

The Adventure Zone Balance: Petals to the Metal, Chapter Two

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Griffin: Previously, on The Adventure Zone...

The Director: There's a Grand Relic one of our Seekers have found in the city of Goldcliff, and it is in the possession of a master criminal, known as The Raven.

Griffin: And you are just gob smacked by the largest building in town, which is this twenty story tall golden tower, emblazoned with the words "Goldcliff Trust." This building is actually slowly being swallowed up by these gigantic, thorny vines.

Taako: Do you want us to go in and get her?

Captain Bane: Can I tell you something? That would be terrific.

Taako: Let me ask you this follow up.

Captain Bane: Hit me.

Taako: Do you think we're high enough level to do that? I—I don't know...

Magnus: We're only six.

Taako: ... how high level those vines are.

Griffin: It is a treant. And his name, is Trent. [pause] That's not a listener, I just thought it would be a fun... joke. And as it turned out...

Justin: [laughing] You were right.

Travis: I chop it in half.

Griffin: It topples backwards, into the booths in the back of the room, and he screams at you very loud with—with sap pouring out of his mouth.

Travis: What? I chopped him in half!

Griffin: And he did take some damage for that.

Travis: Yeah, I should hope so!

Griffin: [laughs]

The Announcer: If you don't like this episode, you can make like a tree, and leaf! I'm sorry, I didn't mean that, it's been a really rough week. It's the Adventure Zone!

[theme music plays]

Travis: So when last we left off, I just killed a treant with a single blow!

Griffin: [laughing] No, Trent—

Travis: Chopped him clean in half! Bunyan-esque, they called it!

Clint: Yeahhh.

Griffin: Trent the treant—

Clint: Then he ate a flapjack the size of a house!

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: The... tree did? Or Magnus?

Justin: They both did. They shared it.

Travis: Both.

Clint: Yeah, they had it—

Travis: And we kissed in the middle.

Clint: That's a lot to eat.

Justin: They worked it out.

Griffin: Lotta kissing plants this adventure arc. I'm w—I'm kind of surprised. Uh... I mean, it had to happen eventually, right? Y—y—

Justin: Okay, is it my turn yet?

Griffin: Uh, no, it's Trent the treant's turn.

Travis: I mean, I get two attacks.

Griffin: Okay, we'll say, yeah, it is still your turn. You've just chopped him over, and he uh... He lets you know...

Trent: Hey. I'm still here. It's still me, Trent. And I'm still alive.

Travis: Now, let me ask you this – I have a special skill, th—called Disarming Strike. Can I do that and take his arms? [pause] Probably not, right?

Griffin: What is disarming st—I don't even know what Disarming Strike means, I don't think it means dis... *arm*.

Travis: Well it means that when I hit, I use one of my, um—the special dice, the reaction dice, to disarm them. But I guess since he doesn't have weapons, he's basically just doing melee, right?

Griffin: Yeah, he's a tree.

Travis: Okay. Well, then I'm just gonna attack him with my battleaxe—

Griffin: He's actually got a—he's actually got a gun.

Travis: [laughs]

Clint: [laughs]

Griffin: He's got a—

Clint: And thus, guns are introduced into our universe.

Griffin: He's got an AK. He's—he's got it, and he's—he looks like he knows how to use it.

Justin: I shout from the Ethereal Plane...

Taako: Oh, he's got a gun!

Justin: But nobody can hear me, and I'm just watching this unfold.

Clint: Are you still in that plane?

Taako: [singing] Mmm, whatcha say...

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: [continuing to sing softly in the background]

Travis: Alright. I'm rolling to attack him. I'm gonna do, uh...

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: I'm gonna do a one handed, so then I've got my shield out. 'Cause I don't wanna get hit for 14 points of damage.

Griffin: Okay. You—you used your move, um, to get to that fountain. But you can—you can still access his, like, butt from where you just cut him.

Travis: I wanna chop his butt again.

Griffin: M'kay.

Travis: Uh, I rolled a 16, plus seven, so that's 13. Or sorry, 23.

Griffin: Yeah. *Plus seven!* Jeezer creezer!

Travis: Yeah dude. That's my attack bonus now.

Griffin: I don't doubt it, but... yeah. People be rollin' some high numbers, now. Uh, yeah, you hit him.

Travis: That's one d8... Four... plus six. So I hit him for ten.

Griffin: Yeah. He did not like that. Uhhh... Is that it for you?

Travis: I mean, I could action surge and hit him again, but I think... that might be greedy, so I'll wait.

Griffin: M'kay. Uhh... Okay. So, now Trent the treant, uh, rears up on his uh, his two broad branches to sort of lift himself up and get a good look at, uh, the face of the person who just attacked him. Um, and he, uh, is going to whip at you, with his smaller, um... spikier branch arm. Uh, and he rolls... A 21 versus AC.

Travis: Whoa, woof. Yep. Um, so, I have reaction—or parry. When hit, use reaction dice plus... 'S' dice, to reduce damage by d8 plus dexterity modifier.

Griffin: That was a lot of shit. I don't—what—what are 'S' dice?

Clint: Maybe it's pronounced... sssdice.

Travis: Sdice. Um, so basically that—I have three reactions I can do, before a short rest.

Griffin: So you roll a d8...

Travis: Yeah. Okay. So, it was four... Plus my dexterity modifier, which is two, so I reduce the amount of damage I take by six.

Griffin: M'kay. Did I say how much damage you took yet?

Travis: No, not yet.

Griffin: Okay.

Clint: [stage whisper] He's gonna add 6 to it.

Travis: Aw, that dick.

Griffin: [laughs] No, that's not true.

Clint: [laughs]

Griffin: Uh, it was 14... So, minus six is... eight.

Travis: Uh-huh.

Griffin: Uhhh... You take eight poison damage.

Travis: Oh, no!

Griffin: And we're back up to the top of the order! Taako, you are in the... ethereal plane.

Justin: [makes a teleportation sound effect] Okay, I come back.

Griffin: Can you move in the ethereal plane and then come back?

Justin: Uhhh... Yeah, I mean, I can get—

Clint: That'd be pretty cool.

Justin: I'm cool where I'm at. I can—what happens is, when I come back—I mean, I can move in the ethereal plane. I automatically come back at the beginning of my turn. When I come back, I can come back to an unoccupied space within ten feet of where I left.

Travis: Man, that's a good fucking spell.

Justin: Umm, so... How far was I from... how far am I from... he who was Trent?

Clint: [laughing]

Griffin: [laughs] Um, you're still about 30 feet away from him.

Justin: Okay. That's—

Griffin: At the like, front door.

Justin: That's fine by me.

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: I'm going to cast *scorching ray*. On Trent.

Clint: [sings] Are you scorching ray?

Griffin: [bursts out laughing]

Justin: Who wants to know? Um...

Travis: You know what's funny? Dad's never listened to My Brother My Brother and Me before, he's just a big Jimmy Ray fan.

Griffin: Yeah, sure. Aren't we all?

Justin: So, let me tell you the story here. I'm gonna create three rays of fire, and hurl them at targets within range. Uh, I can do one target or several. Obviously, I'm just doing the one target. Um, I'm assuming that the whole of Trent is now... not connected to the stump, right? The stump's just like... is no longer part of the Trent.

Travis: I set him free.

Griffin: Yeah, it's just like—it's like if you were fighting Ta—if you were fighting Magnus, and you cut his foot off... you wouldn't attack his foot.

