

## The Adventure Zone: Amnesty – Episode 21

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[music plays]

**Griffin:** A clear and starry sky shines over the salt-scattered parking lot outside of The Little Dipper, Kepler's requisite dive bar and late night grill. This establishment once catered to the scientists of the Green Bank Telescope, who sought leisure after a long shift of watching the heavens. Today, it plays home to a far seedier clientele; a group that favors its own name for the bar: The Hornet's Nest.

A trio bearing the Hornet insignia stands watch over the entrance to the bar, harshly critiquing one another's motor bikes while catching a smoke in the chill, February air. One Hornet, the largest among them, tells a joke too foul and convoluted to repeat. His smaller subordinate bellows out a hearty laugh.

The third, though, is distracted by a figure approaching them from across the parking lot. This Hornet boss, known as Hollis, is transfixed as the figure enters the bar, their footsteps crunching through the half-melted slurry that forms a mote around the front door. It is 1:17 AM. Their associates' uproarious laughter fades into the background. A silence floods Hollis' mind. Their face goes hot and numb, their heartbeat loud and erratic.

They are not startled by the screams coming from within the bar. In some way, they expected them. A bloody body smashes through the window beside them, toppling over the parked bikes outside. Hollis charges against the tide of fleeing patrons. Their lieutenant, Keith, lay unconscious and trampled on the floor. Above him, the figure stands victoriously on a shuffleboard table.

Viscera pours through its gnashed, smiling teeth. In its hand, its claw, maybe, the figure holds a Hornet too mangled to recognize. Hollis reaches above the bar and grabs a baseball bat.

It is 1:20 AM. Hollis' bike weaves through the trees of the Monongahela Forest in pursuit of the figure. Even on foot, this being outpaces them. The bike skids to a halt as Hollis reaches a clearing in the woods; a large, circular gap among the blanket of pines. They scan the perimeter. They catch their breath. They turn on a dime and depart in the other direction, fast away from an invisible doorway to a far flung world.

[theme music plays]

**Griffin:** Hello everybody, welcome back to The Adventure Zone: Amnesty, your number one source for news about Amnesty. The whole idea of it. People are forgiving a lot of people all over the world, these days.

**Travis:** Are they?

**Griffin:** Not especially super very much.

**Justin:** Doesn't seem to be the case.

**Travis:** Griffin, I have a big, important announcement.

**Griffin:** Okay.

**Travis:** I've been thinking about it for almost two weeks now, and I've picked a name for the flying dagger that I got in the last episode.

**Griffin:** Oh, yeah, the trades, Trav, have been sort of a buzzin' about your dagger.

**Travis:** I know. I know, listen. And I'm ready. Big reveal... I've nicknamed it Snitch.

**Griffin:** Okay.

**Clint:** [whispers] Snitch.

**Travis:** 'Cause it zooms around like a Golden Snitch. I should say, that's not a name Travis would pick for it. That's the name Aubrey would pick for it.

**Justin:** Gotcha.

**Griffin:** I expect more from her than I do from Travis.

**Travis:** It's not spelled like that. It's spelled differently.

**Justin:** Four Ns.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Clint:** Snnnnitch.

**Travis:** Snyatch!

**Justin:** There's a Y and an A in there.

**Clint:** I have an announcement as well. I think in the interest of us working together and just having a good family relationship and a show, we put the whole 'creps', crepes controversy behind us.

**Griffin:** Yeah, the trades have been buzzing about this one, too.

**Clint:** Yeah, 'cause I was extremely right, and you guys were harsh, and mean.

**Griffin:** Oh, I see.

**Clint:** And I think we need to put that all behind us, and not even mention it again.

**Griffin:** See, I saw one trade, and the headline was, "Clint McElroy: Old Brain?" And I thought that that was mean. I think, uh, okay. So we know what Aubrey has kind of been doing since the lunar interlude. I don't want us to like, do a whole lot of like, uh, individual scenes, 'cause that's basically

what the lunar interlude is for. But like, I think there's some things that we need to like, firm up before we get into the next hunt.

For instance, I want to know what Billy's living situation has been. I know he was sort of rooming at the Cryptonomica. I didn't know if that was a permanent solution. I don't know if Duck or Ned gets custody of Billy.

**Justin:** Not it. Not it.

**Griffin:** Your uh, your goat friend. Okay.

**Justin:** Not it.

**Clint:** I think he's made a home. I think, uh... I think he kind of fits in. I mean, in his Ryan Gosling face, because y'know, Neil Armstrong, did we go to the moon? No, not really. The whole uh, astronaut, outer space kind of thing.

**Griffin:** What the... what... what does that...

**Travis:** Wait, hold on.

**Griffin:** What are you talking—

**Travis:** Is this dad talking, or like, conspiracy theorist Ned Chicane talking?

**Griffin:** What is going on?

**Travis:** Because I hope this isn't the big reveal that our dad, Clint McElroy, who we've known for many years, doesn't believe in the moon landing.

**Griffin:** Is a fucking flat earther.

**Clint:** I actually am the only one of us who watched it on television, and it was very bad special effects. I mean, it did not look real.

**Griffin:** Oh my God.

**Travis:** Oh my God. I don't know about all this, Dad.

**Griffin:** Okay, so, Dad's...

**Travis:** We're gonna get some letters.

**Griffin:** Dad's a flat earther. What the fuck is Billy up to, though? The OG question.

**Clint:** I think he's just wandering around the Cryptonomica, and every so often, somebody will come in, and he'll offer them pizza.

**Justin:** Okay, I have a question for you. Does he eat trash?

**Clint:** [sighs]

**Travis:** I mean, pizza's not good for you, Justin. Is that what you mean?

**Justin:** You know that's not what I mean, Travis.

**Clint:** Are we leaning into the cliché? Are we, y'know, eating the...

**Justin:** The cliché of a goat man that looks like Ryan Gosling and eats trash?

**Clint:** I guess that's not very clichéd at all, is it? [laughs]

**Justin:** No, this is a vibrant, rich world.

**Griffin:** He eats food-adjacent trash. I don't think he's eaten any RC Cola cans. But a banana peel? Yeah, I'll fuck with that. Some shoe laces? That's basically cloth spaghetti.

**Clint:** Has he learned anymore language, do you think?

**Griffin:** Absolutely not. I feel like I can put my foot down on that one.

**Travis:** It's not about learn—I magically gave him the ability to say like, six words.

**Griffin:** But only kind of good, yes. Uh, Aubrey, what is life at like, Amnesty Lodge been like? Any... any updates? I feel like, uh, I feel like in the last arc especially, we didn't spend a whole lot of time there. We spent a lot of time in the basement, sort of talking to spooky Thacker. But uh, not much...

**Travis:** I would say it's the kind of thing where like, everybody's... both because it's like the post-holidays, y'know, still very grey and cold, but there's not like, a big celebratory thing to look forward to. Plus, like, how much shit has been going on, and just also kind of a vibe. I think everybody's on edge. Everybody's a little tense, but if you ask them like, what's wrong, they couldn't exactly put their finger on it. There's just kind of a negative hum in the air, y'know?

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** I would say everybody is just on edge.

**Griffin:** I think a lot of that probably comes from Mama and Barclay, who, the more you all spend time with them, the more you sort of pick up on the fact that the way that the Abominations are sort of changing and getting sort of more... the last one could change time. Like, the more sort of things they learn and the more direct their influence, like, on you is, rather than just being some mindless monster wandering in the woods. Like, the more they are hunting you, the more, I think, concerned they are getting, because it's breaking this decades long pattern.

**Travis:** And not only that, I also think like, between... 'cause Aubrey, I think, has since told Mama about touching the crystal. We kind of hinted at that at the end of the last arc.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** And then I also think, on top of that, Duck bringing Billy in, and like, them having... do they know that we talked with the Mothman?

