

The Adventure Zone: Ethersea – Episode 14

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Griffin: Previously on The Adventure Zone Ethersea:

[“The Adventure Zone: Ethersea Theme” music plays]

Amber: Well, hoss. Good news and bad news. Your rock’s gone. Pbbft.

Orlene: What?

Amber: The— I got an infinite bag!

Devo: Yes.

Zoox: Yeah! Put it in the bag!

Devo: Infinite bag.

Amber: [singing] I’ll put the pride in the bag, and your sadness in the bag!

Orlene: Give that to the Hand of Guidance. And, uh. Let her know that you found me, that I’m fine. I’m not ready to go back yet.

Hand of Guidance: You all did quick and excellent work. We will— the Parish will keep you in mind.

Ol’ Uncle Joshy: It’s been... decades since we’ve seen a blink shark. Now we know exactly how many are left.

Rival Brinarr: It’s the crew of the Glory-hole-is!

Griffin: She holds up a blue folder, and you realize it’s one of the jobs that was offered to you. And as their somewhat-gaudy ship dives into the water, its stern rises up, and in that moment, you can see that this ship is named... the Gutpunch. Which rhymes with Butt Munch.

[Ethersea theme music plays out]

Griffin: Amber, Devo, Zoox! You all... have scant time to flip through the, the many fantasy Highlights magazines that are scattered hither and yon in the Bluespan Brokerage waiting zone, also known as a foy-eh, to some people. Or! A foy-err, to other people. Before you're called back into the office of Ravi Montrelle. Who is beaming, ear—

Devo: Oh, Goofus. Goofus is always getting into the trouble with the manticore. You know, Goofus— Gallant knows to stay away from the manticore...

Zoox: [laughs]

Devo: But, ohhh, Goofus, ohhhh.

Griffin: [laughs]

[Bluespan Brokerage theme music plays]

Griffin: You can tell Ravi has just had guests. He is sort of still cleaning up some piles of papers in his office, and as he's filing them away, he hollers at you from over his shoulder, and says,

Ravi: Oh my goodness! If it isn't the Coriolis! Accomplished adventurers! Mission do-ers! I heard from the Parish you all did a bang-up job. And... I had no doubt in my mind! You all are... you all amaze me. Every day.

Devo: Thank you.

Amber: Yeah, that's so sweet, thank you.

Ravi: Yeah. Yeah. So who's ready for another one!? To— take another bite of that success... cookie.

Devo: I love cookies.

Ravi: Sure.

Amber: Uh. Are— is it the same ones, or you got new... new gigs lined up?

Ravi: Uh—

Devo: And did you let them take any of the good ones?

Ravi: Who— did I let zem...?

Zoox: Those three mean—

Devo: The other— Yeah.

Zoox: Those three mean people, from before.

Devo: The... the people of the... um... uh, what did we say it was? The Butt Munch?

Zoox: Butt Munch.

Devo: Butt Munch? The Butt Munch.

Amber: Still funny.

Devo: It is still funny, yes! I agree.

Zoox: They are the Butt Munch Bunch! [laughs]

Devo: Uh, this is pretty good!

Ravi: So, um... I'm just gonna sort of use context clues here. So give me a... a moment. The word Butt Munch does rhyme with Gutpunch—

Devo: Yes.

Ravi: Which is the name of the ship held by another one of my... my contractors that I've got in the old... [clicks tongue] rolodex. So. Um. Did

they give you a hard time or something? I can't say I like that, I don't want my kids fighting, you know?

Devo: Not in— it, uh...

Amber: They were hassling us a little bit, but nothing we can't handle.

Zoox: May have been a little trash talk.

Devo: Yes, it could have been just a playful rivalry. Uh. They didn't... you know, threaten us, or... uh... They wouldn't tell me where they got their sunglasses, which was a bit of a... that was a snub. They said... mmm. They said they got them from up their butts?

Ravi: [bursts into hearty laughter]

Devo: Or up—

Amber: Which—

Zoox: Up your butt store?

Ravi: [finishes laughter] That's great!

Devo: Well...

Ravi: Aw, man!

Amber: You like that, huh? Kind of... you're a little bit puerile in your tastes—?

Ravi: Yeah, because why would— why would you have glasses in your butt? That's great stuff!

Justin: [chuckles]

Ravi: So, um. Yeah, I mean, uh, I, you know, it sounds like harmless ribbing. I don't mind a little competition, you know? Stoke the fires.

Zoox: Do you like them more than us?

Devo: [simultaneously with Amber] This is a good question.

Amber: [simultaneously with Devo] That's a good question... A fair question.

Devo: Yes.

Amber: [chuckling] We're all wondering it.

Ravi: Uh. No. You all are absolutely my favorites.

Travis: Insight check! Insight check!

Griffin: Oh, shit—

Travis: I have plus— I have a passive insight of 16, griffin!

Griffin: [giggling] Alright, let's see what your active insight is. I'm gonna say that ol'... ol' uh...

Travis: Uh... uh! Oh my god. It's hovering on the line. It should be— it's ten.

Griffin: It's a ten? No, you do not get past—

Clint: [laughs]

Travis: [whining] But my passive is 16!

Griffin: You do not get past Ravi Montrelle, he is telling you the absolute truth. And he treasures you... so much. He treasures you like a child— like a dear child.

Travis: Okay—

Griffin: And you are definitely his favorite—

Travis: So he has— he has no favorites like I have no favorite kids, not like I have no favorite pets? Right?

Griffin: He...

Travis: 'Cause I definitely have a favorite pet.

Griffin: He... You know: you are his favorite clients. And that he has never said that to anyone else.

Travis: Okay.

Griffin: With an insight check of ten. I feel like the... the giving you super bad information on a bad, like, insight, or perception check, you can work out, just through opposite-sies...

Clint: [bursts into laughter]

Justin: [cracks up]

Griffin: What I actually mean.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Like that felt very un insightful, what I've just done?

Griffin: Yes, exactly.

Travis: Yeah.

Clint: And Zoox bought it whole. He completely bought it.

Griffin: Sure. Uh. He says,

Ravi: You know, things are a bit slow right now. Because of the holiday season.

Travis: Oh??

Ravi: Um. Yeah. It's, um... it's... yeah, you know. Octopus...

[Someone snorts]

Ravi: Day...

Devo: It's Octopus Day, yes of course, yes—

Amber: Alright, now wait, hey; I know, but they're new here.

Ravi: Yeah.

Amber: Can you walk me through some of...

Ravi: Sure—

Amber: What Octopus Day means to you?

Ravi: It's fun, you do, like, eight of everything. So like, you—

Devo: Everything?

Ravi: Yeah, look, I'm wearing eight shirts.

Justin: [snorts with a giggle]

Ravi: So as long as you do—

Devo: You were— I did notice you were sweating.

