfits, fulfill and break all those fantasy tropes you love or hate, and discover power they never even imagined.

This epic saga is brought to life with sound effects, score, and a full cast of award-winning actors doing their damndest to make you laugh and/or feel things.” Aww that sounds nice, I haven't felt something in a while, and that sounds... bleak, but maybe I've been waiting on this podcast to get me there. It's the *Once and Future Nerd*, again, wherever you find your podcasts. Or on Twitto, Tumbo, or Facebo.

I also want to tell you about *Ghost Puncher*. It's a web comic, but it also has a companion piece D&D storytelling podcast called *Ghost Puncher Corps*. You can find it at [GhostPuncher.net](https://ghostpuncher.net). Here's what they have to say.

“*Ghost Puncher* and *Ghost Puncher Corps*—” Corps? C-O-R-P-S. I've never been entirely sure how to pronounce that word, but I'm gonna say corps. “—are super natural adventurers tasked by Lucifer herself to keep order between the living and the dead. A few things you may find in the *Ghost Puncher* universe: violence, nudity, body horror, dirty jokes, swear words, demonic shape shifting truck nuts?” Okay, wasn't expecting that.

“Good, but nevertheless suspicious pecan sandies, Big Billy’s potato product, werewolf pro wrestlers, a society of mutant subterranean jack rabbits, crunchy riffs, sexy synths, and a whole bunch of hopelessly gay ladies.” That is Ghost Puncher, and Ghost Puncher Corps, and you can find that at GhostPuncher.net.

Thank you to everybody who’s been tweeting about the show using the [#TheZoneCast](https://twitter.com/hashtag/TheZoneCast) hash tag. I sure do appreciate you spreading the word about the podcast, and about Amnesty, and about all the stuff we do here on the show. If you have a friend who you think might be into the shit we sling, then go ahead and just send them our way. And that’s cool, when and if you do that.

Wanna tell you, we have a project we’ve been working on with the Mysterious Package Company. It is a direct mail adventure that we will send you on in Taako’s Correspondence School of Magicks and Cantrips and Other Stuff. It’s really cool. I’ve used the Mysterious Package Company stuff before, and they’re just neat little mysteries delivered to you in the mail, that you, y’know, solve puzzles, and do activities, and there’s a narrative component. You get some like, physical rewards for doing it.

We’re really excited about this project, and you can find out more at MysteriousPackage.com and look for the link for Taako’s Correspondence School of Wizardry, Cantrips, & other Magicks.

Also, we got a comic book, or rather, a graphic novel. That’s what you call them, I guess, when you want them to sound like, cool, and big, and smart. It is a graphic novel. You can find out more about that. It is an adaptation of the first arc of Balance, Here There be Gerblins, and it’s coming out this summer. And you can preorder it right now at TheAdventureZoneComic.com.

I wanna thank Max Fun for having us on the network. You can go to MaximumFun.org and check out all the great shows there. And if you want to hear more stuff that we do you can go to McElroyShows.com. Uh, and I think that is gonna do it. Again, we will be back in two weeks with the next episode of The Adventure Zone: Amnesty on May 31st, so I’ll talk to you then. Bye!

[theme music plays]

Griffin: Okay, so. Act two, begin! Hurley... Hurley slams on the gas, narrowly avoiding another salvo from the enormous bomber overhead. You hear a loud clanking and whirring from the plane as it reloads for another assault. And, as if to run distraction for its companions, the smallest of the three vehicles - the wooden skimmer armed, with a huge crossbow on its underside - flies down to hover just above your battlewagon. Its pilot flips some switches from its exposed cockpit, and the crossbow readies a shot. It's actually the skimmer's turn in the order, and I think—

Justin: Damn!

Griffin: —it launches a *huge* bolt right at Magnus, who is positioned on the trunk of the vehicle, Death Proof-style.

Justin: Luckily, he's got that magic shield that Dad made him.

Audience: [laughs]

Travis: You didn't. The joke is, you didn't. You protected the magic-user.

Griffin: 24 versus AC?

Clint: Oh, Taako's the other one?

Travis: Hold on, hold on.

Griffin: There's no way you have fucking airplane proficiency! Those don't exist!

Travis: No, I know that. I'm looking to see what Fletcher's Mitt does, 'cause I can't remember.

Griffin: Oh, yeah...