**Griffin:** Um...

**Travis:** Did we cover that effectively?

**Griffin:** I think so. I think you did drop that bomb.

**Travis:** So, I just think that like, also, instead of things becoming more cohesive, it's starting to feel a little more chaotic. And like, y'know what I mean? Of like, I would imagine that in the past, when they've recruited new members, it has made things easier. Like, smoother, as they brought in more help. And we have not necessarily done that.

**Griffin:** I like that a lot. Um, Ned, have you done any scouting? You... I know that you, Clint McElroy, have been doing some soul searching about like, your position on this sort of ethical dilemma you find yourself... it's not much of a dilemma. Your former con man, y'know, burglar partner, your co-burglar, has asked you to do a burgle. That's not so much of a dilemma as a bad time opportunity.

**Clint:** Yeah, it's obviously to him that the person he wants Ned to burgle is Mama.

**Griffin:** Right.

**Clint:** And I don't think Ned is comfortable with that. I think he's really been giving a lot of thought. Maybe was casing the joint just a little, just to see...

**Griffin:** Sure, old habits and what have you.

**Clint:** Old habits, yeah. Using the uh, Crepes by Monica food truck, y'know, kind of spying, seeing possible entry points, and...

**Griffin:** [laughs] What you have to understand... that would be like, um... that would be like, in Home Alone, when they first are like, driving around the neighborhood, scouting out all the houses. If they were driving around in a van that said, "The Wet Bandits: Christmastime House Robbers of Vacant Homes."

**Clint:** Well yeah, but here's the thing. Crepes by Monica, that was a thing that was in town for a while, and so...

**Justin:** Alright, you need to decide right now, Mac. You said in the last episode you were gonna repaint it to say Cryptonomica. So you need to decide if that fucker says Crepes by Monica, or Cryptonomica, and you can't be like a Velcro thing that you tear on and tear off.

**Griffin:** Yeah. There will be narrative—

**Justin:** What does it say?

**Griffin:** There will be narrative and mechanical repercussions for your decision.

**Justin:** Also, also, speaking of casing joints. The one negative tag you picked for this vehicle was obvious.

**Clint:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** Yeah, it's not good for this.

**Justin:** You literally... you've literally picked the one activity you cannot do in this vehicle.

**Griffin:** You would be better to just crash it through the wall and pretend it was an accident.

**Clint:** Okay.

**Justin:** Like, "Hey, gots any valuables?"

**Clint:** Okay, alright, alright. Okay, since Rodney... Rodney?

**Griffin:** Uh oh.

**Clint:** The cat that does... his assistant. Um... Randy.



**Griffin:** Oh, Kirby.

**Clint:** Kirby, yeah. Good God.

**Griffin:** Yeah, didn't see much of him last arc, either.

**Clint:** Kirby is artistic, so I say he had Kirby changes Crepes by Monica into Cryptonomica.

**Griffin:** Okay. The pact is sealed.

**Clint:** Right.

**Travis:** And that was the last time they said the C word.

**Griffin:** And we can move on forever. Uh, Duck.

**Travis:** C word being 'crepes.'

**Griffin:** Right, I think—I mean, we shouldn't say any iteration of the C word, I think, on the podcast.

**Clint:** [laughs]

**Justin:** No more C words!

**Griffin:** And Duck, what's been going on with you and Leo? Obviously, your powers have diminished, and there's some concern there. But like, you two are the only, y'know, surviving members of this ancient order of chosen champions, and I imagine that's changed the dynamic a bit.

**Justin:** Yeah, it was a little bit hard, I feel like, at the beginning. I have to imagine that it was a bit like having the flu, like, comparatively, to how Duck has always sort of felt. So I think that that was hard to sort of get past. I think that he has found his um, equilibrium again, and he has... I feel like he would've been training still some with Leo.

But I definitely feel like his heart is not really in it. There is a sort of, um, frustration I think, because he finally decided to like, actually do something with these abilities, and he lost them. And all the work that he's putting in, all he can think is like, "God, this would be easier if I still had those powers."

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** So it's like... it is not with a joyful heart, but he just basically has idea what else to do, I think.

**Griffin:** Okay. Um, I want to pick things up in Amnesty Lodge and kind of just like, get the hunt going without much more delay. But before then, the previous night, last night, before sort of this hunt kicks off, you did have a dream, Duck. Obviously, your powers have sort of left you, but you have a dream that feels very sort of familiar. So, why don't you go ahead and roll weird and go on a vision quest?

**Justin:** Alright. Let me recheck what my...

**Griffin:** Yeah, what is your plus weird now, now that you're a normie?

**Justin:** [laughing] It's negative one.

**Griffin:** Yeah. Well, that's par for the course, I feel like.

**Justin:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** Alright. Let's see if you can get a good vi—oh my God, you will never have a good vision!

**Justin:** Now, this is a... I rolled a five. And you subtract one from that, and that's gonna give you a four right there, just right off the top.

**Griffin:** That's gonna be one of those fours. Seriously, have you—

**Justin:** That one's a four.

**Griffin:** You had the one vision of you drowning. You had the one vision of a meteor.

**Travis:** Wait, so Griffin, are you saying if he had rolled like a 12, he would have a vision of like, sitting in an inner tube on a lazy river?

**Clint:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** If he had—first of all, when you make a hard move, I get to do something bad. So it's not just like, him seeing a vision of the future as me changing—it's me making something bad happen in the future and him seeing it. Uh, and also, if he rolls really good, he can get super helpful information that like, he can know where to go in a pinch. Uh—

**Travis:** Like get in an inner tube on a lazy river.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** My dice do not work that way. These visions are bad. The nice thing is, I will be able to write this one off as a nightmare until it's too late, obviously, but it's not gonna like, ruin my day. 'Cause I don't think I have power.

**Travis:** Oh, good.

**Justin:** I don't think I have powers anymore, so I'm like, "Well, that was nothing." [wheezes] "All my teeth fell out, but that was just like, a dream, so whatevs."

[ambient music plays]

**Griffin:** You are hunched over Leo's body. You're outside. You are on concrete in front of a big, metal door, going into some sort of complex that you can't quite discern, because you're just seeing it so close up. You are hunched over Leo, who is not breathing. And I think the vision is not clear enough for you to see exactly why that is. And then, your vision kind of pans out a little bit, and zooms out, and you can see what you are sort of sitting in front of.

You are sitting in front of the Green Bank telescope. You are dwarfed in scale by this gigantic telescope. I don't know if you've ever been there on a... probably like on a field trip or something when you were younger. Kepler is very close to Green Bank, which we established in the set up episode.

And the telescope, the radio telescope, is pointed straight up. And as you are like, y'know, trying to rouse Leo back to life, a beam of light shoots out of the tip of the antenna that makes up the radio telescope and it shoots up into the sky. And as it does so, you wake up.

Alright, so let's get going. You all are at Amnesty Lodge. And I think the thing that brought you there is this massacre happened at The Little Dipper last night. And if you're looking for things that happen every two months that seem like, hey, a monster is here. Like, Ned, for sure, the Cryptonomica wagon, your scanner technology that you have built into it, by which I mean, I guess just a police scanner - I don't need to make it sound like some sci-fi shit - uh, definitely like, picked up on this. So maybe it was you who like, rallied the troops.

But you all are together at Amnesty Lodge to start doing... I feel like maybe it's familiar for you all, now. Maybe it's old hat. Every two months, okay, let's get together, let's get the ball rolling. Um, it's—

**Travis:** How is that—who's the—who was the goober who saw me and Mothman?

**Griffin:** Uh, Keith.

**Travis:** Is Keith okay? Did Keith get killed? Keith has seen some shit, you guys.

**Griffin:** Uh, we did not see Keith get killed in the intro scene.

**Travis:** Oh, so this is like, one of those like, twists. Is he dead? Is he not dead? Well, you didn't see it happen on camera...

