

The Adventure Zone: Graduation – Ep. 4, Four Sidekicks Walk Into a Bar...

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Travis: Previously, on The Adventure Zone...

[theme music plays]

Travis: Hieronymous Wigenstaff's School for Heroism and Villainy.

Argo: Argo Keene, here.

Fitzroy: *Sir* Fitzroy Maplecourt.

Firbolg: I... have no name.

Hieronymous: I hear that you just won't give up on accounting. Very nice.

Firbolg: I have asked to transfer.

Dakota: You're ready for some real world experience, I guess. You need to work together.

Travis: You know you've learned some things. Not just this day, but in the past fortnight at the school. And what that means is, you're all now level three.

The true name of this village is Hope, but its known by all the locals as Last Hope.

Jimson: Uh, I look forward to you all receiving your real world assignment, and venturing out into the world to make us proud next week.

[theme music plays]

Justin: [whispers] Travis, you have to host it.

Travis: We find—

Justin: [whispers] You have to do it. Trav, you're the—

Travis: I'm doing it.

Clint: And... go!

Justin: [whispers] Okay, I'll—do you want me to count you in?

Travis: Yes please.

Justin: [whispering] 'Kay. Three, two...

Clint: Uh, Justin, it's coming down in, and then you count.

Justin: Oh oh oh oh oh. Coming down in 15, 14...

Clint: Go—you gotta start at three.

Travis: Start at four.

Clint: Four.

Justin: Start at four. Okay. Coming down in four... three...

Griffin: Can I go to the bathroom real quick?

Clint: [laughs]

Travis: We find a horse-drawn cart—

Justin: Yeah, I'll just—I'll be—

Travis: Wai—wha—

Clint: [laughing]

Justin: I'll do some decimals. Three... two point eight... two point seven...

Travis: Okay.

[the sound of rain and a man humming]

Travis: We find a horse-drawn cart moving at a brisk pace along the forest path from Wigenstaff's campus, to the town of Last Hope. Groundsy is driving the cart, quietly humming to himself, lost in his own thoughts. In the back of the cart, we find six students, seated comfortably. On one side of the cart sits Buckminster Eden, his sidekick, Leon, and his temporary sidekick, Argo Keene.

On the other side, Rainer Michelle and her temps, Fitzroy Maplecourt and Master Firbolg. The six of you are headed out on a real world assignment, with Buckminster leading the heroes, and Rainer leading the villains. It's been about an hour since you met with Tomas, the school counselor, and Kale, the head of placement of department. Kale explained the situation like this.

Just south of Last Hope, there is a crystal mine. These crystals are chock full of magic, and therefore, worth a pretty penny to enchanters and artificers. Currently, the mine is at a standstill, due to a dispute between the company that holds the deed to the mine and their workers. Heroes, your task is to settle the dispute in some fashion that makes both sides feel heard and supported without actually taking sides.

Villains, your task is to play the situation for your own gain in whatever manner you see fit. When all is said and done, your performance will be evaluated, and a grade will be issued. Of course, all along the way, we must keep an eye towards the bottom line.

Before you left, each of you were instructed to stop by the bursar's office and talk to Osrick. There, he set each of you up with a 200 gold piece line of credit. If you're doing the math, that's 1,200 gold spread among the six of you. The governor of this district has offered the school 1,500 gold to solve the issue. It's important that you do not incur costs, including your lines of credit, over 1,500 gold, or your grade will be impacted. You can pay down back into the black with any treasure or gold obtained during the assignment.

Griffin: [laughing] So accounting is... it's not just a goof. Apparently, I am learning now. It is a very important game mechanic for this season of The Adventure Zone.

Travis: Yes. Wait, you thought you were just gonna go out there and just spend money willy-nilly? No sir! Every gold must be accounted for! That includes if you do damage in like, a bar fight. Or if one of you gets fined by like, a city watch.

Justin: Let's—let's pretend, Travis, that um, a listener, when that started, thought, "This seems pretty boring. I'm gonna zone out for a little bit." And then realized at the end that it was important, and they should've been listening...

Travis: Oh. So like, a listener who might have to play the game?

Justin: No. No, why would they play the game? They're a listener at home, enjoying the show. I'm just saying, for their benefit, maybe you could recap that in kind of a more concise, uh, fashion.

Travis: Okay. The six of you, uh, with Rainer as the villain, and her sidekicks are the Firbolg and Fitzroy, and Buckminster as the hero with Leon and Argo, have been sent to the town of Last Hope to solve a dispute between an owner of a magic crystal mine and the workers there.

Justin: No, I got all that. The fantasy story stuff, love it. Wild about it. Totally focused in on that. See if you can figure out where kind of the—

Travis: Oh, the accounting? Probably the math?

Justin: That's—yes. Okay.

Travis: Okay. Each of you has been issued 200 gold. A line of credit of 200 gold from the school. Right? Which adds up to 1,200 gold amongst the six of you. The school has been offered a reward of 1,500 gold for solving this issue, leaving 300 gold as, y'know, kind of the profit. And so, part of your grade is going to be determined on how well you can stay within budget, and not go over that 1,500 gold mark in your spending and incurring any damage or fines or anything like that.

Clint: Got it.

Justin: Perfect.

Griffin: I'm down.

Travis: So, you're sitting in the back of the cart. You're all feeling so well rested. And in fact, invigorated from your training. Perhaps like you've learned and grown, and you're stronger now than you've ever been before!

Clint: Level uuup!

Travis: How do you feel?

Clint: I leveled up, man! I feel leveled!

Griffin: [laughs] I think he was trying to be a little bit more, uh, in-world than that. But if...

Justin: You're now three summers old.

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: The years of wisdom... the wisdom of Neverwinter has seeped into your bones and has caused a growth.

Clint: Do you want to know all the cool stuff I can do now?! It's all the same. It's all the same.

Justin: In your travels, you've heard tale of many new incantations that you...

Griffin: [laughing]

Clint: I didn't get any incantations!

Travis: What did you get, Dad? What's a rogue get to do?

Clint: Nothin'!

Travis: Wait. Nothing? At level three, you didn't get any additional shit?

Clint: Well, let's see. Attack's the same, action's the same, bonus action... cunning action. Yes! Cunning action.

Travis: Okay, you got cunning action. Alright.

Clint: I can take a bonus action on each of my turns to take the dash, disengage or hide action... so, cowardice is my new thing.

Travis: Hey, Dad? I just want to say, welcome to the club. This is how I felt every time Magnus leveled up, and I was like, "I can hit again." And meanwhile, Justin and Dad are like, "I can call angels and hurl fire from my eyeballs!"

Clint: Well, I'm very happy with this. I'm just gonna get better and better at the few things I do right.

Griffin: Mac, what is your—you're level three now. That's when rogues pick their roguish archetype.

Clint: Yes.

Griffin: I think we've talked about what you're doing, but can you set it in stone?

Clint: I just think, with his background, it's gotta be swashbuckler.

Travis: Yeah.

Clint: I mean, the mustache, if nothing else. I mean, it demands—

Travis: That is how we determine... yeah.

Clint: That he buckles his swash on a regular basis.

Griffin: What does that mean, uhh, like, mechanics wise? How does that...

Clint: Well, I'm glad you asked. Uh, I get fancy footwork. Um, which means, if you make a melee attack, the creature can't make an opportunity attack. And also, this is one of my favorites – rakish audacity.

Travis: Yeahhh!

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: That's more of a genetic trait.

Clint: Yeah. [laughs] You add charisma to the initiative rolls, and then you don't need advantage on the attack to roll to use your sneak attack, if you're within five feet. So, I am now audacious.

Travis: Yeah you are.

Griffin: Wait, so you don't need advantage on sneak attack... what was the last part?