Justin: No, that's true. I don't—correct. If he was cuttin' his foot off, I wouldn't do that. Uh, so I am, um... making a ranged, spell attack for each of the three rays. And then on hit, the target takes 2d6 fire damage.

Griffin: M'kay.

Justin: This will be unpleasant.

Clint: I hope it works.

Justin: The first one is a... a two, plus...

Griffin: That's gonna miss.

Justin: Tha—I mean, it's gonna miss, there's no reason to do that. That math. Uh, next one is a 20.

Griffin: Yeah, that's a hit.

Justin: That's a hit. Um, my spellcasting modifier, is that where we were just talking about the proficiency bonus, plus my...

Griffin: Intellect.

Justin: Intellect, okay.

Griffin: Plus, if you have a—plus your umbrella is plus one now, so seven, I think.

Justin: Okay.

Griffin: I don't know what your intellect is actually, so—

Justin: So that's... 16. So there's 26 and 16.

Griffin: Uh, the 26 hits, the 16 juuust misses.

Clint: Aww.

Justin: Sheesh, okay. Five... and... six. 11.

Griffin: Uh, okay! Wait did you hit him twice? Or each one does—

Justin: Each one does 2d6.

Griffin: Oh, damn.

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: Uh, so you do 11 damage. You actually did 22 damage.

Justin: Oh! Fire?

Griffin: 'Cause he is vulnerable to that shit.

Justin: Nice. And then I wink out of existence.

Griffin: Cool. How long does that *blink* go? Until you fail... the roll?

Justin: It goes for a minute.

Griffin: Okay. Well, each round of combat is six seconds, so...

Justin: Yeah, right. So that's—I was thinkin' we probably wouldn't use it all up, but yeah. If we go ten rounds, just remind me that I can't do it anymore and need to use it again.

Griffin: M'kay. Uhh...

Clint: And where did you go?

Justin: I'm in the ethereal plane.

Clint: Is there anything you can steal in the ethereal plane?

Travis: Which one?

Justin: No, I can't interact with anything up here.

Clint: Hm. Well, good.

Griffin: Uhhhh... Next in the order are... the vines!

Clint: Whaaat?

Griffin: The vines, uh, in front of the fountain, have uh, been drenched in some of the sap, uh, that came out of Trent's whole situation. Uh, and have begun to animate. Uh, and two of them raise up into the air, almost like, uh, snakes that've been charmed, and they rear back, and they strike... at Merle!

Clint: What? Oh, yeah, right. Okay.

Griffin: Uh, one of them critically misses. And the other rolls a 24.

Clint: Alright. What do I roll?

Griffin: Nothin'.

Clint: Oh.

Griffin: You—is your AC higher than 24? 'Cause if so, your character is broken, and we need to restart.

Clint: No, I got 18.

Griffin: Okay. Uh, you take... 11 points of damage. Uhh, and you are... restrained. [pause] And I know you're wondering, what does that mean?

Clint: Tell me, Griffin.

Travis: It means that you've learned how to control yourself and keep yourself from lashing out at others.

Griffin: This appendix leaves much to be desired. Uh, you're restrained. A restrained creature's speed becomes zero, and it can't benefit from any bonus to its speed. Attack rolls against the creature have advantage, and the creature's attack rolls have disadvantage. The creature has disadvantage on dexterity saving throws. So you're—you're all tied up, um, in these... in these vines.

Clint: Okay. So I can't do anything?

Griffin: At the end of your turn, you can make a dexterity saving throw. Uh, trying to beat a 10. Uh, but no, for this turn, you're all tied up. You can do stuff, you just can't move.

Clint: Okay.

Griffin: And if you're attacked, then the attack has advantage, and if you attack anything, the attack has disadvantage.

Clint: Okay.

Justin: How would he attack something if he can't move?

Griffin: I don't know, with his—with his God magic!

Travis: With his brain.

Justin: Quite a disadvantage. Okay.

Clint: Alright, but before I do anything like that, let me hit you with something else. I talk to plants, we've already established that early.

Griffin: Yeah.

Clint: Can I just... look at Trent, and ask him... why? Can I just ask him why?

Griffin: I'm furiously flipping through the book, trying to find a way... Uh, you can—I mean, you can—you have two *channel divinities*. So... at level six, you got a second *channel divinity*. You can bust that one off again.

Clint: Hm...

Justin: I think it would be good... for the podcast, if you would use this spell slot...

Travis: To talk to Trent.

Clint: For something else?

Justin: To talk to Trent. No, for the podcast, you should talk to Trent.

Travis: No, Clinton.

Justin: We need to hear from Trent.

Travis: We need to check in with Trent at this point.

Clint: Okay. [laughing] I am going to use... my other *channel divinity*. And I am going to—

Trent: [yelling] My buuutt!!

Clint: Trent—

Travis: [starts laughing]

Trent: [anguished] My buuutt!! Nooo, my buuuutt! Aaaugh! Ahhh!
[sobbing]

Travis: What's funny is that this is not the character of Trent, Griffin just sat on a porcupine.

Justin: [laughs]

Trent: [anguished] My buuutt... I was just born! And then my butt came off! Why would you do this? I'll kill you aaall!

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: [laughing]

Merle: Trent...

Trent: I just got born, I'm a baby, and you cut my butt off! You cut my whole body off my butt!

Merle: [loudly] I have a power to heal you!

Justin: [laughing uncontrollably]

Merle: I have plant—

Trent: I don't wanna hear it, man! You're like—

Merle: No, listen! I can grow—

Trent: Listen, no, you listen! I don't have a butt anymore 'cause you're rolling with some genuine dicks!

Travis: [laughing]

Merle: I—I'm not with them! I'm not with them!

Trent: You entered into the room with them, and you healed one of them, bud! Nice try!

Merle: No, I saw them attack you, and I came in here and I said, "Can't we just talk to Trent?" I just wanna talk! I don't know who these guys are. I have plant growth! I can heal you!

Trent: What is plant growth? Wh—what is—

Merle: That's when I make a—listen, shhh shh shh shh shh. I know it hurts. It's a boo-boo. And he hurt your butt. And he's a bad, bad man.

Trent: He is the worst man. I've only met four men, and he's one of them, and I hate it.

Merle: He is the worst man. He's the worst, I know, and here—I can do plant growth and make your butt feel good!

Trent: Do you—

Merle: Oh, god, I worded that wrong.

Trent: Well, from what I've heard, it's actually something you're very much into.

Merle: Here, you can read this Extreme Teen Bible, and why don't—

Trent: I can't read, I'm a plant! And I'm like, thirty minutes old!

Merle: No no, listen, Taako can read it to you, and I—

Trent: [anguished] Ohhh...

Merle: Can use plant growth—no, shhh shh shh! And make you all better.

Trent: That was a fart. I have to do those out of my mouth now thanks to your friend.

Merle: That's okay! Oh, wow! Ohh. Oh.

Justin: [still laughing]

Trent: Yeah, it's a real horror show in here.

Merle: Holy shit, that's the worst. No no no, it's not the worst—

Taako: I'm so glad I'm on the ethereal plane for that!

Merle: I—I really—I like it. Oh, I guess Magnus will have to read the Bible to ya, and I'll heal you!

Travis: This whole time, Magnus is just s—I don't understand any of this, I just hear—

Griffin: [crosstalk] No, you f—

Travis: — a lot of tree sounds coming out of Merle, I hear...