Ravi: Oh, hold on. Let me— I gotta give—

Griffin: He gives you all like a swift punch in the arm. And he's like,

Ravi: No eightsies! So. You get, you get a hit.

Amber: Eight of everything?

Travis: Uh— he should have to roll an attack, Griffin.

Griffin: I'll roll an attack. I'll roll an attack specifically for Devo.

Travis: Thank you.

Amber: Eight of everything?

Griffin: Uh— oh— okay— I don't know— okay then, he gets a six.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: So he misses you?

Travis: He misses.

Clint: Times eight is 48.

Travis: He misses real bad—

Griffin: Oh, that's right, because it is— no, Travis, it is a 48, because it's Octopus Day—

Travis: Oh god, I'm dead! [laughs]

Clint: [chuckles]

Griffin: [laughing] You actually— I don't want to give you all Octopus Day powers. Um. He says,

Ravi: Yeah, so the jobs have not come pouring in. But the stuff I've got for you still, is very exciting, and now that you've cut your teeth on a one-star... I think you've got what it takes to maybe step it up a little bit. So! Here's what I still got.

Griffin: And he lays out three folders that you recognize from last time. The jobs still remaining, after the Gutpunch took the Alloid Menace job. You still have Acquisition: The Lost La— uh, Laboratory. I really struggled to think how I say that word!

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: When it came time for me to say it.

Travis: Is it because you have to decide if you're gonna say Labra-tory, if you're gonna say it like—

Griffin: Or La-BOR-a-tory, yeah—

Travis: Yeah, like you're in the Monster Mash?

Griffin: Weird— yeah.

Justin: You're actually making a huge tonal distinction there—

Griffin: Absolutely!

Justin: Of like, just what kind of person you are, and program you're making.

Travis: I mean, La-BOR-a-tory is immediately kinda spooky, right?

Griffin: Yeah, sure, sure, sure.

Travis: 'Cause like...

Clint: You could go with Lab. But then—

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: That's no fun.

Clint: Somebody's gonna think you're talking about a dog.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Fair, fair, fair.

Griffin: As a reminder, that one is submitted by the Deep Thinkers, specifically Ampersand Five.

Zoox: [gasps in admiration]

Griffin: It is a... the job description is: A lab, operated by the Deep Thinkers, went missing. And a single survivor returned to Founders' Wake. But it's been out of commission. Is... quarantining at a local medical facility. Seeking treatment for undisclosed injuries. So, they want you to find the lab, and discover the fate of the ship and its crew.

Also, there's Investigation: The Bio-mass Swarm. And that's from the Chaperones, specifically Ballaster Kodeira, who's the leader of the Chaperones. Who has discovered a huge swarm of sea life that is just growing and growing and growing, a couple dozen nautical miles from the city. They want to sort of nip this problem in the bud, before it becomes something super dangerous.

And then finally there is Negotiation: The Abyssal Auction. Which I have stepped up from a one-star, to a two-star. And the client for that one is Joshy's Knuckle. Uncle Joshy, of course, who has an invitation to an exclusive auction, where he hopes to purchase an undisclosed surface relic. And he needs representatives to attend the auction. And he'll give you some money, and you gotta secure the item he wants, and return with it, in hand. And as a bonus—

Travis: Can I ask—

Griffin: For that one, you get to keep whatever money you don't end up spending there.

Travis: I... [stammers] I was wondering...

Griffin: Sure.

Travis: Who the current Ballasters of Founders' Wake are.

[Music fades out]

Griffin: Yeah. So, there's... um... there's definitely... oh, this is gonna take me a while. The Boyar Hermine—

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Is like the high, the High Ballaster. Uh... Kodeira is the Ballaster of Defense, essentially? The Hand of Guidance is the Ballaster... for, you know, the Church and the Conservatory sort of at large. Um... and then there's probably a couple other ones, right? Like, Uncle Joshy's not a Ballaster, but he would really like to be.

Travis: Got it.

Griffin: Like, I don't think Joshy's Knuckle necessarily has that kind of representation. Um. And then, past that, there's like, you know, functional Ballasters. Like there's one of... you know, who makes sure that the city's people are being, you know, supplied the things that they need to live a life there. Um. There's probably a Ballaster for, like, eventually returning to the surface of the world. Like, there's— but I would say there's probably like five to seven of them, total.

Travis: So would you say, just to clarify, Ballaster is less of like an elected position? Like, there is a set number at the Council of Ballasters, and it's more like, the person in charge of—

Griffin: Yeah, it's a set number. It's a— [stammers] And it is, sort of... like, if there was a movement, to have Joshy's Knuckle have a Ballaster, right? Then that would get put up there. But like—

Travis: Got it, got it, got it. Okay.

Griffin: Kodeira was put as a Ballaster because she's in charge of this thing. Okay! So those are the three jobs!

[Bluespan Brokerage music plays again]

Ravi: Which one are you all interested in?

Amber: Mmmm...

Devo: I can say right off the bat, that, um... I like the one with Negotiation. This... uh... I feel like this is a skill set that I would bring. But. Uh... you know. I... Any of these sound interesting. And as long as they do not involve being swallowed by a giant clam? Um...

Amber: You know—

Devo: And shrunk down? Then I'm happy.

Amber: You know, you kinda ate shit on the last one. Um. It was tough on you. So, I'm... I think we should sorta defer to whatever Devo wants this time. I'm fine with that. I'll... I'll meet everybody at the table, and, you know. Put the tiger on the table, and...

[Someone chortles]

Amber: Listen, I— I never really did negotiations before, but I feel like I'm well equipped for the job.

Devo: Well you know, the other side of negotiation. You have charm, and then you have intimidation, eh? And this... this, you've got, yes?

Amber: Yeah...

Devo: You are—

Amber: Yeah, that's true.

Devo: You're good at the punching. Yeah.

Amber: I just feel— I don't have a tie or anything. I feel like... negotiators...

Devo: Well we could get you a tie, yeah!

Amber: Yeah.

Zoox: Maybe a—

Amber: Alright—

Griffin: When you say— when you say the thing about—

Zoox: Maybe— maybe one of those bolo ties? Like a string...?

Devo: Oooh, yes.

Zoox: Tie? Those are very fancy.

Devo: I do need a new... I need a new jacket. Um.

Griffin: When you all start talking about clothes, you can tell that Ravi Montrelle kinda smirks a little bit? Um. And then, like, very quickly, sort of tries to correct himself. And he says,

Ravi: Sorry. I just, uh... I don't know... I've never been to the Abyssal Auction, but I know that... you will be somewhat... disguised. So I wouldn't worry too much about securing a bolo tie. [dramatically] After all, we haven't seen one of those in 25 years.

Travis: Whoaaa!

Devo: I do still need a new jacket though. Because I tore up my jacket in a misguided attempt to make a rope. Um. And this— actually, Ravi, you and I seem to be about the same size, if you would give me a jacket? Yes?