Travis: So you gain an additional way to use sneak attack. You don't need advantage on the attack roll to use your sneak attack against a creature if you are within five feet of it, no other creatures are within five feet of you, and you don't have disadvantage on the attack roll.

Griffin: Oh, okay.

Travis: So if they're standing all by themselves, you can just walk right up to them and sneak attack them.

Griffin: God, that's fuckin' fresh! That's so fresh!

Travis: That's your audacity. That's your fuckin' Assassin's Creed like, whapow! And then you're out.

Griffin: That's good.

Clint: Yeah, that's what I was thinkin'.

Travis: So, how's uh, how's Fitzroy doing over there?

Griffin: Uh, at level three, Fitzroy got to pick, uh, the... uh, his class flavor as a barbarian. It's called the path, I think? And the path that I have chosen is the, uhh, path of the wild soul. And this has a few cool things. I can cast detect magic, sort of at will, and I figure out the answer to that detect magic by glowing in a different color. Which is fun.

Travis: Okay!

Griffin: Uh, I have advantage on all dexterity saving throws that I can see. And best of all, I get wild surge, where every time I go into a rage, it activates one of... eight? Uh, random effects that I roll to see what it is. And they are all pretty buckwild. So, excited to see what happens with that.

Travis: Sick. What about you, Master Firbolg?

Justin: Sorry, my cats took a most non-triumphant shit like, 20 feet from me.

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: Oh no!

Justin: Yeah. [laughs] Circle—the circle I'm in is the ninth circle of hell, is where I'm currently at.

Clint: [laughing]

Justin: Uh, no. I am proud to announce that after being courted by all the different circles, I did rush circle of the forest, and I'm so—we're so happy. There was a few nights I had to stay up without sleep and had to drink beer out of a gnome's butt cheeks, but...

Clint: [laughing]

Griffin: [laughing]

Justin: It was all worth it. I love my—

Travis: Did the gnome get in, too?

Justin: The gnome worked there. That is his job, actually.

Travis: Huh. Well paid though, right?

Justin: Yeah. Extreme—this is an art, okay? It's not a stunt. It's an art.

Travis: Okay, so, any other details, or just the gnome butt thing?

Justin: I mean, what do you want? I mean, he's a circle of the forest. He's got like, bark skin and spider climb and all this stuff. I just think, I'm doing my part to make this part shorter, 'cause I feel like... I'm ready to just like, fuckin' crank it.

Travis: Perfect. As the cart bumps on down the path, Buckminster looks around and says...

Buckminster: Um, I have a suggestion. Just a minor thing. I was thinking, um, if you think about it, our end goals don't contradict one another. Perhaps, at least for this first, uh, information gathering section, we could work together and do half the work each. What do you think? How's that grab everybody?

Fitzroy: Eat—eat my shorts! Eat... eat my shorts, good-doer! How am I doing so far? I—it's not a natural fit, I think.

Buckminster: No, it's not LARPing. You don't have to be in character, Fitzroy. This is... no.

Firbolg: It... seems... if the goal is to bring cooperation, this would be difficult to... split.

Buckminster: Well, we wouldn't split the actual work, like, once we get to the mine. But like, why... so, here. The other option is like, you're going to talk to the mine owner, and then I'm going to talk to the mine owner? Like, that—

Firbolg: This is an ex—this is excellent. Yes. This is an excellent point.

Buckminster: That just seems like a waste of time.

Argo: Well, and we did get told we needed to cooperate and work together, right? I mean—

Buckminster: Yeah!

Argo: And y'know, just a few days ago in class. I assume it was a few days ago.

Buckminster: Who can remember?

Firbolg: Proper allocation of resources is important for any new venture.

Rainer: Well put! That's very well done.

Travis: Says Rainer.

Firbolg: Yes.

Travis: And Rainer says...

Rainer: Okay, y'know, it seems to me that this is an efficient plan. But ohh...

Travis: And she kind of looks at you, Fitzroy.

Rainer: Ohh, we don't trust these villains, eh?

Travis: And like, elbows you a little bit. Y'know, nudge nudge.

Fitzroy: Nyah! I've been work—I've been working on my 'nyeh.'

Rainer: Oh wait, we're the villains. Wait. We don't trust these do-gooder—ugh. Let me try again. We don't trust these heroes, eh?

Fitzroy: Nyaaah!

Rainer: Oh god, are you okay?

Clint: [laughing]

Fitzroy: I feel a bit of a tickle in my throat. I—I cannot produce too many of those in a given day.

Rainer: Um, so I'm for it. Uh, just a quick vote. Everybody, yeah? Agreed?

Argo: Aye.

Fitzroy: Yay.

Firbolg: This is fine.

Rainer: Um, and I wanted to talk to you, Master Firbolg. I'm going to feel really weird calling you Master Firbolg the whole time.

Firbolg: Yes, is cumbersome.

Rainer: Yes. I thought of a name for you that... I mean, not everybody needs to use it, but I would like to use it if it's okay.

Firbolg: This is fine.

Rainer: I was wondering if I could call you... Yew. Like, Y-E-W.

Firbolg: This is very confusing.

Rainer: Well, I figured it would be a smooth transition.

Fitzroy: Now, hold on just a minute there, hot shot. You think you can just wander into the naming-the-big-Firbolg game? Me and Argo have been at this for months now. It's a tough racket.

Justin: What did you settle on? Out of character. What did you settle on? What have you guys been using? Master Firbolg all the time?

Clint: Well, we had a Furby. We had Furby.

Griffin: Furby. Bud seems to have taken purchase.

Clint: We had Bud. Bud was... eh, Bud was in the early run.

Fitzroy: Uh, by the way, Firbolg, I have come up with a new contender for today. And you let me know what you think. Dr. Mushrooms?

Argo: [slow claps]

Firbolg: This... this I like. Dr. Mushrooms.

Rainer: Do we have to say the whole name every time?

Firbolg: I would—is respect.

Fitzroy: He did not go to mushroom medical school for eight years for you not to use his full name!

Rainer: But yes, but at that point, Master Firbolg is as short, if not easier to say, than Dr. Mushrooms.

Fitzroy: It is the same number of—it's the same number of syllables. It's a lateral move!

Rainer: Okay. Well, Dr. Mushroom it is for now. Uh... okay.

Fitzroy: Mushrooms. It's multiple. We don't want to box him in.

Rainer: Dr. Mushrooms. Excuse me. How about just Fun Guy?

Argo: [laughs]

Firbolg: Ohh. Ooh.

Argo: He's a fun guy! Ha ha!

Rainer: Okay. Dr. Mushrooms it is. Oh! Um, we seem to have reached the town. Um, here we are, Last Hope. Would everybody like to go... shopping?

Fitzroy: Yes!!

Rainer: Montage!

Travis: Except not, 'cause this is an audio medium. And I guess you could do an audio montage, but it would just be music playing, right? Anyways.

Clint: Yeah.

Griffin: I can't believe I found the ancient wizard staff of infinite power and got it for such a good price! And now, I level me up to 20 all in one big montage!

Travis: Wow!

[music plays]

Travis: In town, there are two main shops. One offering clothing and accessories for every range of event, from field work to royal events, and one offering all manner of tomes and other scholarly supplies from all over the world. The second shop doesn't appear to have a sign, so do you want to shop at Barns and Nobles, or the unnamed shop?

Griffin: Oh jeeze.

Justin: Woof. Woofs-a-daisy.

Travis: Hey, Griffin fucking called his shop Fantasy Costco! I justified mine!

Griffin: And inspired a generation in doing so.

Travis: But mine—it's for people who work on a field or royal events! It's Barns and Nobles!

Justin: What's the name of the other one?

Travis: It's unnamed.

Griffin: He couldn't think of a funny.

Justin: [laughs] Travis fuckin' said Barns and Nobles out loud and blacked out.

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: He just came to two minutes before recording.

