

The Adventure Zone: Live in Atlanta!

Published on September 20th, 2018

[Listen on TheMcElroy.family](https://www.themcelroyfamily.com/)

Griffin: Hey, this is Griffin. Real quick, this is going to be the live show that we recorded in Atlanta earlier this month. We were not able to record a new episode. We had a pretty narrow window to do so, because Travis was in London for the London Podcast Festival. And then between surgeries, and sick babies and stuff, we just—we weren't able to get together and record.

And I'm sorry that we have to go a month between new Amnesty episodes, but we will be back two Thursdays from now with a new episode of Amnesty. So, until then, I hope you enjoy this live Balance episode from Atlanta, Georgia!

[theme music plays]

Audience: [cheers]

Justin: Hey Paul, I meant to tell you, I'm gonna be doing—hey, Paul? I meant to tell you, I'm gonna be doing a new bit where I throw my umbrella up—way up in the rafters like Prince?

Audience: [laughs]

Justin: And I need somebody to catch it and make it disappear like Prince.

Travis: Also, Paul, thank you for setting up my area like the interesting person in the office.

Griffin: Yeah. Travis has a lot of flair right now. Could I get, like, eight times more monitor than I'm currently getting right now?

Justin: That's an exaggeration, of course. You do work in numbers, so I can see how you could be confused.

Griffin: No, ruin me! Ruin me with your monitor. Pierce me with these sound waves. Hello Atlanta, Georgia. Thank you.

Audience: [cheers]

Griffin: Let's see... Oh, that is nice, thank you Paul. Hi, Atlanta. Thanks for coming to The Adventure Zone. I know we're out here a little bit, outside the city, outside of Dra—everybody's at DragonCon, right?

Audience: [cheers]

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: That's a looot of dragons. Dang, I'm glad you all—

Travis: But it's the one time a year they get together!

Griffin: Can we get the house lights turned on? And then... Okay, okay, if you are cosplaying, please stand up. Cosplayers? It's everyone.

Justin: We're gonna get to a point in, uh—

Griffin: Please, god, turn the house lights off.

Justin: Yeah, it's so many—so many people.

Travis: They're too beautiful!

Justin: We're gonna get to a point in The Adventure Zone where somebody's going to be wearing like, a nice button-down and some khakis, and people are going to be like, "And who the fuck are you? I don't get it, I'm sorry. My friends and I have been over there for like 20 minutes, trying to figure it out. Who are you?" And it's like, "I'm... just Greg?"

"Oh, Tuff Greg?"

"No, not Tuff Greg. I'm just a regular Greg. I'm just Greg."

Griffin: Do we introduce ourselves on this one? I forget.

Clint: We can.

Justin: My name is Justin McElroy and I portray the role of Taako, an elf.

Audience: [cheers]

Travis: My name is Travis McElroy and I embody Magnus Burnside.

Audience: [cheers]

Clint: Tonight, the part of Merle Highchurch will be played by me, Clint McElroy.

Audience: [cheers]

Griffin: I'm Griffin, and I do everyone else!

Audience: [cheers]

Justin: Okay, um. A quick confession. Travis said, "I embody Magnus Burnside." I thought he said, "I am Bobby 'Magnus' Burnside." It's like, whoa! We waited this long to—

Travis: Yeah. Big reveal!

Justin: Bobby Burnside is your character? And Magnus is a nickname. Okay, fine.

Griffin: I also love how Travis has done both shows here in Atlanta with his full arms exposed.

Audience: [cheers]

Travis: Well, I don't know if you know this, but it is quite hot here.

Griffin: It is a little hot. Speaking of hot things, are you all ready for... the adventure?

Audience: [cheers]

Travis: Huh.

Griffin: We are now in the adventure. The three of you are in... the three of you are in a fitting room.

Justin: Mmkay.

Griffin: You have absolutely no memory of how you got here. You have no memory of the three of you hanging out in a clothing retailer, or finding a promising garment that you'd like to audition in a fitting room.

Travis: Wait, ever? We've never done this?

Griffin: Not that would put you in one now. But you are in one now. You're in a fitting room. It's lined with several booths covered in floor-to-ceiling privacy curtains. There are benches in between them. A place for weary friends to wait and provide feedback during a fashion montage.

This is where the three of you find yourselves, in a nondescript fitting room with no exits, all alone. What do you do?

Travis: Smash the mirror!

Audience: [laughs]

Griffin: Roll a d20.

Travis: 13! Plus 10! 23!

Griffin: Uh, you smash a mirror, and, uh, it... behind it is what appears to be outer space. And it starts to suck you out into the vacuum of space to die, but then the mirror reforms very quickly, magically and mysteriously. And attracted by the noise, a figure slides open one of the curtains and steps out of the booth. It is an unimposing, inconceivable figure, who says...

Garfield: Hello, fellas!

Audience: [cheers]

Garfield: I know it's been a while, but I've got a deal for you!

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: It is indeed Garfield the Deals Warlock.

Justin: Quick interlude. Today I went outside DragonCon for ten minutes, and I saw a Garfield out there that greeted me warmly. He was offering deals to people that passed by in the line. As this Garfield and I were conversing, another Garfield came up and accused him of stealing his territory.

Audience: [laughs]

Justin: The two of them made peace, and are lifelong friends now, I assume.

Griffin: Garfield says...

Garfield: So, uh, I know we haven't really talked since you summoned me through a magic portal to throw grenades at an entity of cosmic annihilation. Which is... which is fine. We all get busy from time to time. But things haven't been so great for ol' Garfield.

Audience: [awws]

Griffin: [laughs]

Audience: [laughs]

Justin: Don't pity him! He may be the worst thing...

Travis: He built my body out of blood!

Justin: He's the worst!

Garfield: That turned out super good, if I remember.

Travis: Don't try to spin a yarn like that was Garfield's plan all al— "I'm building a backup for Magnus, if he should need it!"

Griffin: "You got touched by an angel!" And he grows angel wings, and flies off. He says...

Garfield: I've tried to reopen the Fantasy Costco in a few promising locations. Got a nice corner lot out in Rockport, and a big space for a superstore in the Felicity Wilds, made a little boutique locale out in the Merchants' Quarter of Neverwinter. And, yeah, so... all those burned down.

Clint: [laughs]

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: [laughing] In the front row, you were so shocked by that! I watched you go... [loud gasp] I thought it was great. Thank you for going on this journey with us.

Garfield: Like, all of 'em, pretty soon after I built 'em, burned right down. Whoosh! Now, I thought—

Magnus: Have you been smoking?

Garfield: I mean, the normal amount, but I'm always careful with my butts.

Travis: Hee hee.

Garfield: Now, I thought I had a sneaky serial arsonist on my hands, but I set up a whole bunch of Scuttle Buddies in my last store and no dice. Also thought I was cursed, so I got purified at a local temple. That's right, your old pal Garfield's born again!

Audience: [laughs]

Garfield: But then my next store burned down, so that wasn't it. Fortunately, I was able to track down the source of my problem. See, my store isn't being burned down by some dinkus here in our world. It's being burned down by fire!

Griffin: He says...

Garfield: Sorry, like... the elemental plane of fire. Someone or somethin' over there has it out for ol' Garfield. I was hopin' you might be able to help me suss out who's been wrecking my shops, and then maybe, y'know, help me wreck their shop.

Magnus: What do we get?

Garfield: Hmm...

Griffin: He strokes his... whatever he's got inside of there.

Travis: He strokes his shadow.

Griffin: He says...

Garfield: I could offer you some shares in the Fantasy Costco.

Magnus: Hm...

Taako: Oh...

Merle: Hm...

Magnus: Y'know, at this point we're pretty famous. I don't really need money anymore? And magical goods!

Merle: And they've all burnt down, right?

Griffin: Magnus, uh, Garfield takes out a slip of paper and writes a number on it, showing you what one share in the Fantasy Costco is worth and hands it to the three of you.

Magnus: [excited gibberish]

Audience: [laughs]

Garfield: I'd be willing to part with 1% of the Fantasy Costco stocks. I'm not sure exactly how the whole thing works.

Magnus: 3%, one for each.

Garfield: Yep, that's... kind of what I said.

Magnus: Oh.

Garfield: How's it soundin'? How's this deal smellin', boys?

Magnus: What if we said no?

Garfield: It'd be a short episode.

Audience: [laughs]

Magnus: Taako, you're our lead negotiator.

Taako: You had me at money.

Audience: [cheers]

Griffin: He says...

Garfield: Thank goodness!

Griffin: And he turns, and he walks over to one of the curtains in these changing booths. And he takes a deep breath, and then throws it open, and suddenly, all the curtains in the room are blown about by a sharp, howling wind that blows in through the booth. Garfield struggles to keep his footing until the wind subsides, at which point he gestures into the booth. And beyond the curtain is the elemental plane of fire.

Travis: Magnus hurries forward.

Audience: [cheers]

Justin: Got a thesaurus during the break?

Travis: Magnus makes a speedy exit.

Griffin: It's pretty warm in there. All of you—

Travis: Magnus rips the sleeve off his shirt.

Griffin: Sure.

Audience: [cheers]

Griffin: As you all step through the curtain, Garfield draws it closed behind you, and suddenly the curtain disappears. And now, you're just standing on this large hill covered in pebbles of black, volcanic rock. And before you is

the entrance to a city; a massive, sprawling city with towering buildings, all with a uniform aesthetic. They're all made out of this shiny polished brass.

There are no walls that surround this town; just a few streams of lava pouring out of this great fire sea behind the city. And this city of brass extends up a slope, almost like an amphitheater, ending at a huge outcropping of rock that hangs over this sea of molten lava below. And on that cliff is a castle, also made out of glistening brass.

Also worth noting - there's no sky in the plane of fire. There's just a ceiling of black rock that hangs above you, as far as the eye can see. At certain points, little rivers of lava are pouring down from fissures in the ceiling, and one particularly large crack is positioned right above this brass castle, which is pouring down this thick column of lava down onto the structure itself.

Travis: Did you intentionally design it to look like the Netherworld in Minecraft, or...

Audience: [cheers]

Griffin: Is that what the Minecraft world looks like? Okay. [laughing] No, I didn't. I'm so sorry.

Travis: I'm just savin' you the tweets.

Griffin: And Garfield points to this castle and he says...

Garfield: Pretty badass, right? Like, metal as all get-out, I thought!

Magnus: I bet it's hot as fuck!

Garfield: Yeah, maybe a little bit. I've never actually been in there, but I know what's ever torchin' my shops is inside that castle, so we're gonna need to find a way in and confront the responsible party. I've never really been to the plane of fire, so I don't know if that party's gonna be like a big lava monster...

