

The Adventure Zone: Live in San Jose!

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[theme music plays]

Audience: [applause]

Griffin: I have uh, asked Paul to play some scene-setting music. Paul, if you could play the scene-setting music as I read the opening monologue...

[scene-setting music plays loudly]

Griffin: If you can make it much quieter than that, that would be amazing.

Audience: [laughs]

[scene-setting music disappears entirely]

Griffin: A little bit louder.

[scene-setting music plays]

Audience: [laughs]

Griffin: Perfect.

Travis: Split the difference.

Griffin: The year is 20XX...

Audience: [laughs]

Griffin: The world as you know it has ended. The once burdened forests and lush prairies peppered across Faerun lay fallow, swallowed up in cyclones of dust and exhaust. The land's great thriving cities are hollowed

out wastelands, scoured tirelessly by electronic eyes for any remaining signs of life. Signs... of resistance.

Audience: [laughs and cheers]

Griffin: The rain of organic beings has long since been brought to a violent end by the world's new ruling class – robots.

Audience: [cheers]

Griffin: Sentient machines of various shapes, sizes, and functions that have reduced the world's human, dwarf, elf, orc, really, all non-robot populations down to a handful of barely surviving enclaves, all eking out a harrowing existence beneath the smog-filled sky. It's really very bad.

Audience: [laughs]

Griffin: There's no grass anymore. Where there used to be grass, now there's just like, little wires all over, which is what robots like instead of grass.

Clint: [laughs]

Audience: [laughs]

Griffin: Playgrounds that used to be full of children's laughter are now filled with like, pipes and batteries and stuff.

Audience: [laughs]

Griffin: There is still birds, but they have been assimilated into cyber-birds, which are the absolute worst kind of bird.

Audience: [laughs]

Griffin: It smells like gasoline just everywhere. Basically, all the stuff that humans and flesh beings use to like now is just all robot stuff. The three of you awaken in the salvaged husk of the wrecked Bureau of Balance headquarters, brought down some years ago by an assault flock of cyber-birds. It houses and protects the world's last hope for salvation from the cybernetic onslaught – the Reclaimers.

Today, they'll embark on an operation months in the making. Their few remaining resources and surviving personnel will all be expended in this final campaign. It is Faerun's last, best, and only chance for salvation. Also, it's worth mentioning that the three of you have no idea what's going on.

Audience: [laughs]

Griffin: You fell asleep in normal-ass Faerun, and you woke up in the robot wasteland. You're in the destroyed remnants of the Fantasy Costco, laying on bed rolls while a big, burly man tinkers with what appears to be an enormous canon in a nearby workbench. He notices you stirring and lifts his weapon off the table, addressing you gruffly. If you can lower the Terminator music...

Audience: [laughs]

Clint: Oh, Terminator!

Griffin: I didn't...

Audience: [laughs and cheers]

Clint: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Griffin: The gruff man says...

Man: State your name and affiliation.

Magnus: Uh, Magnus Scorpio.

Audience: [laughs]

Merle: Merle, Presbyterian.

Audience: [laughs]

Taako: Taako, the Bingles.

Audience: [laughs]

Man: Are the three of you with the Goldcliff Armada, or the Children of Phandalin?

Magnus: Y'know, I'm still shopping for my options. I'm not willing to commit. I'm taking offers from all groups.

Man: Or uh, how do I know you're not all skin-wearing robots?

Magnus: I. Would. Never.

Audience: [laughs]

Merle: In a way, aren't we all skin-wearing robots?

Taako: Damn, I'm gonna need to lie down. That's a lot.

Travis: Griffin, is Magnus still a vampire from our last live episode?

Griffin: No.

Travis: Okay.

Audience: [laughs]

Taako: Uh, what's your handle, hoss?

Man: My name is Captain Angus McDonald.

Audience: [loud cheering]

Justin: [laughs]

Clint: Four minutes in.

Angus: And the three of you are not who you say you are. We lost contact with Lieutenant Magnus, Master Taako, and Reverend Merle—

Magnus: Lieutenant?! Bullshit!

Audience: [laughs]

Angus: We lost contact with them several days ago in the scouting mission for today's operation.

Magnus: Wait, how are you a captain and I'm a lieutenant?!

Audience: [laughs]

Magnus: In what fucking universe?!

Merle: Because you don't follow the rules, man.

Griffin: He says...

Angus: In this universe, muchacho—

Griffin: And he pulls out his guns, and his guns are bigger than your guns.

Audience: [laughs]

Taako: Whoa!

Merle: Ooh!

Griffin: He says—

Merle: You still have nice guns, buddy.

Audience: [laughs]

Angus: You do look like my old friends, though. You... mentioned universes. It's perhaps true that you're from a different reality.

Taako: It's called the View-is-Skewniverse. That's where we hail from.

Audience: [laughs]

Angus: The time-space continuum of our world has grown unstable as of late. Strange rifts have been appearing all around.

Magnus: Yeah.

Angus: All around the spire for months, now. The robot headquarters.

Magnus: Uh-huh.

Angus: I myself fell through one, and it made me get super old and buff like this.

Magnus: Cool.

Audience: [laughs]

Magnus: It all tracks.

Angus: Listen – if you're anything like the Taako, Merle, and Magnus that I knew, you'll rise to the occasion when you're—no?

Taako: No.

Audience: [laughs]

Angus: Actually, that sounds a little bit more like the Taako, Merle, and...

Audience: [cheers]

Angus: Today, we're executing operation Rebalance. The tools we need to stop the robot apocalypse once and for all will—

Magnus: Wait, if you rebalance, aren't you just balancing it?

Audience: [laughs and cheers]

Angus: ... Yeah.

Taako: The 're' is like, "Re:". Regarding: Balance.

Magnus: Regarding: Balance.

Merle: I.E. Balance.

Audience: [laughs]

Taako: Yes.

Magnus: ASAP when you get a second, champ.

Angus: The tools... may I, please?

Magnus: Of course.

Griffin: He cocks the gun for some reason.

Travis: Wait, he cocks his arm?

Griffin: He's got a big cannon. A big laser. He says...

Angus: The tools we need to stop the robot apocalypse once and for all wait for us on top of the spire. We're leading a full-on assault to punch a hole through its defense.

Griffin: And he does a punch, and it's scary.

Angus: To punch a hole—

Travis: Magnus also does a punch.

Angus: Yeah. Hell yeah. Heck yeah. I'm so sorry.

Audience: [laughs]

Angus: I'm so sorry, sirs.

Clint: [laughs]

Audience: [cheers and laughs]

Angus: We're gonna punch a hole through the spire's defenses and get a ground crew inside to secure the package. I need the three of you on said ground crew. And uh, I'm sure any answers you need about how to get back to your own world are waiting for you up there as well.

Magnus: It's fine, I know how I die.

Audience: [laughs]

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: That's my least favorite thing you do at the live shows.

Audience: [laughs]

Angus: Any questions?

Magnus: Uhh...

Taako: Would you believe no? Weirdly, it's no. I think it's a no.

Magnus: Yeah. Y'know...

Taako: Well, okay. Where did all the robots come from, chief?

Angus: Good question. They showed up a little under a decade ago, or maybe just a few years ago.

Magnus: So somewhere between nine and three.

Taako: Yeah, just say eight.

Angus: Judgment day was [indecipherable mumble] years ago.

Taako: Who doesn't... who doesn't—I'm sorry, hi—

Magnus: Did you forget to write it down?

Taako: Yeah, who doesn't remember when the robots took over? [laughs]

Magnus: It wasn't just one day; it was a slow build over time.

Angus: They launched all of our magical weaponry against us, and then they made all the calendars disappear.

Clint: [laughs]

Audience: [laughs]

Magnus: Turns out, robots were in charge of calendars.

Angus: Yeah.

Magnus: Damn you, Siri!

Angus: Yeah. It's Y2K it was just a little late, I guess. Anyway...

Magnus: I need to be careful, 'cause my voice is falling into yours.

Angus: Same, same. I'm not gonna have one by act two.

Merle: I noticed that.

Griffin: He pushes you out the door towards action. The Bureau headquarters is—

Justin: Griffin or Angus?

Griffin: Yes.

Audience: [laughs]

Travis: Griffin comes in with a push broom.

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: [imitating Griffin] Time to play my game, gentlemen! I got a lot of treats lined up for ya!

Travis: The people in San Jose need to move it along.

Audience: [laughs]

Justin: Come on, don't dally, folks, we got act break comin' up!

Travis: We're waitin' on some food in intermission!

Griffin: We really are. We ordered food from a Vietnamese restaurant, and like, 20 minutes before we were gonna walk on stage, they're like, "Uh, it shut down two days ago."

Audience: [laughs]

Travis: So we ate a bunch of candy and we came on stage.

Griffin: Yeah.

Clint: [speaking quickly] And we're really ready to go! We're gonna do you a really good show! I hope you're excited!

Audience: [cheering]

Griffin: The Bureau headquarters has been surrounded in a thick, steel, magically-reinforced barrier. At the edge of the quad, a set of 20-foot high steel industrial doors are sealed, and you see a squadron of super future troops gathered around it. Lieutenant Killian is there, speaking to a dozen or so troops arranged—

Audience: [cheers]

Griffin: --arranged in front of her, and she's giving a speech to her own little squadron. She says...

Killian: Last evening, our first squadron made their move against the enemy. Their—

Griffin: [in a gruff voice] Everybody just sounds more sort of future.

Travis: Yeah. It's all the gasoline smell everywhere.

Clint: [laughs]

Griffin: It's all the gas smell.

Travis: It's so bad for the throat. Everybody needs a lozenge.

Killian: Their mission was to carve a path through the front lines before splitting off in an attempt to misdirect the foe. As you know, Lieutenant Carey led this mission.

Audience: [cheers]

Killian: We lost optics outside the enclave several days ago, so we don't know what's waiting for us behind those doors. I suspect limited enemy presence, but at least until we reach the spire... one question. Who the fuck are you guys?

Audience: [laughs]

Magnus: Magnus. Burnsides.

Killian: Oh. I didn't recognize you, 'cause you're dressed up like fantasy weirdos.

Audience: [laughs]

Magnus: I bought this at the Gap.

Audience: [laughs]

Taako: [in a gruff voice] I'm Taako.

Audience: [laughs and cheers]

Taako: [in a gruff voice] I'm Taako. I'm Taako? I'm Taako, and I'm highly suggestible.

Audience: [laughs]

Magnus: Dun dun dun.

Clint: [in a gruff voice] I'm Batman, and I don't do character voices.

Travis: That's Dad's real voice.

Griffin: That's true.

Killian: Hey, where's your standard-issue techno armor and plasma rifles? You're gonna get chewed up by their laser pulsars with the—oh, looks like we're starting. Good luck!