Clint: It catches arrows!

Griffin: And it gives you plus one AC to projectiles, and if you block it, you catch the missile.

Travis: And then I also have the Giant's Ring, and I assume—'cause you said it was a giant crossbow.

Griffin: Okay...

Travis: I—have I fought against crossbows before? I have, 'cause of Killian.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: So yes, actually—

Griffin: That makes 24—okay...

Audience: [cheers]

Griffin: This fucking crossbow-wielding, anti-infantry vehicle shoots a giant crossbow bolt at you, and you just... *whonk!*

Audience: [laughs and cheers]

Griffin: You whonk it, and—

Travis: [laughing] And I throw it back!

Griffin: It is your turn.

Travis: And I throw it back!

Audience: [laughs]

Travis: No, uh, I—well, I’m gonna hold onto it, and I’m gonna grappling-hook-swing up into it.

Griffin: Your grappling hook?

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: You have one of those?

Travis: Yes, I do.

Griffin: Okay...

Travis: I can use it once per day. I’m remembering all my items!

Griffin: Uh...

Audience: [cheers]

Griffin: Any hot deets in there, or...

Travis: Yeah, I’m sure there are. [laughs] Things... yes, grappling hook, good for one use per day to climb something like Batman.

Griffin: That’s the end of it? What the fuck!

Travis: That’s what it says in the wiki!

Audience: [laughs]

Clint: Good ol’ wiki!

Griffin: “I just feel like the world of Balance was so much more fleshed out...” [laughs]

Clint: Well it went for 12 years!

Griffin: Okay, uh, alright! You do that! You... *Pew! Zip! Zing!* Whoa! Aw, man!

Travis: Now I would like to use my vehicle proficiency to try to take over the vehicle.

Audience: [cheers]

Griffin: Okay, okay, okay, okay, okay, okay, okay, okay, okay. Now, it's an open cockpit, right? I'm thinking like a biplane, right? Like, sort of an old-timey biplane with a crossbow mounted underneath. However, there is somebody in there, so it's not—you're not rolling against the airplane, like, "I'm doing the Airplane Takeover Roll!" You're gonna have to do something about the person in the pilot seat.

Travis: Okay.

Justin: Why does—I've always wondered. Why does Travis get to do so many things every time?

Travis: Why do you get to summon horses and dinosaurs and shit?

Griffin: The uh, the—

Audience Member: [shouts] Garyl!

Travis: I know his name is Garyl, I'm on the show!

Clint: I thought it was Garyl.

Griffin: The grappling hook was a move action, this is your action-action.

Travis: And I get six of those!

Griffin: Okay, yes.

Clint: [laughs]

Travis: Okay, I'm going to, I don't know, stab him.

Audience: [laughs]

Griffin: With the bolt?

Travis: With what? I don't know, I've got so much!

Griffin: Well then, fucking pick something!

Travis: I'm going to, I don't know, it feels like a sneak attack, doesn't it?
I'm going to—

Justin: [laughs]

Clint: [laughs]

Travis: Uh...

Justin: Very sneaky!

Travis: I'm gonna chop his head off with Railsplitter, fuck off!

Audience: [cheers]

Griffin: Okay. Roll it. Roll that bean footage.

Clint: Yeah, good luck, harness.

Travis: That's a 26.

Griffin: Yeah, that just hits.

Audience: [laughs]

Clint: And it does not cut his head off fatally.

Travis: No, that is an eight plus five, 13.

Griffin: Okay, with a 13, you get into that neck meat, but he kinda flexes like...

Pilot: Hrrgh! Argh!

Griffin: And uh, the head does not come off.

Travis: I come at it for a second time.

Griffin: He laughs after the first attack, like...

Pilot: Ha-ha! Now it's my tu—what?

Travis: Uh, 17.

Griffin: Uh, yes.

Travis: That is ten points of damage.

Griffin: It's just on there with sinew and thread, and he's like...

Pilot: Ha ha ha! Now it's time for my turn!

Travis: Okay, action—uh, action surge.

Audience: [laughs]

Travis: 19.

Clint: [laughs]

Travis: That's, uh, 13 again.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: I do one thing and I do it good!

Clint: And over and over again!

Griffin: His head... comes off. And he's like...

Pilot: Ha ha, I go—oh!

Griffin: And it starts to, like, slide off his neck, he's like...