Griffin: [laughing]

Travis: The stores are side by side. Um, out front, there are all sorts of signs, comparing each other's deals in a disparaging way, and some of the signs are downright nasty. So, which one do you want to enter?

Griffin: Uh, which—you've—to part the curtain a bit, you have sent us lists of items submitted by our listeners.

Travis: Correct.

Griffin: In which store window do I spy a beautiful, brilliant cloak?

Travis: That would be Barns and Nobles.

Griffin: I'm in there. I'm in there like swimwear.

Travis: Do you all go in together, or are you going into separate stores?

Clint: Aw, let's stay together.

Justin: Yeah, I'll follow.

Clint: We get so little time together anymore.

Travis: When you enter the shop, you immediately realize that it's actually one shop with two different storefronts, and down the middle is painted a bright red line. The armor and accessories counter is run by one of the mousefolk, while the book and supply side is run by a Tabaxi, which is a cat person.

Griffin: I'm on that cloak. I'm like... you all see me, and then you don't see me anymore, 'cause I'm on this cloak that I spotted through the shop window that I must have. I must have it for my collection.

Small Voice: Oh, hello!

[pause]

Small Voice: You're here! Oh, customers! Excellent! Excellent!

Griffin: This—

Clint: Is that the cat?

Griffin: Which one is that?

Travis: What? You—if you had to guess which one the super high-pitched voice is, do you think it's the mouse or the cat?

Griffin: Probably the mouse.

Travis: Yeah.

Fitzroy: Hey uh, this is a real nice shop you've got here, and I will take this. Cloak. How much is it? Now. Tell me.

Mousefolk: Oh! Well, that cloak... let me see...

Travis: I need to be careful that I don't go into Festo.

Griffin: It's tough.

Travis: I know.

Mousefolk: Why, that is a cloak of classiness! It's 125 gold pieces!

Fitzroy: It's—it is? Man, I wish you hadn't told me the name, 'cause it looks great, and it looks classiness, but then, it's called classiness in the name, which is... ironically, not very classiness, it feels like.

Mousefolk: Ah, but let me tell you a little bit about it! It's crafted from the finest quality wool! Incredibly soft to the touch, and extraordinarily beautiful, as you can see!

Fitzroy: I know, I—yeah, I'm seeing and feeling it.

Mousefolk: It will fit the wearer perfectly, and accentuate their best physical features! Any person you interact with—

Fitzroy: My calves?

Mousefolk: Oh yeah! Any person you interact with will think you are an extremely classiness dresser, despite what the rest of your outfit may be comprised of!

Travis: It also—this is Travis. It gives you plus two to charisma.

Griffin: Uh, I've just realized—

Mousefolk: It was crafted by the designer, Katie Noth!

Fitzroy: Oh. Yes.

Travis: That was who submitted it.

Fitzroy: This is a Kate—this is a genuine Katie Noth?!

Mousefolk: Indeed!

Fitzroy: Uh, how much did you say? 125?

Mousefolk: 125 gold!

Fitzroy: [laughs] For a Noth? Ohh. Were you born in a... barn?

Mousefolk: And Nobles!

Fitzroy: Okay. Yes, I will have this.

Justin: The mouse was born here?

Travis: Yes. It's a family shop.

Fitzroy: There's placenta everywhere!

Mousefolk: I wasn't born in this—I was born upstairs, in the upstairs apartments!

Fitzroy: Mm. Okay.

Mousefolk: So... so are you gonna take it, or...

Fitzroy: It's already on my body. Look. It's great, isn't it?

Mousefolk: Oh! Your calves look amazing!

Fitzroy: I don't even know how that's possible, but yes. A cloak, I think, would explicitly either hide the calves or not interact with them at all, but yeah.

Mousefolk: Oh no, it really shows them off!

Fitzroy: Yeah, this let meat is poppin'.

Travis: Um, and you also, now that you're in the shop, you can shop from either side. You just have to go to the two different counters.

Clint: Um, hmm... in our—we were in this uh, tavern of training. The training tavern. And I chopped at a skeleton with my sword, and it got a little chip in it. Do you have any kind of weaponry here, mouse person?

Jerry: Uh, my name is Geraldine. You can call me Jerry. Um, yeah!

Griffin: Oh, motherfucker!

Clint: Oh no...

Justin: Yeah. Fucking good, dude.

Clint: [laughs]

Jerry: What's wrong? Huh?

Justin: Fucking good. It's me, Justin. I was over here lookin' at the windbreakers. I just want to say, that's fuckin' good, dude.

Griffin: [laughing]

Clint: [laughing]

Justin: Is your—is your boy named Tom over there? Is that Tom?

Tom: Hey, what? Somebody say my name?

Justin: Fuckin' choice, man. Anyway, I gotta go. Bye.

Griffin: [laughs]

Tom: Bye Justin! See ya again tomorrow!

Justin: My dad's picking me up outside. [laughing]

Clint: Come on, Juice! Come on, let's go! We got planes to go jump into!

Justin: Dude, babe, you'll never guess what the fuck these guys are called in there. I'll tell you on the way.

Clint: Okay. Come on.

Justin: You're gonna fuckin' bust up.

Clint: Put this 8-track in. Yeah.

Justin: You better let me drive, 'cause you're gonna bust up so bad.

Clint: Alright. Let's go!

Jerry: Anyways, as I was sayin'! Yeah, we got this blade here. Uh, it's got a wide cross guard that has a floral pattern engraved on it, which protects its owners hands, like a cross guard does. And there's a crystal sphere on each side of the cross guard that can be enchanted with magic that adds plus three to attack rolls! Now, without the enchantment, of course, the orbs just sparkle nicely in the sunlight. It's called the Florence.

Argo: The what?

Jerry: It's called Florence. It was designed by the weaponry designer, Marissa. And that, right there, that's 200 gold pieces.

Griffin: So it just always adds plus three to attack rolls?

Jerry: Well, it's got two charges. Uh, and they can only be used twice a day.

Griffin: Okay.

Argo: So, does each bauble... does each sphere add plus three, so I have plus six?

Jerry: No, you can use one sphere at a time, plus three per sphere. Two charges per day.

Argo: Alright. What's it hit for if it's not charged?

Jerry: The same as your regular attack roll bonus with any sword.

Argo: Three. Three. Yeah, three.

Jerry: Don't make me speak in game mechanics, it's weird!

Argo: Can I try it out? Can I, y'know, get the feel of the thing?

Jerry: I mean. Yeah, don't swing it at anybody.

Argo: Well, how else am I gonna get the feel for it? Balance it on my nose?

Jerry: Okay—

Fitzroy: I should step in here and say, my alignment does dictate that I should point out that he is a rogue. And so like, just think about—just have that in mind. And please, Argo, I hope you—

Jerry: Okay, let's put it this way. You can hold it. If it disappears or breaks, you bought it.

Fitzroy: Yes, exactly.

Argo: Hm. Well, alright. I tell you what. Just let me hold it. Let me get the... oh, that's nice. Oh, that's real—that feels like it was made for my hand. Um... how much is it?

Jerry: 200 gold pieces.

Argo: Would you take... 199?

Jerry: No! This is—it's 200 gold pieces! That's how much it costs! This whole world is based on accounting! You think I'm gonna barter? What are you, some kind of monster?

Firbolg: Why would you make the math?

Argo: Would you take...

Firbolg: Oh god.

Argo: 198?

Jerry: I—I will take either the sword back, or 200 gold pieces.

Argo: 200 gold. Jeeze. Whatever happened to the customer's always right?

Jerry: I've never heard that before!

Argo: I'll take it.

Jerry: Deal!

Firbolg: I will have the camera glasses.

Jerry: Excuse me?

Firbolg: The glasses, uhh... that take a picture.

Jerry: Oh! You mean the spectacles of sustaining!

Firbolg: I will have this.