**Griffin:** No, he's not dead.

**Travis:** Oh, okay.

**Justin:** I just remembered, you never saw me die...

**Griffin:** [laughs]

**Travis:** You never saw Keith eat it.

**Griffin:** We can't, we can't, we can't.

**Justin:** You never saw Keith die.

**Griffin:** We can't. We absolutely can't. Fuckin' complete weird beard. Uh, so Barclay—

**Justin:** [laughs] Like we never saw Griffin.

**Griffin:** It's a nice, casual scene at Amnesty Lodge, despite, I think, the discomfort sort of floating in the air. Barclay has made pancakes for everyone that folks are enjoying. Agent Stern has been gone all day. He's been sort of back on the beat, patrolling the woods for any sign of Bigfoot, now that most of the snow has cleared. He's trying to find Bigfoot, who was in the other room making pancakes.

**Travis:** How is he still getting funding for this mission?

**Griffin:** Yeah, you assume that maybe it's a self... maybe he's got some crowd funding going on for his investigation of uh, Bigfoot. He has been out here for what, like, six months or so now? I forget how long we've uh, how long we've been going. Um, I think you started in the summertime, so maybe it's been closer to eight months or so. It's February now, by the way.

**Justin:** Has he maybe been filming the entire thing, and he's got a Patreon going?

**Griffin:** That's what it is. He's making an indie flick. And you all are sort of like, going over what you have heard about what happened at the Hornet's

Nest. I think Mama looks kind of concerned. Any time like, somebody like, just from the jump gets killed by one of these things, there's obviously... that's obviously very bad, and a dereliction of duty to some extent.

There is, as you all are sort of getting ready to head out the door and start your business, there is a knock at the door, and Mama opens it, and there is Deputy Dewey. And actually, just behind him in the parking lot, you see Sheriff Owens standing outside of the squad car. He is talking on a radio, and uh, you all head over to the door as Deputy Dewey addresses you all, and he says...

**Dewey:** Oh, sorry, I um... I probably should'a just come in. I know this is a hotel. I just didn't want to be rude. How y'all doin'?

**Aubrey:** Are you okay Dewey?

**Dewey:** What do you mean?

**Ned:** So, let's talk about the 718 last night at The Little Dipper bar. My long range scanners...

**Aubrey:** Whoa. Whoa, Ned.

**Dewey:** Your what?

**Ned:** Uh, my...

**Dewey:** You got a long range... you got a scanner?

**Aubrey:** No, what did you say? No, you mentioned the long range scanner. What's up, Dewey?

**Dewey:** You got a license for a long range scanner? I don't know if you need one.

**Ned:** Yes.

**Dewey:** Okay.

**Ned:** I got it on the internet. There was a 246 too, I understand. Just wanted to find out, uh, how you were dealing with these things.

**Dewey:** I always get my codes confused. I just call them all 911s. But um, yeah...

**Duck:** Well, they are usually.

**Dewey:** Uh, yeah. I just—I do have a couple questions about what happened down at the Dipper. Y'all obviously... I guess y'all heard about it. Hornets got attacked, someone came in the bar, just made a mess of things. We got two in the morgue, and a few more down at Saint Francis just hangin' on.

I don't know why I'm telling y'all this. Anyway, Hornets, they says they followed whoever did this up into your neck of the woods. Like, your actual neck of the woods. The woods. Here. And I was just wondering if any of y'all saw something last night.

**Aubrey:** Um, no? I know that sounded suspicious the way I said it, but the answer is no.

**Dewey:** Um, well, I guess what were y'all doing last night? Who was actually... who was here? Are y'all like, residents, or...

**Aubrey:** I help out around the place. I'm, uh... y'know, uh, I'm the super. Well, hotels don't have supers, do they?

**Dewey:** No, not especially.

**Aubrey:** I'm assistant manager.

**Griffin:** [laughs] Is that a role that Aubrey has more or less filled since living here? I don't know how you're paying your room and board.

**Travis:** I don't know, maybe. I'm just trying to think of a way, instead of saying, "I live at a hotel like the Suite Life of Zack and Cody," which is what I want to say.

**Griffin:** [laughs]

**Clint:** [laughs]

**Dewey:** Duck, Ned, y'all got alibis?

**Ned:** We had a tech rehearsal last night for Saturday Night Dead.

**Dewey:** I love that one.

**Ned:** We're showing Terror of Mechagodzilla this weekend. So, we uh, y'know, we've got some elaborate, y'know, Techagodzilla puppets and stuff, so we were running through those, my staff and I.

**Travis:** Now, I don't know what this says about how successful Dad's performance is. But is that true?

**Clint:** What, the Terror of Mechagodzilla?

**Travis:** No, like, are you guys doing that? Do you have puppets? Were you doing a tech rehearsal?

**Clint:** Yes. Oh, yeah.

**Travis:** Okay. I just—I don't know. We just started the episode, Papa.

**Griffin:** Listen, Ned's got a lot of complicated shit sort of floating around in his life. But he still makes time to put on his late night horror puppet show.

**Clint:** [laughs]

**Travis:** I'm just saying, maybe these are the seeds we plant where the puppets of Mechagodzilla might come in handy later.



**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Duck:** Me... me... me too.

**Dewey:** You too what? You were...

**Duck:** Yup. Me too. I was—yup.

**Dewey:** Alright.

**Duck:** I—yup. Me too. From a... yup. Me too. Mmm.

**Aubrey:** Duck, are you okay? You look like you need to use the bathroom?

**Duck:** Nope. Yeah. I do. Yeeeeup. Uh, ohh. Burritos. Alright. Bye.

**Clint:** [laughing]

**Travis:** That's what Aubrey's gonna do from now on whenever she can tell that Duck has to lie, is just prompt him to find a bathroom and hide in it.

**Griffin:** Yeahhh. It sounds like Duck's powers actually afforded him some deception ability. Now that that's gone, he's at negative ten.

**Justin:** [wheezes] That's my weird. My weird is my ability to lie and it's at a negative one.

**Griffin:** Uh, yeah. Okay, so, he says...

**Dewey:** Alright. I mean, y'all aren't suspects. I don't know why I'm trying to come up with alibis. Guess I'm not, uh... I'm still gettin' my head around all this.

**Duck:** Who—who uh—who—who beefed it?

**Dewey:** I shouldn't say that. Couple of Hornets.

**Duck:** Oh.

**Travis:** [laughs] I shouldn't say, but...

**Dewey:** I mean, it's honestly—I don't want to be yucky. It's kind of hard to identify them. But we'll, y'know, look it up in the funny papers as they would say.

**Duck:** I went to high school with a couple of those guys. I'm just curious.

**Dewey:** Um, did you know one that was like, kind of um, lanky and... that's about all I can... brown hair, maybe?

**Justin:** Exploded.

**Griffin:** [laughs]

**Travis:** Bushy face?

**Justin:** Did you go to high school with a guy whose thorax was just smooshed? A smooshed thorax?

**Griffin:** [laughing]

**Travis:** Just is all smooshed in?

**Justin:** Aw, Smooshy Jones. Yeah, that guy's—

**Clint:** [laughs] Lanky McGee.

**Justin:** Love that dude. He's so funny.

**Travis:** Love that guy.

**Griffin:** Uh, and at this point, Sheriff Owens has like, come up to join Dewey on the porch, and Dewey says...

**Dewey:** Um, well, you mind if I um... do you mind if I just like, poke our... we're gonna poke our heads around, maybe take a look around? I mean, we

don't got much to go on, except for the fact that we have spotted the—we've placed the attacker somewhere up here late last night.

**Duck:** Dewey, you and I both know the law, and you know that you can't go pokin' around here with our blessing. We're not owners of this property.

**Dewey:** Um, yeah. I don't actually know. It's a... hold on. Hey, Sheriff Owens. Are you allowed to just like, go in and poke around if it's like, a business?