Pilot: Aww, shoot.

Griffin: But... still alive. He's also wearing a harness, so he's good to go.

Justin: These are good—can we keep these harnesses? They are very good!

Griffin: No, they only work... today. And...

Audience: [laughs]

Griffin: Uh, and I think his whole body, I think the — oh, here's what happens. The plane starts to tilt, and his whole body just slumps out, and it also gets run over by Hurley's battlewagon, but he's still, like...

Pilot: [strained] Okaaay...

Griffin: Uh, the plane is starting to roll a little bit. There is still a tether, I think—well, no, I guess it was just a grappling hook, so it's just you in the plane. Um...

Travis: It's mine now.

Griffin: Is it—you're in it? Okay, you're in it, I'm not gonna do like a, "You have to save the plane," I think—

Travis: It's my fucking plane now.

Griffin: Yeah, you have a plane now. Ha ha ha. Now I have a plane.

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: Okay, you... did some cool stuff there. Merle, it is your turn. You got two more planes, and these planes are high above. They are pretty—pretty high up there, like... 70 feet? Does that feel good to everybody?

Clint: Wow. That's really—okay.

Travis: Does that seem high to you, or...

Griffin: A hundred feet? How high is high? Let's say 120 feet.

Clint: Okay. So they're up there. I cast *control weather*!

Griffin: What do you do with the weather? Hold on, wait—

Clint: You can—wait, I gotta revel in this! "You take control of the weather within five miles!"

Audience: [cheers]

Griffin: Fuck!

Travis: Wait, what the fuck? Hold on!

Clint: Read it and weep, loser!

Justin: It's—watch, right now, I'm calling it—

Travis: This is a level eight spell, are you—

Clint: Yes, I know it's a level eight—oh my God, where were they?

Audience: [cheers]

Clint: Where were they?

Griffin: Dad has his glasses back.

Justin: Dad has his glasses.

Griffin: It's level eight, but because—

Clint: Holy shit, look at all of you!

Audience: [cheers]

Clint: Woow! I just thought it was, like, eight people making a lot of noise.

Justin: Play some D&D with your dad. Have some laughs.

Griffin: Alright—

Clint: "You change the current weather conditions. You can change precipitation, temperature, and wind." So I'm gonna attack the... what's the most rickety—

Griffin: Okay, this would not be an attack. You can do something and I'll help you resolve it into something cool, but you're not rolling, like, an attack.

Clint: Okay. I want there to be... baseball-sized hailstones.

Griffin: Okay, that's a little too real, 'cause Dallas is...

Clint: Softball-sized.

Griffin: Let's... how 'bout this, some people maybe come here as an escape from the baseball-sized hailstones, so why don't we—

Clint: How about this? How about if they're coated with ice, all of them, which means they can't fly as high.

Travis: Stop, okay—

Clint: And get 'em within range of us.

Griffin: Uh, it is a sleet storm, and because of this, uh, they are going to have disadvantage on their sort of plane-based actions while they are in the sleet storm. You have debuffed them permanently. You didn't crash both fucking planes out of the sky, with the one spell you shouldn't be able to cast—

Clint: That's alright! Still, sounds pretty damn competent to me.

Griffin: Sure does.

Clint: What do you think?

Audience: [cheers]

Clint: Thank you.

Griffin: Taako, you're up.

Clint: Yeah!

Griffin: I also think they come down now. Now they're... 60 feet above you.

Clint: Eh...

Travis: Does that still feel high?

Griffin: Still kinda high. How high is 60 feet? I'm trying to think of a 60-foot-tall dude, and that's like, pretty tall, yeah?

Justin: Wait, they're 60 feet now?

Griffin: Yeah, they came down.

Travis: Or like twelve 5-foot-tall people.

Justin: Now they're 60 feet. I'm gonna cast *Mordekainen's sword*.

Clint: Yeah!

Justin: Uh, you see Taako extend his hand, and a big sword comes out of it.

Clint: [laughs]

Justin: It is a sword-shaped plane of force that hovers within the range. It lasts for the duration. Um, and I'm gonna make a melee spell attack against a target of my choice.

Griffin: You got the dragon, and then you got the big bomber, the big metallic bomber, or sort of the more canvas-y—

Justin: They've got disadvantage, yeah?