Griffin: Merle is—Merle's just talking like... [garbled growl] Um, yeah. You—you can't comprehend any of this. Uh, Trent says, uh...

Trent: Is it... can you... are you gonna re-attach me to my old... butt? Or would I grow a new one?

Merle: I will—I will—I will try to do that, but if I do... We have to stop this silly little conflict and be buds! And you can really be a bud! Hah! See what I did there?

Travis: It was good.

Merle: It was a plant thing!

Justin: I couldn't hear it, I'm in the ethereal plane.

Clint: [simultaneously] ... the ethereal plane, yeah. Okay.

Griffin: And you're speaking tree.

Clint: Yeah. Uh... [gibberish]

Travis: Did you just rewind yourself?

Clint: [snorts]

Trent: I don't wanna get... Listen. I'm gonna get kind of existential now.

Travis: [laughs]

Trent: But I was born... like a... like a minute ago.

Merle: Yeah.

Trent: And I was put here to stop people from going upstairs! And I think I can—here's the thing. And it's the only problem. I'm sad about my butt. Well, I'm angry about my butt. Sadness is part of it, I'll—and there'll be lots of time for sadness later. But right now, it's mainly just anger. And here's the thing, is that I think I can—I think I'm winning this fight, and that I might be able to beat you guys.

Merle: No... The bad lady is the one that sent you down this path!

Trent: But she—

Merle: Nobody else told—sicked you on your three best buds to come.

Trent: But the bad lady grew me up out of the ground, out of nothin'. Listen, I want a butt very badly. And I'll tell you what. If you give me my butt back, I'll only... kill your friends.

Merle: Hmmm.

Trent: Th—now, wait—

Merle: You mean you'll let me—you'll let me go?

Trent: Yeah. Now, really think about it.

Merle: Oh I am! Oh, believe me, I'm really thinkin'—I mean—[suddenly using his character voice] I'm really thinkin' about it. You know anybody that would hurt trees? They, they suck.

Trent: Yeah.

Merle: They suck.

Trent: No friend of mine! Obviously, since I'm a tree.

Magnus: Merle, what's he saying? Are we gonna get out of this one?

Taako: Listen. Do it!

Merle: [through gritted teeth] Chop him, will you please freakin' chop him!?

Taako: Do what you're gonna do, homie.

Magnus: It's not my turn!

Taako: I'm in—

Merle: [strained] Chop him!

Taako: I'm in the ethereal plane, it's like I'm watching this on Netflix. You can do whatever you want.

Merle: [still through gritted teeth] I'm gonna keep talking to him, chop his—

Trent: Guys, I actually understand common English...

Travis: Okay, I attack him.

Clint: That was French. I was talking in French.

Trent: Oh, I don't understand French then. Sorry, go ahead.

Merle: [gibberish, then in a vaguely French accent]—chop him!

Justin: Dad thinks Plant and French sound the same.

Clint: It did sound exactly alike.

Justin: They're the same language.

Travis: Okay, okay. I am uh, I am attacking him now.

Griffin: Is it your turn?

Travis: I go after Merle, I guess Merle got a—

Clint: Can I keep talking to him to distract him?

Griffin: Yeah you can talk to him, as—[laughing] As Magnus chops him apart.

Travis: I'm gonna chop his butt again.

Justin: I think—I think—

Merle: He's—he's a bad, bad man.

Justin: I think Magnus should get advantage.

Griffin: Yeah. He is—he is distracted. Magnus, you have advantage on your attacks.

Travis: Okay.

Merle: [soothingly] Yeah. So you know, pay no attention to that man with the great big axe.

Travis: [in background] Okay, well that's a 16... That's 23...

Merle: He's a baaad dude.

Travis: Uh, yeah, so, my first attack, I rolled a 23.

Griffin: It hits.

Travis: It hits. That's a d8, plus six... Uh, so that's eight damage.

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: And now I'm going to attack again! I assume I don't have a surprise advantage now, though.

Griffin: No, he is—he is well aware.

Travis: Well, I rolled a 25.

Griffin: Wow.

Travis: Well, it's hard to miss when you have a plus seven.

Griffin: That's true.

Travis: And, I hit him for seven.

Griffin: 'Kay.

Clint: And I turn, and go...

Merle: [gasp] Magnus! What did you do!?

Griffin: [laughing]

Magnus: But you—but you said—!

Merle: Magnus!

Magnus: [confused] But you—!

Merle: Aww, Trent...

Griffin: Trent—Trent goes...

Trent: Ah! Ahhh!! Okay! Alright! Okay! Okay! Guys? Alright, guys? I'll think—I'm thinking about it now. Now I'm giving it some serious consideration. Just the whole backin' off and letting bygones be bygones thing.

Clint: [laughing]

Trent: Please. Please don't—I have kids. I don't. I was just born. You know this. I'm a baby, though! You wouldn't hurt a baby, would you? Waaah, mama mama! Baba, please! Pass me my binkie! Waaahhh. Ohhh.

Travis: Is he dead yet?

Trent: Change my dipe-dipe! Please! My binkie now.

Travis: So like... is he dead?

Griffin: He's not dead. But he's beg—he's asking—he's asking for you to let him go.

Justin: We can't understand that.

Clint: [resigned] I understood it. What do you—well, you're in the ethereal plane! You wouldn't understand it anyway!

Justin: Yeah, that's true. Uhh, uhh... Whose turn is it, Griff?

Griffin: [laughs] It's uh, Mag—it's uh, it's Trent's turn. He spends his turn pleading and uh, crawling his way towards the front door, uh, leaving a uh...

Justin: Sappy...

Griffin: Ghastly trail of sap behind him.

Clint: Hmm.

Justin: Okay.

Trent: Aw, man...

Justin: Am I back yet?

Griffin: Uhh... yeah, Taako. It's up to you.

Taako: Oh, okay. So... just born, huh?

Trent: Yeah?

Justin: I raise my hand, and I cast *scorching ray*, and I say...

Taako: Welcome to Earf!

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: 17.

Griffin: Yep.

Justin: 24.

Griffin: Yeeup.

Justin: 15.

Griffin: Mmm no.

Justin: M'kay. So, five, two, one... Five two one five. Five, two—

Clint: 13.

Travis: 13.

Justin: 13. 26.

Griffin: [incredulous] 26?

Justin: Yeah, 'cause it's double, 'cause it's fire.

Griffin: Oh, yeah. Uh... uh, One of the beams, uh, cuts a line up the wall behind him, and just goes right through his big arm, uh, which falls to the ground with a thunk.

Clint: Oh!

Griffin: Uh, and the other ray just hits him right square in the chest, uh, and he... collapses to the ground and sort of disintegrates.

Clint: [fake sobbing] Treeent!

Griffin: Uh, and as he does, the two vines that were restraining Merle, uh, release him.

Merle: [sobbing] Oh, Trent...

Taako: [amused] I guess we solved your baby Trent puzzle, huh?

Merle: [sobbing] Trent! Nooo...

Griffin: You guys would have no idea what Merle is so sad about.

Magnus: Yeah, we did great! Merle, come on!

Merle: [tearfully] I know, I know. It's just... I don't know, he was so young...

Magnus: It... He hit me, like, real hard.

Merle: I know, but you're a douchebag, and he's just so young...

Magnus: I mean... fair...