Jerry: Okay, well, they're fragile, so be careful. Uh, as you can see, they're circular glasses that, when rolling a d20 – whatever that means, I'm just reading the tag – uh, plus intelligence. Should the roll be higher than 12, you may capture an image of whatever the user is looking at for later use and research. And those were, of course, designed by JD!

Firbolg: I will have them.

Jerry: Okay! 50 gold, please!

Firbolg: Mmm.

Travis: And uhh, you see Leon has picked up, on the other side, over at the book and supply side, a jar of glue. Um, as well as a trapper keeper. Now, the glue... it's glue. Uh, it can glue any two objects together. You roll 1d6 to see how well the glue holds. On a six, it will hold forever. One, it falls apart immediately. Anything between is on a, y'know, scale, determined by me.

Griffin: Wait, why are the NPCs buying things?

Travis: We have money, too. Y'know, we can use it.

Clint: This is a free market economy.

Griffin: Yeah, that's fair.

Travis: Yeah. What? They're gonna get lines of credit and not buy stuff? That doesn't make a lick of sense.

Griffin: Sorry, Travis ref—I'm still dazed from Travis referring to all of his NPCs as 'we.' It was fucking chilling, Trav.

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: Hey, they come out of my brain, son! Okay. Uh, and the trapper keeper is small enough to fit in a satchel, and the box can contain a creature of small or smaller size. Uh, and those were by Logan Wyant and Joan Arkham.

Clint: What, uh—how much money do we have each?

Travis: 200.

Clint: Oh.

Griffin: You done burnt yours.

Clint: I'm done.

Griffin: Do you need—do you need more money? I have money.

Argo: Well, I was just—I was lookin' at—they've got these notebooks over here. Didja—I mean, aren't we gonna—

Tom: Oh, yeah, hey. Uh, yeah. Come over here. I've got all the interesting stuff over here. Come—ignore my sister. Come over here. Shop with me.

Argo: Wait. You're a cat. Right?

Tom: Uh-huh? Yes.

Argo: A merchant cat named Tom.

Tom: Correct.

Argo: And your sister is a mouse.

Tom: Correct. I was adopted.

Argo: I love this reality. Uh, tell me about these notebooks, will ya?

Tom: Well, uh, which notebook you lookin'—you lookin' at that notebook of farspeech there?

Argo: Sure.

Tom: Well, it's a pair of magically bound notebooks. If you write on the last page—you can use the beginning part of the notebook like a regular notebook. But if you write on the last page of either notebook, it makes whatever is written appear on the same page of the other notebook. And then, it disappears from both notebooks after one minute. So, y'know, you can write notes to each other and stay in contact and all of that. Of course, that's designed by Daniel Edgerton Dickey, and it's 25 gold pieces.

Fitzroy: A genuine Dickey?!

Tom: Well, Edgerton Dickey, but yes.

Argo: I know I've spent all my money, but y'know, fellas, this could come in real handy for like, cheatin' on tests.

Tom: Now, I will just let you know, lot of them professors up at the school, they have spells that kind of shut it down during test time. So...

Argo: Well, they may have other uses. I mean, it would be nice, y'know, to stay in touch with each other. Y'know...

Firbolg: Yes.

Fitzroy: If we are separated on this mission, it may be prudent. So, um, sure. I'll pick up, also, the notebooks of farspeech, and Argo, you may keep the other one.

Travis: Okay, so, that means Clint, you have spent your 200. Griffin, you're up to 150. Now, Justin, you've only spent 50. Is there anything else you would like?

Firbolg: I would like this novelty Gary.

Tom: Oh, yeah!

Clint: [laughs]

Tom: That's great! The portable Gary!

Firbolg: Souvenir

Tom: Well, it's... I mean, it's not just a souvenir. That's enchanted—

Firbolg: It's magnet.

Tom: —by the wizard Wilky.

Fitzroy: Is a magnet.

Tom: No. It—no, it has three charges, and you—

Firbolg: Shot glass.

Tom: No. You use an action, and you can spend one of those three charges to ask it a question, uh, and it works just like, y'know, a regular Gary, except it's portable. It'll answer you as truthfully as Gary can, and—

Firbolg: All Garies are portable if you believe.

Fitzroy: [laughs]

Tom: Okay. And then, if it spends eight hours in the same room with another Gary, it'll charge all back up. So it's just, y'know, it's useful. That's a good get right there.

Firbolg: Yes, I—I will—I will take the tiny Gary.

Tom: Excellent!

Clint: Do we have to give it another name? I mean, because if they're in the same room, and...

Travis: They are all Gary.

Clint: Yeah. I know, that's—

Travis: They are all Gary!

Griffin: Uh, I want to... you said we could also buy things from the, like, player's handbook? Right?

Travis: Correct, from just regular supplies.

Griffin: I am going to... I think after the bear fight, and raging out, and y'know, cuttin' it up with a sword, I realize that uh, I just shouldn't have a sword on me as long as I have this rage inside. So I left that behind. Uh, I want to find a maul in this—which shop would a maul be in?

Travis: Oh, that would be over—

Clint: No, no, the shop would be in the mall.

Justin: Okay, you're confused.

Travis: Oh, that's a good joke! Hey! Good work, everybody! It would be over with the clothing, weapons, and accessories.

Griffin: I want to find one—a maul is basically just a long-ass hammer. Or a long—just some—long-ass anything with a big heavy thing on the end.

Justin: So you're worried about your outbursts of rage, so you're buying yourself a huge hammer?

Griffin: I don't want to cut—I don't want to cut and stab. That was very visceral and very crass.

Travis: He wants to smash and whack.

Griffin: I want to smash and whack.

Justin: Okay, got it.

Griffin: But I find a good maul. Nice one, with the most sort of... magical looking weight at the end of it. Uh, and I bring it over, and I say...

Fitzroy: I will have this magical staff, please.

Jerry: Oh, okay! Well, that's—that's a maul. Uh, it's not so much a staff.

Fitzroy: Excuse me! I know magic. I glow a certain color when I'm close to it.

Jerry: Do you?

Fitzroy: Yes.

Jerry: Okay. So, that is—that's a ten gold maul, but for 50 gold, I could make it a plus one maul. Throw a little enchantment on there.

Fitzroy: Oh, that'll help me with my fireballs and my, uh—

Jerry: No, this is for hitting.

Fitzroy: For my zap—my dragon zap.

Jerry: This has nothing—it will not help you with your magic. I just want to be—

Fitzroy: 50 gold it is.

Jerry: Okay.

Justin: So you're worried about your outbursts of rage, so you bought yourself a hammer, and then... [snorts] Decided to upgrade to the more damaging hammer? Is that where we're at?

Griffin: It's not—it will only be a hammer when it needs to be a hammer.

Justin: [sighs] Well, when all—when everything around you is nails, everything you have is a hammer.

Griffin: Specifically, the hammer. That I have.

Travis: Anything else, fellas?

Firbolg: I will have the glue.

Jerry: Oh, you want some glue, too? Okay, you're gonna have to head over and talk to my brother about that.

Justin: Did someone already buy the glue?

Travis: Well, there's—it's glue. There's multiple glues. It's a supply shop. Why would they just have one glue?

Justin: I don't know.

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: No, they have multiple glue.

Justin: Fucking sell me a glue, then.

Tom: Okay, yeah. Here, that's a glue for 25 gold.

Firbolg: Thank you.

Fitzroy: Just want to point out my incredibly powerful magical staff is worth two glue.

Justin: [laughs]

Fitzroy: Just saying, this shop has a wild ways of valuing things.

Tom: Listen, it's all about supply and demand, y'know? Okay, anything else for you, fellas?

Firbolg: God, no. Please.

Tom: Okay.

[music plays]

Travis: Hi everybody, it's me, your best friend, dungeon master, and all around cool dude, Travis McElroy! I hope you all are enjoying episode four of The Adventure Zone: Graduation. I've got a lot of information to share with you, so I'm gonna jump right in.