Griffin: Uh... yeah, on their saves and stuff. Stuff like that.

Justin: Perfect.

Clint: Thanks to Merle.

Justin: Thanks to Merle, and his great—oh my God, that’s a natural 20!

Clint: Ohh!

Audience: [cheers]

Clint: Now, for those of you who are listening, his—his thing lit up.

Griffin: That’s true. Y’all, we got 20 minutes left we’re supposed to do, you can’t keep insta-killing these planes!

Justin: It’s—this is not gonna insta-kill it, Griffin. It’s just 3d10 force.

Audience: [laughs]

Clint: [laughs]

Griffin: Well, is it times two on a crit spell?

Justin: Probably.

Griffin: Yeah, so that’s gonna be 6d10. We gonna do this manually?

Justin: Eight... seven...

Griffin: 15...

Travis: 19.

Justin: 19 times two?

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: 38.

Travis: 38.

Griffin: Okay. Yes, okay. Okay. And this was on the... dragon?

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: Okay, and what's it look like? Describe it with your words.

Justin: It's, uh...

Griffin: You did TAZ: Elementary, I know you know how to paint a picture.

Audience: [cheers]

Justin: So it's, uh, it's like a—you just wanted to drink some water.

Griffin: Yup.

Justin: It's a sword... if you've ever seen...

Clint: A sword...

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: If you've ever seen—

Griffin: A Game of Throne, they have, like... everyone's got 'em.

Justin: You know how on Thundercats?

Griffin: Yeah.

Clint: Ooh.

Justin: It looks like the Sword of Omen. 'Cause... they just got Thundercats in this world. And everyone's really into it.

Griffin: Shit, they—

Travis: They just got there.

Justin: They just got it, and everybody's super into it.

Griffin: So slash or stab?

Justin: It's a wall of force, so it sort of slashes... through, I guess?

Griffin: Okay, I like that. Uh, alright, I think you—

Justin: It's force damage, so it's like—

Travis: Y'know, like, if someone hit you with the flat of the blade, just like... Thunk. Ow!

Justin: Yeah, it's basically a spank... spanking spell.

Audience: [laughs]

Justin: A spanking sword, if you will.

Griffin: Alright. You hurt this dragon real bad, and with that, it flies down towards you, and it swoops in to sort of intercept you and protect the bomber. And as you eyeball it, you realize - that this vehicle has no pilot. It is being controlled remotely somewhere by somebody very skilled.

Justin: Asshole.

Audience: [laughs]

Griffin: And uh, with a flap of what remains of its wings, it pulls ahead and it turns to face you, and it has streaks of flame beginning to grow in its

mouth. Taako, uh... Jesus Christ. And it has disadvantage. Okay, first time I rolled a three. The second time, I swear to Christ, I rolled a one.

Audience: [laughs]

Justin: Let me check my sheet, hold on...

Clint: Ohh.

Griffin: Okay, so... It tries to bite at you, and right as it does—

Justin: And its fucking butt falls off?

Griffin: Its jaw, its jaw is like, "Ahh! Ack." And its jaw just falls completely off because of the cool slash that you did earlier. Then, with its second attack, uh, it... that fire—

Travis: Wait, it gets more than one attack?

Griffin: Yeah, imagine that.

Audience: [laughs]

Griffin: Its fire, now unimpeded by a second lower jaw, shoots out—

Justin: [laughs] Its true form has been realized.

Griffin: —at your vehicle. Everybody make a dexterity saving throw.

Travis: But I'm not on the...

Griffin: Oh, you're right. Magnus is good. Actually, no, it's shooting at all of them. You are saving for the plane.

Justin: 19 plus three, 22.

Griffin: Good.

Travis: I got a 12. That is a nat 20.

Griffin: Okay, but it just is... that is just a save.

Audience: [cheers]

Griffin: You very save. You extremely save. Uh, Magnus, the fire just gets—

Audience: [cheers]

Griffin: Okay, now Dad just knocked a bottle of water off the table and grabbed it. Tonight—

Clint: I'm on fire!

Griffin: You are killing it. Okay.

Clint: I am on fire.

Griffin: Magnus, take—

Justin: I'm gonna miss him so much.

Griffin: Magnus, take 32 points of fire damage.

Travis: Alright.

Griffin: And also, the left wing of your airplane is on fire.

Travis: Cool.