Taako: I miss him—I miss... I miss uh, I miss him too. [sniffs] It was a him? That's fine. Is there any good gold or anything?

Clint: [laughs]

Griffin: You find Trent's wallet on a wallet chain.

Justin: [laughing] So young.

Griffin: He had a wallet chain going into a small... bird's hole.

Clint: I keep staring at Taako the entire time.

Griffin: Uh, he does not have a wallet on him, he's a tree, but uh... you could, uh...

Travis: He does have pockets, and we find his Subway stamp club card.

Justin: I go right—it has no stamps, he was born 30 minutes ago. Uh, can I—I go over to the booths then. I've moved on with my life.

Griffin: Okay. Yeah, there is a pretty clear gap looking into the booths where Trent fell. Uh, so you can sort of climb over some of the rubble and access those booths. Um, there are some, uh, registers back here that have been... uh, picked over, picked clean. They're all open and empty. But underneath one of the—the uh, booths, the far booth, uh, underneath, sort of tucked away, is a small... a small black iron lockbox.

Travis: Cool.

Griffin: It's lock—it's locked.

Justin: It's locked, right? I figured it was locked.

Travis: Well, we put it in our bag.

Clint: What's the size of it? Large, small?

Griffin: Uh, um... shoebox sized.

Justin: I wish we had some rogues. Why don't we have rogues?

Travis: We need a rogue. Can we have another brother?

Justin: We need a rogue.

Griffin: Hey dad? Hey dad, can you—hey, Dad?

Travis: Dad?

Justin: Daddy?

Clint: Yeah? Yes?

Griffin: Hey Dad, I've been wanting to talk to you about this for a long time. How about a brother or sister that can play D&D with us? Now listen, it is gonna take 'em a while to learn the ropes.

Justin: He could adopt.

Travis: You could adopt.

Justin: Can you adopt Wil Wheaton?

Clint: Actually, you do have... a fourth brother.

Griffin: Whhhhat?

Travis: What?

Griffin: Wait, why are you telling us this—

Clint: You should've asked! You've never asked before.

Griffin: Can we end—can we end the call and talk about—this seems like a bad venue for this.

Clint: No, I—you opened the can of worms.

Justin: This is what the donors paid for.

Clint: Let's talk about it. His name is Jon Snow.

Justin: [laughs]

Clint: He uh, he has a job in the armed forces.

Griffin: Oh, I love him! He did that, uh... [sings gibberish]

Justin: No, that's just Snow. That's Snow.

Clint: And he's—he's kind of stationed far away. But um, y'know, he's always askin' me if he has any brothers, uh, and I didn't acknowledge, 'cause he's a real bastard. So I haven't really said anything before, but... maybe we can get him on the phone after the show.

Travis: Hey Dad, just real quick. Uh, how proud of yourself were you for that joke?

Clint: Uh, pretty proud! I've been saving this since episode two. [laughs]

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: And a second question, follow-up question: Dad, did you get my Informer by Snow joke?

Justin: [laughs] No way.

Clint: No, uh-uh.

Griffin: [singing loudly] A licky boom-boom downnnn.

Justin: Now he gets it.

Clint: Why did you licky my boom boom down? I don't understand.

Griffin: Aaand I'm dead.

Clint: [laughter]

[theme music plays]

Griffin: Hey everyone, this is Griffin McElroy, your dungeon master, your best friend, your life... colleague. Thank you all so much for listening to The Adventure Zone, episode 19, the second part of our newest story arc. It's good to have you here. I hope you're having a good Thursday.

Uh, I want to take a break from the show real quick to tell you about some of our sponsors this week, like for instance, One Month. One Month is an online service that teaches you how to code and all kinds of tech skills that you're gonna need to survive in the upcoming technocalypse.

One Month students learn to code by building real websites and apps, growth hacking their businesses and websites, and building payment systems and security solutions. One Month's courses are the easiest way to learn these new tech skills.

It's called One Month, and it's 15 minutes a day for 30 days. That's nothin'. Everyone has 15 minutes to kill every day for a month, at least. You can enroll now at [OneMonth.com/AdventureZone](https://onemonth.com/adventurezone). Enrollment is typically 99 bucks, but if you join now, you will receive your first month with One Month, your first one month period, for 25% off. That's a crazy good deal.

And then, maybe you can develop the new Adventure Zone website. Maybe you create the sequel to One Month called Two Months. The possibilities are endless. Again, go to [OneMonth.com/AdventureZone](https://onemonth.com/adventurezone), enroll, and save 25%.

I have two personal messages here. You can get a personal message on the show by going to [MaximumFun.org/jumbotron](https://maximumfun.org/jumbotron) and telling them that you want to purchase a spot on The Adventure Zone.

This first one is for Maxine Frank, and it's from Beth and Jordan. Beth and Jordan say to Maxine, "Happy birthday to the greatest sister, video game consultant, weird porn connoisseur, and voice twin. Hope you have a great dirty 30 birthday, and I hope this message from your favorite McElroys brightens your day like Taako the wizard brightens our lives."

They asked for this around July 4th, which is her birthday, and what a great birthday to have! You get drunk, you eat hot dogs, you watch ID4, and then you get drunk again, but this time, for your birthday. I think that sounds like the best day ever. Maxine, I hope it was real special.

Here's our second message. It's for Julia, and it's from Tom. Tom says to Julia, "Happy one year anniversary, my love! You mean the world to me, and I love you so much. I can't wait for what the next year will bring with you. Here's to a lifetime of wonderful memories." There is nothing to make fun of in that message. Nothing to goof about. It's just so sweet that I started to get a little bit faint, so I am going to drink some of this goji berry juice and reconstitute myself.

And I'm back. Uh, congratulations to Julia and Tom. It sounds like you both found some love in a hopeless place. Or maybe a hopeful place. I don't know where you live. Congratulations though, for real.

Thank you all so much for listening to and sharing the show. Again, if you tweet about the show using the #TheZoneCast hash tag, you might end up as a character in the show, like Captain Captain Bane from this last episode. We'll be introducing a few more characters during this story arc, so get those tweets in now, and you might end up as one of them.

Also, if you can, please share the show with any friends you might have that you think would be into this nerdy ass shit. We don't pay to market the show at all. We rely entirely on word of mouth, and you all have been so, so great to us so far. But if you could help us, uh, get out there just a little bit more by sharing the show with your friends, leaving a review on iTunes, that really helps, too. We sure would appreciate it.

If you're enjoying The Adventure Zone, you may want to check out some of the other shows on the Maximum Fun network. There's lots of really great, really free programming on there, like Destination DIY, Judge John Hodgman, Stop Podcasting Yourself, Throwing Shade, and so so so many others.

We all do other shows on the network too, like Sawbones, Justin's medical history show that he does with his wife, Sydnee; Bunker Buddies, a show that Travis does with his buddy Andy; and the three McElroy sons do My Brother, My Brother, and Me. Our OG podcast product.

There's a lot of stuff on there, and it's all for free, so go check it all out at MaximumFun.org.

That's it for the commercial part of this episode. I don't have anything left to say, except that I sure do appreciate ya. Um, I'm excited to keep doin' this story arc. It's gonna go some places that I'm pretty excited about. Uh, and uh, yeah. Thank you all so much for listening. This podcast has been such a great experience, and uh, it's sort of gone beyond our wildest expectations, so, um... thank you all so much, and enjoy the rest of the episode.