Magnus: [gasps]

Garfield: ...or a bunch of dragons...

Magnus: [gasps]

Garfield: ...or a fire demon...

Magnus: Yes!

Garfield: ...or somethin', but, y'know, stay frosty!

Justin: [laughs]

Merle: Could you, uh... could you possibly help us out, maybe, with some fire-retardant underwear, or... something?

Griffin: He says... uh...

Garfield: Let me see what I've got!

Griffin: And he reaches into the bag, and he pulls out three frosty-cold bottles of Cheerwine, which he—

Audience: [cheers]

Griffin: ...cracks open and he hands to each of you, and he says...

Garfield: This isn't gonna like, protect you from fire damage or anything, but it's gonna be refreshing as heck.

Audience: [laughs]

Travis: Magnus slams it and starts runnin'!

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: We've only got two hours!

Griffin: You all make your way through the city of brass as you approach the castle at the edge of town.

Travis: Wait, hold on. Are there, like, denizens?

Griffin: There doesn't seem to be denizens. At least, not on the streets. Most of the buildings have had their windows and doors boarded up. A tumbleweed actually rolls down the street towards you, and then bursts into flames.

Clint: [laughs]

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: And as you reach the castle, you see a conflict brewing at its gates. You see two salamanders; these huge, hulking, red, humanoid lizard creatures that are native to the plane of fire. They're holding spears, and they appear to be escorting what seems to be a large, living fireball away from the castle. One of the guards tries to kick the fireball's butt as it saunters away, and then recoils 'cause their foot kinda catches fire a little bit. And the two guards return to their posts, and the fireball wanders in your direction, and as he approaches your party, he says...

Fireball: [high-pitched voice] You all headin' to the castle? Don't bother, it sucks in there.

Taako: And uh, who might you be?

Fireball: My name is Cinder, nobody's ever asked me my name before! [laughs] What a great day this is turning out to be!

Audience: [laughs]

Taako: Consider yourself seen, Cinder. What's your story?

Griffin: As he starts talking to you, he moans a little bit, and he appears to shrink slightly. And he says...

Cinder: Oh, uh, well, I used to work in the castle. I powered King Scald's forge, but uh, he decided I wasn't carrying my weight, so I got—I got shitcanned, and uh—

Merle: [laughing] So you got—

Magnus: In this economy?!

Merle: —you got fired?

Audience: [cheers]

Travis: I feel like when Dad does one of those, like, cowbells should start ringing, and like, fireworks should go off, like, "Ooh! Somebody just won a thousand dollars!"

Audience: [laughs]

Griffin: He says...

Cinder: Yeah, that's uh—that's pretty good. I mean, I'm—I'm probably gonna die.

Audience: [laughs]

Cinder: Out here. On my own.

Griffin: And as he says that, he shrinks a little bit more, as if the fire is fading a little bit.

Travis: I grab some of my scrap wood from the Pocket Workshop.

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: And feed it to him.

Griffin: Oh, he grows big and strong.

Cinder: Mmm!

Clint: [laughs] Now you don't have to do that voice.

Cinder: [deep, gruff voice] Yummy!

Audience: [laughs]

Cinder: So anyway, uh... Yeah, King Scald kicked me to curb, and so now, I'm, uh... y'know, just—I guess I gotta find new employment. Maybe I'll power an oven or somethin' like that, but um... Yeah, what are you all doin' here? You don't seem like you're locals.

Magnus: I gue—I think—We have to, maybe... kill King Scald? I don't know, we didn't ask a lot of questions.

Audience: [laughs]

Magnus: And I wasn't listening.

Taako: Somebody in this plane has been torching some shops on the other side. And, for a little bit at least, we have to be invested in that problem.

Audience: [laughs]

Cinder: Oh yeah, that definitely sounds like somethin' King Scald would do. Uh, I'd say you should seek audience with him, but that's gonna be tricky, since most folks who try to reach the throne room end up gettin' their flesh melted off.

Taako: What's his MO? What's he after?

Cinder: Well, uh... maybe if you cross my palm with a little bit more tinder, I might be able to, uh...

Taako: Or we could stand here and watch you die.

Audience: [laughs and cheers]

Taako: I've heard the finale, I know how long I have. What about you?

Clint: [laughs]

Cinder: You drive a hard bargain. [less gruff voice] Well, uh, see, King Scald actually used to be the court blacksmith—

Griffin: He shrinks a little bit.

Travis: Yeah, I was gonna say.

Justin: He looks exactly like my brother Griffin!

Audience: [laughs]

Cinder: King Scald used to be the court blacksmith. He was the brother of our former king, King Wrathfang. But, uh...

Magnus: The brother made his—he made his brother blacksmith for him?

Cinder: Well, he blacksmithed for most of the town, most of the royal family. But, one day, King Wrathfang disappeared, and the queen took flight not too long after. We never heard from them again, so now, King Scald sits on the throne, and he's pretty shitty at his job, for real.

Magnus: He shits on the throne?!

Cinder: [high-pitched voice] In a manner of speaking...

Clint: Uh-oh!

Travis: I toss him some wood chips.

Justin: Thank you.

Cinder: [deep, gruff voice] Mmm, yumma yumma!

Travis: Not that many.

Cinder: [regular voice] Yumma yumma!

Clint: [laughs]

Audience: [laughs]

Cinder: So yeah, he keeps us elementals locked up to power his forge and spends all the town's resources just crankin' out metalwork, day in, day out, so uh... Not a good king, if I do say so myself. [pause] Anyway...

Magnus: Alright, well, we're gonna go kill him, I guess.

Cinder: That would be cool. I'm gonna go find some trees or whatever.

Magnus: [laughing] Okay, bye!

Taako: Wait, does he have any, uh, cool weaknesses?

Cinder: King Scald?

Taako: Yup.

Cinder: I mean, this really seems like a transactional thing, right? Maybe a little—

Travis: I throw some more wood chips.

Cinder: [deep, gruff voice] Mmm, yeah!

Travis: More than that!

Cinder: [even deeper voice] Ohh yeah!

Justin: [laughs]

Cinder: No known weaknesses, baby!

Travis: I throw some water on him!

Cinder: [high-pitched voice] Ahhh!

Travis: Less than that.

Cinder: [softer] Ahhh...

Justin: [laughs]

Clint: [laughs]

Cinder: I mean... I mean, hubris, but isn't that... just all of us?

Taako: Yeah, it's all of us. Who hasn't been there?

Cinder: [pause] See ya later.

Taako: Yeah.

Griffin: And he floats away towards town. And watching this whole exchange are these two salamander guards.

Travis: “That’s fucked up!”

Griffin: And as they see you approach the gate, one of them, a bit larger and more imposing than his companion, speaks and says...

Larger Guard: No.

Audience: [laughs]

Magnus: Uh...

Larger Guard: N—no.

Magnus: Hi, friend! Um, I assume that, maybe, a higher force has planned a whole encounter here, but I’m just gonna say... search your memory for, uh, maybe a year or two back. A song entered your head with a bunch of stuff that like, three people did?

Audience: [cheers]

Magnus: You really wanna fuck with us?

Larger Guard: ... No.

Audience: [cheers]

Griffin: And the smaller guard—I did not think about the fact that you can play that card.

Travis: Yeah!

Griffin: Pretty much whenever the fuck. The smaller guard says...

Smaller Guard: Aw man, but we’re really not supposed to let anyone in...

Taako: You gotta love the dedication. I do respect it, though. I do respect the dedication.

Merle: Yeah.

Smaller Guard: It's just—

Magnus: Maybe we could cast like, a glamor on you, to make you look real beat up?

Smaller Guard: That might be—that might be nice, um...

Justin: What is this guard again? It's a salamander?

Griffin: Yeah, it's like a big red lizard-folk.

Justin: Okay.

Griffin: Why do you ask? You got some—

Justin: No. Just, wanna create a mental picture for myself.

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: Wanna take everybody on this journey with me who may not have been paying very close attention.

Griffin: The smaller guard says...

Smaller Guard: Y'know what? This gig sucks anyway, and you all seem like you're pretty um, high-level dudes, so... Um, yeah, I guess you can pass. There's definitely gonna be some obstacles in your way that you won't be able to sort of brag your way through...

Justin: [laughs]

Smaller Guard: I wish there was somethin' I could help you out with, 'cause seriously, King Scald just huffs nuts, man. He's—

Audience: [laughs]

Travis: [laughs and claps] Man, some things extend across all planes, huh?

Smaller Guard: [pause] Well, see ya later!

Griffin: And the two gua—

Magnus: Okay, bye!

Justin: [laughs] I di—wait, you could've made him roll a die, at least, to see if that worked. Did you just decide in your head? That's not Dungeons and Dragons! That's Dungeons and Griffin!

Griffin: Why don't you—one of them says...

Guard: But wait a minute...

Justin: There it is!

Clint: Here we go!

Griffin: Why don't you roll a persuasion check?

Justin: Master of persuasion.

Griffin: It's a d20.

Travis: That's an eight.

Griffin: Is that the 20-sided dice?

Clint: Yeah.

Travis: Yeah. Plus a one. So nine.

Guard: Man, I don't know...

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: Now, hold on! Hold on, hold on. That would've been intimidation. Right? 'Cause it's like, do you wanna fuck with us?

Griffin: Oh yeah, sure, sure.

Travis: Alright. So it's actually a 14.

Griffin: Oh. Yeah, that does—

Guard: Okay. All the stuff I said before... is canon. So...

Audience: [laughs]

Clint: So can we... can we kill 'em anyway?

Travis: Dad! Yes!

Griffon: I mean, they're standing—

Travis: I attack them.

Audience: [cheers]

Justin: No you don't! No you don't. No you don't.

Travis: I don't.

Justin: He doesn't.

Clint: Damn!

Griffin: They're standing on bridge over a—

Travis: I push 'em!

Griffin: —a moat of lava...

Travis: I push 'em, but then I kinda catch 'em back. I'm like...

Magnus: Ahaha!

Audience: [laughs]

Taako: [impersonating Batman] Tell your friends.

Magnus: [impersonating Batman] Swear to me!

Taako: [impersonating Batman] You know the difference between you and me?

Magnus: No.

Taako: [impersonating Batman] It's actually a... a long list, hold on. I'm an elf and you're kind of a lizard person. I live in the—

Magnus: [impersonating Batman, laughing] There's more that unites us than divides us.

Taako: [impersonating Batman] There's a lot, actually, but we still both love the smell of baking bread, eh? Anyway...

Magnus: [impersonating Batman] Let's hug.

Taako: [impersonating Batman] Let's hug. For life. And I'm not wearing hockey paaants!