Griffin: Still flying, on fire, gonna be a situation.

Travis: Alright.

Clint: You have a harness, Trav.

Griffin: You are next.

Travis: I know, and now I'm down to only 99 hit points.

Audience: [laughs]

Griffin: You are next, Magnus. Don't fucking lower the stakes for them, they don't know how many fucking hit points you have!

Travis: I do! It's on my sheet!

Griffin: No, they don't! I say 36, they're like, "What if he has 37?"

Travis: [laughs] Okay, so my plane is a little on fire. Do I—can I control the giant crossbow?

Griffin: Uh, hm. That's a good question. Actually, because you're in the middle of a hailstorm, you can, but you'll have disadvantage. [laughs]

Justin: Good job, Dad.

Travis: How close am I to the bomber?

Griffin: Uh, it's still way up in the sky. It's a 120 feet. Uh, you could, but you're going to have to roll really good to fly through this sleet storm that fast.

Travis: Okay, I pull out my Stone of Farspeech.

Magnus: [muffled, as if speaking through a radio] Uh, yeah, uhh...

Griffin: [laughs]

Magnus: [muffled] Taako? Uhh...

Clint: [muffled] Come on back here, buddy.

Magnus: [muffled] Yeah, do you uh, have any plans for the, uhhhh...

Audience: [laughs]

Clint: [muffled] 10-4, back door.

Magnus: [muffled] —the dragon?

Justin: What?

Griffin: Hey, sorry, hey, this is, uh, this is uhh... Jer.

Magnus: Yeah?

Griffin: Can you say that again? 'Cause you sound wild.

Justin: You fuckin'... like, microphones work by putting your voice in them, like—

Travis: [muffled] Uhhhh...

Justin: —that's how I hear you.

Clint: [muffled] Did you... did you want a large fries with that?

Audience: [laughs]

Justin: This is hell!

Clint: [muffled] —an orange drink. Do you want an orange drink?

Griffin: Are you trying to get the person controlling the dragon to—

Travis: No, I was trying ask Taako what the deal was with the dragon, but I'm just going to crash my plane into the dragon.

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: Don't worry, I'm gonna leap to safety.

Audience: [laughs]

Clint: In your harness.

Travis: In—no, to the battlewagon.

Justin: And that's a natural 20.

Clint: Nat 20! Man!

Audience: [cheers]

Clint: Juice, can you get a picture of that?

Griffin: I think the first thing you see, everybody else in the car—battlewagon, shit. I think all you see—should I wait until after you're taking a picture in the middle of the podcast that we're doing or...

Justin: Just a momento, we're sharing time as a family together.

Griffin: You're on that table, I don't get the family time! I have my own family over here on my solo table with my fucking wizard sheet.

Audience: [laughs]

Griffin: I think, uh, Taako and Merle, you see through the windshield of the car, you see Magnus just land on the windshield, on the, uh, trunk, just like "Hey, 'sup?" And then you see his plane, like, a second later, just crash into the dragon and explode. And now, both are downed, and—

Travis: And Creed starts to play in the background. Don't ask why, it just does.

Griffin: Uh, and with that, uh, the—

Travis: And also he lowers his aviators. Or puts them on? What's cooler? Puts them on. Puts them on.

Clint: [laughs]

Griffin: The bomber overhead readies another salvo of bombs. This time, it's like smaller cluster bombs that you have to dodge out of the way of on the car, and I know that doesn't make a lot of sense if you think about it, but everyone make a dexterity saving throw.

Travis: Uh, 18.

Griffin: Battlewagon, not car, sorry, thank you.

Justin: Uh...

Griffin: But please don't yell things at the stage.

Justin: Uh, two.

Griffin: Two is bad.

Clint: 17, plus one, 18.

Griffin: Uh, okay.

Justin: You're a dexterous motherfucker tonight, man!

Griffin: Uh, yeah, Taako, you get hit by these very small bombs that don't hit anybody else. [laughs]

Audience: [laughs]

Justin: Eyy.

Clint: They're smart bombs.

Travis: But you do have that extra AC, does that help?

Justin: That does help!

Clint: [cackles]

Griffin: It doesn't, it was a saving throw, it doesn't help, it doesn't help.

Justin: But I rolled a two, so it doesn't help at all.

Clint: Aw.

Griffin: That's just 11 points of damage.