First, you may have missed it, but we're doing an Adventure Zone: Balance board game. It's a cooperative storytelling card game. It's incredibly fun, rules-light, easy to learn. You don't need a dungeon master. Everybody creates their own characters. It expands on the world of Balance, and you can preorder it now at TheAdventureZoneGame.com.

We made it with Twogether Studios, who you may know. They also are the ones who made Illimat, which is one of my favorite board games ever. That preorder is going to be going, uh, for about another month. A little over a month now. But go ahead and get yours. TheAdventureZoneGame.com. It's super fun, and also, people are going to be doing like, live streams of it to demonstrate how to play it, so we'll be tweeting about those and announcing those. So make sure you check that out.

And also, another big announcement – our first live shows of 2020 are coming up. So, both shows are in Cincinnati, and there's a very good reason for that. At that point, I will have a kid who's about six weeks old, so I'm not up to traveling. So we're gonna do shows, but we're gonna do them in my home town.

So, Cincinnati. February 19th, we're doing My Brother, My Brother, and Me, and February 20th, we're doing The Adventure Zone. Uh, tickets go on sale this Friday, December 20th, at noon local time. So that'll be noon Eastern. If you want to see the links and everything, they'll be up at McElroy.family, and you can click on 'tours,' and they'll be right there. Don't miss it. It's gonna be super fun.

Also, uh, had a bunch of names in this episode. Kale, the placement teacher, was named for Kale Hinthorn, [@its_me_kale](https://twitter.com/its_me_kale). Jaryd Reginald was named for Jaryd Koning, [@Jarydstrange](https://twitter.com/Jarydstrange) on Twitter. Candice is named for Candice Ford, [@candicat](https://twitter.com/candicat). And Jade Johnson, who you will meet shortly, is named for Jade Johnson, I believe, [@papyskele](https://twitter.com/papyskele). And thank you to everybody who sent in items for Barns and Nobles. Uh, we got literally thousands. So, thank you so much.

One last announcement – the next ep will be another live one for Candlesnights, and then we'll be back in the new year with episode five. Uh, before I let you go, I want to tell you about Quip.

I love Quip so much. It makes my teeth feel wonderful. It's nice to pamper your teeth from time to time, and it's the holiday season, it's not too late to get quip for someone you love, including yourself. You should love yourself. They have... uh, okay. So, they're toothbrushes. I'm sure you know about these, 'cause you're listening to podcasts.

They have gentle vibrations and a built-in timer to help you with your dental health. But they also now have floss dispensers with pre-marked strings. That's amazing. So join over three million happy customers and check everyone off your gift list right now with Quip. Go to [GetQuip.com/Adventure](https://www.getquip.com/adventure) to save on gift sets and to get your first refill free with a refill plan.

That's your first refill free at [GetQuip.com/Adventure](https://www.getquip.com/adventure).
[GetQuip.com/Adventure](https://www.getquip.com/adventure). Let's get back to the show.

[music plays]

Travis: And as you finish up your shopping trip, Rainer and uh, Buckminster pop back in, and Buckminster says...

Buckminster: Uh, yes, if you're all done shopping, I think we might have a lead here. We heard tell that the owner of the mine is over at the tavern here.

Fitzroy: Uh, I feel like we should be following the hero and villain lead on this one, but I—

Buckminster: That's a good impulse. Yes, I'd follow that. Yes, I'd stay with that, since we are technically, y'know, your boss?

Fitzroy: Yeah. Yep.

Buckminster: Yeah.

Travis: Uh, so, the six of you head on over to the local tavern, Springs Eternal.

Griffin: That's very good.

Travis: Thank you! Now, Springs Eternal is the local tavern, and it's run by... you all know this. Everyone knows this. By Barb the Bartender. Now, as

you head in, you notice that, on a perch above the bar is a spectral hawk, um, looking exactly like it's made of the same stuff as Snippers.

Fitzroy: Snippers, go see what that hawk's all about.

Snippers: [crab sounds]

Fitzroy: And report back to me promptly! No—no sauce. No booze, Snippers. You're on the clock.

Travis: Okay. Snippers walks over to the bar, looks up, and walks back and says...

Snippers: [crab sounds]

Fitzroy: Ahh, just as I suspected! I still can't understand a thing this thing says.

Snippers: [crab sounds]

Argo: [laughs]

Fitzroy: I love you too.

Firbolg: I will speak with it. Greetings.

Snippers: Arr?

Justin: So who—okay. Who—what is—who else is with them?

Travis: It's Barb's familiar.

Justin: Barb.

Firbolg: This is a very nice hawk.

Barb: Oh, well, thank you very much.

Firbolg: We are here on... business?

Barb: Yeah. You're from the school. I'm not surprised.

Travis: And she still hasn't turned around at this point. She's still cleaning up in the back bar area.

Firbolg: Well, uh...

Justin: Why am I the one who is taking the lead on this? Please, for the love of Christ.

Griffin: I don't know, but I love it.

Justin: Someone else, please, who has proficiency in discussing things with people. This is actually a fair question, Travis. What is the... what is the dynamic, vis-à-vis like, agency between the heroes, villains, sidekicks, henchmen? Like, would they not take the lead in a situation like this?

Travis: The general, uh, rule, is that when it's in the beginning stages of a scouting trip or information gathering or anything like that, the sidekicks and henchpeople go first, so that if there is any issue, if there's any trouble with the locals, then the heroes and villains can step in and chastise their sidekicks and henchpeople and look like the good ones.

Justin: Okay.

Travis: So it's plausible deniability at this point. Um, so a lot of the information—a lot of the footwork is done by the workers.

Justin: Okay.

Fitzroy: Kombucha, please! Straight up.

Barb: We don't got that.

Fitzroy: You don't 'buch?

Barb: No.

Justin: [laughs]

Fitzroy: Hmm... I suppose some sparkling Yerba Mate is also out of the question.

Barb: No, we got that.

Fitzroy: Oh, okay. One sparkling Yerba Mate please.

Travis: Uh, and she turns around—

Fitzroy: Straight up!

Travis: And kind of cocks her head to the side and peers at you through dark glasses and says...

Barb: Yeah. What other way is there to drink a sparkling Yerba Mate? Come on.

Travis: And slides it down the bar to you.

Fitzroy: I didn't actually know what Yerba Mate was when I ordered this. I just thought it sounded elegant, and I don't know if you can tell from—

Barb: Oh, it's a tea.

Fitzroy: Okay.

Barb: Pretty earthy. Uh, and y'know, it ain't cheap. That's five gold.

Fitzroy: Oh. Uh... I'll have it for free.

Griffin: And I gesture to my cloak.

Fitzroy: I'm an influencer.

Clint: [laughs]

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: Okay, make—[laughs] I don't know. A performance check?

Justin: Influencer check?

Travis: An influencer check?

Griffin: Would you not say I am trying to persuade?

Travis: Yeah, persuasion check. That sounds great.

Griffin: That's a 13 plus five. An 18. You should not have given me this fuckin' cloak.

Travis: I realize that now.

Barb: Uh, well I didn't realize. I thought you was just one of them students from up at that creepy ass school.

Fitzroy: Sure. It's a slice of life blog that I do as a student.

Barb: What's it called?

Fitzroy: Uh, it's called Sir Fitzroy Maplecourt, Knight in Absentia of the Realm of Goodcastle's Excellent Adventure.

Justin: [laughs]

Barb: You could probably come up with like, a more succinct way of doing that.

Clint: Well, it leaves like, seven words for the blog.

Fitzroy: Well, uh, I'm the influencer, so I'll decide the title.

Justin: [laughing] Dad making a fucking wild assumption about how the internet works, he bets.