**Griffin:** And Sheriff Owens, who has my brain inside of him, shrugs. Because he doesn't know.

**Travis:** [laughs]

**Justin:** [laughs] He doesn't. You can't just go searching properties of like... I don't think you can.

**Griffin:** Um, Mama actually says...

**Mama:** Yeah, I'll tell you what. If you want to poke around, we'll go around with you and just make sure that uh, you get to see everything you need to see, alright?

**Griffin:** And she kind of gives the three of you a look, as if to say...

**Justin:** I feel like Mama is able to get—I was deferring, because I feel like Mama is able to give a tour...

**Griffin:** Yes.

**Justin:** ... at this point that's like, looks completely legitimate, and doesn't like, accidentally open the door to a room with pentagrams all over it.

**Clint:** [laughs]

**Travis:** And maybe doesn't lead to the basement.

**Griffin:** If this gets you off the case, then yeah, for sure. Okay.

**Justin:** Yeah, where like Harry of Harry and the Hendersons fame isn't taking a jacuzzi with the Wolf Man.

**Griffin:** Uh, so Mama and Barclay start walking Sheriff Owens around, and uh, Deputy Dewey is kind of just hanging out with you and the guests here in the lobby, and uh—

**Aubrey:** Hey, Dewey, I got a quick question.

**Dewey:** I got one, too. Y'all makin' pancakes? Damn.

**Aubrey:** Okay. Um, that sounds like a weird kind of flirt, but here's my question. Um, you said that it came up to our neck of the woods. Any idea what we should keep an eye out for? Any description, anything like that?

**Dewey:** Uh, it was a, y'know, a person. Hard to discern much else. It was real dark, and uh, they was wearing lots of, I guess, concealing garments. Pretty big, from what they said, and probably got a decent amount of blood on them. So I would hope that if you saw a big, blood-soaked person in the woods somewhere, you'd know to call us ahead of time, anyway.

Um... Those hot springs back there look nice. I might have to come bring the missus up here for a little R&R.

**Aubrey:** Gross. Do you want some pancakes?

**Dewey:** Well not if you're gonna say that the idea of me having a romantic relationship is gross.

**Travis:** [laughs]

**Dewey:** I don't like that...

**Griffin:** And he looks out the front door. He's just kind of poking his head around. And he says...

**Dewey:** Oh, looks like you got a cellar over there, too. We should probably make sure it's clean—

**Aubrey:** Oh, you gotta stay out. Green mold.

**Dewey:** Green—oh... now wait a minute.

**Aubrey:** Yeah, we have a team coming in to clean it up tomorrow, but for now, I mean... it's not as serious as black mold. Whew, thank goodness. But we've been talking with uh, hotel administration, uh, administration, the HHA. And uh, yeah, we just gotta stay out of there, Dewey, for our own health, y'know what I mean?

**Griffin:** Yeah, let's roll plus charm on that one for a manipulate someone.

**Travis:** Okay. Doo doo doo...

**Griffin:** Deputy Dewey's just trying to do his job. If you want to keep him from doing his job, you're gonna have to do a—

**Travis:** Oh, shit.

**Griffin:** Oh, no.

**Travis:** Uh, that was a six. Hey Ned, you wanna help?

**Clint:** Uh, yes, I will.

**Ned:** Dewey, do you know about green mold?

**Dewey:** No, what's it do to your body?

**Ned:** Well, let's just say, it focuses on the area below the waist, and above the knees. So as a married man...

**Dewey:** [laughs] Wait a minute. If I walk into your cellar, and it has green mold in it, it's gonna mess up my wiener?

**Aubrey:** It'll target your genitals. Ned's right.

**Ned:** It goes right for them. It's bad news, and y'know, as a married man, you've gotta give that some thought, my friend.

**Dewey:** I don't see why my marital status would have any effect on my sort of uh, y'know, my sexual congress habits.

**Griffin:** But go ahead and roll help out, Ned. This is a... we're starting this hunt off with a bang.

**Travis:** Come on, Ned.

**Griffin:** Let's get the triple five. Okay.

**Clint:** Ahh. Eight.

**Griffin:** That's an eight. Okay.

**Travis:** Hmm.

**Griffin:** On a seven to nine, your help grants them plus one to your roll, but you expose yourself to trouble or danger. Which brings Aubrey up to a seven, a mixed success on a manipulate someone, they'll do it, only if you do something right now to show them now that you mean it. I think the compromise here is, uh, he says...

**Dewey:** Alright, well, just like open the door, and I'll like, just look down in it and just make sure.

**Griffin:** And with that, I don't think he gets the—like, he can't see Thacker or anything like that from the ground level.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Griffin:** He says...

**Dewey:** Are you sure? It just looks like a basement.

**Aubrey:** Just don't breathe. Just don't breathe, whatever you do.

**Dewey:** Okay.

**Griffin:** He covers his mouth.

**Dewey:** [muffled] Is that a PlayStation down there?

**Aubrey:** Yeah, but it's just a PlayStation 2.

**Dewey:** [muffled] Oh. Y'all got Tomba?

**Aubrey:** No.

**Justin:** [laughs] What is the point of any of this? I don't under—can please make the show start? What is happening?

**Griffin:** And then a wolf man jumps in and eats his whole body.

**Travis:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** He uh... he bows. [laughs]

**Justin:** [laughs] Why?!

**Griffin:** He says, uh...

**Dewey:** Alright.

**Griffin:** They sort of regroup on the porch, front porch, and says... Sheriff Owens says...

**Zeke:** Alright, well, um, if y'all hear anything, obviously, you let us know. This is—we haven't had a, y'know, a murder like this in Kepler in some time. So um, I guess just keep your ear to the ground. Y'all always seem to be there whenever this bad stuff happens, so you let us know.

**Griffin:** Uh, and the two officers take off. And Mama says...

**Mama:** Well, that was weird, wasn't it?

**Aubrey:** Yeah, I guess. Should we...

**Duck:** Yeah.

**Aubrey:** I don't know, go investigate? Yeah, that seems like a thing we do, right?

**Mama:** Yeah, I mean, that's what we usually do around here. I guess, yeah, it's probably time for us to start hitting the pavement. I guess, what do we know? It's a person? It doesn't seem like it was a per—I mean, I'm guessing it not just coincidentally somebody went and did some murders on the day that we're expecting an Abomination to show up. I'm thinking this sounds like Abomination MO.

**Aubrey:** Right.

**Mama:** Little concerning that it dragged someone back up into the woods up here, 'cause we don't know what they seen. So, um...

**Aubrey:** Well, it seems to me like the smartest bet would be like, the three of us go investigate the scene of the crime as it were, and then maybe Jake Coolice could go see if any of the Hornets will talk to him and give him any details or anything?

**Griffin:** Uh, Jake Coolice, who has been sort of like, sitting kind of like, staring into the middle distance in the lobby, because like, he used to be one of these... uh, part of this crew, um, says uh...

**Jake:** Uh, if you don't mind, um... I'd like to maybe sit this one out.

**Griffin:** He looks, like... he looks super upset. He looks bummed out.

**Aubrey:** Hey, you got it, buddy.



**Ned:** Jake, how come? Why, uh... these guys were pretty shitty to you last time if I remember right. Why are you upset?

**Jake:** I mean, um, we did... we would do like picnics together, and fundraisers, and y'know, we would do stunts. We would do these like, late night stunt shoots where we would hang out and have pizza and beer afterwards. And I guess some of them got um, murdered last night, so I don't really want... I'm not like, really in the mood to go out and y'know, play detective, I guess.

**Aubrey:** And maybe if the spirit moves you, go check on the ones in the hospital?

**Jake:** Yeah, that seems doable.

**Duck:** You need a little time. I understand. Take a break. Enjoy yourself. Relax, put your feet up. Us three super powered beings, all of whom have super powers, will risk uh, our hides so you can, y'know, uh, make peace with the grieving of these guys you don't like.