Justin: How many?

Griffin: 11.

Justin: Alright.

Griffin: Okay, here's what happens. Taako, did I tell you how much damage you would take? Yes, did that. Uh, I think the bomber overhead starts to ready another salvo, uh, and you hear Hurley. She's got her own Stone of Farspeech—Carspeech? If it was a car, that would be good.

Travis: There's something there.

Clint: That's the show with the two brothers, right?

Justin: It's her Stone of Battlewagon-speech.

Griffin: It's her Stone of Battlewagon-speech, and she pulls it out and says, um...

Hurley: Hey, babe, can you do the thing?

Griffin: And then we see Sloane in the press box kinda sigh. And then, the wood that composes her body, she like, claps her hands together, and it starts to glow. And then, from the ground, immediately in front of your battlewagon, roots start to grow up to form a sick ramp.

Audience: [cheers]

Griffin: And right when your car is about to hit it, Hurley flips up a latch on the stick shift and presses a button, and the horns on the ram on the front of the car turn backwards and ignite sweet NOS. And your wagon goes flying upward into the air in the direction of the bomber.

Clint: Autobots, transform!

Griffin: And it sails over the wing of the bomber, and Hurley says—

Hurley: Get out, get out, get out, get out! Get out, get out, get out!

Magnus: Okay.

Travis: And Magnus does.

Justin: I get out, I guess. Yeah.

Griffin: Okay.

Clint: Sure.

Griffin: And you land on the wing of the bomber for the climactic boss fight. And her car keeps on going over the wing, and you see her inside like...

Hurley: Uh oh, shit!

Griffin: And she goes sailing back towards the ground. But she's fine, 'cause she has the magic harness.

Audience: [cheers]

Griffin: You actually see her jump out, and her bubble deploys and she falls safely, but her car explodes as it hits the ground.

Audience: [groans]

Griffin: But she's cool.

Travis: She's fine.

Griffin: And now, you are on the wing of the bomber. You land and see... where I am in the notes.

Audience: [laughs]

Justin: Hmm.

Griffin: You're on the wings of the bomber, which have a span of nearly 20 feet, equipped with four propellers that drag the vessel through the sky. On the front of the plane, you see a cockpit hatch protruding, heavily reinforced by the look of it, and inside, you see the dwarf you encountered earlier, Alfred deGaul, piloting the vessel. He doesn't seem to have noticed that you're there—

Travis: He's a halfling.

Griffin: Was he?

Justin: He's a halfling, yeah.

Griffin: Was he?

Audience: [cheers]

Griffin: Okay...

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: Oops! You see the halfling, and it's Alfred deGaul, and he doesn't notice you're there, but his mobility behind him is limited. He's trying to contact his companions, but to no avail. What do you do? We are out of initiative.

Justin: Uh, is he in the race?

Griffin: Uh, the race has kind of, sort of become a little confusing at this point.

Justin: I really did want to win the race. Do you feel like we won?

Audience: [laughs]

Clint: There is a lot of money at stake.

Griffin: Yeah.

Clint: You said a hundred thousand gold.

Griffin: Twenty million gold, yeah.

Audience: [laughs]

Griffin: I never thought the three of you, sneaking up on an unarmed unaware enemy, would lead to such fucking pause.

Clint: Merle casts *death ward*!

Justin: *What?*

Clint: Well, you're just sitting there on your ass, not doing anything!

Griffin: Somebody do something! What's going on?

Justin: Dad cast a weird spell, so tell us all about it, Mac.

Clint: Well, the first time you—

Justin: Yeah? Cast it? Is now.

Clint: —the target would drop to zero hit points as a result of taking damage. The target instead drops to one hit point and the spell ends.

Justin: Are you protecting him?

Clint: What? I'm back.

Travis: Here's the thing, I was going to stab him, and then Dad was like, "I'm gonna kill him with a spell!" But the spell saves his life.

Griffin: Okay, but he cast a healing—Dad cast a healing spell on him. Again, I ask. Everything okay over at that table? Y'all having family discussions over on that table, so I don't know if there's some sort of drama going on. I don't know if you all got stung with the same bee, and it's making your brains not work anymore.

Travis: Merle's going through his canon spell cards. And Magnus just goes, "Hold on," and just stabs the dude.

Griffin: Okay.