Next one's going up on... let me do the math... July 30th? Is there a July 30th? Yes. There is. July's not one of those months that peters out at 28. Next episode's gonna be up on July 30th. [laughing] I am... a dumb-o.

[theme music plays]

Travis: So we pocket the... the lockbox. 'Cause none of us know how to open it.

Griffin: Uh, you—

Justin: No wait, that sucks. Is there a spell? It seems like there should be like... lock opening spells.

Griffin: Uh... I mean, you could just—

Justin: Doesn't it seem like there should be? I—I don't have any, but...

Griffin: You could throw it really hard at the floor?

Travis: I just kinda hammer on it with my fist for a while.

Griffin: I—I've never seen—listen. We been playing—

Travis: Oh, it turns out Steven's a rogue! The goldfish picks the lock.

Griffin: [laughs] We've been playing D&D for like seven months now. And I have never heard the three of you give up on something as quickly as you gave up on that lockbox. "A lockbox? It's locked? Welp! I guess—I guess we'll never know!"

Clint: We're thinkin' ahead too much!

Griffin: You might not be alive to open up that lock box! You could die in the next encounter!

Travis: Okay, I open it. I think my way through it.

Griffin: Telekinetically open the box?

Justin: No, no, he uses his wits.

Travis: Yeah.

Clint: Actually, he uses his forehead.

Justin: That's right. Should there—there should be like a... Can he use a dexterity check?

Griffin: To get—

Clint: To pick the lock!

Griffin: Okay, yes, use a dexterity check.

Travis: I—I rolled—uh, well four plus two, so, six.

Griffin: Okay. With your dexterity check, you throw the box into the air, and try to dodge it as it falls.

Clint: [laughter]

Griffin: And with a six, you failed.

Travis: Okay, let me try strength check.

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: That's an 11, plus four. 15.

Griffin: M'kay. You lift that box up, and you lift it really high, and you lifted it really fast.

Travis: Okay, let me try constitution.

Griffin: With your super, super big muscles. Okay!

Travis: Uh, that's 16 plus two... 18.

Griffin: Okay. You, and the box, both drink poison.

Justin: [laughing]

Griffin: And you survive, but the box has died.

Clint: That means it's open, right?

Griffin: Yes. With that, the box pops open. It has 900 gold pieces inside.

Clint: Yeaah!!

Magnus: I did it!

Merle: Way to persevere!

Taako: I—we can't take these. This is—

Magnus: Nope, totally can.

Taako: This is a bank.

Clint: I keep staring at—at Taako.

Taako: No, listen.

Clint: I don't blink.

Taako: This is—

Magnus: No, insurance will cover this. It's fine.

Taako: No, listen. It's a bank!

Magnus: This is a victimless crime.

Taako: We're not looting! We're st—

Magnus: FDIC will cover this.

Taako: We're literally stopping a bank robbery.

Griffin: [laughing]

Clint: I keep staring at Taako.

Taako: Just cause you found money in a bank doesn't mean that you can just take it with you!

Travis: I put the money in the bag for safe keeping.

Clint: I'm staring.

Taako: Great, I grab some chairs. Like, I grab furniture. What—why are we looting!?

Griffin: [still laughing]

Taako: This isn't a dungeon, people do business here!

Griffin: [laughing harder]

Taako: Put that back!

Magnus: Listen, the government's gonna pay this back.

Taako: Nobody's gonna do anything, you're gonna get arrested! You'll go to jail! You—we're literally talking to the chief of police. He's outside.

Magnus: Yeah, and he would want it—listen. He would do this if he were here. The corruption in the militia...

Merle: You know what... Magnus, I think he's right.

Magnus: Nope!

Taako: Of course I'm right!

Merle: Let's—let's put the chairs back, and let's—let's, you and I, spend all of our energy looking for a door, from the booths, so we can continue our quests like good adventurers.

Magnus: No, I know where we're goin', and I've been down this road. Pocket Spa, or whatever the fuck he's got now.

Taako: You don't know I have that.

Griffin: Oh my god, did you buy the Pocket Spa so you could have a secret handheld place to stea—put your stolen loot!?

Taako: [stammering] I—you don't know—you don't know me.

Clint: We've been in your spa! We were in the spa last week!

Justin: What—uhhh... Yeah, you've been in it. You guys have. But Griffin hasn't.

Merle: Come on, Magnus.

Taako: You guys can split it 50/50 if you want. I swear to god, first thing I do when I get outside is I rat you out.

Griffin: [bursts into laughter]

Justin: I'm writing it on my goddamn character sheet so I never forget to rat you two out.

Magnus: Listen. Listen. I'm just taking it... so The Raven doesn't take it. We could maybe use it to negotiate with her. And then return it to Captain Captain Bane when we get out.

Taako: So you're keeping it for safe-keeping... and then convenient forgetting.

Magnus: Yes!

Taako: Got it. Well, I can—that's morally gray, I can roll with that.

Travis: Okay, we're gonna head to the left.

Griffin: So you're saying you're gonna get back to the—to Moonbase Alpha, and you're gonna go, "What's in my bag? Why is it so hea—oh shit, guys!"

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: "We forgot."

Justin: I—you can't plan on it, just has to happen.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: This is starting to sound a little premeditated.

Justin: No, it's not!

Travis: No!

Griffin: [doubtful] Okay... um... Alongside this lockbox, you also find—

Travis: A note that says, "This money is for whoever finds it!"

Clint: [laughing]

Griffin: It says, "Do not steal. For kid medicine."

Travis: [laughs]

Clint: [laughs]

Griffin: Uh, you find an odd-looking square key.

Clint: [immediately] I steal it.

Griffin: With the gold—oh, it's gone. Whoop! Poof. Uh, with the uh, Goldcliff Trust insignia on it.

Justin: Aw man, was that the key to the lockbox? [laughs]

Griffin: [pause] No.

Justin: Okay, good.

Clint: Phew!

Travis: Okay, we head towards the door on the left, that we saw earlier with the tracks and stuff.

Griffin: There are two doors on the left, and I will describe them... Right now. [pause] One of them has a sign over it that says stairs.

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: And the... [laughs] And the other one, uh, does not have—

Travis: It's like I'm there!

Griffin: [laughing] The other one... uh, does not have a sign on it that says stairs. It is a, uh, much sturdier metal door with a part in it, and there is a, uh, small panel to the left of this metal door with a button on it and a slot.

Justin: I uh, take the key that we got and I try it in that slot.

Griffin: Uh, you put it in, and the button lights up.

Justin: And I walk away.

Travis: I—I press the button.

Griffin: Adventure over. You press the button, uh, you hear a 'bing-bong!' That's right motherfuckers, another elevatorrrr!

Clint: [laughing]

Griffin: Does everyone get that I have an elevator fetish at this point? It's just like, what's not to like about them? And uh, the door opens up!

Clint: Doo doo, doo doo... [hums elevator music]

Griffin: This is a—it opens up to reveal a glass elevator. Uh, Wonkavator.

Travis: A Wonkavator, if you will.

Griffin: Well, if you will. But we won't, 'cause it's not that. It's just a glass elevator with a glass, uh, bottom, glass walls. The top of the elevator car is a, uh, a sturdier metal, with some lights built into it. And the exterior of the elevator shaft is also glass, so you can sort of look out over the, uh, the city of Goldcliff... or you would, if the building had not been sort of surrounded by these vines.