Magnus: Oh nooo!

Griffin: The biggest, most hardened future techno man you've ever seen approaches the gate and turns to face the crowd. Yellow lights above him start flashing as klaxons blare. The doors begin to give off steam as they prepare to open. He is wearing a pair of sunglasses and has two bandoliers wrapped around his chest. He's got a big, white mustache, and closely cropped hair. And he removes a cigar from his mouth, with the hand not holding an enormous plasma rifle, and he addresses the platoon. And he says...

Man: For those who haven't had the displeasure of meeting me... I'm commander Brock Knifebone.

Audience: [laughs]

Magnus: Of the New England Knifebones?

Brock: Ah, New England...

Travis: [laughs]

Brock: Lot of good calendars we lost in New England.

Audience: [laughs]

Taako: Is it true they replaced it with New New England? The robots did?

Brock: Oh... listen. Yes.

Taako: New New England.

Brock: I get ya. Yeah, they added another one.

Magnus: `Cause it's futurey.

Brock: You modified the Modifier. That's good future jokes, son.

Audience: [laughs]

Taako: Anything for you, dad.

Brock: No, it's not necessary. Those who do know me know I've been waiting for this day my whole life. I bet most of y'all have, too. Our whole li—

Magnus: I don't know you. Do I know you've been waiting?

Brock: Maybe. The whole—our whole lives... or actually, the just—the past few years, now that I'm really thinking about it...

Magnus: Yeah, it'd be weird if you thought about this like, 40 years ago.

Brock: We've been living like rats underground, or worms. Or moles, or meerkats. Only, we don't like it.

Audience: [laughs]

Magnus: Maybe they don't.

Brock: We ain't seen the sun in God knows how long. Rainbows? Forget about it.

Audience: [laughs]

Brock: Ain't seen them neither. Most meals, you've had to eat straight up dirt. `Cause that's all we had lying around. Dirt sandwiches.

Magnus: Well you can't just eat what you have lying around. Go shopping.

Brock: Stores got melted.

Audience: [laughs]

Brock: Nothin' but dirt sandwiches. Dirt soup. Which is just mud, I guess. For my birthday this year, bunch of y'all got together and got me a shoe to eat. I won't soon forget that kindness.

Audience: [laughs]

Brock: But that ends today.

Magnus: No shoes?

Brock: For too long... I mean, if you've got a shoe to spare...

Magnus: I'm saving it. For Candlesnights.

Brock: For after we win this battle, soldier.

Magnus: Yeah, it's a celebratory shoe lunch.

Brock: For too long, this world that was given to us by the great creators... today, we're gonna pry it from the hands of those that took it from us. Today, we reclaim our planet.

Griffin: And the doors behind him start to slide open. He says...

Brock: We will not go quietly into the night. We will not vanish without a fight.

Audience: [laughs and cheers]

Brock: We're gonna live on. We're gonna survive. Today, we celebrate our—

Griffin: And he just disintegrates in a cloud of red ash.

Magnus: Oh, no!

Taako: Nooo!

Magnus: I was building a rich character backstory in my head!

Griffin: And everyone, all of these like, squadrons start looking at each other like, "Uhh..." Roll for initiative.

Audience: [cheers]

Justin: 16.

Griffin: Alright.

Justin: Wait—19.

Griffin: Oh.

Travis: 13.

Clint: I got an eight, but I get to roll twice.

Griffin: Go for it.

Clint: [laughs] Yeah, that's a one.

Audience: [laughs]

Griffin: Okay. So an eight for Merle, then? Alright. Uh, here is the scene. You all walk out onto a battlefield, and it's a grisly scene. Just down the middle—

Travis: Roar!

Audience: [laughs]

Griffin: Okay.

Clint: If you just encourage him...

Griffin: Yeah. Just down the middle ramp, leading from the Bureau entrance, a costly battle has taken place with fallen soldiers from both sides littering the field. Sadly, it seems the robots have prevailed as the only troops left standing are metallic in nature. You identify four main threats here on the field.

There's a humongous cyber dog that is sniffing on the outside of a pillbox, inside of which you see some activity. Some organic organisms are in there. The cyber dog is easily six feet tall, and is rooting at the door, trying to gain access as the folks inside wail and protest.

Next to that, a squad of a half dozen robots, armed with laser rifles and spears, are marching in formation behind a seventh slightly larger robot. Just behind them is a tower, hastily made from salvaged metal, atop of which you see a single robot, seated at a gigantic laser cannon that is currently spinning up and preparing to fire.

Finally, in the distance, moving into flanking position, you see a fuckin' tank that is rolling into position. Behind you, the last of the resistance is organized into three squadrons. Killian leads a team of rangers, all armed with laser rifles and light armor. Avi, the cannoneer, leads—

Audience: [cheers]

Griffin: --leads an infantry team, armed with large, electrified clubs, wearing heavier armor. And finally, you see Leon the Artificer.

Audience: [cheers]

Justin: The can—the cannon—sorry. The cannon guy is leading a bunch of people with clubs?

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Seems like kind of a missed opportunity, doesn't it?

Griffin: Okay, he's also got his big cannon that he used to shoot you on adventures to it.

Travis: Yeah!

Griffin: And finally, you see Leon the Artificer who is leading a band of magic wielders, wearing no armor. And Avi just kind of looks around at everyone, and then looks back at the three of you, and is like...

Avi: So uh, what do we do?

Magnus: Huh. Alright. Well, as Lieutenant, I'll take command here. I'm going to say, uh, infantry... against the tank.

Audience: [laughs]

Griffin: No, that's good. Travis has obviously played Advance Wars at some point, 'cause that's how that rock paper scissors match...

Magnus: Uh, infantry against the seven robots. Rangers...

Merle: And Colonel Mustard in the conservatory with the wrench.

Magnus: Rangers against the...

Audience: [laughs]

Magnus: Rangers against the tower. And magic against the tank. And me against the dog.

Audience: [cheers]

Griffin: Alright. They have their assignments, and start to move into position, but Taako, you are up first. Dog, squad, tower, tank. Those are your four.

Justin: [laughs] Uhh...

Travis: God squad.

Justin: God squad, tank tower... uh, I am—

Travis: Hi, I'm Tank Tower. You want to learn how to play football? Sure, we all do. With my seven video set...

Audience: [laughs]

Clint: So Taako goes first?

Justin: Uh, I am going to... cast... uh, *flesh to stone* on the dog.

Griffin: Okay. The dog is part flesh, part dog, so I'll give you that for sure.

Travis: I assume you mean part flesh, part metal.

Griffin: Part flesh, part metal, yes.

Travis: Part dog.

Griffin: Part dog.

Travis: All human.

Justin: Part dog, part flesh, all hero.

Travis: All cop.

Audience: [laughs]

Griffin: Uh, okay, what does this spell do?

Justin: Gotta uh... I mean, it turns flesh to stone.

Travis: It's right there on the name, Griffin. Read a book. I'm sorry. Sorry, you're up.

Justin: I'd just love to talk a little bit on the show. Um, the uh... he was right. Goddamn it. It turns flesh to stone is what it does.

Griffin: Uh, okay. Uh, all—

Justin: You gotta do a constitution saving throw.

Griffin: Okay. Uh, I got a 13.

Justin: Nope.

Griffin: Okay, yeah. His flesh turns to stone. Now, he's stone and metal parts. Um, so, he's probably more armored right now, but he also can't... literally cannot move at all. He is stone with metal plating all around him, but his eyes are still flesh, I guess, or whatever you would call those. And he's looking around like, "Uh oh."

Audience: [laughs]

Griffin: You actually hear him from inside his hollow robot body go, "Uh oh."

Travis: I'm sorry, I think you mean, "Ruh roh."

Griffin: "Ruh roh."

Audience: [laughs]

Griffin: Uh, next up is the squad of seven robots who are going to attack as a swarm, and... actually, since there is just seven of them, they release a like, G.I. Joe just blast of laser fire in your direction. Everybody make a dexterity saving throw.

The infantry fares very well against this saving throw.

Justin: 20!

Griffin: Taako dodges the lasers.

Audience: [cheers]

Travis: I don't dodge.

Griffin: Magnus does not dodge the lasers.

Travis: I got a six total.

Griffin: Okay.

Clint: Three.

Griffin: Okay.

Audience: [cheers]

Griffin: Taako fully just like... is just water, just dancing around the lasers. And uh, Merle and Magnus are both lit up for 17 laser damage.

Clint: Jeeze!

Travis: That's nothing.

Griffin: It's seven robots shooting lasers at you. That's gonna be some damage. Next up is Magnus.

Travis: Uh, so the dog seems partially incapacitated.

Griffin: The dog is lit... how long does that flesh to stone spell last? I imagine—

Justin: Uh, he gets to try to resist.

Griffin: Oh, okay. On his turn, he'll get to try to resist.

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: Make sure to talk right at—we're using new microphones.

Justin: Sorry, it's really hard.

Travis: Uh, I'm going to uh, get on that dog's back.

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: The stationary display dog.

Griffin: The stationary stone and metal dog.

Audience: [laughs]

Clint: Are you posing for a picture?

Griffin: Yeah, that's the only...

Justin: Hey, everybody, look at me!

Audience: [laughs]

Travis: Alright, I actually—what I'm going to do... so the tower robot...

Griffin: Yes.

Travis: Has a cannon, right?

Griffin: Yeah, and it's like a... like a gatling gun that's like, spinning up there.

Travis: Okay, I'm going to throw the Chance Lance at the cannon.

Griffin: Okay. At the cannon, or the robot?

Travis: At the cannon. I'm trying to jam it.

Griffin: Oh, okay.

Travis: Ohh.

Griffin: We make up some stats...

Audience: [laughs]

Travis: Uh, that's 16 plus ten. 26.

Griffin: Yes, for sure.

Travis: Nice.

Audience: [cheers]

Griffin: Uhh, roll damage, and I have a number in mind that is... roll damage.

Travis: Okay.

Griffin: Let's see what happens.

Travis: Uh, seven plus four. Eleven.

Griffin: Yeah, I think it definitely works. And in the interest of time, uh, it gets like, plugged up. And some sparks of electricity... and the robot looks down at it like, "This has never happened." And then it just explodes, and the tower topples over.

Justin: [laughs]

Audience: [cheers]

Travis: And then I recall the lance.

Griffin: And Killian and her squad had just gotten there, and Killian looks back like, "What the fuck? Kill steal."

Travis: Uh, and then, uh, with my second attack...

Audience: [laughs]

Travis: I'm going to... jump on the tank.

Griffin: Okay. The tank is a ways away.