Clint: Do I have to do anything to make this spell happen? Don't I have to roll?

Griffin: We have not played Dungeons & Dragons in so fucking long!

Clint: Here!

Travis: Your spell—

Griffin: What are you rolling to do?!

Audience: [laughs]

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: The fucking cockpit opens up, he—it's been eight minutes! He fucking looks behind him. "How long have you been there?" "Eight minutes." He gets out of the cockpit—

Justin: [laughing]

Travis: A 24 versus AC for a sneak attack?

Griffin: He steps out. Nope, it's too late! You reach back to attack, but he's been standing there for five minutes, 'cause you've been standing there for 18 minutes doing fucking nothing!

Justin: [losing his shit]

Griffin: There's a million people here! No, Alfred gets out, and he says, uh—

Alfred: I see you've taken out my companions, but you don't seem to get it. I already won. Your race won't be finished, the fans will be upset, and the next time they want to go out for some entertainment, what are they gonna think about? These big, cool sky wagons dogfighting in the clouds! You should have taken my offer—well, I guess you did take my offer, but you should have followed through with my offer, fellas.

Magnus: Here's what you don't know. I bet your ten thousand gold on this exact outcome. And then, I'm gonna use that money to buy the Blazing Wings! It was a million to one odds that this exact outcome would play out. It is also the plot of Dodgeball.

Audience: [laughs and cheers]

Alfred: I love that flick. Fantasy Ben Stiller.

Taako: So what is it about, um... what is it about Blazing Wings, the planes that explode, you think is going to drive in the crowds?

Alfred: Folks love, like, cool plane stunts

Taako: Damn, you're right. Okay, as soon as I said it, I did realize.

Alfred: Yeah, did you hear what you said?

Taako: It's very cool.

Alfred: And that's why I think the whole—listen. The whole Blaze Wings name, I think is pretty dope, if you really think about what they are.

Taako: It's very good, yeah.

Alfred: So anyways—

Magnus: It's a real challenge.

Alfred: I've foiled everything and I guess—

Taako: Well, wait! There's one thing that, um, could foil you. What if somebody won the race?

Alfred: There's no way. It's done—

Justin: And Taako jumps out of the plane.

Audience: [cheers]

Justin: And on the way down to the ground, he casts *phantom steed!*

Audience: [cheers loudly]

Griffin: What's, uh, what's the, uh... what's the suspension like on those binicorn legs?

Justin: Um, it's pretty good, considering that I have an umbrella that always has *feather fall* that I can cast for free.

Audience: [cheers]

Griffin: Do you still have that?

Travis: They crafted another one in the last six months.

Griffin: Okay, fine.

Justin: Thank youuu.

Griffin: Uh, alright. I think... well, let's finish the plane business first, as you are sailing towards the ground.

Justin: Yes.

Griffin: Magnus and Merle, what do you do?

Justin: Yes!

Griffin: Are you going to let Taako win the race?

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Okay. That's very big of you.

Magnus: I bet on this exact outcome!

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: Yeah, okay. Uh, I think... Okay, deGaul runs back towards the cockpit.

Travis: I throw the Chance Lance.

Griffin: Okay. No, it's gone. He's not going to bring it out now. Paul's got other jobs to do other than run out here and brings us cups of pencils and spears and things.

Travis: It's a 25.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Wait, you rolled a 25?

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Man.

Clint: That sounds like one of my rolls.

Audience: [laughs]

Travis: Uh, six?

Griffin: Yeah, not great. However—

Justin: Chance Lance is a little rusty from disuse, it seems.

Griffin: It uh, it hits him, and he kind of steps backwards, and he's like...

Alfred: [laughs]

Griffin: And then, as you recall it out of him, he sort of overcompensates his step, and he goes backwards into one of the propellers. Um...

Audience: [cheers]

Griffin: But! [laughs] As his particles fly through the air, they sort of give a like... thumbs-up.

Audience: [cheers]

Alfred: I'm good.

Griffin: And then that propeller explodes. And then... he's still pretty good. However, the plane you're standing on is starting to go down.

Magnus: Eh.

Griffin: And this is how they die!

Travis: I've got a harness!

Griffin: Okay, you just fucking ride it, I didn't even... yeah, you just ride it to the ground?

Travis: Yeah, fuck it.

Justin: Hell yeah!

Travis: I hug Merle one last time.