Ravi: Sure, that'll be 300 Lux.

Devo: Well, no. This is... no, this is... uh... I meant as a— you said I was your favorite? So I assumed—

Ravi: I— oh, and I absolutely meant it. Um. But this is the Bugatti of clothes. That I got.

Justin: [snorts with laughter]

Devo: Ah. Of course. Yes. I see.

Ravi: And it's very... very expensive. Actually— this jacket, I saved up a lot of my money for. Just kidding, it was like... like a... few weeks. Paycheck. But...

Devo: I see.

Ravi: Yeah. So anyway—

Zoox: I have a lot of interest... the first two, both appeal to me. Um. I have a lot of questions about myself? And the chance to speak to Ampersand Five would be... pretty... pretty cool. And then the... the Investigation one... you know, I'm not really sure how my swarm powers work. It might be interesting to do that. But if you both... Do you think that these will still be on the docket the next time we check in?

Devo: Well this one is a three-star risk. Um. And so... Yes? The Labra-tory one... excuse me, La-BOR-a-tory. Um—

Justin: [snorts]

Griffin: Perfect. That was it in— that was it. Perfectly.

Travis: Nailed it. Got it.

Griffin: Yeah.

Devo: Um, but, if you... if your wish is to speak to this Ampersand Five, we— do we need to take the job to do this?

Zoox: Well. No, not necessarily, I guess. It just seemed like that would be a nice open door to step through. You know... we really are broke. Um. I mean we've only— we don't even have enough to go shopping at Phantom Sea Coast Co. Maybe we do the easy job, and... and do the Negotiation one, and get the Lux, just to kind of build up our bank roll. I'll go along with whatever you two friends want to do. And...

Griffin: Zoox, can you... can you make a... make a, yeah, make a charisma check here. I want to see if your words sway Ravi Montrelle.

Clint: [sound of dice rolling] 13.

Griffin: Since you have a minus one charisma modifier... [laughing] I will... I will say this. Ravi Montrelle can tell that you are having kind of a tough time? And he also can tell that there are some hurt feelings about giving a job out that he offered you first to someone else. So he says,

Ravi: I tell you what, Zoox. Sign of good faith—

Griffin: He reaches down to those two jobs that you mentioned, the Lost Lab and the Bio-mass Swarm. And he earmarks them. And sets them aside. He says,

Ravi: I won't let anyone touch these. Of course, if the client pulls out, the client pulls out. But these jobs... if they're still available, are yours for sure. Those— those Butt Munch, ha... right? The stinkers...

Zoox: [chuckles politely]

Ravi: They're not gonna get their hands on these.

Zoox: Aw. Thank you!

Devo: This is not very nice of you to say! You are their boss! We can say this, we are their rivals, but you as the boss? This is an HR issue.

Ravi: Yeah...

Zoox: Well thank you. Thank you, Robbie, I...

Clint: Ravi?

Griffin: Ravi. Yeah.

Zoox: Thank you. You are... very appreciative. Now let's go auctioning!

Griffin: Uh, he says,

Ravi: Well, first, you do need to go meet with the client. Oh, it's... Uncle Joshy. I don't know if any of you have met him, but he is a real character! So, be careful...

Amber: Aw, yeah. We go back.

Ravi: Oh. Oh! Oh, great. Fantastic, then, this should go—

Zoox: From about a half an hour ago! [laughs]

Devo: Well—

Amber: He's like— he's like my— he's basically like my fourth dad.

Devo: Yeah, he is... he is Amber's uncle. I think.

Ravi: Your...?

Amber: No, that's colloquial. But. You know.

Devo: It's what?

Amber: We're tight. It doesn't matter. It's irrelevant. I'll juice him for some more Lux, though—

Devo: What is this, colloquial or irrelevant?

Ravi: It's actually pronounced "the Cloaca," is where he's located.

Devo: Ahh, the Cloaca, yes!

Amber: Oh my god.

Zoox: [roars with laughter]

Ravi: Um. So, uh.

Griffin: He hands you all the folder. And he says—

Travis: Colloquial is really hard to say—

Griffin: Yeah, sure.

Travis: And then even impossible to say with a French accent.

Griffin: Yeah, sure.

Travis: [attempting] Colloquial...? [giggles]

Griffin: He says,

Ravi: Alright! Good luck. If you have any trouble, call in dispatch. But uh... I mean, this one seems like it'll be pretty straightforward.

Devo: Uh... I should ask? Um. How do we call in to dispatch?

Ravi: You just ring us up on your tonewheel, aboard the ship.

Devo: Ah.

Ravi: Just give us a holler.

Devo: Okay.

Ravi: Yeah!

Devo: This would have been good to know in the last mission. We did not think of this. Um. To say, like, “ahh, we’re in a clam...” You know?

Ravi: Yeah, I don’t know if we get reception, inside a big clam.

Zoox: Nope—

Devo: Ah.

Zoox: No shell towers out there?

Griffin: Oh my god! [claps once] We’re crushing it today!

Justin: God! This is a good podcast!

Griffin: Good— a good fucking episode today!

Justin: Yeah!

Travis: Oh wait! Oh! A Pulitzer for podcasting just came out of my computer!

Griffin: Whoa! No way!

Clint: [laughs]

Travis: Whoa! We did it!

Griffin: Um...

[Joshy’s Knuckle theme music begins playing, groovy and chill]

Griffin: So you all head up to the Cloaca, in the bustling burb of Joshy’s Knuckle. And when you show up, it’s the lunch time crowd. Which is to say, like... four people?

Travis: Okay.

Griffin: And you see Uncle Joshy, sitting at the bar and he is... he's... he's doing some paperwork. He's like, he's cooking the books, so to say. Or balancing the books, I don't know—

Travis: Oh! Yeah...

Griffin: [mumbling]

Travis: There's a big difference there, Griffin!

Griffin: Yeah, sure—

Travis: You know that, right?

Griffin: I— I do know that— I don't know that Uncle Joshy knows that. But he sees you all walk in, and he says,

Joshy: Oh, this is a... what a special treat this is. I didn't expect you all to come back this soon. Amber, I'm sorry, I haven't prepared another... another vibe check for ya. I'm— I have to think about those things like, you know, a week in advance! It takes me a while—

Devo: Wait—

Joshy: To put those, put those wheels in motion—

Devo: Uncle Joshy, could we have just a second?

Joshy: Uh. Yeah, sure. I...

Devo: [whispering] Amber?

Joshy: Weird for you to walk into a room and then immediately have a side bar, but.

Devo: [softly] Amber?

Amber: Hm?

Devo: Saying that he did not have time to prepare a vibe check is exactly what he would say... mm?

Amber: Uh. I try not to think that far ahead of anybody—

Devo: Yes, but what if— what if he just wants you to think that he did not have time to prepare the vibe check?