**Jake:** Thanks. I think you were trying to be sarcastic, but I appreciate it.

**Duck:** I can't—I brought it back around to sincerity at the end. I didn't mean to, but I could hear it happening in my voice and decided to roll with it.

[theme song plays]

**Griffin:** Hey everybody, this is Griffin McElroy, your dungeon master, your best friend, and your fungeon master. That's right. I'm in charge of your fungeon. What's that? Don't worry about it. I'll tell you when you're older.

Thanks for listening to The Adventure Zone: Amnesty. It's episode 21, and the start of our new hunt. I am looking forward to where this one's gonna go. I hope it gets real spooky and real fun. Let's get into the ads.

Oh, if you came out to PodCon, it was uh, it was super nice to meet you. I'm assuming I met you, because I feel like I met virtually everybody there at

PodCon. It was a super fun time, did some fun talks, and uh, yeah, I hope those who attended had as much fun as we did.

So here, I want to tell you about Squarespace. Let's take a minute here and talk about Squarespace. Uh, Squarespace is uh, a great platform that helps you make websites that look like um, some sort of website master. Some sort of website artisan made it, and not you, um, a clown who always plugs their USB stuff in backwards and has to like, return it. That's how technically unsavvy you are. You're gonna seem like you're way, way better at it when you use Squarespace.

They have beautiful, customizable templates created by world class designers. They have powerful e-commerce functionality that lets you sell whatever you want online. Not whatever. Probably not drugs. They offer a new way to buy domains, and choose from over 200 extensions. They have tools that help you track the growth of your website. They have great 24/7 award-winning customer support. It's the thing to use if you want to make a website, and aren't entirely sure how.

So why don't you check out [Squarespace.com/Adventure](https://www.squarespace.com/Adventure), get yourself a free trial, and then, when you're ready to launch, you can use the offer code ADVENTURE to save 10% off your first purchase of a website or domain.

Also want to tell you about Quip. This is the sleek, stylish toothbrush that I use in my mouth, and that's really all you should need to know in order to get on board the Quip team. They have is a good toothbrush. I don't know what else to tell you. It's a good toothbrush. It comes in a little um, a little carrying case that you can stick to your mirror, and so, it looks cool like that, but then you can pop it right off there and just fold it right in itself and then take it on the road.

It's changed my whole packing game, Quip has, because it's so sleek and has such a small profile in my little bag. I love it. If your new year's resolution includes brushing your teeth twice a day, first of all, congratulations. That's the first step towards just greatness. And the Quip electric toothbrush is here to help you scratch that itch. The tooth itch.

It's one of the first electric toothbrushes accepted by the American Dental Association, and they are backed by over 25 thousand dental professionals. It's got sensitive sonic vibrations, a built in timer, a multi-use cover, and it's just dedicated to helping you brush better. Also, you can get brush heads automatically delivered on a dentist recommended schedule every three months for just five bucks. I've got that going, and it's the first time I've had, y'know, not ancient brush heads in my mouth for long periods of time, which is very exciting for me and my dentist.

So, there's over one million happy, healthy mouths that love Quip, and you can join the team. Starts at just 25 bucks, and if you go to [GetQuip.com/Adventure](http://GetQuip.com/Adventure) right now, you can get your first refill pack for free. That's your first refill pack free at [GetQuip.com/Adventure](http://GetQuip.com/Adventure).

Thank you to everybody who has been tweeting about the show using the #TheZoneCast hash tag. If you do that, you might end up as a character in the show. Uh, about to meet a few new ones. I'm talking about folks like Bevin, Micksie, Tim Grimes, uh, and uh, a bunch of other characters in the past have tweeted about the show using the #TheZoneCast hash tag. Not the characters, actual people. Don't get it twisted. This is not a Purple Rose of Cairo situation.

But anyway, uh, yeah, thank you all so much for spreading the word. It really means a lot. This uh, this community just like, it just totally bangs. I don't know what to say. It kicks ass. And getting to meet so many of you at PodCon was uh, was a real treat and a real treasure.

Also, thanks to Maximum Fun for having us on the network. You can go to [MaximumFun.org](http://MaximumFun.org) and check out all the great shows there. They got shows... they got all kinds of new shows. They got the JV Club with Janet Varney, they got uh, the Jackie and Laurie show, brand new show. And so many other shows, all at [MaximumFun.org](http://MaximumFun.org).

If you want to see other stuff that we do or find out about new merch or new announcements for tours and stuff like that, it's all at our new website, [McElroy.family](http://McElroy.family). Justin and I are back doing Monster Factory. You can find links to that also, there, and it's just a good home page. Lock it. Lock it in. Never change it.

Uh, that's it. I'm gonna let you get back to the rest of the episode. The next one is gonna be up in two Thursdays, which is gonna be... aw, man. I have to check my calendar. I can't do the math of it from one month to the other. Let's see. Well, that's gonna be February 7<sup>th</sup>. So uh, I guess we'll just talk to you then. Bye!

[theme music plays]

**Griffin:** You all are standing in front of The Little Dipper, which is a... I would say, a sort of dive bar of somewhat ill repute, down by river side, some ways down from where the Cryptonomica is. I think it's closer to the east side of town; the shady side of town. And uh...

**Travis:** You just mean there's a lot of trees?

**Griffin:** Yeah, no, I mean, there's literal shade everywhere.

**Travis:** Oh.

**Griffin:** It's a pretty small place. I imagine cinderblock kind of build, down sort of a path, and it's a bit removed from the main drag of Kepler. There is, uh... the scene is kind of a mess. There's crime tape. Crime tape? I think it's called crime time.

**Travis:** Crime tape.

**Justin:** Crime tape, yes. Crime tape.

**Griffin:** Uh, cordoning...

**Travis:** Let me check my resource guide, here. Yes, crime tape.

**Griffin:** Uh, it's cordoning off sort of the building, and um, there are still like, a lot of uh, bikes parked in front of the establishment that are all sort of... they've all been toppled over. And in fact, you can actually see some blood on some of them.

**Travis:** Pee-wee Herman was here.

**Griffin:** Pee-wee did it. And um, yeah, there's no like, bodies lying around, but you can't really get close enough to get inside the building, what with the crime tape. There are a few like, squad cars from the Sheriff's department here, and uh, there are a couple of officers who you don't recognize, and who I'm not gonna give a name to.

And yeah, I think that's, uh... there's like, it's a... you're standing in a parking lot, so there's still like, trace amounts of snow that has been melted with salt around, and you can see like, lots of footprints sort of going in the direction away from the building. And you also see like, a pretty good amount of just red snow in a splatter, coming out of the building.

And uh, yeah. Standing sort of close to your position, sort of off the road as you come in, uh, and outside of the perimeter of the crime tape, uh, you see two Hornets. Two guys. One is a much bigger fella than the other one, both wearing sort of the jackets with the Hornet insignia on the back of it. And uh, the littler one of the two of them is sort of nervously smoking as you all approach. And that is the scene. Begin investigation.

**Travis:** Uh, Griffin, kind of the first thing I think, if I were Aubrey, that Aubrey would do. Look around. Do I see any CCTV cameras?

**Griffin:** Oh, interesting. Uh, I mean, definitely not. Like, this is not that place. Um, I do not think. Maybe it should be that place, because of uh, y'know, the type of patron who comes here. But no, I don't think, necessarily, they are gonna have that.

**Justin:** What about um... I want to look behind the bar. Is there any... is there a... I would imagine a place like this probably has a weapon there. I'm curious if it was drawn, or if things happened too quickly.

**Travis:** Ooh, I see.

**Griffin:** Oh, you actually like, want to get in the building and look behind the bar?

**Justin:** Yeah. I think I'm just gonna go in there. I'll flash my badge to whatever dipshits at the door.

**Clint:** Yeah, he's the only one with a badge.

**Griffin:** Oh, okay. I like that justification. I think the Sheriff's deputies, who uh, because they're nameless, maybe there are so many people working at the Sheriff's department that they don't know that you aren't one of them. They just see the badge, and they're like, "Yeah, head on through."