Griffin: [laughing]

Fitzroy: Uh, say, we are here to investigate a certain flare up. A real hullabaloo down at the mine. Would you happen to know any—

Barb: Yeah, yeah. I was expecting they'd send some of you students down and, I don't know, you do your weird stuff, and fix it or whatever.

Firbolg: [sighs] This is good.

Fitzroy: Sounds like you're not a big fan of our institution.

Barb: No, that school creeps me the hell out. Are you kiddin' me?

Firbolg: Why?

Barb: Why does it creep me o—well, uh, it's a big ol' castle set between a terrifying forest and a deadly chasm. They teach people how to be villains. There's haunted skeletons there. Uh, and just in general, I don't trust them. They're teaching people how to do magic and stuff for money. It's weird and I don't like it.

Argo: It sounds like the kind of people that would need a strong drink on a pretty regular basis. I would say that's a pretty nice customer base for you.

Barb: Alright. That doesn't mean I have to like what they do at the school. I appreciate the business, but I get business from the town, y'know what I mean? Like, yeah, the coin spends. That doesn't mean I trust anybody from that school. It's—listen, I've been up there. They've shown people from the town around. I've seen it. I get it, and I understand how the economy works, and I know it's necessary. Doesn't mean I ain't skeezed out by that school.

Firbolg: You understand how the economy works. Um... could you explain to me in short?

Argo: [laughs]

Firbolg: Sum up? Eh?

Barb: Yeah. You give me money for drinks, and then I give you drinks. What are you havin'?

Fitzroy: I—I will say, Dr. Mushrooms, that there are exceptions to that rule, apparently.

Firbolg: I will have... um... [sighs] Help.

Digitized Voice: Some stuff I can do—

Justin: No, not you, Siri.

Clint: [laughs]

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: Were you asking for Gary?

Justin: No, not Siri. Not Gary either. No, um... okay, does this person—is this person representing one of the factions that we need to like—

Travis: Nope.

Justin: —smooth things over with, or are they just a bartender?

Travis: Just a bartender.

Justin: Do we know who's leading the factions?

Travis: Um, no. You know that they're here somewhere.

Justin: In the bar?

Travis: Yes.

Justin: Both of them?

Travis: Um, well, you've only gotten lead on one of them, but you assume one of them will know where the other one is.

Justin: The boss of the mining company is here?

Travis: Correct.

Firbolg: Where is the boss of the mine?

Barb: Ohh, yeah, you're lookin' for... you're lookin' for Jaryd. Uh...

Travis: And you see the hawk look left and right, and then, uh, lock onto a person sitting at a table, and she says...

Barb: Yeah, he's sittin' over there at the back. Uh, yeah, the table, uh... you're looking for the one right next to the fireplace there.

Firbolg: Thank you.

Barb: You're welcome.

Griffin: I pick up Snippers and start petting his chitin and say...

Fitzroy: Oh, I see you went with a hawk, did you? Hm. Interesting.

Barb: Yeah, the eyesight helps.

Fitzroy: Oh, yes, I'm sure. Uh, too bad about the chitin, though.

Barb: Well, he doesn't get into a lot of fights. Mostly just sits there on the bar and, y'know, looks out for me.

Fitzroy: Oh, it's a good thing he doesn't get into fights without his powerful claws!

Barb: Okay. He does have talons, so let's slow your roll there. Take it down about 15%.

Justin: This is close. We almost had narrative momentum. Bullet dodged. We almost were going to move things forward.

Griffin: [laughing] Let's all of us go talk to the boss of the mining company.

Travis: As you walk over to the boss, you see that there is also someone sitting at the table behind him. They are sitting more or less back to back. This person is dressed as you might expect someone who works in a mine to be dressed. Uh, and the two of them clearly are pointedly ignoring each other.

Fitzroy: Is—which of you is Jaryd?

Jaryd: Uh, yes, I am Jaryd. How can I help you?

Fitzroy: Who—which one speak—oh, the one speaking is Jaryd. Hi Jaryd.

Jaryd: Yes. I'm the one in the fancy dress clothes.

Fitzroy: Yes, Jaryd. Are you sure this isn't a Padme situation, and that one's really Jaryd?

Jaryd: Yes. Why do people always ask me if this is a Padme situation? Yes, I am Jaryd Reginald, owner of Reginald Ore.

Argo: Or what?

Firbolg: Reginald or what?

Jaryd: Ah, see, I always wait for everyone to make that joke. It's just O-R-E. Reginald Ore. We are a mining company. We own the magical mine, as well as several other mining properties around the area.

Fitzroy: Uh, cool. So, hey, uh, we're here from the school.

Jaryd: Yes, I assumed so.

Fitzroy: So all your ans—all your problems... are sol—are solved. We're here.

Jaryd: Excellent. Maybe you can talk some sense into Candice.

Candice: Now, don't go sayin' that.

Travis: Says the person sitting behind him.

Candice: I'm the one who's speakin' sense, and you're the one who ain't listenin'!

Fitzroy: Candice.

Argo: Ahoy, Madame. My name is uh, Argo Keene. Uh, may I join you at your table?

Candice: I mean, I guess?

Argo: Thank you so much. May I get you a libation, or—they have a whole thing of limes up there. Would you like a lime?

Fitzroy: What is wrong with you?

Candice: You know what, I'm going to cancel the "I guess" for you sitting here. That's gonna be a no now.

Argo: Ahh, what about cocktail peanuts? [laughs] No one says no to cocktail peanuts! Am I right?

Candice: Okay, you can go.

Argo: Well I'm not hittin' on ya. I'm just uh, strikin' up a conversation.

Candice: Okay, 'cause it was really reading like you were hitting on me.

Argo: No, no no. No, I'm with them. I'm with the nice lookin' fella in the cloak.

Candice: Okay.

Fitzroy: Yes, it's a nice cloak. So uh, what's the issue between the two of you?

Jaryd: Oh, I just assumed you would know.

Travis: Says Jaryd Reginald.

Fitzroy: I mean, is it a, y'know, labor exploitation thing, or... are you—are you one of those one percenter types who is bleeding—

Jaryd: No! This is an insurance liability issue.

Fitzroy: Explain what that means for someone who might have negative one intelligence.

Clint: [snorts]

Jaryd: [sighs] Okay. Well, um, the workers—

Candice: Now, if you're gonna tell the story, you gotta start at the beginning.

Jaryd: Okay, Candice... [clears throat] The mine was not producing as it once did. Uh, it is the problem with mining crystals, or any kind of ore, that once you reach the end of the vein, that's it.

Travis: And Candice says...

Candice: And so, he told us to keep digging. Dig further than we'd ever dug before.

Jaryd: Ah—whether I told you to dig further, or said dig more—that's—okay. So then, the miners dug... too deep, and seemed to... have unleashed something. Um... and now, we are unable to mine anymore... and we need to file an insurance claim. And... we are... if it is my fault, then I get paid nothing. And the mine workers get compensation.

Travis: And Candice says...

Candice: And if it's my fault, our fault, then the workers receive no compensation, and the insurance claim is paid out to Jaryd.

Fitzroy: I see. And... what about, uh, y'know, defeating whatever being you seem to have unleashed down there? And just going back to work?

Travis: Uh, and Candice says...

Candice: Well, that would be lovely, but it's a big old sucker, and nasty, too. Lots of teeth, pretty big... more arms than you'd expect. And it seems to

eat rocks and crystals and stuff. It—I don't think it's an easy one. And he wasn't alone. There was a whole mess of little lava suckers with him, too. It's nothin' I'm really capable of handlin'.

Firbolg: Who's fault... is it?

Travis: And they say, simultaneously...

Candice and Jaryd: Their fault!

Firbolg: Mm, this is confusing. Argo, please try.

Argo: What if... what if we could find somebody else to be at fault?

Firbolg: [laughs] This is good!