Travis: I'm gonna run and jump. [run and jump sound effect]

Griffin: I'm gonna say... I'm gonna say because it's far away and not close, it will be a harder, uh... athletics, I think. This would not be acrobatic. You're just jumping straight up.

Travis: Sick.

Griffin: Alright.

Travis: Uh, it's a 16 total.

Griffin: Yeah, okay. You're on top of the tank now. Well done. Uh, next in the order is—

Travis: It's not really an attack.

Griffin: Next in the order is the tank.

Justin: [laughs]

Audience: [laughs]

Griffin: Uh...

Travis: Tank can't shoot at itself.

Griffin: That's true. That's the number one rule of tanks.

Justin: [laughing] It's the curse of tanks.

Audience: [laughs]

Justin: The one weakness of tanks.

Travis: Also, can't hug itself. But that also can't hug anything. No arms. It's a tank.

Justin: If you ever see a tank looking sad, it's probably thinking about how it can't shoot itself. [laughs] That's the one thing about it that it can't do.

Audience: [laughing]

Griffin: It's like how we can't lick our own elbows.

Justin: Right, it's like, "I love shooting things so much."

Griffin: And so I just spend every day just staring at my elbow like, "Oh, God, what's it taste like, though?!" And you could shoot another tank, but it's not the same.

Justin: Not the same.

Griffin: Uh, there is a hatch on this tank that you hear uh, two robot voices talking inside like...

Robot 1: [robotic voice] Did you hear something on the roof?

Travis: [robotic voice] No.

Griffin: And the other one's like...

Robot 2: Why are you talking like that, man?

Audience: [laughs]

Griffin: And the hatch comes open, and a biiig ol' robot, humanoid robot, comes up. And it's basically the Terminator, but the skinless version. Uh, and he says...

Robot 1: [robotic voice] I told you there—

Griffin: The other guy's like...

Robot 2: Come on, just hit him!

Griffin: And he rears back and tries to punch you off of the side of the tank. He rolled a 19 versus AC.

Travis: Uh... uh...

Griffin: Are you holding—are you holding your shield in your teeth?

Travis: No, I had the Chance Lance in one hand and the shield in the other.

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: So, it's a miss.

Griffin: Okay. Yeah. It bounces off your shield, I guess. He says...

Robot 1: [robotic voice] How are you holding onto the tank? Never mind.

Travis: No, I just landed on the tank. I'm not holding on.

Griffin: I got you. Uh, next in the order—oh, and the tank moves closer into firing position of the rest of the battle. Merle, you are up next. Dog has been turned to stone, but is going to try and save. The tower is gone, and the tank has been Magnus'ed.

Audience: [laughs]

Griffin: There is still the squad of robots that are still untouched.

Clint: Um, Merle casts *sleet storm*.

Griffin: Oh, okay. On...

Clint: On the untouched things.

Griffin: The squad of seven robots.

Clint: The squad of seven robots.

Griffin: What am I doing?

Clint: Um, until the spell ends, freezing rain and sleet fall in a 20 foot tall cylinder...

Griffin: Cool.

Clint: With a 40 foot radius.

Griffin: Oh. That's not just gonna be these robots, then.

Audience: [laughs]

Clint: And the ground in the area is covered with slick ice, making it difficult terrain...

Griffin: Okay.

Clint: When a creature enters the spell's area for the first time on a turn, or starts its turn there, it must make a dexterity saving throw. On a failed save, it falls prone.

Griffin: I love this. This is gonna be fuckin' hysterical.

Audience: [laughs]

Griffin: Alright. You make it sleet, and uh—

Clint: Wait a minute. Let me make it sleet.

Griffin: Okay.

Clint: [claps]

Griffin: Okay.

Audience: [cheers and laughs]

Justin: That's nothing! That's nothing! Nothing!

Griffin: Uh, okay. The ground of the entire battlefield is now covered in ice, which is amazing.

Justin: Excellent.

Clint: Yeah!

Griffin: Uh, the dog is up next. He's gonna roll to save. That's a critical failure. He does not. Instead, the dog just kind of like, slowly starts just sliding down the... like, when you're trying to like... when you're trying to get in your car, but it's like the ground is frozen, and you live on like an elevated driveway, and so, you just slowly slide like, "Ah, fuck, there it goes..."

Audience: [laughs]

Griffin: Taako, you're up next. The robots are still standing. The dog is statue. The tank has Magnus on it. The tower's dead.

Justin: Um, I should probably... do something. I mean, he's got that... I mean, I feel like... we can all agree he's got the tank under control.

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: Um... probably... I mean, he's got the tank under control. Um, I am going to cast, uh... no, y'know what? I'll go. Y'know what, it's fine. Y'know what? It's fine. It's fine. I'm gonna—this'll be fine.

Audience: [laughs]

Justin: This'll actually be fine.

Audience: [laughs]

Justin: Uh, I'm gonna cast *lightning bolt* on the tank.

Audience: [laughs and cheers]

Travis: Listen, I'm sorry I talked over you!

Justin: No, it'll be... this'll be... I thought about it. This'll be fine.

Griffin: Yes.

Justin: This is gonna be... and I yell that.

Taako: This is gonna be fine!

Justin: And... 'cause I'm trying to like, short out the tank. We got a lot of robots in there doing their stuff, and I'm gonna try and take this tank out with a well-placed lightning bolt.

Griffin: Alright.

Travis: A precision lightning bolt.

Justin: A precision lightning bolt.

Griffin: What do we... what do I do, or what do you do?

Justin: Uh, you gotta make a dexterity saving throw.

Griffin: Alright. Aha.

Travis: Do I?

Griffin: The tank—I'll just say this. The tank is going to fail. I think one of the robots, the one who came out to punch you, he has a chance of maybe leaping from the vehicle.

Justin: Okay, so the tank's two weaknesses...

Griffin: Uh, I got a 17 versus your spell save.

Justin: Uh, yeah. Actually, that saves.

Griffin: Okay, so the one robot who came out to punch Magnus sees a storm brewing overhead and is like...

Robot 1: [robotic voice] Fuck this.

Griffin: And just leaps out of the tank.

Travis: I got a 16.

Griffin: Uh, 16, does that save?

Justin: Yeah, that saves too.

Griffin: Oh, wow. Magnus gets off too.

Justin: Wait, hold on. So that's seven... just everybody shut up. 11...

Audience: [laughs]

Justin: 12... 15... 19... 20.

Griffin: Okay.

Audience: [laughs]

Griffin: This is lightning damage?

Justin: This is 20 lightning damage. Ten to the dumb robot that got back inside.

Griffin: Oh, the robot that's inside is not anything anymore. He's, uh... He's been liquefied, which is weird.

Justin: And ten to Magnus, but just ten.

Griffin: Just ten, so that's nothing.

Justin: He laughs off—he just talked about how little damage that is, so I think—

Travis: That's true.

Griffin: Okay, you actually hit the one that jumped—the robot that jumped out of the tank with ten lightning damage, which is actually 20 lightning damage. And when you zapped him, he landed on the ground, and he like, kind of froze up a little bit. And then, he looked up as the tank rolled over him.

Justin: Oh no!

Audience: [laughs]

Griffin: Uh, and Magnus, right as you jump off, there's just a burst of smoke from the inside of the tank, and uh, its lights and stuff that were on the side of it shut off, and uh, it is no more.

Audience: [cheers]

Griffin: Next in the order is the squad. They now form a sort of... oh wait, they have to roll a dexterity saving throw.

Audience: [laughs]

Griffin: [sings the Benny Hill theme] They all fall down.

Audience: [laughs]

Griffin: And...

Clint: So I guess it was a pretty good spell to cast, huh?

Audience: [cheers]

Griffin: They are prone, but the leader robot is like, "Uh, we still have guns and stuff." And so, with disadvantage, they try to shoot their lasers at Merle. Uh, that is a 19 versus AC.

Clint: Hmm.

Griffin: Disadvantage.

Clint: My armor class is 19.

Griffin: Uh, I think tie goes to... I got a nine on the other one, so don't even worry about it. Just the ping, zing, zang, zoom. They go all over and do nothing. Uh, Magnus, you're back up, standing next to a smoldering tank.

Travis: So the tank is out.

Griffin: Yes.

Travis: The dog is stone.

Griffin: Yep. Tower's gone.

Travis: The tower is gone.

Griffin: Yep.

Travis: And the infantry is...

Griffin: Laying down.

Travis: Okay.

Audience: [laughs]

Travis: Um... it almost feels mean to attack the robots on the ground. But I'm going to.

Audience: [laughs and cheers]

Griffin: You have advantage. They're prone. You have advantage. This is a coup de grace, essentially.

Travis: Well, good. Uh, 22.

Griffin: Yep, yep, yep.

Travis: And I'm gonna say, uh—

Griffin: What are you attacking with?

Travis: I've switched to two handed. Uh, uh, uh, the huh, huh, huh...

Audience: [laughs]

Travis: Been a long... Railsplitter. Been a long time.

Griffin: Okay.

Audience: [cheers]

Griffin: Roll damage.

Travis: It's the big dice. Uh, five plus five. Ten.

Griffin: Uh, okay. You take out... you just walk around and just, bonk. Chonk. Chonk. Chonk. Uh, and on your turn, you take out, uh, four of the robots. There's three left standing.

Travis: Okay. And then I attack again.

Griffin: Oh yeah.

Travis: Okay, so that's a 24.

Griffin: Yeah, of course. Yeah.

Travis: Uh, and that's four plus five, so nine.

Griffin: Okay. Chonk. Chonk. Now, hey, wait a minute, we—chonk.

Travis: [laughs]

Audience: [laughs]

Griffin: Uh, that's it. The dog has now slid so far away.

Audience: [laughs]

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: All the squads also look at you like... you guys are pretty overpowered. We were supposed to participate in this too, and you didn't... I feel like you really... okay. Uh, and—

Justin: Why didn't they take turns?

Travis: Yeah, to be fair, Griffin... they didn't take any turns.

Griffin: Yeah, that's true. Well, you kept killing the things that they were going to... okay, anyway. Uh, you all, with the full squadron of soldiers, uh, march forward towards the spire. Uh, you—

Travis: All rolling for dexterity checks as we go to make sure we're not slipping on the ice.

Griffin: The whole time, yes. It's—actually, everybody roll a dexterity save.

Audience: [laughs]

Griffin: Oh, I got a crit.

Travis: I got an 18.

Justin: 20.

Travis: We're ice skating.

Griffin: Yeah.

Clint: 13... 14.

Griffin: Merle has a little bit of trouble.

Clint: Of course. Yeah.

Griffin: But the rest of you are just...

Travis: He's holding onto the back of Magnus' jacket.

Merle: Whoa, whoaaa!