**Travis:** Uh, Aubrey's gonna stay out to talk to the two Hornets.

**Griffin:** Okay. And Ned, what are you doing?

**Clint:** I'm going to look around the grounds.

**Griffin:** Okay. Just sort of in general, see what you can see?

**Clint:** Well, I want to look for drag marks. I want to look for any sign of the body being dragged away from the bar.

**Griffin:** Okay. Uh, Duck, why don't we start with you? 'Cause you're gonna get a lot of sort of info, just walking into the bar. Not that it's gonna be especially useful info. It looks like a bomb went off in here. Like, uh, there are... there are broken chairs all over, there are some broken tables. There's a big mirror sort of behind the bar, and that's just been shattered.

There's a big sort of window, leading out to the front of the bar. That's been shattered. And in fact, as you get closer to those bikes, you can tell that like, the glass went outwards, and y'know, somebody was probably thrown through it old school saloon style and just landed flat on those bikes.

And then, like, there's just... there's just a lot of blood. There's a shuffleboard table that is just caked in it. This is... this is—I mean, y'all have been hunting monsters for a while. This is definitely like, the grisliest thing you have seen since being in this business.

**Justin:** And this is like... would you say that this is a scary situation? Like I don't necessarily 100% know that I'm safe in here?

**Griffin:** Um, I don't... I mean, since the Sheriffs have been here for a while, and like, the perimeter's been set up here for a while, and the blood's all like, super dry, like... you assume there's nothing... whatever did this is not here right now, so I don't think you feel in a lot of danger.

**Justin:** Okay. Just trying to milk an experience point out of you, but that's fair.

**Griffin:** Oh. I mean, you... what's the question? Because you, I mean, Justin—

**Justin:** It is literally, if I go off by myself to check out somewhere or something scary, mark experience. I wouldn't necessarily—

**Griffin:** Go ahead and mark it. I mean, Justin, if you walked into a fuckin' bar that people got killed in last night, I think you'd be fuckin' scared.

**Justin:** That's scary.

**Griffin:** Yeah. I don't—and right now, you, Justin, are as powerful if not more powerful than your character, Duck Newton.

**Justin:** Yeah, 'cause I got a blue belt.

**Griffin:** Which is exciting. Yeah, you do have a blue belt. You could kick this thing. Uh, yeah, go ahead and mark experience. And also, I think if you want to do this investigation you're talking about, go ahead and roll investigate a mystery for me.

**Justin:** Okay.

**Griffin:** The stuff I just said, you got just from walking in, and you could see.

**Justin:** Son of a—

**Griffin:** Holy shit, Justin. That's a four.

**Justin:** Four.

**Griffin:** A big four. Plus your—

**Justin:** Why do my rolls have to be mundane...

**Travis:** Hey, pull a luck, my dude.

**Justin:** Like, why do my rolls have to be mundane?

**Griffin:** Yeah. You could drop a luck point. What's your sharp now that you're mundane?

**Justin:** One.

**Griffin:** Okay. Yeah, I mean, a luck is the only way you're gonna turn this into a victory.

**Justin:** [sighs]

**Griffin:** But I don't know if you want to...

**Justin:** This is... it's just to like, investigate, right?

**Griffin:** Yeah. Yeah, but I can—

**Justin:** Yeah, it seems like, very important, though. I'd hate to like...

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Justin:** I've never used luck. And I can get those back somehow?

**Griffin:** No. Your luck is an expendable resource. But I'm saying, we're more than halfway through this campaign and you haven't used any luck. Like, you're sitting on a surplus.



**Justin:** Yeah, y'know what? Just this one time. I've worked very hard to get in here. I had to ration away a lot of stuff.

**Griffin:** Okay, that bumps it up—

**Justin:** I'm gonna spend a luck point.

**Griffin:** Cool. You get a complete success. You hold two, and you get to ask one of these questions. What happened here, what sort of creature is it, what can it do, what can hurt it, where did it go, what was it gonna do, what is being concealed here?

**Justin:** Um... [sighs]

**Griffin:** I love that there's advanced moves, which I don't think any of you guys have taken. I think you have to level up five times before you can take them, which you all probably are close to now. And the advanced move for investigate a mystery is that you can ask a question—you can ask any question you want about the mystery, not just the listed ones. Which seems a little OP. Who did it? What is it? How do I kill?

**Justin:** What sort of creature is it?

**Griffin:** Um, okay. Uh... A uh, a woman walks up to you wearing the sheriff's department sort of uniform. And uh, she's taking some pictures of this scene as you walk in. And she says...

**Woman:** Oh, hey, I don't recognize you. Are you... who... hey, who are you? What are you doing here?

**Duck:** My name is Duck Newton. And I am looking for... information about what occurred here.

**Woman:** You a journalist?

**Duck:** I am a... badged professional.

**Clint:** [laughs]

**Woman:** That's good enough for me. Um...

**Travis:** [laughs]

**Woman:** Yeah, it's a gnarly sight, huh? I've been working at the Sheriff's department for a few years now. I ain't never seen nothin' like this. I didn't think stuff like this happened in Kepler. Um...

**Duck:** What was your name?

**Woman:** My name? My name is Megan.

**Griffin:** There's probably a listener of our show named Megan. It's you. I didn't know that this character was going to exist an hour ago.

**Justin:** Yeah, 'cause Duck's a rude piece of shit.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Megan:** I'm uh, Detective Megan Lastname. And I'm here, uh... you uh... you ever seen anything like this?

**Duck:** Yeah, I mean, a little bit. Not exactly to this extent of brutality, but I've got a little more experience than I'd like with sort of uh, unexplained situations.

**Megan:** Talk about unexplained. I was down at the morgue, I helped sort of get the bodies down there, and... it's one thing to like, y'know, murder someone. One... one of these Hornets had a big, like, chunk missing out of his neck. And there was teeth marks on it. It looked like somebody just like, chomped right down on him, had himself a little dude snack.

And what the... what kind of stuff you gotta be on to do something heinous like that? I swear, I thought Kepler was different, and y'know, safe from stuff like this. But I'm gonna move back to Chicago, y'know? I'm gonna

move back to... that's not where I'm from, but y'know what I mean? It's a figure of speech.

**Duck:** Yeah, back to Chicago, like they say.

**Travis:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** I think that's the—

**Justin:** Listen—

**Griffin:** I think that's as much as you're gonna get in here for what sort of creature is it, since the creature's not here. So you have one—

**Justin:** So it chomped down on the neck? Is that what we've established?

**Griffin:** Yes. You have one more question.

**Justin:** Is there any reality in which 'what can hurt it'... I mean, that's one of my questions, but there's just no... it just doesn't make sense, right? Like, no reality would make it have access to... [wheezes] To that information.

**Griffin:** I mean...

**Justin:** I can ask a different one that feels more narratively sound.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Duck:** So, uh... Megan, what... Detective Megan, excuse me. What uh, what happened here, as near as you can tell? I mean, did uh... this thing just take these two guys straight to Chicago, or what...

**Griffin:** [laughs]

**Duck:** How'd it all shake out?

**Megan:** Uh, well, we talked to a few people who were in here when the person came in. Um...

**Duck:** And it was a person?

**Megan:** Yeah, it was a—what else would it have been, Duck?

**Duck:** I mean, wild animals. This part of town. Possibility.

**Megan:** I mean, from what I understand, the perp acted like a wild animal, what with the dude snack. But uh, just came in through the door, didn't seem to be provoked. Nobody here seemed to know who they were. Uh, they came in, and they just started... killing, and clawing, and uh, people said that it picked up a table like it weren't nothin'. Threw somebody all the way across the room, like, 20 feet. Moving around and chuckin' people like they were Superman or something like this, but if Superman, y'know, bit people.