So there's little shafts of light poking in. But otherwise, it's mostly just sort of vines that you can see through the... through the elevator, uh, wall.

Travis: Now if I remember from the last episode, Griffin, you said it was a 20 story building? Is that correct?

Griffin: That's right. Uh, and you—

Justin: God it's been two weeks, how do you remember that?

Clint: Look who's writin' shit down!

Travis: That's all m—in my dome piece, y'all.

Griffin: [laughs] Um, and there are in fact 20 buttons on the panel in the

interior of the elevator. Uh, they go from 1 to 19, and then, the, uh, at the very top, of the row of buttons, is the letter V.

Merle: You guys are gonna have to do this, 'cause I can only reach the 10th floor.

Travis: I hit all the buttons.

Justin: Ugh.

Griffin: Okay, so you're going in the elevator?

Taako: You know, I'm gonna take the stairs.

Magnus: What? But... We'll race.

Taako: Oh yeah, that'll be fun.

Magnus: Okay, I'll see you on the second floor.

Taako: A mini—a mini game.

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: Now everyone call in your votes. Press one if you want Magnus to get there first. Press two if you want Taako to get there first. Press three if you want Merle to take a nap.

Griffin: Okay. Uh, so, you—Taako, you are taking the stairs.

Taako: Yeah.

Griffin: You're racing up, maybe it's a—like a calorie conscious decision?

Taako: Yeah, I'm trying to slim down. Lose the LBs. I might be back on TV someday, I—I never know. So I gotta, uhhh, slim down.

Griffin: Okay. Uh, so, you deliver that touching, heartfelt monologue to Merle and Magnus as the elevator door shuts, and you start your long trek up the stairs.

Merle: When was he on TV before?

Justin: We're goin' to the—we're going, um... remember, I had a cooking show?

Griffin: He had a cooking show.

Clint: [gasps] Ohh.

Griffin: That was in the—oh, Dad, that was in the bonus episode? Uh, maybe you didn't listen to it because you don't support our...

Clint: I don't get a chance to hear any of 'em.

Griffin: Sure.

Clint: I don't subscribe to this. [laughing]

Griffin: Also you've got a Zune, and I don't think those do podcasts.

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: Wait, we're just going to the—we're going to the second floor is what we agreed on. Right?

Travis: Yes.

Justin: Okay, so... I just go up one flight of stairs.

Clint: [snores loudly]

Griffin: Okay. You go up one flight of stairs to the second floor. And the

elevator door opens, and there they are, and you're on the second floor. And that was—boy, that was boring.

Magnus: We did it!

Taako: Listen—listen, guys, I think we should go to the one marked V. So I'm gonna hop in there with ya. Make room for ya boy.

Magnus: But what if—

Taako: [in a fake Italian accent] Make'a room!

Magnus: —there's something on all the floors?

Merle: Look, look. We gotta make sure. I'll go up the stairs. I have the shortest legs!

Magnus: Okay, you check every floor. We're gonna head up to the vault.

Taako: That's fine.

Merle: I'll check every floor...

Justin: [laughs]

Merle: You guys go up in the elevator, since I'm the smallest and—and you know, the shortest legs—

Magnus: Sounds great.

Merle: —and it's gonna take the longest time.

Taako: And the funniest if you fall down the stairs.

Merle: [laughing] That would be kind of—I make noises. [descending tone] Bing bing bing bing bing bing bing. Alright!

Griffin: But that's not your armor, that's just like, something you do while falling down the stairs.

Travis: Oh, I give him the Stone of Farspeech!

Justin: Oh, yeah yeah yeah.

Clint: Oh, good thinking. Alright. I got my insight earring on too, y'know.

Griffin: So... what is that, you're gonna—what is that?

Clint: Nah, it just gives me more insight.

Travis: He just looks really good.

Clint: I could put the scuttle buddy in with you guys.

Griffin: Actually, Dad, I've... been looking for the right time to tell you this...

Justin: [laughing]

Clint: What?

Griffin: Your scuttle—your scuttle buddy was on the train that got destroyed.

Clint: Shit!!

Griffin: He did forget to get the sc—

Travis: No, he gets three uses out of it!

Griffin: Not if it's destroyed!!

Justin: [simultaneously] Not if it's on the train!!

Clint: [laughing]

Griffin: It—you can't use it once and throw it in a volcano and go, "Here comes number two and three!"

Travis: Oh, is this—Griffin, is this gonna be one of those moments where like, two episodes from now it's gonna be like... "You hear a slight scuttling out of the garden!"

Griffin: No, this is one of those moments where you learn to take care of your shit!

Travis: [laughing]

Griffin: Where you learn to be cautious with your possessions!

Travis: I hug Steven even closer.

Clint: Well, thank you once again...

Griffin: [bursts out laughing]

Clint: Thank you, Griffin, for teaching me an important lesson.

Griffin: Yeah! Yeah.

Clint: The son has become the father.

Griffin: Now you're gonna think before you leave your LEGOs lying out.

Clint: I know.

Griffin: What are you gonna do?

Justin: New dad, could you push the narrative forward, ah-puh-leeze?

Griffin: Yeah, so um, Merle, you, hop out of the elevator at the second floor, uh, and begin your trek up the stairs. Taako and Magnus, the door shuts to the elevator, and your elevator adventure begins.

You uh, you're moving up, getting a satisfying 'ding!' with each floor that passes. It would be satisfying if you had an elevator fetish. Which, I know not everybody has. Um, and at floor number 11... Or should I say, between floors 11 and 12—is somebody clipping their nails?

Justin: No.

Travis: What?

Justin: I don't know what that was. Did it sound—wait, did it sound like somebody throwing a chain dice bag up in the air and catching it?

Clint: A little.

Griffin: Yes.

Justin: Okay, that might have been me.

Griffin: Uhh, between floor 11 and 12, the elevator suddenly stops. And then, a few seconds later, the lights above you blink off.

Travis: Cool, cool.

Griffin: And the vines outside of the exterior glass wall of this elevator shaft, uh, begin to move. They begin to, uh, move in a circular pattern around the building, almost like they're constricting. And they shatter through the exterior glass wall of this elevator shaft, and begin to sort of close around the glass walls of the elevator car.

And below, you see a flurry of activity, as you see the vines have broken in through the first floor, and are almost like, filling up the elevator shaft like water. They're just growing wildly. It looks like a... looks like a pit of snakes

is just sort of being poured into this shaft. Um, and that... is the situation for you. Merle...

Travis: [laughs] Still walkin' up the stairs.

Griffin: Merle...

Merle: [breathing heavily, winded] What!?

Griffin: Um, so you started on floor two. Why don't you make a constitution throw, and we'll see how... how quickly you're going to be able to scale these steps.

Clint: Alright. 20.

Griffin: You rolled a 20! Okay, you are—

Clint: Actually, plus two constitution, that's 22.

Griffin: Alright, you're super sturdy! You—you are moving up these stairs in a sprightly manner.

Clint: [singing] Gonna fly nowww...

Griffin: Every—you're skipping every two steps. You just sort of... Yeah. You're zooming up them.

Merle: [making zooming noises] Yeah! Woo! Ha ha.

Griffin: You've made it to, uh... [laughs] The sixth floor, and you're yelling things at every step, apparently.

Merle: Here I gooo!

Griffin: Havin' a great time, uh, and you are basically unaccosted!