Amber: Oh...

Devo: But—

Amber: He wants me to think that you think...

Devo: But what if— what if I think—

Amber: He thought that I would think that. You know what I'm saying?

Zoox: Hmm? Hmm?

Devo: He's... oh. Mmm...

Amber: Yeahhh—

Devo: Yes.

Amber: He's always a few steps ahead except when he's—

Devo: You should vibe check him.

Zoox: And what is a vibe check?

Devo: Okay.

Amber: Oh. Well, it's when he tries to get the best...

Zoos: Oh...

Amber: Tries to get the upper hand... yeah.

Zoos: I— oh, the chart.

Amber: Keeps me on my toes.

Zoos: Yeah. Well, if he does, I'll shoot him.

Devo: And, break. [back to normal speaking volume] Okay, Uncle Joshy, you were saying?

Griffin: He walks back from the bathroom, washing his hands, like,

Joshy: Sorry, you guys did the whole thing for so long. And I had to go—

Devo: Oh yes, I have not used the bathroom in several episodes! Um...

Justin: [laughs]

Devo: Remind me to—

Justin: One of the hallmarks...

Griffin: Right...

Justin: Of the Adventure Zone, is that the characters use the bathroom in real time!

Clint: [laughs]

Griffin: [laughing] So... uh, he says,

Joshy: So, what are ya... what can I do— do ya for? You already got some free vittles out of me, from what I understand, so. Uh. What, you need some... some... cruiser bevs, to go? Or what's up?

Devo: Oh, this does sound good, yes, but, um. We, it seems, will be your emissaries at the Abyssal Auction.

Joshy: No shit! You're kiddin' me!

Amber: Yep.

Devo: Yes shit?

Amber: Ya know how I've always been real good at fancy stuff, and talking and stuff?

Joshy: [chuckling] Yeah.

Amber: Well. [slurring words slightly] I'm your new negotiator.

Joshy: Oh, that— that's excellent. That's great, that's real great news. Because sometimes negotiation? They go belly-up? And then you will be there, I assume, to punch that belly-up bunch of times. Which is great.

Amber: I— I'm gonna try to keep this one a little more restrained. Like, really show a different side of myself. Where it's like, more sort of... kinda fancy? You know what I mean?

Joshy: Oh, yeah, sure, sure.

Zoox: But I would be happy with shooting them! If— if everybody's... you know, would like that done.

Amber: Yeah, I'm gonna be more of the brains on this one. [snorts with laughter]

Devo: Yes, Zoox, I actually think that I would rather you shoot somebody this time than psychically connect with them. I actually think that you shooting someone might be a little safer for you. Um...

Zoox: Making note...

Joshy: It's a bit of a moot point. Because you are not gonna be bringing your weapons into this, this particular auction.

Zoox: Mm? [exhales sadly]

Amber: That's alright. I got all the weapons I need.

Joshy: Yeah. In your tummy. Your tummy hands—

Amber: Well—

Joshy: Your tummy hands.

Amber: My tummy hands, yeah.

Joshy: Sure. Uh. Alright. Y'all know how an auction works, right? Like... you say you'll pay a certain amount for something, and then some jag will say, like, "I'll do one more than that." And then you come in and you're like "Well I'll do one more than that—"

Devo: Wait, why is it like this? This is... just seems a wild way to do it. Why not just say, "It costs this much."

"Okay yes I will pay this."

"Okay, done." And then you exchange, you know, goods and services for some sort of money or credit?

Joshy: Right. Yeah, no, that's the ideal, right? But, um...

Amber: Yeah, everybody likes a deal. Everybody likes to think they're getting a deal.

Joshy: Yeah. And it—

Devo: Right. But this just seems like it is just raising the price artificially.

Amber: Well no, it's not raising the price artificially. Normally an auction is reserved for when the fixed price for an item can't be easily determined, because of an extremely fluid market.

Joshy: Yeah.

Amber: So.

Devo: Ahhh...

Amber: If you don't have a set price—

Devo: It's subjective— yes.

Amber: Right! It's not like you're auctioning off... a gallon of milk. You know?

Devo: Ah, I see.

Joshy: Plus, most of the people that come to this thing are... profoundly wealthy. And they get, you know, they're so bored that they want to have what is essentially a money fight!

Devo: Ah!

Joshy: Which is what the auction is, yeah. So, you all are gonna go in my stead. I'll bankroll ya. You get what I ask for, and you come on home.

Devo: Now—

Zoox: Is there a reason you're not going yourself, Uncle Joshy?

Devo: This is a good— yes, good question.

Joshy: Uh. I am... I am... I had a prior commitment, uh, that I have to attend to. My...

Devo: It is IBS? It sounds like you might have IBS—

Joshy: No, it's... uh... my... cousin.

Devo: Mmm.

Joshy: Is sick. Bahh. [makes cartoonish "sad" sound]

Justin: [snorts with laughter]

Joshy: So yeah, my cousin—

Devo: Cousin is named Ian Beauregard Schmidt, maybe? IBS, yes?

Justin: [laughs]

Clint: [snorts]

Joshy: I don't know why you're pushing so hard— No—

Devo: You seem like you're just—

Joshy: No, no, no—I don't know why he's pushing so hard on the IBS thing. It's not a joke—

Zoox: IBS is not funny, gentlemen!

Joshy: Thank you! Exactly.

Devo: No, I'm not saying that this is a joke! I understand this is a very serious thing, and you are afraid to be too far away from your home toilet, and—

Joshy: Yeah—

Devo: We understand this! You do not want to be somewhere where you do not know where the toilet is.

Joshy: Sure, sure. Um. So yeah, my cousin's like, wicked sick, wow.

Devo: Mmmm. Mmhmm.

Joshy: So I can't— I cannot make it to this one. Maybe the next one, though. But hey! You know? When... you know, when one of our many gods closes a window... and the door too?

Devo: Mmhmm?

Joshy: Then you all get a job! Out of it! So!

Amber: That's true.

Joshy: Circle of... circle of wealth.

Devo: Um—

Amber: So what are we bidding on?

Joshy: Um... it's gonna be... the fourth lot. Up for the auction.

Amber: You can't even give us— you can't give us any more than that? Really?

Devo: This assumes that nothing changes, either. What if there's a substitution made, and then we come home with like, an old bubblegum machine, and you're like, "oh no!"

Griffin: He says,

Joshy: No, they don't... [laughs] They don't do substitutions, or changes. I... I apologize if I'm being even cagier than I usually am. But I think you'll understand what I'm talking about, once you show up, in that... that big beautiful palace of money and goods.

Devo: Yes, but we are— you— okay. You have hired us, to do a job for you, this is not us asking *you* for something, why are you being... vague? Do you not— oh. Joshy? Do you not want us to succeed? Is this what this is? Where this is a trick on us, where you want us to get down there and look foolish, and maybe learn something about failure, improving the quality of our spirits?