**Duck:** Bit people. Sure.

**Megan:** And uh, just came in here and did its killin' and then, once everybody had taken off, uh, they uh, they took—

**Duck:** Right back to Chicago.

**Megan:** Right on back.

**Justin:** [laughs]

**Megan:** So uh, yeah.

**Duck:** Well, I appreciate you uh... you talkin' with me, Detective Megan. I'm gonna let you get right back to Chicago and go talk to my guys over there in Chicago, and we're gonna get right back to Chicago.

**Megan:** Yep. That was all correct usage of the idiom, so well done.

**Duck:** Buffalo buffalo, buffalo buffalo buffalo. Buffalo.

**Griffin:** Uh, Aubrey. You are back out in the parking lot, and you were going to speak to the two Hornets that you saw. The big one and the little one.

**Travis:** Do I recognize either of them?

**Griffin:** Um, you probably saw them during the ski trip sort of confrontation. They were definitely there, helping make the stunt video up on Mount Kepler. But you're not like, super fam—it's not, y'know, it's not Hollis, it's not Keith.

**Travis:** Gotcha.

**Aubrey:** Hey, hey there fellas. Are you... how you holdin' up?

**Hornet 1:** Uh, y'know, I been better. Are you... are you like, grief counselor?

**Hornet 2:** Yeah, you a grief counselor?

**Aubrey:** I do have some counseling experience. But right now, think of me more as your friend.

**Hornet 1:** I could really use a grief counselor I think more than a friend at the moment. I got—

**Aubrey:** Okay, then I'm a grief counselor, yes.

**Clint:** [laughs]

**Hornet 2:** I'm just saying, we got friends.

**Aubrey:** No, I—okay—no, I follow—okay—

**Hornet 1:** Yeah, we got each other. Throughout all this, all I can say is, we got each other. And I thank the lord for that.

**Aubrey:** That's absolutely beautiful. I am... I am a grief counselor. What are your names?

**Justin:** Be careful, Trav, he doesn't always have names. Sometimes he's gonna make you feel like a heel for asking names.

**Clint:** [laughs]

**Hornet 1:** Well, my name's Bevin.

**Justin:** [laughs] See?

**Hornet 2:** And my name's Tim.

**Justin:** [laughs]

**Aubrey:** Okay, Tim...

**Clint:** Aw.

**Aubrey:** Tim, Bevin... [sighs] Y'know, I find that with traumatic experiences like this, sometimes it helps to talk about what happened. Because oftentimes, we'll close ourselves off to it, and not really let ourselves live through the experience, and that's where we get haunted by the past. But as we let ourselves discuss it, we can oftentimes break through that wall and make it something in the past, rather than something we're still living in in the present.

**Bevin:** Are we gonna get to talk to each other through dolls at some point? 'Cause I've heard that that's sort of the main thing that you do.

**Tim:** Yeah, I want to—

**Aubrey:** We will get to that, but you have to earn that. Okay, Bevin?

**Bevin:** Okay. Yeah.

**Aubrey:** You gotta earn that. With my trust. So, how about first, start by just telling me what happened.

**Griffin:** Uh, let's roll investigate a mystery. Is your magic—I mentioned your magic eye power. That's for, um... what is it, the other one. The...

**Travis:** Read a bad situation.

**Griffin:** Read a bad situation, right.

**Travis:** Uh, investigate a mystery, that's plus sharp. So an eight, so I get to hold one.

**Aubrey:** So how about you tell me what you've closed off? What haven't you told the police? What's that thing where you're like, "They would never believe this." You can open up to me. I'm here to believe you.

**Travis:** And that question is, "What's being concealed here?"

**Griffin:** Okay. Yeah, I got a good one for that. Bevin looks around and says...

**Bevin:** You're gonna think I'm tellin' tales out of school, or um, y'know, just makin' up just poppycock.

**Tim:** Yeah, it's gonna sound like poppycock.

**Bevin:** But uh...

**Aubrey:** Bevin, I would never... Tim, don't use that kind of language. Bevin, I would never.

**Bevin:** So we were standing out front of the bar, just sort of uh, y'know, catchin' a lung full of that good smoke from a cigarette. And um, uh, I smoke a lot and I look cool when I do it. But anyway, um, we were out there in front with Hollis, and um, we watched the person walk in. And I wasn't—I wasn't paying a lot of attention to uh, to him when he walked in. But I did notice him, and he came in through the parking lot, and it looked like a kind

of, um... I mean, I want to say small, but like, everyone's kind of small to me, 'cause I'm... I'm a pretty big man.

**Tim:** The biggest man! The biggest man.

**Bevin:** Yeah.

**Aubrey:** Okay.

**Bevin:** Yeah, thanks Tim, that's sweet. But um, it's like this blonde lady, and uh, she had a hood pulled up, but I could see some of her hair, and she was, y'know, kind of just about Tim sized, I would say.

**Aubrey:** A blonde lady?

**Bevin:** Yeah. She was the one that came in.

**Justin:** Tim-sized blonde lady.

**Bevin:** And she came in to the bar. I didn't seem to pay no mind. Hollis seemed kind of spooked for whatever reason. And then, y'know, the stuff happened. And I was on my way out, and I doubled back, 'cause I was like, "My bike, my bike," and I was like, I don't want to get torn apart like everybody else, but I do need to get my bike.

And so, I started to head back, and I saw her again. But this time, like... she was way different. She was... now she wasn't Tim sized. You're not gonna believe this. Now she was Bevin sized. She was... she was huge, and she was different. She um, y'know, she still had her hood up, so I couldn't like, make out her face a whole lot. But obviously, it was sort of a um... what's the word? Like a grim mask of death. And uh, it's like she's... you ever seen Transformers?

**Aubrey:** Yeah.

**Bevin:** It's like one of those.

**Clint:** [whispers] Another Transformers reference!



**Justin:** That's two in two episodes. Transformers are coming to this arc, I can feel it.

**Clint:** They are so comin'.

**Aubrey:** Hey, uh, Bevin?

**Bevin:** Yeah.

**Aubrey:** Could you see her teeth?

**Bevin:** Uh, no. I was a little too far away for that. I mean, her face, I could see, was covered in a lot of blood. So um, there's that. But yeah, that's all I got. So I gotta say, I'm not feeling less grievous, I guess.

**Aubrey:** No, you've made a great start. Um, drink lots of water.

**Bevin:** Great.

**Griffin:** Ned.

**Clint:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** Ned, why don't you... you're walking around the grounds. So you're just trying to like, see what you can see, right?

**Clint:** Yeah, Ned walks around like, behind the bar, like, around the edge. Like, the wooded area, and it suddenly occurs to Ned that he's not fuckin' Bindi Irwin and doesn't know a damn thing about lookin' for tracks in the woods and the ground. So, he doesn't want to go back so quick, 'cause they'll know that he was a big failure, so he kind of uh, leans up against the dumpster, and uh, and uh, starts munching on some Slim Jim that he had in his pocket.

**Travis:** What is going on? Ned's just taking a break from the game real quick?

**Clint:** And he's just lookin' around. I mean, just glancin' around.

**Justin:** [laughing]

**Clint:** He knows—it was kind of, y'know, being all, "I'll look for clues!" And y'know, trying to impress his buddies.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Clint:** And now he realizes, he doesn't know anything about this shit. So he's just gonna sit there eating a Slim Jim, and after a few minutes, go back. And that's how he's gonna investigate a mystery.

**Griffin:** Then go ahead and roll investigate a mystery.

**Clint:** Alright. Three.

**Griffin:** Oh. My. God.

**Clint:** Plus...

**Travis:** Well, that totally fits the narrative you've just set up.

**Clint:** Plus two for sharp.

**Griffin:** It's a five.

**Travis:** So now instead of being a huge failure, it's just a huge failure.

**Griffin:** It's just a big failure instead of a huge one. Um, man. Okay. I'm gonna do a hard move, and uh, this is the move. And I will also give you a little something. You are standing here, idly watching nothing, I guess, eating your Slim Jims. Your dumpster Slim Jim break, Ned, you absolute raccoon.