Audience: [laughing]

Griffin: The Vince Guaraldi trio, like Charlie Brown Christmas album starts playing, and you all just do a little just fun ice skate dance. Okay, uh, you and the remaining Reclaimers proceed down the battlefield with little trouble until you finally reach a small dirt hill, just a hundred meters or so from the base of the spire. A few feet away, you see a soldier scouting the spire who lowers a pair of future cyber binoculars and approaches you with caution.

She has a knife in her teeth for some reason, which she sheaths. She's got two bright cyber eyes, and she's totally ripped, but otherwise, you recognize her as future cyber Lucretia. And she—

Audience: [cheers]

Griffin: [laughing] And she actually says...

Lucretia: Magnus Burnsides... You son of a bitch.

Griffin: And comes in and gives you the Predator high five.

Travis: Yeah. Magnus is right there. He's never gonna pass that up.

Griffin: Just that glistening muscle Predator arm-wrestle high five. Both your muscles are just shining in the... she says...

Lucretia: I could swear the three of you beefed it. What gives?

Magnus: Well, we grilled up that beef and we ate it. We're from a different dimension.

Taako: Yeah.

Lucretia: I see. I suspected as much.

Magnus: You did?

Lucretia: Yeah, I'm pretty smart.

Audience: [laughs]

Lucretia: Look, I appreciate the assistance from the three of you and the rest of you—

Griffin: And at this point, the other squads are like, "Yeah, yeah..."

Audience: [laughs]

Lucretia: But uh, I think this one may be even above the pay grade of the three randy guys.

Magnus: That's not—

Lucretia: That's what we call you in this dimension.

Magnus: Oh, okay, yeah.

Audience: [laughs]

Magnus: The three forward men.

Clint: [laughs]

Griffin: She says...

Lucretia: Take a look.

Griffin: And on the other end of this dirt mound, you all see a good like, 300 robot soldiers all arrange in formation. They are fanning out from the entrance to the spire that is on the other end of this mound. And they've swept the casualties of this battle into, uh, that has recently taken place here into these orderly piles of fallen soldiers of both armies, flanking their formation.

Behind them is this enormous metal door leading into the tower, which you can see has recently had a sizable hole blasted in it, allowing access into the building if it weren't for the 300 robots in front of it. And she says...

Lucretia: Any ideas?

Magnus: We could kill `em.

Lucretia: There's only ten minutes left in act one, I don't think that's... that would be a lot of initiative rolls.

Magnus: Oh, yeah.

Merle: I have something.

Magnus: Really?

Clint: Merle casts *fog cloud*.

Griffin: Alright.

Audience: [cheers]

Travis: And it creates ambiance.

Griffin: She goes...

Lucretia: Alright, tell me what you're—

Griffin: And you're already like, "Poof!! Shazam!"

Merle: Fooooooooog!

Griffin: What's a *fog cloud* do?

Clint: *Fog cloud* will obscure everybody and the army.

Griffin: Read on the card! What's the text on the card say?

Justin: [laughs] We're not fucking LARPing. Just, what is it gonna do?

Audience: [laughs]

Clint: You create a 20 foot radius sphere of fog, centered on a point within range. It spreads around corners.

Griffin: What? [laughs]

Travis: I love this idea of like, "Well, this doesn't seem suspicious at all," as a perfect sphere of fog just walks through the middle of this crowd of robots.

Griffin: Through this 100 meter expanse.

Justin: I wish we could figure out exactly what the center of that is, where it's emanating from. Good news! [laughs]

Travis: And why it's moving perfectly forward at about the speed of like, a human walking.

Griffin: Okay, yeah, so this sphere of this 20 foot sphere of fog appears and starts moving down the hill. And Lucretia—future cyber Lucretia is like...

Lucretia: So are we supposed to get in that and just...

Audience: [laughs]

Merle: Yeah? Yeah, yeah, yeah! Yeah, that was my intent the whole time!

Lucretia: Tell you what. You get in it.

Merle: I'm trying some new spells! Why am I getting such resistance?

Audience: [cheers]

Lucretia: Does any, uh... anybody want to add some idea toppings to this pizza?

Taako: [laughing] I think he's baking a spicy one all on his own.

Griffin: Alright. This 20 foot... nope, none of the robots have noticed this perfect, 20 foot sphere of fog. But here in just a few seconds, they're definitely gonna, so if there's more of a plan you want to formulate...

Justin: Um...

Clint: Can it go around them...?

Justin: It does go around corners.

Clint: Yeah!

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: Robots are nothing if not a lot of corners.

Clint: So you've got these robots in this rectangular shape formation...

Travis: Okay, Justin and I are gonna go ahead off stage and eat dinner while dad explains this plan.

Griffin: [laughing] Yeah, sure.

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: Uh, so you're moving it off to the side?

Clint: Yeah.

Griffin: Okay, there's like a good 80 robots who see that, and they're like, "We're gonna go check that out."

Justin: I'll walk in the fog.

Griffin: Oh, interesting.

Justin: I'll stay in the fog.

Griffin: Is everyone gonna stay in the fog? Splitting the party's a great—

Justin: I wouldn't.

Griffin: Okay. Taako's walking in the fog, and these like... I'll say, half the robots. If I was a robot platoon of 300 robots, and I saw a perfect sphere of fog, I would... a considerable amount... so half the robots peel off, and the rest sort of move back into formation in front of the door. They are now sort of closely pursuing you, guns drawn, Taako. 150 robots.

Travis: Okay. And remind me the terrain we're looking at? Is it like, downhill?

Griffin: They're down a hill, and then there's like, a good like, 80 meters or so of just like, uh, dirt wasteland with piles of bodies and stuff.

Travis: Y'know what? I'm gonna do what Magnus would do and not try to create... I'm just gonna run to the right. If Taako's gone left in the fog, I'm running right, yelling, like...

Magnus: I'm here to kill you!

Travis: And lead 150 of them that way. That's what I would do.

Griffin: Okay. Uh, make an athletics roll to see if you can outrun *one hundred and fifty* robots.

Travis: That's a 25.

Griffin: Yeah. You just...

Audience: [laughs]

Griffin: You just fully...

Audience: [laughs and cheers]

Griffin: There are now just like, uh, I'll say a few stand watch in front of the door like, "This seems like a ruse. Are you sure it's a big ball of fog and one guy? Are you sure?"

Uh, I'm gonna say, at this point, the rest of the army just marches forward, and those three robots are like, "We told you." And they're just destroyed by the literal army you all have. Now, Magnus and Taako, we need to resolve what's going on here.

Travis: I didn't have a second part to the plan.

Audience: [laughs]

Griffin: It's a—the tower is a circular sort of uh, building. A cylindrical building. So if you're running around it, you're eventually, y'know, all—

Clint: No corners.

Travis: Oh, okay. I've got it, then.

Griffin: Dang.

Travis: I've got it.

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: So are they gathered around me?

Griffin: Uh, yeah. They're chasing you. They're probably very close to the perimeter of the fog, and a couple of them have probably started to like, peek in and see what's going on.

Justin: Uh, okay.

Griffin: What's Taako do?

Justin: He's just waiting.

Griffin: Okay. Uh, all of them come into the fog to see what's going on?

Justin: Aw, cool. I cast *sunburst*.

Audience: [cheers]

Griffin: Okay. What does that mean?

Justin: Uh, that means that uh, you just need to roll 150 constitution saving throws...

Griffin: Nope. I got a 14.

Justin: No.

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: So just give me a second. Four. Ten. 15. Oh. 18. Oh, nasty. 21. 22.

Griffin: That's it. That's it.

Justin: 25.

Griffin: Okay, well...

Justin: 30.

Clint: Let him have it.

Audience: [cheering]

Justin: 35. 40. 44. 47.

Griffin: Now...

Audience: [cheering]

Griffin: I'm glad you rolled all that damage. Do you have to make a constitution saving throw?

Justin: No.

Griffin: Are you sure?

Justin: Yeah, I'm good.

Audience: [laughs]

Justin: Okay. So, it says 'each creature.' Now, what is a creature?

Griffin: Roll a constitution saving throw.

Audience: [laughs and cheers]

Justin: Okay.

Audience: [laughs]

Justin: So how many points did I say?

Griffin: 47, I believe.

Justin: 47...

Audience: [laughs and cheers]

Griffin: Wow. From the outside, it's the most badass shit ever, 'cause you see this goofy looking ball of fog as all of these robots walk into it, and then it just... fwoosh.

Justin: And if you're watching from like, 100 meters away, looks amazing. Looks so cool. Bunch of robots die. And just very quietly, you hear like...

Taako: Fuck.

Clint: [laughs]

Griffin: Okay.

Audience: [laughs]

Griffin: Uh, Taako, you kill 150 robots all at once. And do you make your way back toward the entrance of the spire to regroup?

Justin: Kind of hobble.

Audience: [cheers]

Griffin: Yeah. Okay. Magnus, what's your solve, here?

Justin: Well, y'know what? If I could say, Taako and Merle kill 150 robots at once, to be fair.

Griffin: True, true, true.

Justin: It was his radical...

Audience: [cheers]

Clint: Thank you, son.

Justin: 75 of those...

Griffin: 75 each, yeah.

Travis: I'm going to say that, since uh, Taako took the big swing and killed a bunch, Magnus is gonna do the opposite and hide. Which feels like we've switched roles a little bit.

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: But um, as soon as he gets far enough ahead to like, break eye line, he grappling hooks up the tower and then attempts to stealth and let them run past him.

Griffin: Yeah, okay. Make a stealth roll.

Travis: Uh, 24 total.

Griffin: Jesus.

Justin: What?

Travis: Level two rogue, baby!

Justin: Level two rogue.

Griffin: Yeah. Uh, yeah, it works. Now they're just like, all running around and like, you hear nine of them say like, "I think we've already ran all the way around the tower. Are you sure?"

Travis: And once they get past, Magnus drops back down and goes back to the front of the tower.

Griffin: Alright. Uh, you all make it into the spire, and skip the puzzle that I had planned for you there. [laughs]

Audience: [laughs]

Griffin: Carey is in the—future cyber Carey is in the main hall of the spire, and she says...

Carey: It's okay. I already solved it.

Justin: [laughs]

Audience: [laughs and cheers]

Carey: Griffin's gonna use it on another live show.

Travis: [laughs]

Taako: I don't understand. Who? What?

Carey: Don't worry about it. In this universe, I'm omniscient.

Justin: [laughs]

Taako: Like Stranger than Fiction? I love that flick.

Audience: [laughs]

Griffin: Uh, she—

Travis: Magnus is super excited to see Carey. Best friends.

Griffin: Yeah, she gives you two metallic robot arms thumbs up.

Travis: Oh no, Magnus' greatest temptation!

Audience: [laughs]

Justin: The forbidden fruit!