Griffin: So you're just Thelma-and-Louise-ing it? Okay. Yeah. You both go down together.

Audience: [cheers]

Griffin: Here's the scene. Taako, you hit the ground with Garyl, and you're just cool.

Garyl: What's up, we racing?

Griffin: I think the audience... I think the audience is like, kind of confused about what's happening. They're not really sure what they just watched, they thought it was a race—

Justin: This audience? Or—

Griffin: This audience.

Justin: Okay.

Griffin: They're not really sure what they watched. They thought it was gonna be a race, and then some planes from some a competing league showed up and tried to blow everything up. Um, but you hear some yelling from the sidelines. The other racers, I think, realize what's going on, and uh, they're all pointing to the finish line, which is right in front of you.

Justin: I tell Garyl...

Taako: If you go fast, tonight, I'll give you some oats.

Justin: I whisper in his ear, like—

Clint: Ghosty oats.

Justin: And he's like—

Garyl: Spectral oats?

Justin: And I'm like—

Taako: You know it.

Justin: And then he goes faster... than the other... people? I don't know if, for racing, if I can just say he's faster than the other ones and he wins the race?

Griffin: I think, as you're running down the track, there are no other battlewagons—

Justin: Oh, yeah!

Griffin: —which means the audience has been down on the racetrack level for a few minutes, the thirty minutes you spent up there not doing anything—

Justin: Then Taako stands up in the stirrups and raises his hands, like, hey, this is the show.

Griffin: And now the audience is losing it.

Justin: Racing is still alive!

Audience: [cheers]

Griffin: The audience—

Justin: He casts *prismatic spray*, and like, colors shooting out of his hands, it's an amazing spectacle! This is what racing is all about!

Griffin: And right as you cross the finish line, the bomber crashes to the ground behind you—

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: —in a massive explosion.

Justin: Hell yeah!

Audience: [cheers]

Griffin: And confetti shoots up from the pylons, and Hurley and Sloane run towards you with the Turbo Platinum Cup, and all the other racers run out, cheering. You saved their league and put on an amazing show.

Travis: And Merle—Merle and Magnus are totally fine.

Griffin: And Merle and Magnus, from the flaming wreckage—do you look back to see if your friends are okay?

Justin: I don't.

Clint: No.

Griffin: [laughs]

Clint: Noo.

Griffin: Well, for whoever is looking, from the flaming wreckage, we see the hands of Merle and Magnus stick out two big, gross thumbs up.

Justin: But Taako didn't see that, because he didn't look.

Griffin: No, he's totally good.

Justin: Okay.

Griffin: And that's the episode!

Justin: Hey folks!

Audience: [cheers]

Griffin: Thank you all so much for coming! Uh, we'll see whoever's gonna be here tomorrow for MBMBaM, and... Bye!

[theme music plays]

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[music plays]

Speaker 1: [singing] Is there a dog in a car? At a bar? On the street? Yay!

Allegra: I'm Allegra Ringo, a small dog owner. My dog Pistachio howls when she's excited.

Renee: And I'm Renee Culvert, a big dog owner. My dog Tugboat tips over when he's sleepy.

Allegra: And we co-host a podcast called Can I Pet Your Dog that airs every Tuesday. We bring you all things dog.

Renee: Yes. Dog news. Dog tech. Dogs we met this week. We also have pretty famous guests on. But Legs – we're not gonna let them talk about their projects.

Allegra: No.

Renee: Just want to hear about those dogs!

Allegra: We don't want to hear about your stuff. Only your dogs. So join us every Tuesday on Max Fun.

[music plays]

Speaker 1: Thanks so much to the over 28,000 members who joined or upgraded during the 2018 MaxFunDrive, and to all of our monthly members. You showed up in full force to help us reach our goal. And to show our appreciation, we're putting this year's batch of MaxFunDrive exclusive enamel pins on sale for all \$10 and up monthly members.

And just like last year, we're giving all the profits to charity. For 2018, we're supporting the National Immigration Law Center. The sale will run from May 18 through May 28th, so don't miss it. \$10 and up monthly members will be receiving a personalized code and instructions to purchase pins on May 17th, so keep your inbox open and notifications on.

For more details, head over to MaximumFun.org/Pins, and to learn more about the National Immigration Law Center and support them directly, you can go to NILC.org.

[music plays]