**Clint:** It's one of the like, three foot ones, that you pick up...

**Griffin:** Yeah, sure. Um, you are sitting there, just kind of idly looking around, and you see what looks like this like, string of light that is just kind of hovering in the air. And it's super faint. You probably wouldn't have noticed it if you hadn't been like, standing here for a while.

[ambient music plays]

**Griffin:** And y'know, seen the light change as the clouds move overhead, and notice this thing. And I think you only see it for like, a little bit. This little rift, floating in the air. And as you start to approach it, something happens. You see this rift kind of just like, open up, just like, slightly. Just like a half inch. And behind it, you see an eyeball looking at you. And then, just as quickly as you noticed it, it disappears.

[ambient music plays]

**Griffin:** You all are back at Amnesty Lodge to regroup with Mama and Barclay. Jake Coolice also went to the hospital, and is there as you all are sort of gathering up all of your information. And I think he opens up, and you can tell, he's had a long sort of difficult day. And he says, um...

**Jake:** So, uh, yeah. There... apparently, only a couple of people got killed. But um, those that made it out didn't, uh... I can't say they're doing super great. Um, a couple of them got, uh... got bit, and a couple of them kind of just got uh, y'know, beat up and thrown around, and uh, got some fractured collar bones and arms. And whatever did this, it did it, I think, with intent. So that's all I could get. Now, I'm going to go and take a dip in the springs, and just listen to some... listen to some smooth jazz or something, 'cause I need something to take the edge off.

**Griffin:** Um, and Mama says...

**Mama:** Alright, so we got somebody biting people. We got super strength, and they turned big and scary, and... anything else?

**Travis:** I just, FYI, I think Aubrey has specifically left out the blonde hair detail.

**Griffin:** Okay.

**Ned:** There was an eyeball. An eyeball looking at me through a rift.

**Mama:** Well that's peculiar, Ned. And you didn't open up with the eyeball rift?

**Duck:** Could'a led with that.

**Ned:** I was looking for the opportunity! I didn't want to just leap into it. I wanted to work it into a narrative flow, build to it, and then say something like, "And a rift! I saw a rift!"

**Duck:** Yeah.

**Mama:** [sighs] Duck, you got anything to contribute, here?

**Duck:** Uh, I mean, it's sort of been covered. I mean, with the chomping. Got that.

**Mama:** Yeah.

**Duck:** Uh, it was a... my report here that I took from... that was listed in with Aubrey, it said it was one Tim-sized blonde lady. So that is the closest to a description...

**Travis:** Didn't say blonde. Kept that to myself.

**Griffin:** Yeah, definitely didn't say that.

**Duck:** Okay. One Tim-sized lady, and um, no descriptions on the vics, except that they got messed up pretty bad. Uh, also, there was no provocation. I should mention, also. This seemed like just came in and started attacking people.

**Aubrey:** That does seem like intent. It like, walked right into this place. Doesn't seem like...

**Duck:** Yeah, it seemed intentional. Didn't seem like somebody picked a fight.

**Griffin:** Obviously, like, the reason you're keeping the description sort of concealed, Aubrey, is obvious. But like, I think Barclay is, even without the hair color, like, right there with you. He looks super nervous and says...

**Barclay:** Uh, okay. If it's, um... I mean, are we talking about like, an old-school vampire? 'Cause that could be kind of problematic.

**Griffin:** And I think he's just looking at Dani while he's talking about this, and says, like...

**Barclay:** I don't, like... she seems fine, and like, I don't think she's been skipping her trips—

**Aubrey:** It's not Dani. There's...

**Barclay:** I know it's not Dani, but like... if it... if the wind moves in that dire—if people start following clues, like, she's kind of... a...

**Aubrey:** Hey, Barclay? We don't need to jump to Chicago, okay?

**Barclay:** Okay.

**Aubrey:** There's still tons of information we don't have.

**Griffin:** Um, as you all are sort of talking about this, you are um... I imagine you're down in the basement, the cellar, so that, y'know, you don't drop any big clues in front of Stern. Uh, and the ceiling starts to rumble. You hear the sounds of motors outside, up above you, outside of the cellar in the front yard of the parking lot of Amnesty Lodge.

**Travis:** Aw, thank God, the Fast & the Furious crew are here. Now we're saved.

**Griffin:** And like, really quickly, Mama and Barclay look at each other kind of like, weirded out, and start heading out to the surface. And as they open

the door and you all kind of like, poke your head out of the cellar, you are temporarily blinded by this row of bright headlights shining in your direction. And um, they all flick off one by one, and you see what was hiding behind them.

Parked in formation in front of Amnesty Lodge is a fleet of 20 motorbikes, ridden by Hornets, with Hollis at the lead. And they take off their helmet and approach the lot of you as you all kind of step out of the cellar. You see Keith just sort of just behind them, and Keith, as he takes off his helmet, uh, looks genuinely... locks eyes with you, Aubrey, and then looks very scared.

And Hollis approaches you all as you come out of the cellar and says...

**Hollis:** [sighs] So uh, you all heard what happened at our place last night, right?

**Duck:** Yyyyyyyep. Real sorry about it.

**Hollis:** Yeah, it's um... it's awful. Um, so Keith told me everything about the monsters. Told me that you all work to fight them, and keep it a big secret?

**Duck:** Um...

**Aubrey:** Huh. Hey, Keith, Hollis? Can we talk to you over here just for a mo'?

**Griffin:** Uh, Hollis says...

**Hollis:** I'm good. Just so like... I'm new at this, obviously, but like, is the plan that you usually like, keep us, y'know, the rest of the town in the dark, and then, after someone gets slaughtered, then you like, step in to clean up the mess? Is that how you—

[theme music plays]

**Ned:** That's been working so far.

**Aubrey:** I don't know what you're talking about.

**Hollis:** Okay. Well, good news. You don't need to know what I'm talking about anymore. You all are relieved of duty.

We'll take it from here.

[theme music plays]

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[music plays]

**Laurie:** Hi, I am Laurie Kilmartin.

**Jackie:** And I'm Jackie Kashian.

**Laurie:** Together, we host a podcast called...

**Jackie:** The Jackie and Laurie Show.

**Laurie:** We're both standup comics. We recently met each other, because women weren't allowed to work together on the road or in gigs for a long, long time. And so, our friendship has been unfolding on this podcast for a couple of years. Jackie constantly works the road, I write for Conan, and then I work the road in between.

**Jackie:** We do a lot of standup comedy, and so, we celebrate standup, and we also bitch about it.

**Laurie:** Yes. We keep it to an hour. We don't have any guests. We somehow find enough to talk about every single week. So find us – you can subscribe to The Jackie and Laurie Show at MaximumFun.org, or wherever you get your podcasts.

**Jackie:** `Kay, bye.

[music plays]

**Allie:** Hi, I'm Allie Goertz.

**Julia:** And I'm Julia Prescott. And we're the hosts of Everything's Coming Up Simpsons.

**Allie:** [simultaneously] Everything's Coming Up Simpsons.

**Julia:** Every episode, we cover a different episode of the Simpsons that is a favorite of our special guest's.

**Allie:** We've had guests that are show runners, and writers, and voice actors, like Nancy Cartwright.

**Nancy:** I got a D-! I passed!

**Allie:** And we've also had people that are on the Max Fun network already.

**Julia:** We've had Weird Al Yankovich on the show.

**Weird Al:** I was just struck by how sharp the writing is. I mean, that's no surprise, 'cause it's the Simpsons. But I mean like, you can't say that about a lot of TV shows; particularly ones that, at that point, had been on the air for 14 years.

**Allie:** Find us on MaximumFun.org, iTunes, or wherever you get your podcasts.

**Julia:** Alright, smell ya later.

[music fades out]