Clint: And then you push 'em off.

Travis: No!

Griffin: Uh, they just... they've already walked away. They left a while ago.

Justin: [laughing] They just left us to do our Batman impressions.

Griffin: Yes.

Travis: [laughing] As Taako and Magnus do Batman impressions back and forth.

Justin: Listen to this one. [impersonating Batman] "Where's Falcone?"

Travis: [laughs]

Clint: [laughs]

Griffin: So, even with your uh, Cheerwine protection from the sort of ambient heat of this place, you feel this oppressive wave of heat coming from in front of you, because across the bridge through the gate that you are currently in front of is the entrance to the castle. It is covered completely by a waterfall of lava.

This column of lava that's falling from the rock ceiling of the plane is splashing against the roof and just falling down, just forming this solid wall, this nonstop cascade of lava, that pours down through this black obsidian grate at the far end of the bridge, cutting off access into the castle. There doesn't seem to be any way past it. What do you do?

Travis: Well, I should've done this before, but I switch the Defender's Dial to fire.

Griffin: Yeah, I figured.

Travis: Click!

Justin: So there's a grate?

Griffin: Uh, yep. And the lava is pouring down into it. Through it, and sort of down into this moat of lava below the bridge.

Justin: I don't know. There's nothing really to do. It's fire, it's lava, it's so hot. It's crazy how hot it is! Tr—touch it, just—

Travis: No! Okay.

Justin: Umm...

Clint: Wait! Neh, neh, neh...

Travis: Oh, let Dad fuck up!

Justin: Yeah.

Audience: [laughs]

[bell rings]

Travis: Who does have a bell that they're ringing? I love it! I conjured it into existence!

[bell rings]

Clint: Merle...

Griffin: Yes?

Clint: Casts...

Justin: Mm-hmm?

Travis: I saw the card!

Clint: *Control weather!*

Audience: [cheers]

Travis: That's not what it says.

Clint: And makes it snow—

Travis: That is not what it says.

Clint: — on the lava.

Travis: That is not what it says. Can you read the card again?

Clint: I can read the card again.

Travis: And it says...

Clint: It's right there.

Griffin: Travis? Okay.

Audience: [laughs]

Justin: Why did you think that was going to fly?

Clint: 'Cause I've done it before!

Travis: Lied?!

Audience: [laughs]

Travis: You've bullshat?!

Clint: I have! I have bullshat before.

Griffin: Alright. Who has, uh... Wizards of the Coast worked really hard on this game. Creating all sorts of spells and stunts and abilities...

Travis: Magnus casts *ice*.

Justin: [laughs] A spell! Uh, I will cast *ice storm*, a fourth-level evocation spell.

Griffin: Alright.

Clint: Wh—but—

Justin: A hail of rock-hard ice pounds—

Griffin: [laughs]

Clint: [laughs]

Justin: It fuckin' says it!

Audience: [laughs and cheers]

Justin: A hail of rock-hard ice pounds to the ground—

Audience: [laughs]

Justin: Why is this spell description a fucking Chuck Tingle story?! A hail of rock—[imitating a Southern accent] A hail of rock-hard ice pounds into the ground with all its buds...

Clint: Bow-chicka-wow-wow.

Justin: In a 20-foot radius, 40-foot-high cylinder, centered on any point within range of the grate.

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: Each creature—and then it's like, et cetera, et cetera. But it takes 2d8 bludgeoning damage and 4d6 cold damage. It's more of an attack, but you get what I'm goin' for.

Griffin: Sure, sure. I don't necessarily know what you're going f—I get, you're using ice on the grate and the lava, but what're you thinking this'll do?

Travis: Obviously, Griffin, that the ice would form, and then it would harden into onyx, as the—or no, what's the word? Obsidian— no, what am I looking for?

Audience: [yelling]

Clint: Rocks.

Travis: Obsidian.

Griffin: Okay. I was just tryin'a—

Travis: And create an archway that we can walk through.

Griffin: Uh, it doesn't create an archway. It does create a solid sort of panel of obsidian, now immediately in front of you.

Travis: That's not how that would work.

Griffin: But the lava is now kind of cascading off of—

Justin: Okay, then I, uh—

Travis: Then I smash through it!

Griffin: Okay. Roll an attack roll. It's obsidian, which is pretty hard, yes? Yes. Quite hard.

Travis: Uh, it's a 14?

Griffin: A 14? Uh, no. Take 16 points of damage. You're just punching fucking obsidian! Merle?

Clint: I actually have something!

Griffin: Merle has the floor!

Clint: He has a spell called *shape stone*.

Griffin: Oh, good!

Audience: [cheers]

Clint: It can make a 5-foot hole!

Griffin: Good!

Clint: In the panel!

Griffin: Yes!

Clint: Right?!

Griffin: Yes!

Audience: [cheers]

Clint: What do I roll?

Griffin: Nothing, I think you just do it.

Clint: [yells] Yeah!

Griffin: [laughs]

Clint: I do it! Right through the rock-hard stuff!

Griffin: You form a door in the obsidian panel and create a doorway for all of you to pass through into the castle. You have solved my lava puzzle.

Audience: [cheers]

Travis: And... what do we do now?

Griffin: Alright. You pass through the archway you created, and then through these large, iron, double doors that give way as you press against them, which opens up into a large, empty entrance hall.

Travis: I open the door for Taako and Merle.

Griffin: Aww.

Travis: I just wanted to establish that someone opened the door.

Griffin: Alright.

Clint: That I made.

Travis: No. A different door, that Griffin made with his words.

Clint: Oh.

Justin: A Griffin-door, if you will!

Griffin: Ha ha, hey!

Audience: [cheers]

Clint: Do we go Slytherin through the Griffin-door?

Audience: [cheers]

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: Y'all rock hard.

Griffin: This is an easy episode for me.

Clint: [laughs]

Griffin: You pass through some double doors into a large entrance hall—

Travis: Is it a family double door?

Clint: [laughs]

Griffin: There are massive pillars boasting decorative weapons and armor that are lining both sides of a dazzling red carpet that extends forward to a staircase, which, along with the walkway that it led up to, has collapsed in on itself.

Audience: [cheers]

Griffin: Thank you, Paul. Most of this room, actually, is in a state of disarray. There are unlit sconces everywhere. The only source of light is radiating from these trickles of lava dripping down the walls from cracks in the ceiling. The only exit from this room is on the far wall, to the left of this ruined staircase.

There's a large stone door with a frame etched in eldritch runes, which are the most magical runes that there are. In the center of this door, built right

into the rock, is a small metal padlock with a keyhole on its face. This is a puzzle, so please pay attention.

Travis: I punch it.

Griffin: Fuck, man, that was it.

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: There were so many other things, but the only thing you had to do was punch it! And your fist went in the keyhole, you turned it a little bit...

Clint: I think that was sarcasm, Trav.

Justin: Alright, establish all the beats so far. I'm dialed in now.

Griffin: Okay. To the left of the door are a few eye-catching objects. [laughs] The first is a pile of metal ingots, arranged in a pyramid right to the side of the door. Placed neatly on top of the pile is a single piece of white chalk. Also, a few feet from the pile of ingots is a relief built into the wall. It depicts a large, burly salamander. It looks like you guys are taking a fuckin' SAT prep—

Audience: [laughs]

Griffin: Class over there.

Justin: You have never asked us to do a puzzle. In a live venue.

Griffin: One of this salamander's arms is jutting out of the relief, curled upwards, its fist clenched around a large hammer. This figure is standing above a large anvil that stands immediately below the relief, right above the arm holding the hammer, as if it could come down to strike it. Also, this salamander's mouth is open in a wide 'O' shape, as if caught in the middle jovial laughter...

Travis: I take the chalk and draw a penis next to it.

Griffin: Okay, nothing happens.

Travis: Damn it!

Griffin: There is a metallic plaque in the shape of a banner that hangs over this relief, giving the subject depicted a name: Scald. What do you do?

Justin: Take the hammer. I take the hammer. I take the hammer.

Griffin: The hammer is built into the relief. You cannot take it.

Travis: I put one of the ingots between the hammer and the anvil.

Griffin: Nothing happens.

Travis: I leave it there and say...

Magnus: Come on...

Justin: Now wait, now wait! You had your dumb one, now Dad, what's your thing?

Clint: I pull Nitpicker out of my bag.

Griffin: Okay.

Audience: [cheers]

Nitpicker: Wow, uh... Couldn't even get past the first act, huh? Pulled me out a little bit early, don't'cha think, there, Merle?

Merle: Well, obviously we don't have any good ideas.

Nitpicker: Well didn't this guy go to fuckin' thief school?! Why do you even need me anymore?

Magnus: Oh yeah...

Audience: [laughs]

Travis: Can I try the lock first?

Griffin: Sure.

Travis: It's a 20.

Audience: [cheers]

Griffin: Whoa.

Clint: I put Nitpicker back in the bag...

Travis: It's a nat 20.

Justin: Can we not, maybe—can we just do the puzzle, though?

Griffin: With a nat 20, the eldritch runes light up as you stick your thieves' tools into the padlock, and attempt to electrocute you extremely badly, but with a nat 20, you pull back real, real fast.

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: And they do not. The door remains locked.

Magnus: It's a trap!

Audience: [laughs]

Griffin: There are so many things you could do to solve a puzzle with all the beautiful skills that Gary Gygax gave to you, my beautiful family.

Justin: [laughs]

Clint: Do the ingots move? Can we move them?

Griffin: You can pick `em up, yeah.

Travis: I`m gonna roll an investigation check.

Griffin: `Kay.

Travis: 15?

Griffin: With a 15, you find a few traces of chalk, just a few little grains of chalk on the surface of the anvil, just kinda off to the edge.

Travis: Put the chalk on the anvil...?

Griffin: You place the chalk on the anvil. Nothin` happens.

Justin: I`m gonna roll—this may be the same bit of flavor text, but I`m gonna roll a perception check, uh... that... is gonna be a 13. I`m basically looking for like, things that look like they`re used regularly to access this pathway.

Griffin: All of it. The ingots, the chalk, the anvil, all of it.

Justin: So it`s all part of it?

Griffin: It`s all kind of part of the puzzle.

Justin: The ingots and the chalk are... part of it.

Griffin: Yes. Merle? Wait, what are you rollin`, pal?

Clint: A perception check, like everybody else!

Griffin: [yells] Okay, there is nothing left to perceive! You have perceived everything in the puzzle!

Audience: [laughs]

Travis: Do insight. Do insight.

Clint: An insight check, then!

Griffin: To see if—

Travis: To see if you, Griffin, are lying.