Argo: What if there was someone else to blame? Someone who took all the responsibility for that—for that monster?

Jaryd: Now, excuse me, but who exactly would you mean here?

Argo: I'm—you mean who am I saying we would accuse of being wrong?

Jaryd: Yes.

Argo: The monster. Seems to me like that's who's at fault here. I mean, listen – insurance companies, they're good people. They're in it to help. They're in it to make sure that when something bad happens to you, just like a good neighbor, they're there.

Justin: [laughs]

Argo: So I think you can count on your insurance company of being completely understanding of there being a monster down in the—down in the mine!

Fitzroy: I am so deeply into this, Argo. We will deliver the subpoena to the monster, first hand, just so the insurance company—

Argo: Yeah, see!

Fitzroy: —will blame them. This is a—this is foolproof.

Travis: And Reginald says...

Jaryd: Well, of course. Yes, that is an option, but you will need to hand it directly to the monster and get proof that the monster received it.

Argo: I—we can—we can do that. Um... right? I mean... I—my Firbolg friend here, um, Professor... what was it?

Fitzroy: Dr. Mushrooms!

Argo: Dr. M—yes. Has um, has a wonderful affinity with living creatures, and uh, and a pair of glasses that takes pictures. Hey! There you go! Right? Right?

Firbolg: Yes.

Argo: Yes! So...

Firbolg: This is uhhhh... in my wheelhouse.

Argo: Yeah! So let's go on down there and talk some sense into this monster and say, "Hey, look. You know what you did, and um—"

Fitzroy: Now, hold on.

Justin: I'm sorry, I need to clarify. Is our plan to go to the monster and serve them a subpoena? Is that what is happening?

Griffin: It's legally binding. When you serve a subpoena, that's legally binding. You have to say—you have to confirm they are who they are, and then you say, "You got served," and give them the subpoena, and then we can run away as fast as we possibly can. Mission accomplished.

Justin: Okay. [laughs]

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: When you say it like that with that much authority and speed, it all seems to add up.

Griffin: And I mean, I'm not—that's how real world law works. I'm just saying what I know from real world law school that I went to.

Travis: So, listen. Guys? I love this. Um, so I guess you need to stop by a local lawyer.

Justin: [laughing]

Travis: And get a subpoena drawn up for a monster.

Argo: I mean, how—how legally pertinent is a monster gonna be, anyway? Couldn't we just like, write up anything?

Firbolg: Fucking roll him. [laughs]

Travis: And Reginald looks horrified.

Jaryd: Are you—but then it wouldn't be legal! Then we'd have issues with our insurance! No, it must be all above board.

Firbolg: [laughing] Yes. We will serve the mon—

Justin: What kind of monster is it?

Clint: Teeth. We just know teeth.

Travis: Teeth. Eats rocks and crystals. Uh, extra arms is all they told you.

Clint: And has babies.

Griffin: Can I roll a nature check to see if I know what that is?

Travis: Uh, you can. Are you best suited to do the nature check?

Griffin: Fuckin' no. I have a negative one.

Travis: Okay, well, Justin asked the question, so why wouldn't he do the nature check?

Justin: Yeah, I have a plus zero on nature, though. Is anybody better at nature? It seems weird, right? I know. It seems weird, but...

Clint: Actually, Argo has plus two on nature. [laughs]

Travis: Whoa!

Justin: Perfect.

Griffin: I think Argo's the only one with any intelligence.

Clint: That's true. Alright, here we go. Uh, that is a... 13 plus two. 15.

Travis: So Argo, um, here's the thing. Based on that description, and the fact that you have an elemental background, you probably have been—had some extra study in the world of elementals, you know that the monster they're describing sounds a lot like a Xorn. X-O-R-N.

The Xorn are elemental creatures who travel through the earth, and they uh, they swim through the earth like a fish swims through water. They eat rocks

and crystals, and they will become more and more violent the hungrier and hungrier they get.

Griffin: You've chosen an extremely Georgia O'Keefe monster for us to fight against, Travis, I hope you know this. Just look at it. Just lookin' at pics of Xorns.

Travis: Yeah. I didn't think about that until you said it, but... yeah.

Griffin: `Kay. `Kay.

Clint: So does Argo need to reiterate that, or can we just say that...

Travis: Yeah. You shared the information. Great job everybody. Good information sharing all around. Now, I will also say, because uh, of your role, and once again, elemental, the small lava suckers that Candice described earlier, you're willing to bet are probably a band of Magmin. M-A-G-M-I-N.

Griffin: Um, clear something up. Is the mine owner the one offering us this—or, who offered the job? Or...

Travis: No. So, the governor of the district commissioned the job. Because right now, there's no, uh... there's no—no money is being produced from the mine. And Reginald Ore owns several mining properties, and while this is at a standstill, there is no mining profits being generated. So the governor wants this resolved, but wants it resolved in such a way that there is no more mine stoppage. Even if this mine is no longer usable, that the other mines will go back into production.

Griffin: Okay.

Clint: And all we have to do is resolve the situation for the school to get the reward.

Travis: Correct.

Griffin: Right. Uh, I look at Rainer and kind of wink, and I say...

Fitzroy: Now, of course, we will be risking our lives, and um, sitting through a meeting with a lawyer that will almost certainly be pretty bad radio. So uh, I expect some sort of compensation for, y'know, the two of you, for finding a nice solution to your quandary. Maybe 25% of the insurance payout, I think, would be fair?

Jaryd: Um, 25 seems a bit high. We're talking about an insurance payout of about ten thousand gold. So... 25% of that, uh, that's 2,500 gold. That's quite high. Um... I might be willing to do... 10%. A thousand gold?

Argo: Well, we have an accountant on our team. What do you think, Firbolg? Is that—

Fitzroy: He has—he has a name, Argo!

Argo: Oh, that's right. What do you think, Bud? Is that a good, uh... is that a good choice?

Jaryd: His name is Dr. Mushrooms. I heard you say it but two minutes ago!

Firbolg: Uh... I need a paper. Pen. Chair.

Argo: Here, I have a—here, here's a notebook. Here.

Firbolg: Table. Time.

Argo: Don't write on the last page. That's the only thing.

Jaryd: Okay, well, while you figure this out, I'm going to go to the restroom.

Firbolg: Is good. Is very good.

Jaryd: Okay, I'm back from the restroom. What did you decide?

Firbolg: Is good.

Jaryd: Oh good. So go stop by the local barrister, and have a subpoena for insurance liability for a monster drawn up. Pretty standard stuff. Uh, and you should be on your way to the mine!

Travis: [laughs] This is going—I have it written right here in my notes. Next step, they meet with lawyer to draft a subpoena of liability to deliver to the monster. It's right there.

Griffin: [laughing] Can I play the lawyer in this scene? "I may be a small town lawyer..."

Clint: [laughs]

Griffin: "But even I know you can't sue a Xorn!"

Travis: "Oh, do you want one of these standard Xorn insurance liability forms?"

Griffin: [laughing]

Clint: "Fill out X one..."

Travis: "Now, let me ask you this. Do you need a blue 38 form, or a blue 39 form? Is the Xorn male or female?"

Clint: Oh, I like how we found Matlock in our fantasy world.

Griffin: Are we gonna do a barrister scene?

Travis: Hell yeah we're gonna do a barrister scene.

Griffin: Shit. Okay.

[long pause]

Travis: So you find yourself in the office of the local lawyer. You've all just sat down, and she introduces herself.

Jade: Hello, I am Jade Johnson, esquire. How may I help you today?

Fitzroy: Well...

Argo: Well, it's... uhh...

Fitzroy: [laughs] We'll have—we'll have the usual.

Jade: Uh... how do you—

Argo: Do you have like a—do you have like a menu board? Anything, y'know, that could help us... we've got this monster, and we need him to stop, uh, terrifying. Do you have a—

Jade: Oh, I'm not—I'm not—sorry. I'm not an adventurer. I'm a lawyer?