Travis: It's his best friend, but with robot arms! Ahh, noooo!

Clint: This is called dramatic conflict.

Griffin: Yes. She says...

Carey: Here's the door. Head on in. But, uh oh!

Griffin: And then a bunch more robots start uh, approaching the front door. She's like...

Carey: Don't worry, the rest of us will take care of this. I think the best plan is if the three of you go up the spire to face the final confrontation alone.

Audience: [laughs]

Magnus: Okay!

Taako: Why is that the best plan?

Carey: 'Cause there's exactly enough people outside, robots outside, that we'll need all of the army....

Taako: [laughs] Okay.

Magnus: But then why don't we wait and help you kill all the robots?

Taako: We'll kill them, and we'll all go up together—

Carey: [yells] There's no time!

Magnus: What are you talking about? We're just fighting a bat—there's plenty of time.

Taako: Yeah.

Merle: We got a whole other act.

Carey: Hurrryy!

Taako: Okay, we'll hurry. Yes. Fine. Yes.

Carey: Good luck.

Magnus: Well now, don't say that! You said to go on ahead!

Carey: I'll remember you.

Merle: This passive aggressive stuff...

Magnus: Wait, you're sending mixed signals! Should we stay here?

Griffin: The doors that I've just invented shut behind you.

Audience: [laughs]

Travis: [laughs]

Clint: [laughs] God, you are omniscient and omnipresent.

Griffin: You are in a hallway, and on the other end, there is a wall with a single up button on it.

Audience: [cheers]

Travis: Magnus pushes the button. Like a child.

Griffin: It slides open, and horrifyingly, it reveals a familiar face that fills the entire doorframe.

Audience: [cheers]

Griffin: And it says...

Mr. Upsy: Hello there, fellas! Are you back for another ride on me, Upsy, your lifting friend?

Audience: [laughs and cheers]

Magnus: Wait, another ride?

Mr. Upsy: Hop on board! You can trust ol' Upsy!

Magnus: Well, we got seven seconds left, so yeah!

Mr. Upsy: You heading up to the top of the spire to thwart the robot overlord, are we?

Taako: I guess so...

Magnus: Yes?

Audience: [laughs]

Clint: Merle pushes all the buttons.

Audience: [laughs]

Travis: And that's what takes intermission.

Mr. Upsy: That tickles, Merle!

Audience: [laughs]

Mr. Upsy: Well, y'know, the master said, not that, uh... if any organic beings tried to ascent the spire, I need to dispatch them in a horrifically gruesome manner.

Magnus: Don't?

Taako: Yeah, you don't have the guts.

Mr. Upsy: But you guys are friends!

Taako: Hell yeah, we are.

Magnus: Yeah!

Mr. Upsy: Friends don't juice each other.

Audience: [laughs]

Clint: Merle casts *disguise self* on himself.

Justin: Fuckin', what?!

Clint: And makes himself look like a robot and says...

Merle: [robotic voice] I have prisoners.

Justin: [yelling] You can't--

Travis: [yelling] I love that you did that after the elevator said, "No, you're cool!"

Justin: It saw you, mac!

Clint: Have you ever tried to break in when you guys are on a roll?

Travis: We weren't saying shit!

Clint: I just thought it was kind of cool.

Audience: [laughing]

Travis: It would've been cool!

Justin: It would've been cool fuckin' ten minutes ago!

Travis: Fuckin' ten minutes ago! This is like if like, once the storm troopers walked in, Han Solo was like, "I'm a storm trooper too, or whatever!"

Griffin: Yeah. I'll, um...

Justin: "Let me have your clothes!"

Griffin: I'll cut and paste that into where you all had to sneak by 300 robot soldiers.

Clint: Okay. Alright.

Griffin: Uh, you all go up Upsy. It's gross. Anyway, you're at the top of the spire.

Audience: [laughs]

Griffin: Uh, it takes so long that your robot disguise spell wears off.

Travis: [laughs]

Clint: [laughs]

Audience: [laughs]

Griffin: As you enter the control room, you're surprised at how actually habitable it is as opposed to the rest of the spire. I didn't describe it earlier, because you skipped the puzzle, but it's cold and super robotic in here. This room, however, is warmer and quieter than the main hall. Its walls and floors are just marble and plaster.

Travis: It's quiet upstairs.

Griffin: Yeah, it's nice. Uh, the only sign of robotic influence in this room are these huge, floor to ceiling server blocks, all of which are encased in this thick column of what you assume is glass. The rear of the room has this uh, curve to it, almost like an observation deck, and it's lined with all these mechanical knobs and switches and monitors.

And just above that is a window, and it's made of that same thick glass, and it's overlooking the battlefield below. And you catch a glimpse of this new melee that is taking place, and it does not seem to be going in your direction, if you can believe that, 'cause the rest of it super went in your direction.

Audience: [laughs]

Griffin: Suddenly, you hear the sound of fancy, well-made shoes rapping against the floor as a human man approaches you. He's wearing a black suit with sunglasses to match, and he's not so much stylish as he is imposing. And he says...

Man: How peculiar. The three of you are... not from around here, I am assuming.

Magnus: Oh, I thought you were Dracula for a second.

Merle: Yeah, me too!

Audience: [laughs]

Magnus: Are you Dracula?

Man: I am not Dracula.

Magnus: That is exactly what Dracula would say!

Audience: [laughs]

Merle: Are you Count Chocula?

Audience: [laughs]

Magnus: John?

Man: No. That'd be wild.

Magnus: Uh...

Man: No. The three of you have come on an auspicious day. By nightfall, the reign of organic beings will have come to an end. You're witnessing the most important event in both our histories – the end of your chapter in the chronicles of history, and the beginning of mine.

Magnus: And you're not Dracula?

Audience: [laughs]

Man: No.

Merle: Schwarzenegger?

Man: Still no. I am... hm. Perhaps, in your timeline, you remember an encounter with a children's quizzing toy called Hodge Podge.

Audience: [cheers]

Merle: No, I don't.

Audience: [laughs]

Magnus: We'll talk about it at intermission.

Merle: Okay.

Taako: Are you Hodge Podge?

Hodge Podge: I am Hodge Podge 2.0. The...

Magnus: You are...

Audience: [cheers]

Magnus: You're more of a Hodge Man.

Hodge Podge: The first Hodge Podge was an inspired, but flawed design. Lucas Miller's second revision has proven much more capable of carrying out artificial intelligence's ultimate destiny. I'm not surprised to encounter the three of you again, though. I am just surprised that it has happened again so soon.

Griffin: And he snaps his fingers, and from behind those server columns, three shapes emerge into view. They've been heavily modified, assimilated into more machines than man. But you'd recognize their faces anywhere – wires and all. They're the three of you.

Audience: [cheers]

Griffin: And Hodge Podge says...

Hodge Podge: Now, what was that salutation I was programmed with so many years ago? Ah, yes.

My name is Hodge Podge. Are you kids ready to learn?

Griffin: We're gonna take intermission, we'll be right back!

Audience: [cheers]

[theme music plays]

Griffin: Hey everybody, this is Griffin McElroy, your dungeon master, your best friend, and your dungeon master, and your best friend, and your best friend. Thank you so much for listening to this live episode. We're getting ready to kick off our Become the Monster tour, by which I mean, we're about to go do two shows in Ohio and then we'll do some more in a month. Um, and that's why we're putting up a live show this week, but we will be back in two weeks with a new episode of Amnesty.

Before we get to that, though, I am gonna tell you about our sponsors, and tell you some announcements. First up, we got Blue Apron. Blue Apron's fantastic. They send you a box full of fresh ingredients, and they also have a

recipe that goes along. It like, corresponds to those ingredients. And then, if you follow the treasure map that is the recipe, then you will combine those ingredients to make delicious home cooked meals that feel very good in your mouth and in your belly.

And it's awesome. I've used it for a long time. Taught me how to cook, which is a very valuable skill. It makes cooking at home a very sustainable part of your weekly routine, and their menu is carefully designed and tested by their test kitchen chefs. Their test kitchen uses unique, specialty ingredients to bring chef quality recipes to your dinner table.

So to start making delicious, brag-worthy meals at home without the hassle, try Blue Apron. Check out this week's menu and get \$60 off when you visit BlueApron.com/adventure. That's BlueApron.com/adventure. Blue Apron: A better way to cook.

Once you've done eaten all this food, go ahead and get your teeth cleaned with Quip, why don't you? Why don't you just go ahead and just maximize the entire sort of food consumption and cleaning process by hopping on over to Quip? If you're thinking about doing some spring cleaning this year, why don't you go ahead and clean out your mouth with this great electric toothbrush?

It's very sleek, very stylish. They have a new brush also for kids. It's the same as their original version, it's just sized down for a littler mouth, and they develop better grown up brushing routines without like, gimmicks and stuff. Their brush heads are automatically delivered on a dentist recommended schedule every three months for just five bucks, and it helps you keep yourself fresh, both inside your mouth and on your brush.

Quip is backed by over 25 thousand dental professionals, and they have thousands of verified five star reviews. Over 100, and in fact, I would argue, over one million happy, healthy mouths love Quip. Quip starts at just 25 bucks, and if you go to 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.

Couple of announcements. Uh, if you enjoy this live show, and boy, we did. It was a fun one. Uh, then, we still have some tickets available to some live shows that we're doing across the country. You can find them at McElroy.family. It's our Become the Monster tour. About half of those shows have sold out, but there are still some available, especially coming up here in the next few months or so. So come see us.

On a related note, so we have the second graphic novel of the adaptation of TAZ: Balance that is coming out this July. It's our Murder on the Rockport Limited. And we're very, very excited for it. You can preorder it right now at TheAdventureZoneComic.com. If you enjoyed the first book, it's more of the same. Well, it's a different story. Well, it's the same story as the podcast, but you know what I mean.

And if you are interested in this second graphic novel, we are gonna be doing another book tour. We're gonna be doing it in July, around when the book comes out. We are gonna be splitting up actually this year, so we can reach uh, more cities than we did last year. So, Tuesday, July 16th, me and Justin are gonna be in New York City, and Carey Pietsch, the artist on the book, is gonna be joining us there.

On that same day, Tuesday, July 16th, Dad and Travis are gonna be doing an event in Portland, Oregon. And then the next day, on Wednesday, July 17th, me and Justin are gonna be doing an event in Austin. And on that same day, July 17th, Travis and Dad are gonna be doing a book tour event in Los Angeles, and then we are all getting together Friday, July 19th, to do an event in San Diego, right around San Diego Comic Con.

So we're kind of dividing and conquering this great nation of ours. Every show, you're gonna get a copy of the book, Rockport Limited, and it's gonna have a signed book plate from one of us. And yeah, it's gonna be—we're gonna have a live reading, we're gonna have some special guests in some places that are gonna be joining us for the reading. We're gonna have a moderated Q&A. Tickets for that are gonna go on sale...