Amber: Aww... yeah, is this like an extended vibe check?

Devo: Ah, good question.

Griffin: Um. Devo, make a... persuasion check.

Travis: Okay. [sound of dice rolling] That would be a 13 plus seven, a 20.

Griffin: Yeah, fuck.

[Someone snorts]

Griffin: He says,

Joshy: Alright. Listen. I'll tell you what it is, but I need you to make me a promise, and a real honest to gosh promise, okay?

[Tense ambient music fades in]

Devo: Okay.

Joshy: I tell you what this thing is, y'all don't get any designs on making out with it yourself, and saying like, "oh no, we dropped it, into the ocean, lost it," and I'll be like how did you— and you'll be like, "toilet." And I'll be like, that makes sense. So I am basically telling you... how to get one over on me on this one if you want. But. You gotta promise you won't do that—

Devo: Yes but now if we did this, if we said "ah, no, toilet—"

Amber: It would be so predictable.

Devo: You'd be like, "No."

Joshy: Right. Okay.

Devo: Yes.

Joshy: It's a book. It's a book. Uh. A journal. And, um... I will be honest with you: I have zero need for it. At all. But I know... plenty of folks who would. And... not everybody's clued into the Abyssal Auction, so, I would rather they not find out. I would rather you all not take it and find some other buyer for it. You understand? This is why I'm not so forward with this information, but I trust a third of you. So.

Devo: Is it me?

Zoox: We are legally bonded representatives, of Ravi Montroso— show him, show him the papers, Amber, show him the papers.

Devo: Is this...?

Amber: Oh, yeah, we're legally... you know.

Zoox: Bonded!

Amber: It's all legit.

Zoox: [stammers] Our word is our bonded.

Joshy: Alright. It's a journal. It's a... a journal, from an old... Delmer... architect.

Devo: Huh!

Joshy: I don't— I genuinely do not know much about it past that. But—

Devo: It sounds very boring.

Joshy: Yeah, right? Like, it's— [stammers] it's a glowing... ruby, when you kiss it, a dinosaur comes out. Like it's nothing—

Devo: Wait, wait—

Zoox: Whoa!

Devo: Do they have this too?

Amber: [crosstalk] —win us that.

Devo: Yes!

Joshy: They may... they... probably won't have— I'm not saying—! I've seen one of these before!

Devo: What!?

Joshy: That's all I'm gonna say! I've seen this glowing ruby that, when you kiss it, a dinosaur comes out. But I doubt it's gonna—

Devo: If they have one of those, would you rather we get that?

Joshy: I'll be honest with you: Yes. Absolutely. [laughs]

Devo: Ah!

Joshy: [laughing] Absolutely.

Amber: [laughs]

Devo: Excellent, yes.

Joshy: Um. Any other questions?

Zoox: How much do we have to work with? How much—

Amber: Great question.

Zoox: Money are you giving us?

Griffin: He says,

Joshy: Um, well. Uh. I boosted it up a little bit, from my original sort of plea, because I didn't get much traction on that job listing, so. It is 20 Lux, I'm gonna give ya. For the bankroll. And then... you buy my thing, whatever else you have left, you can keep. On top of nine additional Lux, as a "good job" pat on the back... not a pat on the back, that's compensation for work, but. You can come away from this one fairly, fairly rich! I will say this: that journal ain't gonna be cheap. And if there is someone else who knows about it, and the value it actually possesses? It might go up a little bit more than you might expect. So, yeah.

Devo: Uh. If it goes above 20, um... will you give us extra money?

Joshy: I can't. I— I have given you as much as I possibly can. Please believe that.

Devo: Okay! So, just so I understand it, uh...

Joshy: Yeah.

Devo: At best... we buy this for very cheap, and we get a lot of extra money. At worst, it hits like 21 Lux, and we do not get it, and we still get nine Lux.

Griffin: He looks around the room. And starts speaking in more hushed tones. And he says,

Joshy: This auction. Nobody there can see anybody else's faces. Nobody there can see... each other's ships. If you don't succeed in buying it the fair way, during the auction... you could try and come about it another way. But I will say this, if you come back home and you don't have it, you are certainly not getting paid for the job, because you didn't do the job. So. Um. Yeah. Not to be— not to encourage, you know, naughty boy behavior, but

um... that's, that's the truth of the matter. And I won't— ah, whoop— that's that. I'll leave it at that.

Devo: Okay! This is fine with me.

Griffin: Okay.

Devo: Is this fine with you?

Zoox: Yeah.

Amber: That's doable.

Griffin: Cool.

Devo: Any other questions?

Joshy: Zoox, you seem awfully sad about you not being able to take your shooter there. Uh...

Zoox: Well. I... Much like Amber, I have other resources for, uh, slaughter, and destruction. So—

Joshy: It's a— it's a—

Zoox: It's okay! That doesn't bother me so much. What bothers me is that... I'm pretty sure that once they see my different coral face-holes, they're gonna... How are they not gonna see us?

Joshy: Uh, it changes, honestly, from auction to auction. But every auction, they got disguises. They got ways to hide your body. These rich folk—

Devo: [gasps] Like costumes?

Joshy: It's— it's... one of these I went to, yes, there were big fuzzy costumes.

Devo: I have read about a masquerade, eh? With... [singing tune from *Phantom of the Opera*] Masquerade...

Joshy: Uh, nope. But one time, they did do like, wrestling masks. All—

Devo: This is good, yes.

Joshy: Everybody had to wear, like, wrestling masks, and big, like, big puffy clothes. You got— they cover up everything. 'Cause they don't wanna give nothing away.

Zoox: Do they provide those?

Joshy: Yeah, they'll provide those.

Devo: Do you have a jacket that I could have? This is unrelated—

Joshy: It will cover your whole body, I can't—

Devo: No, it's unrelated. I just need a new jacket.

Joshy: Um. No. What are you talking about?

Devo: I just thought that I would ask.

Joshy: Have I ever come to your domicile, and said like, "Hey, selling any pants today?" That's a wild thing to do! This is a bar—

Zoox: [snickers]

Devo: Oh, I did not say "selling," I was hoping you would just give it to me?

Joshy: [incredulous] Have I ever showed up at your domicile and said gimme pants? It's me—

Devo: We're not—

Joshy: Your pal, Uncle Joshy, give me pants today!

Justin: [laughs]

Devo: We haven't known each other this long. Um.

Joshy: [more agitated] No, we haven't! That's exactly right! We wicked have not!

Devo: Ah.

Zoox: Do you have a lost and found that he could go through?

Amber: [stifling laughter] The kid just needs some pants.

Devo: No, I— no. I have pants, I need a jacket.

Amber: My— I'm sorry.

Joshy: No. I don't have a jacket for you.

Zoox: Okay, how do we get into the Auction, Uncle?