Fitzroy: Yeah, so, do you know what insurance liability means?

Jade: Yes, of course. I'm a... lawyer?

Fitzroy: And do you have any of them subpoenas lying around?

Jade: Uh... a subpoena for insurance liability?

Fitzroy: Yeah. You have any of them just lyin' around?

Jade: Um... I mean, I suppose I could... draft one, with proper language.

Fitzroy: Do that, yes, but can you leave the name blank?

Jade: Well, I don't know about that. I mean, we'd have to put something there for it to be a legal subpoena. Is this for one of the town residents?

Argo: Um, we—we're workin' on the name. Could you put a big X? Just, y'know, kind of—

Jade: Well, no, that's not really how subpoenas work. It has to be to someone in order for them to be served.

Firbolg: Iiiis... for Xorn.

Jade: And what's the first name?

Firbolg: Xorn.

Jade: For Xorn Xorn?

Fitzroy: Just one Xorn will probably be fine.

Jade: And what is this Xorn's place of residence?

Fitzroy: Down.

Firbolg: Lower. Is this. Address is low.

Jade: Down low.

Firbolg: Deep. Deep.

Jade: Down low deep. ... Okay.

Argo: Y'know, Downlow Deep. It's a great place.

Jade: Okay.

Travis: And she's like, filling out. She's writing all this down.

Jade: Um, and what is this in reference to?

Firbolg: It... [sighs] Mmm... Xorn create, uh... mayhem?

Jade: Oh.

Firbolg: Is... yes. Xorn make mayhem. Is uhh, very dangerous. And... much damage. Damage. Uhh, and... iiinsurance. This part, I do not understand. Uh, insurance for damage.

Jade: Okay.

Fitzroy: That's certainly more than enough information, yes?

Jade: Uh, yes.

Firbolg: Certainly.

Jade: Yes. Um, let me just notarize this here. Okay, and that will be, uh, ten gold for services rendered.

Fitzroy: Uh, excuse me! [laughs] I'm an influencer!

Justin: [laughs]

Jade: That doesn't... mean anything to me. I'm a lawyer.

Griffin: I twirl. I twirl in my beautiful marigold cloak.

Jade: Okay.

Argo: He's tellin' the truth. He influenced me. See the ponytail? He's the one that told me.

Jade: Listen, I'm the only lawyer for about a hundred miles. I'm not worried about business.

Fitzroy: I don't—I—that was my one plan, guys. Does anybody still have ten gold left?

Argo: No, but y'know what? Here's what I'll do. I tell you what. Because you've been so kind and so nice...

Firbolg: Here is ten gold.

Argo: I will—

Griffin: [laughs]

Argo: Have the Firbolg... I will let the Firbolg give you ten gold.

Jade: Excellent.

Firbolg: Thank you, Argo.

Jade: Okay. Uh, well, here you go. Good luck with whatever this is. Uh, it's time for my next appointment, sooo... bye.

Fitzroy: Okay. No need to be rude about it.

Jade: I'm very busy. Like I said, I'm the only lawyer for mi—you're lucky you got in today. I just happened to have a cancellation at the last minute.

Argo: Can I have some of these mints? Are these mints for anybody, or I mean—

Jade: You can have one.

Argo: One? One? Okay. Thank you.

Jade: You took two! I saw that!

Argo: I'm a rogue.

Jade: Okay.

Clint: [snorts]

Fitzroy: I'm leaving you a very discouraging review on Yelp. Fantasy Yelp. Fyelp.

Jade: Okay.

Fitzroy: "This lawyer is bad and made me feel bad while there! They helped me sue a monster, which was pretty radical, but anyway, she yelled at my friend about some mints. So if that's what you're looking for in your representation, go ahead! No stars!"

Argo: [laughing]

Travis: I'm sorry Griffin, you do have to do at least one star.

Fitzroy: "One star. The least number of stars. Additional details: I tried to leave zero stars and Fyelp wouldn't let me."

Justin: [laughing]

Clint: [laughing]

[music plays]

Travis: The four of you, the three of you and Leon, who has remained very silent, 'cause he's so shy. Y'know? He's so shy and quiet. He likes to be seen and not heard. That's his role. He uh, accompanies the three of you. You catch a cart down to the mine, where you meet Rainer and Buckminster, who have kind of been scouting the area. And Rainer says...

Rainer: So, how'd it go? Uh, do you guys have everything figured out? What's, y'know, what's the score?

Argo: Problem solved!

Firbolg: Is very good plan.

Argo: Good plan.

Fitzroy: We're suing the tooth monster.

Argo: Yes. Technically, you are. You're the heroes and villains.

Firbolg: Yes.

Travis: And Buckminster says...

Buckminster: Wait, hold on. Um... just run that by me just one mo' again.

Fitzroy: We're... delivering a subpoena of insurance liability, which is this, apparently, enchanted piece of paper, to make the tooth monster be guilty for... the mine crimes.

Argo: We've already done the hard part. We met with the lawyer. So, you're welcome.

Firbolg: This is very difficult.

Buckminster: I see. Um... well... huh. Y'know, if you had asked me this morning, what I thought the plan would be, this is not... where I thought it would go, but uh... I mean, it does fulfill... all the criteria. Uh... Rainer? What do you...

Travis: And Rainer says...

Rainer: Well, it seems to me like, yeah, it fits your thing. Uh, Fitzroy, Firbolg, what about... us?

Fitzroy: Oh, we're getting a thousand gold pieces out of the deal. So...

Rainer: Oh, sick!

Argo: Ahh, Fitz, Fitz, Fitz...

Justin: Wait, what was our part of the deal?

Travis: Uh, well—

Griffin: We have to turn it into our own personal gain.

Justin: Ah, okay.

Fitzroy: I figured that that would be sufficient for, I don't know, villainous deeds.

Rainer: Yes, I would say, in general, getting paid to do good... y'know, I guess that could qualify.

Fitzroy: Oh, we don't have to kill the monster. Y'know?

Rainer: Well...

Argo: Just give him a piece of paper.

Rainer: Okay. Yeah. Oh, I'm on board. I think this works great.

Argo: And here, I have here, for each one of you... both hero and villain... a magic mint. Take this mint, and then when you take the paper down into the mine, no harm shall befall ye.

Buckminster: Now, Argo...

Argo: Hm?

Buckminster: Are you – and I'm sorry I have to ask this, but – are you lying?

Argo: I'm just trying to break the mood a little bit. That's what we rogues do.

Buckminster: Okay, 'cause if we believed that, that could be very dangerous. You see that, right?

Argo: [laughs] Just pullin' your legs. Pullin' your—it's something we do at the sea all the time.

Travis: And you hear a gigantic roar from deep within the cave. It's bone-shattering. It rattles your teeth in your skull, and you see glowing, red eyes in the entry. And it steps out of the shadows... and it's about, uh, two and a half feet tall. Looks to be made of flowing magma, and it kind of goes, "Braaar!" at you.

Fitzroy: Excuse—excuse me! We're talking! Sorry, go on, Argo.

Argo: I—I don't think that's the Xorn. I think that's the little Magmin.

Fitzroy: It's frickin' rude, whatever it is.

Argo: Well, it is rude. I mean, I have to admit, it has no sense of etiquette. But still, I...

Travis: And you can tell that it can hear you, and it's offended.

Fitzroy: Oh, sorry. Dr. Mushrooms, can you speak to lava monsters?

Firbolg: I will handle. Uhhhhh... they are rude. We were talking of insurance. Is very complicated.

Travis: And it looks even more offended, and you hear it go, "Ack! Raaa!" And you see about a dozen more sets of red eyes open, and a dozen Magmin step out behind it... and you roll for initiative.

[theme music plays]

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