[audio clearly added in later] Thursday, May 23rd. This one's not on me. They changed the date. It's Thursday, May 23rd.

Uh, and they're gonna go up at 12:00PM local time, local to the venues where we're doing the shows. Ticket prices are gonna be a little, I think, probably a little bit more than our usual live shows, because that includes the um, the cost of the book. I think that's still up in the air. But yes, those tickets. Again, go on sale...

[audio added in later] Thursday, May 23rd.

12:00PM, local time to the venues. Includes the price of the book, book two, which will be signed by one of us. Come out. Come out and see us. Come out and say hey. The book tour was really fun last year. We had some really fun special guests join us for the reading, and it was very cool seeing that up on a big screen on the stage.

Uh, that is it. I'm gonna let you get back to it. We will be back again in two weeks for a new episode of TAZ: Amnesty, so I'll talk to you then. Bye.

[theme music plays]

Griffin: We just ate a lot of Vietnamese food very quickly.

Audience: [cheers]

Justin: It was from the closed place. They said, "Well, we've got this left."

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: We'll take it!

Griffin: So, we're gonna keep the same initiative. You all are about to battle robot versions of yourselves. I don't know if you forgot in the 20 minutes we just—

Travis: I call Merle!

Griffin: Okay. [laughs]

Audience: [laughs]

Clint: Screw you!

Griffin: We'll just pick right back up with the initiative order where we left off, which means Robo-Magnus goes first. This is just like—

Magnus: Abomination!

Griffin: Yeah, he has two metal arms, just to taunt you with it.

Audience: [gasps]

Griffin: And he opens his mouth, and like, it does move as he says words. It's just like, a speaker. And it says...

Robo-Magnus: Magnus rushes in.

Audience: [cheers]

Griffin: And he comes towards you and uh, pulls out a robot Railsplitter, which I guess is a robot axe? And uh, swings it at you.

Travis: It's steam powered.

Griffin: Uh—

Justin: It's just metal. Like, it's just metal. You don't have to say it's a robot.

Griffin: Yeah, I guess it's just a metal... well, it's got—yeah, it's got lights and LEDs and wires on it.

Justin: Alright.

Audience: [laughs]

Griffin: Uh, that is a 23 versus AC.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: You been chopped. Uh, you have been chopped for 19 chopping damage.

Audience: [gasps]

Travis: Uh, I am going to use parry.

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: To reduce damage.

Griffin: Okay. By how much?

Travis: Uh, by D8. Eight.

Griffin: You have infinity points. Okay.

Travis: Plus my dex modifier, which is two, so minus ten.

Griffin: Okay, so nine damage. It doesn't chop as deeply as he expected, and he goes...

Robo-Magnus: Awww...

Travis: [robot voice] I must oil this.

Griffin: Uh, next in the order is Merle. Merle, you have the three robot versions of yourselves, and the uh, slicked humanoid looking Hodge Podge 2.0.

Clint: I know. But...

Travis: He's gonna play a different game now.

Griffin: Wow. Have you already given up?

Clint: No. This gives me an excuse to use my Extreme Teen Bible.

Audience: [cheers]

Clint: Wait, wait, wait, wait! Watch!

Audience: [cheering loudly]

Griffin: Well he can't really—it's... it's pretty good.

Clint: Okay, Merle casts *mass cure wounds*.

Griffin: Okay.

Clint: And I'm gonna heal people.

Griffin: Sure, sure. This happens from time to time. Merle, uh, Taako is seriously injured, so I'm sure he would appreciate that.

Justin: Big fan.

Clint: Okay, so, uh, three d8 plus my spell casting ability modifier, which—

Griffin: Travis is going to find while you roll the dice.

Clint: Which we all know... here, do you have to look that way?

Griffin: Touch the screen.

Travis: Oh God, what have you done? I think the modifier is an eight.

Griffin: It's an eight. Dad, roll.

Travis: It is an eight.

Clint: Okay.

Griffin: Roll your dice.

Clint: Seven.

Griffin: Seven. Plus... three times, please.

Clint: Seven. Six.

Griffin: That's 13.

Clint: Six.

Travis: 19 plus eight is 27.

Griffin: Yay!

Justin: Yay!

Audience: [cheers]

Griffin: All of you. That heals Magnus back up to full. Next in the order is Robo-Merle. Uh, you see Robo-Merle hold up the Robo-Extreme Teen Bible.

Audience: [laughs]

Griffin: And uh, Merle, uh, he shouts...

Robo-Merle: Zone of truth! Zone of truth!

Audience: [laughs and cheers]

Travis: Now, wait. Is it two... maybe we shouldn't kill them, and instead, have them go do live shows for us.

Audience: [laughs]

Griffin: You see Robo-Merle hold up the Robo-Extreme Teen Bible. And Merle, you recognize the incantation he beings as the incantation for *fire storm*.

Audience: [gasps]

Travis: But he said zone of truth.

Griffin: A beat later, he extends his hands, and this puff of green smoke just poofs out and disappears. And you realize, he accidentally cast *purify food and drink instead*.

Audience: [laughs]

Griffin: And...

Clint: [laughs]

Griffin: And he seems dejected, and Robo-Magnus and Robo-Taako just have a good laugh.

Clint: That's some funny shit right there.

Audience: [laughs]

Travis: Sure is, Larry the Cable Guy.

Griffin: Uh, next up is Taako.

Justin: Uh, I am going to um... yeah, this could work. I'm gonna try and see what you do, tough guy.

Griffin: Alright.

Justin: I'm gonna go over to Robo-Magnus.

Griffin: Uh-huh.

Justin: I'm gonna lay hands on him.

Griffin: `Kay.

Justin: And I'm gonna do alchemy to him to change the copper in his body to wood.

Audience: [gasps and cheers]

Justin: They're robots. Obviously, copper is being used as a conductor. Circuitry.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: And I'm changing it all to wood.

Griffin: Okay. I want you to imagine, though.

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: I want you to imagine. Close your eyes and imagine a techno future with me.

Justin: Oh, I've been imagining this whole thing, baby. I'm loving it. Terminator shit. I love it.

Griffin: Imagine half your brain's a computer, and you got like, a pacemaker, and a cyber-tummy. And all of a sudden, those turn to wood inside of you.

Audience: [laughs]

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: That's instant death, right? You would instantly... the brain alone...

Justin: Hold on, wait, let me think about it. Yeah, I guess.

Audience: [laughs]

Travis: That's like, Griffin, if I tried to chop a bad guy with an axe. And you'd be like, "Now, imagine, an axe goes in your head. That's like, instant death." [laughs]

Justin: Ohh, you thought we might try to save the other us.

Griffin: Oh, no, I just...

Audience: [laughs]

Justin: Oh, no, no, no, no. Give me—don't get it fuckin' twisted. I'm saving Robo-Taako.

Audience: [laughs and cheers]

Justin: We're getting out of here together. We got a buddy cop spin off we're working on, okay?

Audience: [laughs]

Justin: Taako and the Bot. And that's gonna be good. But the other two do have to beef it first for that to be compelling TV.

Griffin: Yes.

Justin: Maybe all the four of them have to die, I don't know.

Griffin: Uh, I will...

Audience: [laughing]

Travis: My IP! [laughs]

Griffin: I rolled a uh, 17 spell casting save. With that, I will say, his brain, his heart, and his arms, you get to turn one into wood.

Justin: I mean, I'll probably do... y'know what? I'm gonna be a cool dude. [laughs] And do arms.

Griffin: Okay.

Audience: [laughs and cheers]

Justin: And I'm being... I'm actually... I'm actually like, being kind of nice to you, 'cause this doesn't have saves. This is not an attack. This is not normally an attack that you do of alchemy.

Griffin: Yeah, sure.

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: Listen...

Taako: Hey. Good news, Magnus. I'm giving you your lifelong dream. I'm gonna let you rip your own arms off.

Audience: [cheers]

Magnus: This is what separates me from a tank!

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: Uh, next up is Robo-Taako, who opens his mouth and predictably says...

Robo-Taako: Abra ka fuck you!

Audience: [cheers]

Griffin: And uh, he holds up a robo-umbrella, and you actually see the tip of it swirl open, uh, and he casts *actual missile*. All of you make a dexterity saving throw.

Audience: [laughs]

Justin: Okay, now, wait. Time out. He heard me loudly proclaim that I was gonna save him, right? So he probably has disadvantage against me, 'cause he's conflicted.

Griffin: I'll give you that.

Justin: Okay.

Griffin: I mean, here's where I'm at. If Taako is shooting a barrage of missiles at the three of you, he's gonna aim most of them at the other two.

Justin: [laughs] Alright.

Audience: [laughs]

Travis: I got 13.

Griffin: Wow.

Clint: I got 18.

Audience: [cheers]

Justin: Uh, I got 16.

Griffin: Uh, Merle is weirdly the only one to deftly leap out of the way as just this—

Audience: [cheers]

Griffin: --swarm of missiles fly out of Taako's umbrastaff. Uh, they explode at your feet, uh, hitting you for 27 fire damage.

Audience: [gasps]

Griffin: As—it's a bunch of missiles. 27 is very kind.

Audience: [laughs]

Griffin: Uh, next up—

Justin: Daddy, how many did you heal me for?

Travis: 27.

Justin: No, how many did Daddy heal me for?

Griffin: 27, yeah. That's weirdly...

Justin: So it's pointless.

Griffin: It's pointless kind of, yeah.

Audience: [laughs]

Griffin: Uh, next up is Hodge Podge 2.0, who uh, looks happy at the explosion that just happened, but doesn't look so happy that Merle didn't catch any of it. So he points at you, Merle, and then his arm turns into liquid metal in the shape of a spear, which stabs toward you... uh, for 23 versus AC.

Travis: I use my protection fighter status to make him roll again.

Audience: [cheers]

Griffin: Uh, is it the lowest roll of the two?

Travis: Yes.

Griffin: Okay, then it's a 23 versus AC. The other one was a crit.

Travis: Sorry, bro.

Audience: [laughs]

Griffin: Uh, Merle.

Clint: I cast *parry*.

Griffin: Oh! Matthew Perry shows up, and is like...

Audience: [laughs]

Travis: Could you be any more stabbed?

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: [laughs] Topical!

Griffin: This liquid metal arm just jabs right through your shoulder. You take 24 piercing damage.

Audience: [gasps]

Justin: Dang.

Griffin: These are bad boys. Uh, next in the order, though, is Magnus.

Travis: [pauses] I'm gonna pull his arms off.

Griffin: Yeah, yeah.

Audience: [cheers loudly]

Travis: I grab... I grab the left arm and give it a heeeave.