Clint: [victorious laugh]

Travis: [laughs] Just havin' a good old time!

Merle: Love the stairs! Whee!

Griffin: Switchin'—switchin' the action back to Taako and Magnus. You are... You are in a heap of trouble.

Travis: So we're between floors, it's not something where we can get out. [pause] Is there like, is there like one of those roof access panels, like you see in movies?

Griffin: There is—there is a panel above. Uh, leading up to the top of the elevator car.

Justin: Uh... Can it—oh, okay. Uh...

Taako: Magnus, uh, can you knock the panel out?

Magnus: Yeah, probably.

Taako: Can you use like, I don't know, Phantom Fist, or your hands?

Magnus: Yeah, sure!

Travis: Can I—can I reach it, Ditto?

Griffin: Uh... Yeah!

Travis: Yeah, I'm gonna Phantom Fist it.

Griffin: It's a—it's about at the end of your wingspan, reaching up.

Travis: Okay, I wanna fist it.

Clint: Yeah, please don't say 'fist it.'

Taako: Okay, umm...

Griffin: You Phantom Fist it, and the hatch just pops right off and goes flying into the air. It's just a hatch! You can lift it up with your hands! Why are you Phantom Fisting everything!?

Travis: I must destroy!

Griffin: You Phantom Fist it and the—you hear the panel go, "Oh shiiit!"
[trailing off]

Justin: [laughs]

Clint: None of us speak panel.

Justin: How far up are we?

Griffin: Uhh, I mean, you're—

Justin: Like how far is there up, uh, above us? I guess we got like, what, a hundred feet?

Griffin: Uhh, yeah, thereabouts.

Travis: Okay, I wanna lift—I wanna lift Taako out the panel.

Taako: Nah, unnecessary, my man.

Justin: I cast... are you guys ready for this?

Griffin: I am so ready.

Justin: *Rrrope trick!*

Clint: [laughs] [makes a completely indescribable sound effect]

Justin: So here's what *rope trick* does. I take my rope, that I have, in my bag...

Travis: And he lassos the vines.

Justin: No. It's up to 60 feet long.

Griffin: 'Kay.

Justin: And on the other end of the rope, it ties to something in another dimension, and we can crawl up the rope. It goes to its full height, of 60 feet, and we can crawl up the rope into another dimension.

Clint: [gasps]

Justin: Are you ready... to go into another dimension with me?

Travis: Yes!? So ready!

Griffin: You're gonna climb— [laughs] You're gonna climb up the 60 feet of rope?

Justin: Uh, well, we're gonna climb—we're gonna start, because that way we won't die, and we're gonna start goin' until we can find, uhh, a way to get out! An egress, if you will.

Griffin: [pauses] M'kay.

Justin: I feel confident we're gonna find one.

Griffin: Explain this to me one more time. You—you have created a hole 60 feet above you? Into—

Justin: There is a hole 60 feet above us that a rope is now extending into. Okay? So we're gonna start climbing.

Griffin: Okay. Alright, go for it. Is there a climbing check? I don't have a character sheet in front of me, so...

Travis: I assume that's strength, agility, acrobatics... athletics.

Griffin: Ath—athletics, maybe?

Travis: Yeah, I think—I think climbing is athletics.

Griffin: Does the rope retract and bring you up? I'm just trying to figure out if—

Clint: No, you still have to climb it.

Travis: Athletics is strength. Um, no, we already knew that. So, athletics, um... is... difficult situations you encounter while climbing, jumping or swimming.

Griffin: M'kay, so, you're making an Athletics check.

Justin: Yeah. [pause] While climbing or swimming each foot of movement costs one extra foot. Uhh...

Griffin: Well, we're not in combat though.

Travis: Well— I think that—I think that the an—

Justin: That's the only thing it says about—I mean, I'm reading under the section special types of movement. Climbing, swimming and crawling.

Griffin: No, I'm just gonna give this a difficulty rating, and then you guys make the check, and then if it passes the difficulty rating, then you... do it.

Travis: Oh, okay.

Griffin: Uhh... Okay. We'll say you have to beat a... 10 is like medium, and

15 is hard. We'll split the difference, 'cause 60 feet is a loooong way to climb.

Justin: We don't have to climb the entire thing. That's not what I'm—what I'm thinking. Uh, let me, uhhh...

Travis: We need to get up to the 11th floor and open those doors.

Justin: That—that's it. That's all we—or, or we have... Or we need to have—I'm talking—I'm gonna n—We need to talk in character.

Taako: So here's what I'm thinking. If we can climb up, uh, a foot, just, you know, to the next level, maybe uh, maybe then Merle—Merle, do you read me?

Merle: [muffled] 10-4, good buddy!

Taako: Oh, okay. People listen—

Merle: [muffled] Come back, rocking chair!

Taako: People listen to this, so that seems—

Griffin: [laughing]

Merle: [muffled] Cab-over Pete with the reefer on—

Taako: Ohh, no.

Merle: [muffled] —and a Jimmy haulin' haul!

Taako: Oh golly. Oh, golly.

Magnus: Okay, well! We're gonna die!

Taako: How's—how's your sonic experience, everyone? Pleasurable? Glad to have this directly in your ear buds?

Clint: [still muffled] Trying to add some special effects to the show!

Taako: Make sure to tell your friends to rate and subscribe!

Merle: [muffled] Now what did you want there, good buddy? C'mon.

Taako: This is our first podcast ever.

Griffin: This is golden. You—you're hatin'.

Taako: So listen. Merle. Meet us on the 11th floor. As fast as your stupid little legs can carry you!

Merle: [muffled] Roger that!

Taako: Okay, great! And once you get up there, try to figure out a way to get the doors open.

Merle: [muffled] Okie dokie!

Taako: Excellent.

Magnus: [quickly] Thank you so much!

Taako: *Rope trick!*

Griffin: Alright. You cast *rope trick*. Do you get to choose the dimension that it ties off into?

Justin: Umm, it actually—hold on one second, let me tell ya.

Clint: Listen, you been spending a lot of time in other dimensions, aren't you worried about sperm count?

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: It rises in the air... at the end of the rope, an invisible entrance opens to an extra dimensional space that lasts until the spell ends.

Travis: So it's a space you create.

Clint: It's just like a cubbyhole.

Justin: Yeah. So it's just—and I, we can actually crawl into that and hide and chill, uh, but that seems... like we're not gonna climb 60 feet. That seems crazy. So...

Travis: No. Who are we, y'know?

Justin: Yeah. Right.

Griffin: Okay. Uh, so a rope, uh, out of thin air, falls in through the hatch, in the uh, in the elevator. And you look up, and sure enough, there is a just sort of black hole, uh, sixty feet above you. Around floor 17 or so. Uh, and uh, yeah! It has, lowered itself into your elevator car.

Travis: So, we start climbing for floor 12. Or 11.

Griffin: Well you're between 11 and 12, so you'd be climbing towards 12.

Clint: 12.

Justin: Yeah. Climbing towards 12.

Griffin: M'kay. Uh, let's take a break, hop back to Merle. Merle, you'll make another constitution saving throw, see how quick you're moving up?

Clint: Uh, 11, plus... um, three, right? And that's... 14.

Griffin: Okay. Uh, you're a little bit more winded, now. You're not movin' quite as fast.

Clint: Got it.

Griffin: You've, made it to uhh, you've made it to floor number nine.

Clint: Aw, come on. Alright. Well, can I—do I get a turn, or... We're not in combat, are we?