Griffin: Okay.

Clint: Okay, insight! I rolled a—an eight? Plus 12. 20!

Justin: No.

Travis: What's up!

Justin: No. No, there is no fuckin'—

Travis: He is very insightful.

Clint: Here, look!

Travis: It says it, on his lying sheet right there!

Griffin: With a 12 insight—

Clint: No, it's 20.

Griffin: A 20 Insight, you insightfully—

Travis: — know that Griffin is hiding—

Griffin: —see some scrape marks on the corner—on the edges of the big, circular, open mouth, as if something has scraped against it.

Travis: I put an ingot... in the mouth.

Griffin: You place an ingot in the mouth and hear a clunking noise as it slides down into the belly of this thing, and uh, its eyes light up red and some smoke pours out of its mouth as something inside of it activates.

Clint: And we all turn into Tom Hanks.

Travis: Exactly what happened in Big!

Griffin: That's what happens in Big. Some dude goes up to a fortune teller and is like, "Oh, my life's not goin' so great," and then he turns into a Tom Hanks.

Justin: [laughing] He puts an ingot in the mouth of a—

Griffin: The mouth of Zolta—Zolt—whatever.

Travis: Okay.

Griffin: That's it! That's all that happens that time.

Justin: Is there clearly—okay. Is there anything on the statue that looks like it, uh, it like, moves? Hinges? Like—

Griffin: There is a hinge on the elbow of the arm sticking out holding the hammer.

Travis: I take the chalk and write "open" on the anvil.

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: And then I put another ingot in.

Griffin: Uh, you... before you even have time to put another ingot in, you write "open" on the anvil, and you see some molten metal actually lift up from the surface of the anvil, from inside of it, and fill in the word that you have written. And then the hammer comes striking down on it, and then you have, just presented in front of you, O-P-E-N in metal, waiting for you on the anvil. Nothing else happens, though.

Justin: Okay, uh, I am going to take out... my Mockingbird Gum.

Griffin: Okay...

Justin: And I'm going to chew it up.

Griffin: Alright.

Justin: Then... I'm going to chew all of it up.

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: And then I'm going to put it into the keyhole. And then I'm gonna... transmute it... Yeah, I can just transmute the substance. So I'm gonna use my Transmutation Stone to transmute it into...

Griffin: I'm just watching, it's like the meme with like, all the math moving around the woman's head.

Justin: Okay. And then I'm gonna transmute it into wood.

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: 'Cause I have the Transmutation Stone. I'm gonna transmute it into wood. And then I'll pull it back out.

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: What's it look like?

Griffin: A key.

Justin: No, I mean... I'm gonna trace that exact key with the chalk.

Griffin: Okay!

Audience: [cheers]

Travis: [sings Final Fantasy victory fanfare]

Griffin: You trace that key with the chalk, and it's sitting there, but the thing is not acting on it.

Travis: I put another ingot in it.

Griffin: Okay, yeah. Metal rises up from the anvil and fills in the tracing of the key. The hammer comes down and strikes it, and now you've got yourselves a key goin'.

Audience: [cheers]

Justin: And then I throw that key! Away!

Travis: No! Wait! Taako—!

Clint: [laughs]

Justin: And I say...

Taako: Now you two do one also, 'cause you can't ride on my coattails!

Justin: Uh, I just fuckin' bury the key. Into the hole.

Griffin: Alright.

Clint: [laughs]

Travis: Rock hard!

Justin: Rock hard key!

Griffin: As you do that, you don't even need to turn it. The padlock falls away and a split opens in the middle of the door, and it slides open. That was a good—

Audience: [cheers]

Griffin: As you go to leave through this room, you notice a few things among the debris in this sort of ruined entryway. They look like discarded weapons and pieces of armor lying amidst the rubble. And as you sort of turn to leave, it looks like they kind of move with a mind of their own. They scoot a little bit closer and closer to your party, slowly, and then they stop right at Magnus' feet. And then they kinda like, hang there for a second? And then they fall back down to the ground, motionless.

Magnus: Y'all wanna come with, or...

Griffin: Garfield says...

Garfield: That was pretty weird!

Travis: I put 'em on?

Griffin: Uh, I mean, you can if you want, but they appear to just be... kinda shitty pieces of armor. Not any better than the pieces of armor you've got now.

Travis: Yeah, but they moved...

Griffin: They're not moving anymore.

Travis: And you made a point to mention it.

Griffin: Okay. Yeah, you can put `em on.

Magnus: Hey, could uhh, one of you magical dudes, like, check those out?

Justin: Okay. I'll uh, do an arcana check. That is a... six plus one.

Taako: I know nothing about these.

Audience: [laughs]

Magnus: Merle? Roll a d20?

Travis: Magnus said that in-character.

Clint: I do an arcana check.

Griffin: Okay.

Clint: Ten. Plus... what?

Travis: Nothing. You have, somehow, no arcana.

Clint: No! No—oh, no.

Griffin: Uh, I'm gonna say, both of you, and Taako, I think you get a little bump, just because it's kinda home turf. There's transmutation magic. Hella transmutation magic comin' off these things. They have been transmuted. And... yes. You know that much.

Travis: I put them on.

Griffin: Okay.

Clint: I take his old armor!

Travis: No, I transfer it to the Pocket Workshop, I'm not leaving it behind.

Griffin: You're wearing, now, plate mail armor. It's not necessarily your aesthetic—

Travis: Why did it—hey. Ignore them.

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: Why did it move?

Griffin: [laughs] The door from the entrance hall—

Travis: No, no, no, no, Griffin. We're brothers.

Griffin: —opens up—

Travis: We're kin.

Griffin: —to the throne room.

Travis: My flesh, my blood!

Griffin: You are standing in a large, rectangular room.

Travis: I thought I knew you.

Griffin: Yes.

Audience: [laughs]

Griffin: Look at the clock... Oh, no!

You have reached the throne room of the castle. It's a large, rectangular room. About halfway in from your position are these two large, thick columns of lava, falling in through cut holes in the ceiling, down into grate-covered holes in the floor. There is no far wall to this room. There is just simply a half-dozen or so pillars that—I don't know why I said "or so." It's six. Like, I—

Travis: Six-ish. Give or take.

Justin: Seven, five... [laughing] Who knows.

Griffin: There are exactly six—

Justin: You're not gonna sit there and count 'em like an asshole.

Griffin: There are six pillars—

Travis: Who has the time?

Griffin: There are six pillars that run from the floor to the ceiling, beyond which, you can just see, uh, open, the Great Fire Sea, which boils just below the precipice that this castle stands on. It's just a sheer drop-off, if you went through these pillars. The room is filled with suits of armor that are flanking you on both sides—

Travis: Do they move?

Griffin: They are not. They are carrying various weapons. They're arranged in rows to your left and right. Just this army of armor that fills a majority of the room, silently watching the royal proceedings. And, at the end of this room is a dais, and a stone throne, upon which sits the only other person in this room - a big, burly salamander who, you recognize from the relief outside, is King Scald.

Travis: Is he laughing?

Griffin: Yeah, sure.

Travis: That's how we— First we're looking at him, "Mmm..." And then he laughed and we're like, "Ohh!"

Clint: [deep laugh]

Griffin: He says...

Scald: [deep, gruff voice] Okay. Let me—

Travis: [Bowser impression] "I'm gonna marry Princess Peach!"

Audience: [laughs and cheers]

Griffin: He says...

Scald: It's been a long time since I had visitors! Where are you from, little ones?

Magnus: Wh—uh—

Taako: I'm from TV.

Audience: [cheers]

Magnus: Uhh—

Taako: Do you get that here, Cro-Magnon? TV?

Scald: Okay... Didn't need to get like this this fast.

Justin: [laughs]

Magnus: I'm from, uh, originally, a planet with, I think, two moons? I don't know, that was a long time ago. And then Raven's Roost... So I guess I would say I'm from Raven's Roost, really?

Scald: Are you the guys from the song?

Magnus: Yeah!

Taako: That's us.

Scald: Okay, cool. That's gonna cut a lot of exposition out.

Merle: The beach.

Magnus: Do you want us to sign anything?

Scald: That's okay. Is there anything I can do for you? What are ya doin' in my realm?

Taako: Have you been burning down Garfield's stores?

Griffin: Garfield kind of waves nervously as you say that, and Scald says...

Scald: Yeah, that's me.

Audience: [laughs]

Scald: So, you're the merchant, huh? I've been deeply curious about you, I admit. According to my scouts, you were in possession of something that belongs to me. They made a terrible mess of your business ventures, right?

Audience: [cheers]

Griffin: He says...

Scald: I apologize, 'cause it appears this item has changed hands.

Audience: [cheers]

Griffin: King Scald looks at Magnus and says...

Scald: The sword, please.

Audience: [cheers]

Magnus: Uh, this is ironic, considering where we are, but... over my cold, dead body.

Audience: [cheers]

Griffin: Scald says...

Scald: Uhh, I feel like you maybe don't understand the... the true power of this sword. See, for decades, I served as the loyal smithy to this realm.

Magnus: Mm-hmm.

Scald: My creations were unparalleled in quality, and yet, my services were never truly appreciated—

Magnus: Cool.

Scald: —by the royal family. Are you listenin', or—

Magnus: Yeah.

Audience: [laughs]

Scald: So...

Magnus: Uh-huh?

Audience: [laughs]

Scald: So I found the means to make them respect my work. I would make them... become my work.

Griffin: And then he gestures upwards, and there are swords and spears and axes hanging all around the room, each of which features a name plate. There's 'Queen Ashspine,' 'Duke Incindius,' and so on. And he says...

Scald: I do not know how the highlight of my collection was stolen from me or how it ended up in your hands, fighter.

Griffin: And he motions to a plaque hanging—

Magnus: Fuck you! My name's Magnus!

Griffin: He motions to a plaque on the wall, hanging above the throne. It's a long plaque with two hooks turned upward which held, once, a great, wicked sword. And underneath, there's a name plate that reads, 'King Wrathfang.' And Scald says...

Scald: Well, uh, never mind all that. This is a cause for celebration.

Griffin: And he taps his hammer against the armrest of the throne, and the Flaming, Raging, Poisoning Sword of Doom is pulled from your hands into his free hand.

Audience: [cheers]

Griffin: And he looks at the sword, and says...

Scald: Our king has returned!

Griffin: We're gonna take an intermission right now!

Audience: [cheers]

Griffin: We'll be right back with act two!

[theme music plays]

Griffin: Hey, this is uh, Griffin McElroy, your best friend, your dungeon master, and your Boss Baby. I'm in charge, now. Thanks for listening to The Adventure Zone, our live show from Atlanta. Again, we will be back in two weeks with a new episode of Amnesty. But until then, I'm gonna tell you about some of our sponsors for this live show episode.