Griffin: Well, this is—let's do a strength contest, and I'll take disadvantage, since you've just turned my arms to wood. Uh, I got a 14.

Travis: I got... strength you say? 17.

Griffin: Yeah. Yeah, you're gonna win no matter what. Okay.

Audience: [cheers]

Griffin: Pop pop. And he looks down, and he's like...

Robo-Magnus: I can still kick.

Travis: And then I'm going to use that arm...

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: To hit him with it. [laughs]

Griffin: You have both arms.

Travis: Yeah. Bwap bwap!

Griffin: Okay.

Magnus: [laughs] Oh, this is satisfying as hell!

Audience: [laughs and cheers]

Travis: Uh, 18.

Griffin: Uh, that is... what's your AC?

Audience: [gasps and laughs]

Travis: 19. But, that's if I'm—no, 19. Yeah. Oh.

Griffin: You somehow miss him with his own arms.

Audience: [laughs]

Travis: He probably used parry. That's what I would've done.

Griffin: Yeah. Uh—

Travis: Then I'm gonna attack a third time, because I really want to fuckin' hit him with his own arms!

Griffin: Alright. This is your action surge for the game.

Travis: Okay, here we go! That's a 20!

Griffin: You hit yourself.

Travis: Yeah! Woo!

Clint: Travis. Stop hitting yourself. Stop hitting yourself.

Audience: [laughing]

Travis: Nice. Now, here's the question. Is that the same as my unarmed damage?

Audience: [laughs and cheers]

Griffin: Alright.

Travis: Woo!

Griffin: I don't think I'm gonna—between these two devastating things you've done to him, I think he just collapses. You see a spark shoot out of a head plate, and you know that you have done in Robo-Magnus, who falls over.

Travis: And I shake hands with the arm.

Griffin: Yeah.

Audience: [laughs]

Griffin: You also feel like, maybe a twinge of ethical, like, what's this mean, though?

Travis: Nope!

Griffin: Okay.

Audience: [laughs]

Travis: If anything, I feel a rush of, I don't know, maybe horniness?

Griffin: Robo—

Audience: [laughs and cheers]

Griffin: Robo-Magnus goes next, actually, and Robo-Magnus, as he falls to the floor, robo-dying, looks up at you with a look that makes you feel a twinge of ethical, like, huh.

Travis: Nope. Wait, you gotta roll for that.

Griffin: Uh, Merle, you are up next. Robo-Magnus has been dispatched.

Clint: Um, Merle casts *polymorph*.

Griffin: On?

Clint: Robo-Taako.

Griffin: Can you tell me what polymorph is, and Travis, make sure it's a real spell.

Clint: Hey!

Travis: He does have a card for it.

Griffin: Alright.

Clint: This spell transforms a creature that you can see within range into a new form. An unwilling creature must make a wisdom saving throw to avoid the effect. The transformation lasts the duration. The new form can be any beast whose challenge rating is equal to or less than the target.

Griffin: Okay. So... okay.

Clint: I'm gonna turn him into a kitty cat.

Audience: [cheers]

Griffin: I would argue that Taako is a little more challenging than a kitty cat.

Clint: Well, then, I guess he better beat me in the wisdom throw, huh?

Audience: [cheers]

Griffin: Okay. I didn't. I didn't. I'll go ahead and say that I didn't. Here's... [laughs] Okay. It has to be equal in challenge rating to—

Clint: No, no, no, no, no.

Griffin: It literally—

Clint: The new form can be any beast whose challenge rating is equal to *or less than*.

Audience: [cheers]

Griffin: Fair. Fair.

Justin: Okay. Hold on, no, no, no. Stop, stop, stop. Stop. Stop. If you're listening later to this podcast, you probably assume that my dad just did a series of backflips.

Griffin: [laughs]

Audience: [laughs]

Justin: No, friends. You heard it – he was just kind of comping it for 30 seconds altogether. And that enlisted in a lot of cheers.

Griffin: Alright. He transforms into... what's the kitty cat look like, Mac? What color? What kind of coloration we talking about on the fur?

Clint: It's kind of uh, orange and white. We call them marmalade kitties.

Travis: Wait, who's we?

Clint: Cat fanciers.

Audience: [laughs]

Griffin: Okay.

Clint: And he's got one blue eye and one green eye.

Audience: Aww.

Clint: And a big, bushy tail.

Audience: [cheers]

Travis: And a big, bushy beard!

Griffin: Alright. He's also got like, a metal plate with a robot eye on it, and—

Clint: I'll go with that. Yeah.

Griffin: A cyber tail, and uh, he's still holding a robo-umbrella. But it's like, a tiny little parasol.

Clint: Oh, man.

Travis: Like a cocktail umbrella.

Griffin: Yeah, and he goes...

Robo-Taako: Hee hee hee hee!

Griffin: For some reason. Next up is Robo-Merle, who pulls out his robo-Extreme Teen Bible, and you see him begin the incantation for fire storm. And this time, he fuckin' casts it.

Audience: [cheers]

Griffin: Uh, I'm going to need everybody make a dexterity saving throw. I tried to warn you.

Justin: Extreme tin bible? Like, T-I-N? Like tin?

Griffin: Ahh, that's very good! I like that a lot!

Audience: [cheers]

Travis: Uh, I am going to use indomitable to roll again.

Griffin: You... yes.

Travis: 'Cause I would've missed it. Okay.

Griffin: What'd we get?

Travis: I got a 16, total.

Griffin: You save.

Justin: 17.

Griffin: You save.

Clint: 14.

Griffin: You did not save.

Clint: Oh, come on!!

Audience: [laughs]

Travis: You have a dexterity plus 6 save!

Clint: I know.

Audience: [cheers]

Griffin: You all just barely jump out of the way as an enormous wall of flame sweeps the room. So I don't know how you got out of the way of that, but you did. And you do not take the full 38 points of fire damage that you would've. Instead, you just take half that, so you take 19 points of fire damage from this wall of flame as it consumes the room.

That's how the spell works.

Audience: [laughs]

Griffin: Uh, next in the order is Taako.

Clint: Wait, wait. I take 19—

Griffin: Everyone does.

Travis: Oh.

Griffin: It's one of them big boy spells.

Travis: You two aren't looking good.

Justin: Hold on.

Griffin: Are you dead? Did I kill you?

Justin: [quietly counting]

Griffin: No. Okay.

Clint: No.

Griffin: Uh, Taako, you are up next.

Justin: My dad has ruined my incredible friendship. My burgeoning friendship, my dad has ruined it. And now, I will—

Griffin: You can transform him back, probably.

Justin: No, no, no, it's too late for that.

Audience: [laughs]

Justin: Um, I need, uh... I need Robo-Merle to do a wisdom saving throw, and then I will tell you what has happened to him when he fails it.

Audience: [laughs]

Griffin: I got a 16. What's your—

Justin: No, that's not gonna do it.

Audience: [cheers]

Justin: Suddenly, in that instant, Robo-Merle has a memory. And it's the oldest memory that he has. And that wizened, beautiful, handsome wizard named Taako climbs down and says...

Taako: Oh, welcome to earth

Justin: Uh, and Robo-Merle says, "Who are you?" And Taako says...

Taako: Well, uh, I created you. My name is Taako, but I prefer you call me Papa.

Audience: [laughs]

Taako: Or... Daddy.

Audience: [laughs and cheers]

Taako: I'm the benevolent doctor that created you. You were injured terribly, but I brought you back to life. I've had to change some of your parts to robot parts, but I'm your daddy.

Audience: [laughs]

Travis: And here's—it's all scripted, the episode.

Taako: I am your papa.

Justin: And that is the memory that Robo-Merle has as I cast *modify memory* on this robot.

Audience: [cheers]

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: And now, because I am um, well, his dad now... I am my own robot dad's dad. He is incapacitated and unaware of its surroundings. All he notices is that his papa is here, and he knows everything will be okay.

Audience: [laughs and cheers]

Griffin: Can we... can we say that, just like uh, arcane uh, flash drive appears above his head, and just plugs into a USB port in his skull.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: And he turns toward you and says...

Robo-Merle: Daddy.

Griffin: And he walks over to you and gives you a big hug around the leg.

Taako: Put me up on your shoulders, son.

Griffin: He tries to. He can't. He's...

Justin: He's robot now!

Griffin: Okay, yeah. He very easily puts you up on his shoulders.

Justin: Nice!

Audience: [laughs]

Griffin: Next up is uh—

Justin: He probably wonders what happened to my beard, 'cause I gave myself a long, white beard, and I had a lab coat and a long, white beard, so he probably wonders what happens to those.

Griffin: Alright. This is a weird fight.

Audience: [laughs]

Justin: It's not that weird. Travis tore his own arms off, Dad turned me into a cat, and I turned Dad into my son.

Audience: [laughs]

Clint: Nothing weird there.

Travis: Nothing weird. Pretty standard D&D.

Justin: Just usual D&D.

Travis: This is actually the first page of the manual. It says, "For example, what might happen in a fight, you might become your own dad's dad, or turn your son into a cat, or rip your own arms off and get horny from it." For example.

Audience: [laughs]

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: Next up is...

Justin: Who?

Griffin: Robot cat Taako.

Audience: [laughs]

Travis: Catto.

Justin: I kind of thought that was the end of his story, huh?

Griffin: Robot cat Taako says...

Robo-Cat-Taako: Meow meow meow meow!

Griffin: Uh, and then his eyes glow red, and with uh, just a powerful pang of jealousy, he turns and looks at you, Flesh-Taako, and uh, he shoots—

Travis: I had a Flesh—

Griffin: He shoots lasers out of his eyes at you, Taako.

Audience: [laughs]

Griffin: That is a 20 versus AC.

Justin: Yeah, that hurts.

Travis: Uh, protection fighter.

Griffin: Are you close to him?

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: He's up on Robo-Merle's shoulders.

Travis: Merle's only like three feet tall!

Audience: [laughs]

Griffin: Uh, that's a 17 versus AC.

Justin: No, that's still gonna do it.

Travis: [laughs]

Audience: [laughs]

Griffin: Uh, you take... Uh, just 11 laser damage.

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: You okay?

Justin: Yeah, I think it actually puts a literal hole through me. But I'm still like—

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: I'm up.

Griffin: Uh, seeing that, Robo-Merle is enraged.

Justin: Yes!

Audience: [cheers]

Griffin: Robo-Merle sets you down on the ground and just like, walks over to cat-robo-Taako and says...

Robo-Merle: Zone of truth! Zone of truth!

Griffin: And just picks him up and throws him out the window.

Audience: [cheers]

Justin: And can Robo-Kravitz catch him and it's fine and everything? He opens a portal that he falls through and he's saved?