Griffin: Uh... he...

Travis: [giggles]

Griffin: Hands you a little— [giggling] He doesn't mind that. Uh. He hands you a little—

Travis: [silly voice] Uncle! [laughs]

Griffin: He hands you the invitation. And the invitation just has a map on it. And there's— [stutters] it points to a very sort of... um... it leads to a valley, that is overlooking the titular abyss. Just a huge drop-off, off of the, you know, sort of plate, that the— that Founder's Wake is built upon. Um.

Joshy: You go there, in your ship, don't try swimming it, that would be buck wild. And... they'll come to you. They'll find you.

Devo: This sounds good to me. I'm ready to go.

Zoox: Amber? What do you think?

Amber: Yeah, let's head out! Unless you need a shirt. You good?

Devo: Oh. For me? No, I have—

Amber: Yeah!

Devo: I have this shirt, that I like very much. It's a good—

Amber: Dang!

Devo: Yeah, it's a good cut. Um. I think—

Amber: Dang, that's a nice shirt!

Devo: Thank you, it fits me very well in the shoulders—

Amber: Now I feel like I'm dragging everybody down.

Devo: Oh, do you need— Uncle Joshy? Do you have any clothes for Amber? A vest, perhaps?

Joshy: I actually do have a vest, hold on.

Clint: [cracks up]

Devo: Nice.

Amber: I figured he was good for at least one vest.

Griffin: He stands up and walks into the back room, and he's back there for... a long time. Amber, make a dexterity saving throw.

Justin: Oh my gosh, this is embarrassing.

Griffin: I'll give you advantage on it.

Justin: What?

Griffin: I'll give you advantage on it.

Justin: Seems fair. [sound of dice rolling] Uh, 12 plus four, 16. Or... 16 plus four, 20.

Griffin: Yeah! You hear from outside, like...

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: Back out on the street, outside of the Cloaca, you hear, like...

[Griffin bangs on his table to emulate heavy footsteps]

Griffin: As his footsteps get louder. And then you hear him wheezing, as he comes in through the front door of the Cloaca. And you hear him yell,

Joshy: [breathless] Vibe check! [wheezing] Vibe check.

Amber: [laughs]

Griffin: And he, like, barely like... karate chops you, in the shoulder, but he completely whiffs it. And sort of slumps over a barstool. And he says,

Joshy: [panting throughout] I ran... I ran all the way around... the block... so I could come in the front... the front door... and do a check... vibe check...

Amber: Alright. Nice.

Joshy: It's not my best work.

Amber: Nah. It's alright. Hey, not every— not every, um, not every vibe check can be perfect.

Joshy: Yeah...

Amber: I appreciate the thought, though, for serious.

Joshy: Yeah... I gotta keep you on your toes.

Amber: Yeah.

Joshy: Aight, get out of here, you— you crazy guys.

Devo: Oh, so, no vest?

Zoox: There is no vest?

Joshy: Oh, no, there wasn't a vest, I'm sorry.

Devo: Ah, the vest was a ruse.

Joshy: When you said the thing about the vest, I saw... [panting] I saw an opportunity...

Devo: Ah.

Joshy: To do one of my famous chops.

Amber: [snickers]

Zoox: [chuckles]

[Joshy's Knuckle music plays out]

[Advertisement break]

[Deep ambient music begins]

Griffin: Um, alright. Are you all heading out? You do have some Lux in pocket, if you want to make a stop at the, uh, at the Phantom Sea Coast Co. You do have some rations, from your last visit to the... to this bar and grill. But yeah, what are you, what are y'all thinking?

Travis: Well, I was wondering, Griffin, if you and I could real quick brainstorm a way, without having to like, play out a whole scene... that we could establish that Devo has a quick swimming lesson?

Griffin: Yeah, with Beck? We can say that it went pretty well. Well, why don't you tell me how it went?

Travis: Okay. I think his only focus, coming out of the fall into the... the clam, is like—

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: He was focusing on treading water. He's just— I'm not gonna be doing laps any time soon...

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: I'm not trying to race. I just wanna know, if I'd get— if I get— if our ship explodes or I fall out of something, I can... y'know, keep from sinking right down to the bottom of whatever I'm in.

Griffin: Yeah. I think, I think that's easy enough to say, you have accomplished that. I think... I... Henry's taking swim lessons right now, and so I imagine you— or, your character, and him, are about on the same page. So...

Travis: Oh yeah, def. Yes.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: I think that should cost him Lux, though.

Travis: It did—

Justin: `Cause if he's gonna get rid of something like that—

Griffin: He did pay, uh... you know. He did help Beck get set up... which—

Travis: I paid two Lux, for swimming lessons.

Griffin: Which was a, an investment, in, yeah.

Justin: Fair enough.

Griffin: Okay!

Justin: I knew you had ulterior motives. [laughs]

Travis: Oh yeah!

Griffin: So... what's the verdict? You going to Phantom Sea or you just gonna get out there?

Clint: Well, what— we'll window shop, if nothing else.

Griffin: Sure.

Clint: What would be... you know, let's see...

Justin: Yeah, right? Let's see what kind of deals they got going on.

Clint: And I want to see that catfish again!

Travis: Yeah, and I probably need to give him a Lux.

Griffin: Uh, you see...

Travis: Something to wet his whistle.

[Upbeat Phantom Sea Coast Co theme music begins]

Griffin: Sure! You all make your way into the Phantom Sea Coast Co. That shutter just opens for you now, as you get close, and... you hear humming coming from one of the many holes, all around the walls and ceiling of this grotto. And from one of them, Felix the catfish emerges. And he says,

Felix: Oh, look... look who it is! Look who's returned. I thought maybe you were going to... dip out on ol' Felix, huh? Take the money and run? So—

Devo: No, I—

Felix: I'm excited to finally have a return on my investment!

[Music softly fades out]

Devo: Uh. Okay.

Felix: That will be six Lux, please!

Devo: I can...

Amber: For what?

Devo: Well, he loaned me...

Zoos: He owes him.

Devo: The money. Not for you. This is... my problem.

Amber: Aw, dang!

Devo: Yes, I can pay, uh, the interest. Eh? I'll give you one Lux, for... this. I still only owe you five. Heh?

Griffin: Um, make a... persuasion check.

Travis: [singing softly] Persuasion check... [sound of dice rolling] That is a 14 plus seven, 21.

Clint: [laughs]

Griffin: Hmm. He says,

Felix: Hmmm... traditionally, I sort of go by O-town rules. In that I want it all, or nothing at all.

Justin: [laughs]

Felix: But I suppose...

Devo: I mean, if this is the case, then I can give you nothing right now, and then pay you back the rest, you know... keep the juice flowing.

Felix: I'll take the one interest. The one Lux interest, just to keep it... you know, as a sign of good faith.