Our first one is Quip. Quip is wonderful. I have a Quip toothbrush myself. It is tiny, it is powerful, and it gets the frickin' job done. Most of us brush our teeth wrong, because most brands focus on selling flashy gimmicks rather than better brushing – but not Quip.

Quip is the new electric toothbrush that's a fraction of the cost of bulkier brushes, and packs premium vibrations for a perfect, two-minute clean. Plus, Quip's guiding pulses remind you when to switch sides, and they'll deliver new brush heads on a dentist recommended schedule every three months for just five dollars, including free shipping worldwide.

So, to get Quip for just 25 bucks – that's how much it starts for – you can go to [GetQuip.com/Adventure](https://www.getquip.com/Adventure) right now, and you'll get your first refill pack free with a Quip electric toothbrush. [GetQuip.com/Adventure](https://www.getquip.com/Adventure).

Also want to tell you about Bombas Socks. I enjoy me some Bombas socks. I have a few pairs now. They've been kind enough to send some to me, and they are wonderful. It's like walking around in little hammocks all day. That sounds actually really uncomfortable, and also super dangerous. These socks are neither super dangerous, nor are they uncomfortable.

They are comfortable, they make your foot feel so safe and supported and loved, like a, y'know, circle of supportive friends, but they're made out of, y'know, super soft cotton with an arch support system and a cushioned foot bed. They are the most comfortable socks I have ever worn. They were created for runners, power-walkers, power-loungers, low-key fashionistas, Netflix-and-chillers, and overall lovers of every day comfort.

I am like three of those things. Bombas, also, they donate one brand new pair of socks for every pair that they sell. So to date, they've sold and donated over nine million pairs. That is a wild amount of socks. So go to Bombas.com/AdventureZone. That's Bombas.com/AdventureZone, all one word, and you will get 20% off your first order.

Bombas.com/AdventureZone, and use the code [AdventureZone](https://Bombas.com/AdventureZone), all one word.

Got a couple of jumbotrons here. This one is for Future Alex and Caitlyn. It's from Alex, who says, "First of all, because I know you're listening, hey, Caitlyn. You are a wonderful friend, and I really need to visit again sometime soon. And B-T-W, future me – I know you're gonna do great on the SAT, and are going to get that zoology degree. I believe in you. P.S. Magic users are always the best class in any tabletop RPG." Um, I don't actually think that there is a best class in any tabletop RPG. Um, except that there absolutely is, and it's a bard. Which I guess is a kind of magic.

Anyway, uh, here's another jumbotron. This one's for A Different Maddy, and it's from Maddy, who says, "Hey, thanks for responding to a message about a podcast, thus ensuring our friendship and our mutual destruction in the form of making each other listen to more podcasts. There's no one else I'd rather fall into this ouroboros with than you. I love you, and I like you." That's a very sweet message, and it's also very true, because podcasts are destroying my life, also.

Anyway, um, thanks for tweeting about the show using the [#TheZoneCast](https://twitter.com/TheZoneCast) hash tag. Y'all know that shit. Uh, thank you to Maximum Fun for having us on the network. You can go to MaximumFun.org and check out all the great shows there. Shows like Bubble, and Story Break, and Switchblade Sisters, and so many more at MaximumFun.org.

You can check out the other stuff we do at McElroyShows.com. We got a graphic novel, the first arc of Balance, TheAdventureZoneComic.com. You can get it there if you don't already have it. We're working on book two now. It's gonna be super cool. Uh, got some live shows coming up. Pretty sure they're all sold out, but if not, you can find links to those at McElroyShows.com/tours.

There might be some tickets actually still available. We're doing Austin, Texas. Did I read that right? Yeah. I should be able to read that right. I live in that. Uh, in late November, we're gonna be in Austin. So you can find links to those shows at McElroyShows.com/tours. They might be gone, though. [sighs] I'm kind of doing this one on the fly.

I think that's it. I'm gonna let you get back to the rest of the episode. Uh, again, we'll be back in two weeks with a new Amnesty. Sorry for the delay. And we'll talk to you then. Bye!

[theme music plays]

Griffin: How was the initiative roll for everybody?

Travis: I got a 21.

Griffin: Jesus.

Justin: 16.

Clint: 20.

Justin: The Hangback Kid.

Griffin: Wow, Jesus.

Clint: Oh, wait! I roll twice.

Griffin: This is true.

Justin: You remember that.

Clint: We'll stay with the 20.

Audience: [laughs]

Griffin: Okay. First in the order is Magnus, with a 21. You, uh—

Travis: It's hot in here!

Griffin: What the fuck just ha—yeah, I guess so. Yeah, I guess there's columns of lava in this room, and an open wall looking out into the Great Fire Sea. It would be, kinda red in there. Uh, you see Scald tap his hammer on the throne one more time. He's already holding the—your sword. Well, technically Taako's sword, in his other hand, and his hammer—

Travis: Well, when you give a gift to a friend, Griffin...

Griffin: Sure. As he taps it a second time, though, a few of the suits of armor flanking you on either side of the room come to life and start marching toward you. Magnus, it's your turn with a 21.

Travis: Let me finish this text.

Griffin: Really, dawg.

Travis: No. I'm looking up what *disarming strike* does.

Audience: [cheers]

Travis: D... and... D.

Audience: [laughs]

Travis: Mm-hmm... I'll roll for the attack first.

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: Mmm.

Audience: [laughs]

Travis: I'm gonna call that interference on the bag.

Griffin: No!

Clint: No, no.

Travis: Okay. It's a 12, so I miss with that, but then I attack five more times.

Audience: [laughs]

Travis: So that's a 19?

Griffin: A 19 is a hit.

Travis: Okay. And then I'm gonna roll... Okay, who here knows how *disarming strike* works?

Griffin: Okay, hold on, this is not going to be good audio. [singing] Let's open up the Player's Handbook, didn't think I would have to open it during the show. But that's okay. Sometimes you gotta read a book on stage.

Justin: [laughs] This is what y'all crave, right, Reddit?

Audience: [cheers]

Justin: So cool of Reddit to be here tonight. [laughs]

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: "You add your Superiority Dice to the attack's damage roll, and the target must make a Strength saving throw"—What are you attacking with, by the way?

Travis: Chance Lance!

Griffin: Chance Lance, okay. So that's a d10 for damage.

Travis: Uh, eight?

Griffin: Okay. 22 is what I have to beat. Great. [pause] No. I didn't do it. What do you, uh... which—he's got two things, what are you tryin'a make him drop?

Travis: My sword!

Griffin: Okay. The Flaming, Raging, Poisoning Sword of Doom drops to the ground.

Audience: [cheers]

Travis: I catch it before it hits the ground.

Griffin: Technically, it says it lands at its feet in the *disarming strike*.

Travis: Then I get it, like, "Hah!" at the feet.

Griffin: Okay. You get your sword back.

Travis: And I stab up, into the ribs!

Justin: That seems like two actions to me.

Travis: Okay.

Griffin: Next in the order is... Merle.

Clint: First, I'd just like to point out, that, Merle does have *control weather*.

Griffin: Okay, but you didn't fuckin' have the card out! Thank you, Clint. What is your action?

Clint: Uh... I'm gonna do somethin' real cleric-y.

Griffin: Cool.

Clint: And cast, uh... *guardian of faith!*

Audience: [cheers]

Griffin: Excellent. Where does Della Reese appear? I would say sort of the two zones in this fight right now are sort of where the armor is sort of approaching you from the sides of the room, or where King Scald is, sort close to the back of the room.

Clint: Towards the suits of armor.

Griffin: Okay.

Clint: Yeah. So, I cast that, and the amazing... angelic... Della Reese appears.

Audience: [cheers]

Griffin: Yes. What, uh... Can you read me some of that flavor? 'Cause I know they have to make saving throws.

Clint: Oh, yeah. Yeah. Um... [mumbles gibberish] "Any creature hostile to you that moves to a space within 10 feet of the guardian for the first time on a turn must succeed on a dexterity saving throw."

Griffin: Okay. These armor things act as a swarm, so I'm going to roll one dex save for all of them. That is a 15, which I believe your spell save is a 20— I looked at all your numbers backstage, so that we didn't waste any time. Uh, they do not save. So what happens?

Clint: The creature takes 20 radiant damage!

Griffin: Wow.

Audience: [cheers]

Travis: And?

Clint: What else do you want? No, that's it. Yeah. It was a failed save, correct?

Griffin: Okay, yeah. They take 20 radiant damage.

Clint: 20 radiant damage! Have you guys never played this game before?!

Griffin: Uh there were—oh, Jesus Christ. Uh, there were six suits of armor approaching you, three from the left, three from sort of the right flank, and as they enter into Della Reese's attack zone, she takes down three of them. Three remain, marching towards you.

Audience: [cheers]

Griffin: Next in the order is the living armor! The three remaining, moving, living armor pieces, the ones that have not sort of clattered to the ground, approach Merle and seek vengeance. They attack you as a swarm. That is a 21 versus AC.

Travis: It's a disadvantage 'cause I'm standing right there and I'm a Defender.

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: I'm a protection fighter.

Griffin: Uh, 19 versus AC.

Travis: It does tie.

Clint: 19.

Griffin: Tie goes to the attacker, unfortunately.

Travis: Hey, sorry about that.

Griffin: Uh, they cut ya up good with their axes and swords... for... yowza!
22 points of slashing damage.

Travis: He's fine.

Merle: [moans dramatically]

Travis: Yep.

Audience: [laughs]

Merle: [still moaning]

Griffin: And with that, more—with that, more suits of living armor come alive. Five more suits of living armor from the sides of the room start marching towards you. Next in the order is Taako.

Justin: That's so many living suits of armor, though...

Griffin: Yeah. There's so many in this room.

Justin: How big are they?

Griffin: They're... suit-of-armor-sized...

Travis: Somewhere between four and a half and six and a half feet.

Griffin: Yeah. In that range. There are six, there's—

Audience: [laughs]

Travis: Somebody really liked that joke, and I did too! Thank you for coming with me on that.

Justin: Um...

Griffin: Waitin' on that new Taako EP to drop.

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: He dropped some tracks on SoundCloud, it was... It was fire.

Travis: Did it slap?

Griffin: It was the slap.

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: It was just Justin, line for line, recounting the TV show The Slap.

Griffin: Yes.

Justin: Uhh...

Travis: Still need more time?

Griffin: He likes to keep us in anticipation for his new albums. But then he does like, a surprise drop, like you weren't even expecting him to take a turn.