Griffin: No.

Justin: No? Alright.

Audience: [laughs]

Griffin: Uh, actually, as he throws him out the window, you can see the battlefield, now, and it looks like it's robots game set match robots out there. It's looking pretty rough.

Justin: Makes sense.

Griffin: In fact, some of them have started to come back into the building. Uh, next in the order is Hodge Podge 2.0, who just looks—

Travis: Oh yeah.

Griffin: He looks real confused.

Audience: [laughs]

Travis: I forgot he was there. I got so distracted by our antics.

Audience: [laughs]

Griffin: He walks over to Merle, um, and he says...

Hodge Podge: This is not how I expected this to go... but um, if my studies of you all during my time where I assimilated you taught me anything, it's that you'll probably be the easiest one to punch.

Griffin: And just in like, a blur, just like, a thousand punches full Agent Smith style start coming in your direction. Uh, that is a... 29 versus AC.

Audience: [gasps]

Griffin: I don't think...

Travis: We're all still standing there!

Griffin: Alright. Oh, well, that's just a 27 versus AC.

Audience: [laughs]

Travis: You're welcome.

Audience: [laughs]

Clint: That hit.

Griffin: You are hit with a bunch of punches, uh, for... uhh, 17 bludgeoning damage. You are also sent flying across the room, and you land, prone.

Next in the order is Magnus Burnsides.

Travis: Magnus puts away his shield.

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: And draws the Flaming, Raging, Poisoning Sword of Doom.

Audience: [cheers]

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: And looks at Hodge Podge 2.0 and says...

Magnus: You're itching for a glitching!

Audience: [cheers]

Travis: And then attacks.

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: Uh, 21 versus AC.

Griffin: Roll again.

Travis: 29.

Griffin: Yeah.

Audience: [laughs]

Griffin: His first—your first swing at him, his body just turns into that liquid metal and just kind of morphs around the blade as it goes around. But the second one, he's not as quick to avoid, and you hit him for just an outrageous amount.

Travis: Yeah. The Raging, Flaming, Poisoning Sword of Doom is what, ten plus what?

Griffin: No one remembers.

Travis: Let's say 25.

Audience: [yelling out numbers]

Travis: Uh, plus 20. Right, thank you.

Griffin: Thank you. Thank you everybody.

Clint: You did ask.

Griffin: Yes, that was very helpful.

Travis: Uh, yes, so, 26 points of damage.

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: And then attacks again.

Griffin: Okay. You get the impression that it doesn't actually hit him for 26. You get the impression that, because of his liquid metallic form, uh, the damage you are dealing to him actually does quite a bit less.

Travis: Okay. This is 21 again, versus AC.

Griffin: Yeah. Oh, roll again.

Travis: Then 29.

Griffin: Yeah, yeah. Really? The same two rolls?

Travis: Yes.

Griffin: Okay. Talk right in that mic.

Travis: And then... oh, wait. Sorry, I rolled with the wrong—it's fine. Uh, so then it's 23 points of damage.

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: And then attacks for a third time, because fuck him.

Griffin: Okay.

Audience: [laughs]

Travis: That's 25.

Griffin: Yep, hit.

Travis: And that's... oh, 17.

Griffin: That's not gonna do it. The last one, he... [blows raspberry] Like, morphs around and...

Travis: Then I'm also going to use uh, I don't know. I have one that lets me roll another dice, then.

Griffin: Haven't you done enough to him?

Travis: No!

Audience: [laughs]

Travis: Okay, so then, it's actually 25.

Griffin: Yes, that hits.

Travis: Okay, great. And then, I hate him for hurting Merle so bad. Only I'm allowed to pick on Merle. Uh, and then, another 25 points of damage.

Griffin: Uh, okay. He's looking not great, but he looks much better than anybody else you've ever hit with the Flaming, Raging, Poisoning Sword of Doom with three times. He keeps turning into metal, and so when you're cutting him, just like, little globs of him are maybe landing on the floor and trying to scoot back into his form. You're definitely doing some damage, but you think it's most just through the sort of heating of the metal of his form.

Uh, next in the order is... Robo-Magnus is dead... Merle. You are up.

Clint: Merle casts *call lightning*.

Griffin: Okay.

Audience: [cheers]

Clint: On... Hodge Podgman.

Griffin: Okay.

Audience: [laughs]

Griffin: What does that do?

Clint: Uh, a storm cloud appears in the shape of a cylinder that is ten feet tall with a 60 foot radius, centered on a point you can see 100 feet directly above you.

Griffin: What was that radius again, one more time, Mac?

Clint: Six foot.

Griffin: What was it?

Clint: Six... [whispers] ...ty... foot.

Griffin: Sixty feet. Okay.

Audience: [laughs]

Clint: So wait, this would hurt everybody, then.

Griffin: It's great. It's great. I love it.

Travis: Once again, I've never really thought about this before hearing this spell. A perfectly cylindrical cloud.

Audience: [laughs]

Griffin: Yeah. It's good. I like this. This is great.

Clint: No—

Griffin: No, no, no, Mac—

Clint: No, if you knew how many hit points Merle had, you wouldn't think it was great.

Griffin: Merle, listen to me. Don't go changing trying to please me. This is amazing.

Audience: [laughs]

Clint: Okay then. A creature and... I'm doing it on where Hodge Podge is.

Griffin: Okay. So the whole tower.

Audience: [laughs]

Clint: Oh, God. This is bad. Oh, man. I didn't... no.

Audience: [laughing]

Clint: Alright. You gotta make a dexterity saving throw.

Griffin: Everyone.

Travis: 20.

Justin: 18.

Audience: [cheers]

Griffin: Roll a dexterity saving throw, Clint. You're also in the tower.

Clint: 20!

Audience: [cheers loudly]

Griffin: Hodge Podge rolled a nat 20.

Audience: [boos]

Griffin: And you see him just like... liquefy and like, cling to the ceiling as this lightning bolt goes down, and then come back down and reform into his human form. And he says, uh...

Hodge Podge: Merle... I expected more from you. I thought that—bzzt! I thought that for—bzzt!

Griffin: And then you look behind him at those server towers, uh, and they are just smoldering columns of wreckage. And he...

Audience: [cheers]

Griffin: And he turns back to you, Merle, and he says...

Hodge Podge: I stand—

Griffin: And he explodes in a spray of silver mist.

Justin: Yeah!

Audience: [cheers]

Justin: Yeah!

Griffin: Suddenly... suddenly, a green light flashes just outside the observation window that has, uh, a sizable hole in it where a cat was thrown through. Just outside of that hole...

Audience: [laughs]

Griffin: On the other side of the glass, the shattered glass floating in the air, hundreds of feet above the battlefield, you see this flash of green light. And then, it expands into this uh, pulsating hole of green energy, and it's shifting and spreading, and it forms an enormous rift in space-time, just outside the window. And Old Angus comes up the elevator, and he's covered in robot juice.

Audience: [laughs]

Griffin: And he points, and he says...

Angus: That's your ticket out of here, and it's our ticket out of this robot hellscape. It's your hole. It's gonna take you right back to the present. All you gotta do is jump right through.

Travis: Okay, Magnus rushes into the hole.

Angus: When you get there, though—

Magnus: What?

Angus: When you get there...

Magnus: Uh-huh?

Angus: To advert the robot apocalypse...

Magnus: Yeah?

Angus: You have to kill Lucas Miller.

Audience: [cheers]

Magnus: Will do.

Audience: [laughs and cheers]

Angus: Go on, get. Go on, get.

Taako: Wait, can I—can I just have a moment?

Angus: Yeah.

Taako: Son? I want you to know that uh, your daddy is so proud of you, and all the great stuff that you've done, and I'm sure you avoided that lightning. And um, I'm so proud of you.

Justin: And then I turn to Angus and say...

Taako: Listen. Here in about a minute, you're gonna... you're gonna need to kill that fool, okay? 'Cause that spell... that spell ain't gonna last, okay?

Audience: [laughs]

Taako: So here in about a minute, I need you to put him down. You got it?

Audience: [laughs]

Taako: Nice. Nice. Alright. I'm out. Wait, kill Lucas—got it. Alright, bye!

Audience: [laughs]

Griffin: You all jump through the rift and feel yourself being pulled at the speed of light through a trillion realities, until suddenly, you land, surprisingly gracefully, in a darkened room. Mere feet away, you see a man hunched over a desk, sitting in front of a computer that he's feverishly typing at. As the three of you pop into this reality, he's startled and swivels in his chair to reveal – it's Lucas Miller, who says, uh...

Lucas: Holy crap, you all scared me so bad. What are you doing here? Why'd you come to visit?

Magnus: It's Miller time!

Audience: [cheers]

Taako: No wait, he had that backwards. It's time, Miller.

Clint: [laughs]

Magnus: Oh, right. Hey, don't make any robots from now on.

Merle: Promise?

Lucas: Well, hold on, I was just working on Hodge Podge 2.0.

Magnus: No. No. If you do, I'll kill you.

Audience: [laughs]

Taako: He will.

Lucas: Wait, what's so bad if I create Hodge Podge 2.0?

Magnus: If you make him, I'll kill you.

Lucas: Right, but why? What's...

Magnus: Listen. Sometimes, being a parent means not explaining yourself.

Taako: No, listen. If you make that robot, it's just the worse one that ever was, and I only had eight hit points left, and you—

Magnus: Merle only had one.

Taako: Merle had one. It was a bad scene, okay? So—

Griffin: Did you all—did you really only have one hit point left? Holy shit. Wow.

Audience: [laughs]

Magnus: That's why I hit him three times. We didn't have room to spare.

Griffin: He says...

Lucas: Wait a minute. Did you all just come from the future or something? Are you telling me it's—

Magnus: Different dimension.

Taako: A different... yeah. Different future.

Magnus: Maybe the future. Was it the future?

Taako: It was the future.

Magnus: We didn't check. [laughs]

Audience: [laughs]

Merle: There's no calendars.

Taako: There were no calendars.

Merle: They got wiped out.

Audience: [laughs and cheers]

Griffin: I think that's a good place to stop. Thank you, everybody.

Justin: Thank you so much!

Travis: Thank you!

Griffin: For coming. We will be back. Thank you so much. Bye everybody!

Audience: [cheering]

[theme music plays]

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[music plays]

Janet: Hey, I'm Janet Varney. And like many of you, some more recent than others, I used to be a teenager. In fact, just about all of my friends were too, including wonderful women like Alison Brie.

Alison: I'm dead center on the balance beam. And this is like, a big gym. All the— kids' parents are there, watching. I have to stop, like when you have to pee so bad and you can't even move, and then I just go.

Janet: Oh, no. [laughs]

Alison: I just pee right in the middle of the high balance beam.

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[music plays]