Devo: This is fine. So Zoox and Amber, that leaves us with four. And I will take the one, as my cut, and you two can decide if we want to do anything with the... the other four.

Zoox: Do you have like, a clearance aisle?

Felix: Do we have a clearance aisle. Mmm.

Amber: Good question.

Felix: No, my sh—

Zoox: That's aisle, I. S. L. E.

Travis: Ohhhh!

Felix: Alright.

Justin: Ahhh!

Travis: Fucking good!

Clint: [shouting] On fire!

Felix: No, we carry pretty good shit here. And people buy it, a lot, and fast. So...

Justin: [giggles]

Felix: Um. No. No clearance— we do, I— I apologize, I should have mentioned: we received a few licenses, from the Parish, for some other new pieces of gear that you may or may not want to check out. It is up to you.

Amber: Yeah, let's take a peekarooski.

Griffin: So if you look through the different sort of shops here, I've highlighted in light green... a beautiful, a key lime pie colored green...

Justin: Is that under... it's one of the tabs under here, right?

Griffin: There's two for weapons, and then the, they have— you've also received a license for vapor suits, which is like the Parish's big thing. But you guys, you know. You have two of those already, so...

Travis: Oooh...

Griffin: [mumbling] You may or may not be interested...

Travis: A sunburst weapon, you say?

Griffin: Yes, so the... you've gotten, basically, access to a couple of "arcane" class weapons, because of who you did the work for.

Travis: Mmhmm.

Griffin: So you have unlocked sort of the purchasing rights, for a Force Barrage, or a Sunburst Cannon. Which can damage sensors, but also it has to charge. It's the first "charge" weapon, I think, that has become available to you.

Travis: Now... we know the kind of mission we're going on, right? Are there any specific... like, tools, or parts, or facilities, or anything that we see, that we're like, "oh, we'll use that," you know what I mean?

Justin: Hmm.

Clint: The first thing I see is a medical bay.

Travis: Yes.

Clint: Which I don't know if we have.

Travis: No.

Griffin: You do not. No.

Clint: Provides three points of healing per mission.

Griffin: No, provides three...

Clint: Potions of healing.

Griffin: Yes.

Clint: I'm sorry. Just because we don't need personal weapons, and that won't be allowed into the auction, that doesn't mean we won't need weapons to get there. Right?

Travis: Mmhmm.

Clint: Or get back.

Travis: Um. You know? Let me just say, that tracer spike... could be useful. [talking out of the side of his mouth] If we need to steal...

Griffin: Can you explain what you are talking about.

Travis: So a tracer spike says, "as an action a crewmate can fire the spike at a ship or creature. And for the next week, the exact location of the target will be revealed."

Clint: Well. Zoon already has something like that, doesn't he? I mean just in his spells.

Griffin: Um—

Travis: Yes, but if we're in ship-to-ship...

Griffin: Right.

Travis: Right? Then like, that seems to be like... if the, whatever the auction is on, is like running away from us? I dunno.

Griffin: Right.

Travis: That could be useful.

Clint: And where is this? Under "Tools?"

Travis: Under "Tools."

Griffin: Yes.

Justin: There's part of me that feels like we'd be better off just keeping the money—

Travis: Okay.

Justin: And... getting... like... and using it to upgrade before the next, like, combat-heavy thing. But! We have no real insight into this, who the fuck knows what we're running into, getting in. Right? I mean.

Travis: Mmhmm.

Clint: And we only have three Lux left, right?

Travis: Well—

Griffin: Four Lux left.

Justin: I think we should sit.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Four Lux? I think we should sit on it, personally.

Travis: Alright! Let's save it.

Justin: And who knows, maybe we'll need some, to grease...

Travis: A few palms.

Justin: A palm or two, you know?

Griffin: It's not a bad point. You are going— the only thing you do know about this mission is that, [laughing] the more money you have, the more likely it is going to be that you will...

Travis: Okay.

Griffin: Achieve your dreams, so...

Travis: Yes.

Clint: I would also like to point out... That we have 20 extra Lux in our pocket...

Travis: Oh, that would be bold—

Clint: Given to us by a man who encouraged us to steal.

Justin: Hmm.

Griffin: You know what? You're right. I'm gonna change the ship inventory to 24 Lux. And then you guys can deal with your own sort of demons.

Justin: [chuckles]

Clint: [laughs]

Justin: No, I don't—

Travis: I mean—

Justin: I don't think that's a good idea.

Travis: Listen, we could just plan on stealing, right out the gate.

Griffin: [cracks up]

Travis: Bypass the whole auction!

Griffin: [laughing] You roll up to the auction in like, a gold-plated submarine...

Travis: [laughs heartily]

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: Well, we'll buy 24 Lux worth of guns...

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: And then just blow it to hell and take the journal from the wreckage!

Clint: But you know, if we go there and decide to steal it, we get to keep all 20 Lux.

Travis: That's true. Alright! I think we sit on it for now.

Clint: Okay.

Travis: And if we see that ruby that summons a dinosaur when you kiss it? We buy that shit for ourselves.

Clint: [laughs] The action we choose is inaction.

Justin: Yes.

Travis: Yeah! We, we walked to the store, and went "Okay, thanks, have a great day! Alright thank you!" And walked out.

Griffin: Yeah.

Clint: Well, you paid your installment.

Griffin: Yeah—

Travis: I mean, yeah.

Griffin: As you turn to leave, he goes,

Felix: Wait. Are you— what did— why did you come here?

Devo: Just to see you.

Amber: [snorts] It's something to do. Calm down.

Felix: Oh— kay...

Devo: We had a big lunch and we needed to walk around a bit—

Amber: Yeah!

Devo: So that we didn't fall asleep in the ship.

Amber: Maybe—

Zoox: And I'm a bit of an admirer. And I'm learning to observe things, and take it all in, without mind-melding with them.

Devo: This is a good point. Yes.

Zoox: And so this was— this was good for me. This was a good day for Zoox.

Felix: I'm glad I could help? But... make sure the next time you come around, you'll be ready to "help" me?

Griffin: And then a ship worm pops out from the water right in front of you all, wearing a green visor. And another one pops up right next to him. And... I guess maybe several pop up, and pantomime cracking knuckles.

[popping sounds]

Travis: Ah.

Griffin: And the one in the green visor just looks down at you, Devo.

Devo: Okay. Yeah, I understand. I will pay you back. No need to... have your worm squad threaten me. I understand the deal.

Felix: Oh I can't control them.

Devo: Oh. Well, you need to work on this! You need to show that you are the alpha!

Felix: Mmm. I'm a big fish, man, we don't really roll like that.

Devo: Ah. Good for you. Uh, this was a test.

Felix: Cool. Hey, check out this cool sign!

Griffin: And one of the ship worms points to the sign that says “No Loitering.”

Justin: [laughs]

Clint: [cracks up]

Devo: Ah!

Justin: Okay, let’s go.