Justin: Well, they're not really attacking with fire, are they?

Griffin: No.

Justin: 'Cause that was kinda my thing, that I was thinking about.

Griffin: Cool.

Justin: That was... um... I was thinking about how it would be cool to do like a fire— [laughs] A fire thing. And now it's less—I don't—um...

Travis: This is everyone's favorite part of a D&D podcast. Um...

Griffin: The wizard looks at his thousand spells...

Justin: It's not a thousand spells! I was looking at one spell, and it doesn't make any sense to *investiture of flame* myself if they're not attacking with flame! Just—I had that one kind of ready, like, excited, but it doesn't seem like it makes any sense here.

Griffin: Sure.

Justin: I am going to cast boring old, stupid... [snorts] Ugh...

Audience: [laughs]

Justin: Just a dumbass—

Travis: He doesn't have it picked yet.

Justin: Just a dumb spell! Just a stupid-ass, like—

Griffin: Do you wanna delay your turn?

Justin: I'm gonna delay my turn, because I have a plan.

Griffin: Alright.

Audience: [cheers]

Griffin: Keep lookin'! Next in the order is Garfield the Deals Warlock.

Audience: [cheers]

Griffin: Garfield, uh, kneels down and reaches into his gigantic Bag of Holding, and he roots around in there for a while, and he says...

Garfield: A-ha!

Griffin: And he pulls out a Super Soaker.

Audience: [cheers]

Griffin: And he turns and faces Scald, and shoots him with what appears to be some sort of black ooze that sizzles as it hits Scald, and some of Scald's sort of thick leather armor falls away, reducing his AC permanently with the black ooze shot at Scald. Uhh... Taako, are you—

Justin: Yes, I'm ready. How close are all the, uh, bad folks to Scald? Give me, like, a quick layout.

Griffin: Sure, I would say you're all within, like, 20 feet of each other, in sort of the far end of the room now.

Justin: But we're all in like a 20-foot—

Griffin: Yup.

Justin: Uhh... What would a 20-foot radius from Scald encompass?

Griffin: Um... You guys and the armor. That is, the armor that is currently approaching you to attack. Eight suits of armor, you three, and Scald.

Justin: Mmm...

Griffin: You four, including Garfield. You know it's gonna be worth it. Unless you need to delay again.

Justin: No, I think we can handle it.

Audience: [laughs]

Justin: I'm gonna cast *vitriolic sphere* at Scald. It, uh... I'm pointing at a place within range, and a glowing one-foot ball of emerald acid streaks there and explodes in a 20-foot radius.

Audience: [laughs and cheers]

Justin: Each creature has to make a dexterity saving throw. Mine's dope, so I'm fine.

Audience: [laughs]

Travis: A what saving throw?

Justin: That's a dexterity saving throooow.

Griffin: Scald got a four.

Travis: 20!

Griffin: Whoa!

Audience: [cheers]

Travis: 18 plus two. Not a nat.

Griffin: The eight suits of living armor got a 13.

Justin: Uhh... how're you doing, Dad? What's up?

Clint: Mm-hmm. Uh... se—seven.

Audience: [laughs]

Justin: So, okay...

Griffin: Taako, did you roll it?

Justin: What?

Griffin: Your dexterity saving throw.

Justin: Oh. [laughing] I'm good. I had a 19. I'm fine against myself.

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: I saved against myself. Umm... so, good news, good news. Good news on the armor. They're dead. Bad news for you, but that feels like, I don't know, you would kind of think... it's a fair price to pay.

Audience: [laughs]

Travis: What a great deal!

Justin: I can tell—

Griffin: Two out of three ain't bad!

Travis: Two out of three ain't bad!

Griffin: How much damage are you doing?

Justin: Three out of four, if you think about it.

Griffin: Three out of four? Oh yeah, how's Garfield doing? ... Garfield's great.

Justin: Garfield's fine. And really, I got all the bad guys.

Travis: So we didn't really lose anybody important.

Griffin: How much damage— how much damage does the Vitr—

Audience: [sounds of horror]

Griffin: Aw, man.

Justin: It's—it's, um... it's not even that much. Just 10d4 acid.

Audience: [screams]

Griffin: You want me to roll that one for ya?

Travis: At most—

Justin: Yes, please.

Travis: You have 49. At most, it's 40 damage. You'll have nine points left.
At most!

Griffin: Hey. 22.

Clint: Oh.

Justin: 22, not bad at all. Everybody agreed that was worth it.

Clint: Yay, hey.

Griffin: The eight—the eight—

Clint: Hooray, we succeed again!

Audience: [laughs]

Griffin: Uhh, the eight suits of armor, the joints sort of connecting them corrode, and they also collapse to the ground. You have taken out all of them. And Scald...

Audience: [cheers]

Griffin: Scald looks pretty bad also. Uh, Scald is up now. Scald takes his hammer, which starts to glow, and he points it at Garfield the Deals Warlock. And a rainbow-colored beam shoots out of the tip of the hammer and hits Garfield the Deals Warlock, who is encased in this rainbow light as he floats up off the ground. And then there is a flash of light, and then... Garfield is gone, and there's just a chakram that collapses and falls to the ground, as Garfield has been transformed into a weapon.

Audience: [screams]

Griffin: Next in the order is Magnus Burnside's. Also, hey—he wasn't at the death reunion, so... anything goes! That's right! It's not just them I can endanger! Magnus.

Travis: I'm going to attack with the Flaming, Raging, Poisoning Sword of Doom that I still have.

Griffin: Okay.

Audience: [cheers]

Justin: Boooo.

Travis: That's an 18 plus 10. 28.

Griffin: Yup, that does hit.

Travis: Um, okay. So... [exhales] Seven plus 24, that is 31 points of damage.

Griffin: Shit.

Audience: [cheers]

Travis: And then I attack again. Five plus 10. 15.

Griffin: He's hurt real bad.

Audience: [laughs]

Travis: No, no, no, that was my attack. 15.

Griffin: Oh, 15? 15 hits with the reduced AC.

Travis: Okay. And so that's only 26. So that's... 57. I attack again!

Audience: [laughs]

Travis: That is a 28!

Griffin: Yup.

Travis: That's—mmm—that's 34 points of damage.

Audience: [cheers]

Travis: How's he lookin'?

Griffin: Scald... steps back. Uhh...

Audience: [laughs]

Justin: He— [laughs] He takes stock of the situation.

Griffin: He takes a deep breath. He says...

Scald: Maybe... you do understand the true power of this weapon.

Audience: [laughs]

Griffin: He says, uh...

Scald: I, uh... I know enough to admit when I am... outmatched by an adversary.

Griffin: And he, uh... he takes a step back, and he sort of is now resting against one of the pillars at the edge of this room overlooking the Great Fire Sea below, and he says...

Scald: Do you?

Griffin: And he—

Travis: No.

Griffin: —falls backwards over the edge.

Travis: Oh!

Griffin: You won!

Travis: Wait, no, this a second form Sephiroth kinda thing, right?

Audience: [laughs]

Griffin: Then you hear a rumbling from below.

Audience: [cheers]

Travis: Fucking Dark Souls, I knew it.

Griffin: The ground beneath you quakes. Most of the living suits of armor in this room lose their footing and crash to the floor, and then begin reforming

themselves amidst the chaos. And then... a massive, metal gauntlet rises into view below the cliff's edge, finding a handhold amongst the pillars at the edge of the room. And then it pulls another into view—

Travis: "Thanos!" [laughing] Somebody yelled "Thanos!"

Griffin: It's not fucking Thanos!

Audience: [laughs]

Travis: Yup, it's a Marvel crossover! This is—

Griffin: Yeah. We've been waiting for this the whole time.

Travis: This is a sponsored content episode... [laughs]

Griffin: And then—and then it pulls another gauntlet into view, and you see a gigantic, metal-plate helmet lift up behind the pillars. Its visor is open, and inside, controlling this gigantic suit of armor from within, is King Scald. And Scald says...

Scald: I've been hoping to forge a larger army before beginning my campaign, but I'm afraid you've forced my hand.

Griffin: And he stands up—

Travis: Oh, "hand." Gauntlet... hand.

Griffin: Okay.

Audience: [laughs]

Griffin: And with that, this massive suit of armor stands up to full height. It's easily ten stories tall. It towers over this castle. You actually see it tuck its fingers in between those pillars at the edge of the room and just rip the

ceiling of the throne room and castle off and chuck it into the Great Fire Sea below.

And as it does so, all the smaller suits of armor in this throne room begin floating upward. They're now following Scald's massive armor vessel, flocking behind it as this gigantic suit of armor stands astride the castle. And these two metal gauntlets, they clap together, and Scald's voice is amplified as he shouts...

Scald: Rejoice, my creations, for today, our realm takes its rightful place at the center of the planar system!

Griffin: And then you see Scald's arm with the hammer extend through the visor, and this rainbow-colored beam shoots forward and tears a rift in the fabric of reality itself, and through that tear you see... Neverwinter.

Audience: [cheers]

Griffin: It is a busy day. Right in the middle of the Merchant's Quarter, there are crowds of people all assembled around a stage. And on that stage, you see flowers and balloons and a marching band performing, and banners hanging from poles reading, "Neverwinter Rises Again!"

Audience: [laughs]

Griffin: And... and while every face in the crowd looks in shock at your direction through this open rift, you see a familiar face that is, at the moment, oblivious to this threat. Behind a podium on stage is Lucretia, who—

Audience: [cheers]

Griffin: Who is donning her Bureau of Benevolence regalia and reading a prepared speech from a scroll. She says...

Lucretia: But with your months of tireless effort and unceasing charity, the long, arduous rebuilding process has finally concluded. Neverwinter has

not just recovered from the Hunger's onslaught - it has been reforged.
A safer, stronger, more pros—

Audience: [laughing]

Lucretia: You—you have got to be fucking kidding me.

Audience: [laughs and cheers]

Griffin: And with that, Scald's massive suit of armor takes one enormous step forward towards the open rift to Neverwinter with a flock of smaller suits of armor flying behind him with weapons drawn. Who's next in the fuckin' order?

Audience: [laughs]

Griffin: It is Merle Highchurch. Merle... What do you do?

Clint: Merle casts *conjure celestial*.

Griffin: Okay.

Audience: [cheers]

Griffin: What's that do?

Clint: "You summon a celestial of challenge rating of four or lower which appears in an unoccupied space that you can see within range."

Griffin: Okay. How is this different from the Della Reese spell?

Clint: Well for one thing, she disappeared after doing 60 damage.

Griffin: [laughs] Okay.

Clint: And this is a celestial.