Griffin: No, we're not in combat.

Travis: Keep running!

Griffin: I'm just doing a sort of 24-esque split screen. Uh, back to Merle, and uh, back to Magnus and Taako. Um, the rope's in your car. And the ball's in your court.

Justin: Okay I—uh, I start climbing up towards floor 12. I'll make an Athletics check... [dice rolling] Four plus... uhh... zero. Four!

Griffin: [pauses] You don't do very good.

Justin: No, I try, and just like, fall right off.

Clint: [laughs]

Travis: Okay, let me try.

Taako: I'm flashing back to gym class over here, gang.

Travis: Let me try. Uh, that is a 13... plus seven. A 20.

Griffin: Okay!

Taako: Look at him go!

Griffin: Yeah, you get up. Uh, you go up on the rope and uh, you move up,

uh, just the few feet up to the 12th floor. You think maybe if you'd just stood on top of the car you might have had access to the 12th floor door, but...

Travis: But then we wouldn't have gotten a... *rope trick!*

Taako: *Rope triiiiick!*

Griffin: That is true! *Rope trick* is pretty great! Uh...

Travis: I reach down and grab Taako's arm.

Griffin: Okay, you reach down and grab Taako's arm, and as you do, the vines that've entered in through the exterior wall of the building grab onto the elevator and pull on it so hard.

Clint: Oh my gosh!

Griffin: And it collapses and falls and Taako just sort of moves through the hatch as the elevator falls around him. And all of a sudden, you are supporting Taako's full weight, and I'm gonna need you to make a strength check.

Travis: That is 15, plus four, 19.

Griffin: M'kay, you are holding on to Taako. Uh, with one hand on the rope, one hand on Taako, at the 12th floor door, uh... and we're gonna move back to Merle. Merle, make a constitution throw.

Clint: May I just say... Good, vivid storytelling.

Griffin: Yes!

Clint: Good storytelling.

Griffin: Thank you.

Justin: Nothing makes a story better than someone saying in the middle of it that it's good.

Travis: This is good so far.

Griffin: Call me—call me Ishmael! This book is gonna kick ass!

Justin: [laughs]

Clint: Jay Gatsby collapsed the elevator! I rolled a 16.

Griffin: As God is my witness, this has been a fucking dope ass movie!

Justin: [laughing]

Clint: [laughing] Attention, movie studios!

Griffin: This is the start of a beautiful friendship! And the end of a fucking kickass flick!

Clint: 16, wise-ass, 16!

Griffin: Thanks, moviegoers, hope you liked it! For Casanova, it's me! A famous guy! Bye!

Justin: [laughing]

Travis: [laughing]

Justin: [deep voice] Luuuke! I am your father! Can you believe that shit or what!? Did you see that coming? Fuuuck.

Clint: [deadpan] 16.

Griffin: Uh, 16, okay. You have made it up to the 12th floor, and as you kick open the stair access—

Magnus: [muffled] Open the door!

Griffin: —there are some vines.

Merle: What!?

Griffin: There are some vines that—

Magnus: [muffled] Open the door!

Griffin: Oh, I didn't know if you were talking to me or to Magnus.

Merle: Open what door!?

Magnus: [muffled] The d—the elevator door!!

Griffin: There's—

Merle: Why are you yelling through the door when we can talk through the stone of blabbing!?

Justin: That doesn't sound any better.

Magnus: [muffled] You're right, hold on one second—[imitates static]
[muffled and quieter] Open the door!

Griffin: [laughs] As you uh, reach the 12th floor and kick open the stair access and enter in, uh, this floor has just started to be overtaken by these vines. They're coming in actually through the other side of the building than the elevator shaft is on, and just sort of swarming into the room from the windows. Filling it up, like, really, really, really quickly. It's almost like a tidal wave of vines has started to pour into, uh, this floor, and they're moving at you very, very, very quickly.

Clint: Alright. I use my crowbar!

Griffin: Do you actually have that?

Travis: Yes! There is a crowbar in the Adventurer's kit.

Clint: Justin—

Griffin: Okay!

Clint: Crowbar!!

Justin: Yes, he's got a crowbar.

Griffin: Fuckin' A, go for it, Gordon Freeman.

Clint: I call him Chris.

Griffin: Chris the crowbar. Let `er fly.

Clint: Chris the crowbar! I put it into the elevator doors, and I pry the doors open!

Griffin: M'kay. You pry the doors open, with your—

Clint: [interrupting] But I do it at the last possible second, so I can... [sheepishly] ... be a vivid, story-teller, too.

Griffin: Okay!

Justin: Can we actually—can Dad name the crowbar after a listener? Do you have a listener name handy that we could just p—we could use real quick?

Griffin: Let me open up Twitter. Let's just go with the top name. The last person that tweeted about The Zone Cast.

Justin: Okay.

Clint: I take... Emmanuel the crowbar, and I jam him into the doors of the elevator. And with all of my mighty, dwarven... might...

Travis: Mm-hmm, good.

Clint: I pry open the elevator doors, Emmanuel straining in my hands! That sounds so nasty.

Travis: Doesn't Emmanuel have a face like the flute in uh, H.R. Pufnstuf?

Clint: Yeah, it's just like, he's goin'— [high pitched] "Hey, be careful what you're usin' me for!" And I pry open the doors at the very last second.

Griffin: At the very last second. Okay. You pry the doors—

Clint: No, wait! No no, no no, no no!

Griffin: —to the elevator—

Clint: Not at the very last second! Nope! Nope!

Griffin: —and a wave of vines crashes into you from behind, knocking you forward into the elevator shaft. And the doors slam behind you.

Clint: Five minutes! Five minutes before.

Griffin: You didn't get there five minutes before, so you—so you have fallen into the elevator shaft. Make a reflex saving throw to see if you can grab onto your party.

Clint: At the last... 30 seconds.

Griffin: [laughs] So make a dexterity saving throw.

Clint: My dexterity—aw, geez. 12 plus zero.

Griffin: Okay! 12, yeah, that's enough for you to grab on to Taako's... ankles.

Travis: Oh shit!

Griffin: As you fall into the elevator shaft, and the doors, uh, slam behind you, and Emmanuel the crowbar goes plummeting to its viney death at the bottom of the elevator shaft. [laughing] Thanks for listening, Emmanuel!

Travis: Griffin, you realize that crowbars are made out of metal. Like, it doesn't fall and die.

Griffin: Well actually, you hear him go, "I'm gonna dieeee!" as he falls. And so the three of you are now hanging—so this scene was really great.

Clint: This looks like the Goonies.

Griffin: It is very Goonies-esque. Magnus, you wanna make one more strength throw now that you're holding up the weight of two people?

Travis: Goddamn it. Yep.

Clint: [laughing]

Travis: Okay. That's an 11... plus... 15.

Griffin: 15. Uh, yeah, that's enough. You are still holding onto this rope that is tied in a dimension that none of you know about.

Magnus: Could either one of you grab the rope now please!?

Griffin: Well, they're below it. You've got it sort of by the edge of it, and um...

Travis: Well what the fuck am I supposed to do now!?

Griffin: I don't know. Find out, next time on The Adventure Zone!

Clint: [laughing]

Griffin: You like that shit? That's audience retention!

[theme music plays]

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[music plays]

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Speaker 2: And we didn't really think this through. Lady to Lady.

[music ends]