Griffin: Alright.

Justin: Time for adventure.

Clint: Ding!

Griffin: You’re taking off, then? You’re departing?

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: Alright, you all hop into the...

Justin: You ask things in such a fucking loaded way. It’s like... you always act like the Golden Sword of Galfadar—

Griffin: Right—

Clint: [laughs]

Justin: Is like, on the floor, and you’re like, “Really? Huh...”

Travis: [also imitating Griffin] “You’re just gonna...”

Justin: “You don’t wanna look around for any golden swords? Hm?”

Griffin: Alright—

Travis: “Oh, you didn’t— you didn’t open the chest that I didn’t mention.”

Griffin: Let me phrase it another way, then. Uh, what are you guys doing now?

Travis: We’re getting the fuck on the road!

Justin: We’re gonna depart. [cracks up with wheezing laughter]

Griffin: [saccharinely] Are you sure? You don’t wanna do anything else around Founders’ Wake?

Travis: Aww, man! See, there it is, Griffin!

Justin: There, doing it, you’re doing it!

Clint: [laughs]

Justin: Yeah, I want your acknowledgement to be one of like...

Travis: “Finally.”

Justin: Uh, accept... yeah, like, “oh good, yeah, that makes sense.”

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: “That’s about what I woulda hoped you would do right now.”

Griffin: Okay! Love it—

Travis: Devo stops by a... stops by Brother Seldom’s and gets the God Killer gun.

Griffin: Yeah, sure. Alright. You all get on the Coriolis—

Travis: No, he just gets his second jacket.

Griffin: Sure. Okay. You're in the water now.

Travis: It's not as nice. As the one he tore up. But. It's fine.

[Music plays for a few seconds]

Griffin: So, for getting the map, and also sort of squeezing out of Joshy the identity of the lot that you are attempting to buy, I'm going to grant you one point of intel each, for both of those, you know, pieces of intel. So, with the Zoox expertise, the generous rations that you secured at the end of the last episode, and the intel you acquired, minus: the Urchin penalty, [laughs] which is what it is called, you all have ended up with a total readiness of six. So! Who wants to roll the d100 this time?

Travis: Uh...

Justin: Ooh... fun.

Clint: I haven't yet. Have I?

Travis: I think— yeah, it's Dad's turn.

Griffin: Oh right! Dad! Roll that. Roll that beautiful d100 footage.

Clint: Okay, and how do I do that? How do I roll the d100?

Travis: Two d10s.

Griffin: Yes.

Travis: Or—

Justin: Well, or you could just roll 100...

Travis: Yeah, there's a button that says d100.

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: Yeah, it's the one with two dice on it.

Clint: Oh, okay. Alright! Here we go...

Travis: I think a high number is good?

Justin: Can never remember.

Travis: Yeah. I mean...

Griffin: [shocked] Oh my god—

Clint: Is 1 good?

Travis: Oh, fuck!

Griffin: [distant] Are...

Justin: No you didn't.

Travis: Are you kidding me?

Griffin: [muffled] Are you fucking kidding me!?

Travis: Out of a hundred. Dad.

Justin: Dad, out of a hundred, you got a...

Griffin: Are you—!?

Travis: You had a—

Justin and Travis simultaneously: One!?

Travis: —Percent chance—

Griffin: Are you—!? Kidding me!!!

Clint: Look at your screen. Look at your screen.

Travis: No— no— hey Dad? I understand the reality of it. That's not what's in question.

Justin: Are you kidding me?

[Someone sniffs]

Justin: Is it really... wait, it is really one?

Travis: It's a one!

Griffin: I know what percent chance this is! Quite easily—

Travis: It's a one percent chance.

Justin: One?

Griffin: It's a one—

Clint: So that would be a good thing!

Travis: ...No!

Justin: No, Dad, it'll be the worst. Possible. Thing.

Clint: Really...

Justin: ...On the thing!

Clint: I... I, I can't lie about my art.

Justin: No!

Travis: You also can't lie about your dice, 'cause we're looking at it.

Justin: Yeah. We're looking at it.

Travis: You could try to lie about it—

Griffin: [still in shock] Oh my god, guys...

Clint: Oh, that's the reason I can't lie about my art, is 'cause you can see the proof.

Justin: Well... this is...

Travis: The ship explodes! And we all die!

Griffin: No, I know what... I... uh... I feel like we gotta go d20 rules, on this. Where you can't fix a one, necessarily?

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: 'Cause I have a one— like, I have a "one" event. On the, on the chart. And it— I— I suppose... I suppose it's time to deploy it.

Travis: Ah shit...

Justin: Fuck...

Travis: There's no way it's good! ...Okay. Go ahead. Yeah! You know what, Griffin? Go ahead. We'll fucking deal with it. We're grown-ups.

Griffin: You all are... close. You're navigating this valley, leading up to the drop-off. And... it is getting kind of a tighter squeeze. And... Devo, you feel— I mean, you all feel it, but Devo, your hand is on the, the, the, you know, the rudder. Um. So you feel it most of all. Uh... the bottom, of the ship... scrapes against... something. Everybody roll a perception check?

[sounds of several dice rolling]

Justin: 22.

Travis: Six plus three, nine.

Clint: 18!

Griffin: Um.

Clint: Thereby, completely redeeming—

Travis: No!

Clint: —myself. [snickers]

Griffin: [sadly] No.

[Sound effects of scraping metal]

Griffin: You all hear this... you know. Pretty bad scraping noise. Zoox and Amber... y'know, I don't know where you were at on the ship when this happened, but with that perception check, I will say, you all, you know. Look around the base of the ship— what is that, that's like the cargo, the cargo bay, and the, um... bathysphere, sort of like deployment bay?

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Um. You run down there, and you see that the hull has not been breached. And that everything appears to be in working order. That's it!

Justin: Uh.

Travis: But...? No...

Devo: This is not it.

Griffin: And then you all arrive at the end of this trench. And you are peering over the edge... when all of a sudden, an enormous figure pops up, into your sightline. Um. It's a squid. That is... about the size of your ship. Um. A giant squid, you might call it. And it is... it seems to be armored? In

some way? Um. And it floats up, and Devo, you see... you see its eyes sort of pop into the viewport. And looks in, like it is staring at you, Devo. What do you do?

Travis: Uhhhhh. I'm going to say Devo... holds very still? And stares back.

Griffin: One of these plates of armor, near its eyes, flashes like a red beam. That sort of swipes across the cockpit. And then a green light turns on.

[Ethersea Theme music begins to play]

Griffin: And then it nods at you. And it attaches one of its tentacles to the front of the ship. And then blasts out an enormous, all-encompassing, black cloud of ink. And then, you feel the Coriolis move.

Justin: The fuck! A one?!

Travis: So what happens on a one!?

Justin: "I'm sorry" would be a good start.

[Ethersea Theme music plays out]

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