Griffin: So what's that mean, Mac?

Clint: [laughing] I don't know what a celestial is.

Audience: [laughs]

Clint: I was hoping one of you did! "The DM has the celestial statistics," pal!

Audience: [laughs]

Travis: So I guess it's your fault you don't know.

Griffin: Does it really fucking say that? Why would you put me on blast like that, Player's Handbook?

Audience: [laughs]

Clint: Right there. You have those statistics, Griffin.

Griffin: Alright.

Travis: I'll Google it.

Griffin: The top result is actually like, 90 Reddit threads, like, people like, "Where are the fucking statistics?"

Audience: [laughs]

Griffin: Okay. Up to uh... okay. Okay, yeah this is—this is off the website. You get to choose one of the three. A pegasus, a c... "co-dull"? A C-O-U-A-T-L, what is... uh... it's like, uh, it's like a snake with wings. It's tight.

Clint: Mmkay.

Griffin: Or a unicorn.

Audience: [cheers]

Justin: Binicorn. Nope, Garyl's a binicorn. Nope, Garyl's a binicorn.

Clint: Pleeeeease?

Travis: Garyl is a—

Justin: Garyl's a binicorn, sorry bud.

Travis: But if you wanna summon a unicorn and give him a friend...

Justin: No. Nope. That's my IP, I will take you to court.

Audience: [laughs]

Travis: Do the pegasus.

Justin: Do a beautiful pegasus.

Travis: Do the pegasus—

Clint: I'll do the pegasus!

Griffin: Okay!

Audience: [cheers]

Griffin: You—I think you—

Justin: I will give you the name Gregasus.

Audience: [cheers]

Justin: That's all I'll give you.

Clint: Gregasus the pegasus.

Griffin: You open the Extreme Teen Bible, and I think just Pagemaster style, a Gregasus comes flying out of the pages and lands beside you. Uh, and...

Travis: And he has the face of every Greg you've ever known.

Audience: [laughs]

Griffin: Um...

Clint: Can I jump on it? Can...

Griffin: Yeah, what do you want Gregasus to do? On Gregasus's turn.

Clint: I'll... um, uh, start attacking the suits of armor.

Griffin: Okay, go ahead and roll a d20.

Clint: [giggles]

Audience: [laughs]

Clint: 19!

Audience: [cheers]

Clint: Plus... two?

Griffin: Uh, we're just Calvinballing it at this point, but next in the order was the flying suits of armor. Let's say that a detachment of these suits of armor were flying down to intercept the three of you, to keep you from preventing this invasion. And Gregasus runs in and just uses *tackle* on all of them, knocking all effortlessly out of the sky.

Clint: Okay.

Griffin: Uh, next in the order is Taako.

Justin: [sighing] Okay, um... I am going to cast... I'm gonna cast *reduce*.

Audience: [laughs and cheers]

Clint: [laughs]

Griffin: My—my one like, Pacific Rim-style encounter, and you're going to reduce it.

Audience: [laughs]

Griffin: How much?

Justin: Just like, one. Just one—

Griffin: What does the spell say?

Justin: One less. I mean it takes it from... M to G.

Clint: So still five stories.

Griffin: What?

Justin: Like, I guess mass—

Travis: Mega to giant?

Justin: —Mega to giant?

Griffin: Okay, yeah, now it's... six stories tall.

Justin: Okay, perfect.

Travis: So it's doable.

Griffin: And Scald inside of it also got kind of cuter.

Audience: [laughs]

Justin: Sweet. Okay, I'm good. That's all I need. Hey, baby, that's step one.

Griffin: Uh, Garfield lays motionless on the floor.

Audience: [laughs]

Travis: As a chakram.

Griffin: As a chakram. Next in the order is Scald. Scald, uh, first off, tries to pick up a very large tower made of brass. Just tries to rip it out of the ground, and can't because he is, uh, his suit of armor is a little bit smaller than he expected it to be. So instead, he picks up a brass outhouse which he launches at the three of yours directions, except... are you riding? You're not riding Gregasus, you said—

Clint: Yeah!

Griffin: Oh, okay. Then it's just going after you, Magnus and Taako. Make a dexterity saving throw.

Travis: Twenty. Nat.

Justin: Eleven. Not. Good. Enough.

Griffin: Uh...

Justin: To dodge it.

Griffin: The outhouse comes flying toward Magnus first, and the door kind of like... waves open as it comes, and you just kind of perfectly pass—

Travis: Buster Keaton style?

Griffin: —perfectly pass through it, Buster Keaton style. And then the door shuts right as it reaches Taako, and it just flattens him. Uh, that is 21 points of damage from the outhouse.

Justin: Okay.

Travis: We're big boys.

Justin: We're good.

Griffin: Uh, and then, for its second attack, the massive... or less... the giant armor, I guess, tries to throw a punch at Gregasus and Merle. ... That is a nat failure.

Audience: [cheers]

Griffin: That is a one.

Clint: Wait a minute, wait a minute.

Griffin: Yeah, it's sick.

Travis: And actually, Merle healed.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: He just avoided it so well.

Griffin: Yeah. Next in the order is Magnus.

Travis: Uh, Magnus laughs.

Griffin: Okay.

Clint: Okay, now it's my turn—

Travis: Free action. Um, and then grappling hooks to the open visor.

Griffin: Oof. Alright. I'm gonna make you do a...

Travis: Acrobatics?

Griffin: Acrobatics, probably, 'cause this thing is pretty high up there, and it just took a big step away from—

Travis: Or an athletics check.

Clint: Yeah.

Griffin: Sure, either one.

Travis: Okay. So that's... a 19.

Griffin: Uh, okay. Uh, I'll make you a deal. With a 19, you can get up there, but it's not gonna be like a clean entry—

Travis: That's fine.

Griffin: —into the visor, and, uh—

Travis: I'll take some damage.

Griffin: Okay. Yeah, I think he gets an attack of opportunity against you as you come inside.

Travis: Okay.

Griffin: He swings over the like, control panel with his hammer, and... ooh, damn, that is a 27 versus AC.

Travis: Oh yeah, that's hits.

Griffin: I'm gonna say, because he's one size smaller than he was before, that is 15 points of damage.

Travis: Oh, okay. So I'm just down to a hundred at that point.

Griffin: Yeah, can you angle your mic?

Audience: [laughs]

Travis: Hmm.

Griffin: You need to talk into the microphone. Uh... yes.

Travis: [louder] I'm down to a hundred.

Griffin: Yes. What do you do now?

Travis: Remember when I said Magnus laughs?

Griffin: Yes.

Travis: He triggers his *magnetic charge*...

Griffin: Oh.

Travis: "A fist-sized glass ball with a blue button on top. Once the button is pressed, the ball will begin to glow and produce a magnetic field that lasts two rounds of combat. The field repels any metal object within ten feet from the ball."

Audience: [cheers]

Griffin: Alright.

Audience: [laughs]

Griffin: The entire flock of armor flying behind this thing just... [whispers] Whoosh.

Like confetti through the air, just kinda get scattered around the town. Just pieces sort of flying down into the city of brass. There are some salamander citizens now, who kinda came out of their houses to look at things. They're like, dodging the debris back and forth. Um... Nothing happens to the giant suit of armor. Uh, and Scald laughs and he says—and he points to the helmet behind him and all around him, and he says...

Scald: Tin!

Audience: [laughs and cheers]

Travis: [laughs] Mmm...

Griffin: Merle, you're up.

Clint: Um... Merle swoops down...

Griffin: Okay.

Clint: On Gregasus the Pegasus.

Griffin: Yes.

Clint: Grabs the chakras.

Griffin: Chakram.

Clint: Chakram.

Griffin: You know what that is, right? Like from Xena?

Clint: No, yeah! Yeah.

Griffin: You do know what it is? This doesn't have to be a bit.

Clint: Yeah, it's the round thing!

Griffin: Yeah.

Clint: Yeah! And...

Griffin: It's a round, bladed weapon. Okay. Xena threw it at, like, everyone, ever. Do you all not fucking—you all came here for DragonCon, do you not fucking know who Xena, Warrior Princess is?!

Audience: [cheers]

Griffin: Like, I'm not like, fishing for cheers, it just seemed like people were like, "Oh, yeah, Xena." Like, God. Alright.

Clint: And the Merle... uh, throws it.

Justin: Good start, good start.

Clint: Throws it...

Justin: At...

Clint: He gets as close he can on Gregasus the Pegasus and still have a turn left.

Griffin: Okay... [laughs]

Clint: And uh, and throws it... at...

Griffin: Scald.

Clint: Yeah, but Magnus is in the way.

Griffin: Yeah, roll a d20.

Travis: You can't say, "Magnus is in the way!" Like, you just put me in the way.

Griffin: No, you're wicked in the way.

Travis: [groans]

Clint: Seven... plus what? What do I—

Travis: No.

Griffin: Y'know what? I'm gonna give you advantage, because Gregasus is here to cheer you on. He says—

Travis: Roll again, old man!

Gregasus: Roll again, Mac.

Clint: Three! [laughs]

Griffin: Alright, I did my best.

Audience: [cheers]

Griffin: With that throw, the— [laughs]

Clint: Wait! And yells...

Merle: Here, Magnus, catch this!

Griffin: Yeah. He catches it, alright.

Audience: [laughs]

Clint: And goes...

Merle: [Xena war cry]

Audience: [laughs and cheers]

Griffin: Yeah. Luckily, the heavy metal armor that Magnus picked up in the castle protects him from most of the blow. You only take seven points of damage, as Garfield tries to cut into your body meat.

Clint: Which he made.

Griffin: But doesn't quite make it through. And uh, Garfield then falls out of the open visor and plummets to the ground below. He's made of metal, so it's probably fine.

Travis: No, it would stick in.

Griffin: Okay, yeah, it's stuck into your shoulder. That's fun. Uh, Taako. You are now up.

Justin: I am going to... cast... on myself... *polymorph*.

Audience: [cheers]

Justin: I am going to transform into the canonical Dungeons & Dragons creature, a Tyrannosaurus Rex, named Dupree.

Audience: [cheers]

Griffin: This is that Pacific Rim shit!

Justin: Yeah. But like—

Travis: I just wanna say, canonically, Magnus just got so excited to see Dupree again.

Justin: Yeah. But like, if you think about... You said 60 stories, and I thought—

Griffin: No, no, ten—

Justin: You said six stories at first, or ten stories at first, and I was like, okay. I don't know how big Tyrannosaurus Rexes is. But it's not ten stories big, for sure. So I had to knock you down a peg. And then I could Dupree.

Griffin: Let's make it fun!

Justin: Okay.

Griffin: Why don't you roll a d20 and we'll see how big Dupree turns up.

Audience: [cheers]

Justin: That is a 17.

Audience: [cheers]

Griffin: Dupree's about seven stories tall.

Travis: Nice.

Audience: [cheers]

Travis: And I want you to picture every little kid from every good Godzilla movie. Like, "Dupree!" That's Magnus right now.

Griffin: Yeah, sure. I think all this time, Scald and his massive suit of armor has been taking one step closer and one step closer to the rift. But as he feels you transform, he turns to face you. What do you do?

Justin: Um... That's actually my entire action. I have nothing I can do. I mean, I can look at him and go... [T-Rex growling noise] But I'm, uh... Not a lot of sassy lines with a T-Rex. The think-meat, you see, is very small.

Griffin: That was Taako's action. This is Dupree's action.

Justin: Ha-ha!

Audience: [cheers]

Justin: Dupree is going to bite the face of the thing!

Audience: [cheers]

Justin: Not smart. Don't know if that's smart or not. Not a smart creature.

Griffin: It's Dupree! Dupree acts on instinct!

Justin: Dupree is aall instinct, my man. Uh, here's the other thing. [laughing] Don't know how to do melee attacks at all. One hundred percent.

Travis: Roll!

Justin: Here, I'll roll this. It's plus 10 to hit? Is that good or bad?

Travis: 16!

Justin: 16 plus 10 to hit. Is that 26? Is that right?

Griffin: That is a 26, yes.

Justin: Okay.

Griffin: You know, just—Magnus is up ins the helmet—

Travis: That's okay! Magnus is a beefy boy.

Griffin: Alright.

Travis: There's plenty of bitin' to go around!

Justin: The hit is, uh... So that's a hit. It's 4d12 plus seven?

Audience: [cheers]

Travis: I'm still fine! Even at most, I'm doin' okay.

Griffin: Do you have the d12 dice? I got one. You want me to roll it for you?

Justin: You don't have a machine over there that'll do it?

Griffin: Okay. Boop boop boop boop boo... 33. 33!

Travis: Wow. That's wild.

Griffin: Yeah. You bite the visor clean off this thing. Magnus, you're gonna get some of the teeth.

Travis: That's fine!

Griffin: Let's say half that, so whatever half of 33 is. Uh... and... uh... I know, it was a joke. And Scald is gonna take some bad, bad hit stuff too. Okay.

Justin: Now it's time for Dupree's attack against the armor. The huge, metal armor. That one was against Scald. This is a different target, this is with his tail, he's gonna hit its legs as hard as he fuckin' can.

Griffin: Okay!

Justin: That's a 19, plus 10, 29. Dupreeeee!

Audience: [cheers]

Justin: That's 3d8 plus 7.

Griffin: Jesus, Dupree.

Justin: It's—yeah. It's good. I can actually do that one. Five... four... eight... So five, nine—17. Plus... seven. 24.

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: Bludgeoning damage, I don't know if that matters.

Griffin: Sure, no, it matters.

Justin: I'm not used to doing damage.

Griffin: Yes. Okay, with that, the two legs go flying. The two legs just come off below the knee, the foot part of the... uh, the... what are the leg parts of armor called?

Justin: Haunches.

Griffin: The haunches of the armor go flying off.

Clint: What are greaves?

Justin: The paul—pauldrons?

Travis: Greaves? Greaves? Yes, thank you. Greaves.

Griffin: Yes. Maybe. And so, anyway, the leg parts of the armor go flying away, and—

Travis: The drumsticks.

Griffin: I think everything... What happens next is kind of in slow motion. Magnus, you are six stories off the ground in this helmet with King Scald, a little bit closer to the exit of the helmet, but now you feel yourself in free-fall inside of this helmet. What do you do to not die?

Travis: Oh, here's the thing! We started this fight at 11:58, and now it's 12:01 AM, and I use the grappling hook again.

Audience: [cheers]

Travis: Time is different in the planar realm!

Griffin: No, I love it! That's good, yeah! Sure! You hear, actually, a clock tower in the distance and you know—

Travis: Bong! And I'm like, oh, shit! And I use the grappling hook again to grapple back. And I grab the chak—oh, chakram's in my shoulder.

Griffin: Right.

Travis: Chakram.

Griffin: Yeah. And you fly right on out of there. What are you attaching it to? Just some shit?

Travis: To Taako.

Audience: [laughs]

Griffin: Oh, to Dupree?

Travis: Yeah, well, he's Dupree!

Griffin: Yeah, I love it!

Justin: I'm Dupree, it's fine.

Griffin: He can take it. Alright.

Justin: Don't even feel it.

Griffin: Yeah, it latches into Dupree's meat, he doesn't even fuckin' care.

Dupree: [growls]

Travis: Dupree catches it, and is like, "Come on in, my buddy."

Griffin: Yeah. Reels him on in. You just sort of effortlessly just kind of zoom out of the visor as Scald falls down six stories with the helmet, and the armor goes crashing to the ground. And as he goes falling, his concentration is interrupted and the rift closes. And right as it does, you see Lucretia like...

Lucretia: Okay...

Audience: [laughs and cheers]

Griffin: And the armor crashes to the ground, and the pieces go flying everywhere, and the helmet rolls to a stop. And King Scald just kind of oozes out of the visor, uh, and he has been destroyed.

Audience: [cheers]

Travis: Does that break his spell on everything?

Griffin: What's that?

Travis: Does that break his spell on everything, or...

Griffin: And with that...

Travis: Okay.

Griffin: The weapons and the armor that had been flung to the ground by the magnetic charge, they start to levitate. And they are encased in that same sort of shimmering rainbow light. Garfield is just sitting on your shoulder like...

Garfield: Hey! That was weird!

Griffin: And all of these pieces of armor and all these weapons transform back into their original salamander forms. And the salamander who is wearing a circlet and is wearing this golden white chainmail tunic approaches you and she says...

Ashspine: You've done a great service for us this day, off-worlders. My name is Queen Ashspine.

Magnus: Uh-huh.

Ashspine: I've been a... I've been a... I've been a polearm for some time now—

Magnus: Mm-hmm. Yeah.

Ashspine: —thanks to my husband's dick brother.

Audience: [laughs]

Ashspine: I take it you have killed him.

Magnus: Yeah.

Ashspine: Fantastic, fantastic.

Audience: [laughs]

Ashspine: Whatever power he exerted over our people has faded. Although...

Griffin: And she looks at the Flaming, Raging, Poisoning Sword of Doom on your back and she says...

Ashspine: Wrathfang, my love, you can return to your original form now.

Merle: Oh well.

Magnus: No! Hold on!

Griffin: And the Flaming, Raging, Poisoning Sword of Doom begins to shimmer in this multi-colored light!

Travis: No, Griffin, it doesn't! [laughs]

Audience: [cheers]

Griffin: And it lifts out of your hand, and it floats in the air, and it's giving off this blinding light. And when it fades, you see, laying at your feet, the Flaming, Raging, Poisoning Sword of Doom.

Audience: [cheers]

Clint: [sighs in relief]

Griffin: And—

Justin: It was a sword!

Griffin: And Queen Ash—Queen Ashspine—

Justin: The king was a sword the whole time!

Audience: [laughs]

Griffin: And Queen Ashspine says...

Ashspine: Hm... It seems he believes his work with your party is not quite at an end.

Audience: [cheers]

Travis: Fuck, yes! [sighs in relief]

Griffin: That is—

Justin: And then—okay, and then, Dupree changes back into Taako, and he's like...

Taako: Are you sure? Because, it seems like, balance-wise, you've written yourself a great out, for, like, balance. Just from like a balance perspective?

Magnus: Capital B.

Taako: Capital—no, lower case! It seems like—

Justin: I'm just shou—he's just shouting to the air.

Griffin: Yeah.

Taako: Like it seems like, balance-wise—

Audience: [laughs]

Magnus: It's fine, go on, what were you saying?

Taako: It might be better—

Magnus: Yeah, and your thing about—

Taako: If we didn't have it—

Griffin: Queen Ashspine says...

Ashspine: Yeah, I mean, it's kind of a bummer. That's my husband and he's a sword, but—

Taako: Yeah, for sure that, but also just from a—

Magnus: I promise you I'll never lose him.

Griffin: With that, a curtain is shut in front of all three of you, and you're back in the dressing room. And Garfield says...

Garfield: Well, all's well that ends well!

Audience: [cheers]

Griffin: And he floats to another booth several feet away, and slides another curtain open, and through it, you see Neverwinter. You see Lucretia directing the city guard to aid a few civilians who were sort of injured in the panicked evacuation of the town square. You see a lot of Neverwintians... Neverwinterians... sort of looking generally pretty confused. And Garfield comes up to you and he says...

Garfield: Well, I suppose I owe you all big time now! Like I promised, I'll have my lawyer draw up paperwork to transfer some shares to my company, once—I don't really know how that works, again, but—

Magnus: None of us do!

Garfield: Yeah, I'm hopin' my lawyers do! Anyway, I think you're gonna find it a worthwhile investment! Somethin' tells me my fortunes will be turning around very soon.

Griffin: And he shuts a curtain behind you, and all three of you are in Neverwinter. And then we see Garfield, still in the fitting room, and he reaches into his Bag of Holding, and pulls out Scald's magic hammer.

That is the end of our adventure! Thank you all so much for coming!

Audience: [cheers]

Griffin: This has been The Adventure Zone! Thank you all, enjoy DragonCon! Goodbye!

[theme music plays]

MaximumFun.org.
Comedy and culture.
Artist owned.
Listener supported.

[music plays]

Biz: Hi, I'm Biz.

Theresa: And I'm Theresa.

Biz: And we host One Bad Mother, a comedy podcast about parenting.

Theresa: Whether you are a parent, or just know kids exist in the world, join us each week as we honestly share what it's like to be a parent.

Biz: I'm just gonna end with this. Everybody, you're doing a remarkable job of swimming through the shit show that is parenting. So join us each week

as we judge less, laugh more, and remind you that you are doing a great job.

Theresa: Find us on MaximumFun.org, on Apple Podcasts, or wherever you get your podcasts.

[music plays]

Speaker 1: We've all made mistakes in book club, right? You drank a little too much. You don't actually read the book. And if you're under the bubble in Fairhaven, your individual will get subsumed by the collective.

Speaker 2: Hey, maybe I just let him go, and whip us up some guac.

Speaker 3: We do not require guac. We require only nutrients and expansion. You will become book club. You will eat, pray, and love with us. Join book club.

Speaker 1: Bubble: The sci-fi comedy from MaximumFun.org. Just open your podcast app, and search for Bubble.