

The Adventure Zone: Live in Minneapolis!

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[theme music plays]

[audience cheers and applauds]

Griffin: Welcome. Welcome to the first live *Adventure Zone* we've done in about 37 years.

[audience cheers and applauds]

Griffin: Do y'all want to introduce yourselves and the characters you will be portraying this evening?

[audience laughs]

Griffin: [holding back laughter] Our father.

Clint: Thank you, son.

Griffin: Uh, let's start at the far end. Justin.

Travis: And just to be clear, Dad can't willingly take— it straps under his shirt.

Griffin: Dad had me tie it onto his nude flesh, his arm.

Travis: He is so pot-committed to that wooden arm, guys.

Griffin: Uh, Justin.

Justin: Hi. My name is Justin McElroy. I'll be portraying the role of the elven wizard, Taako, and—

[audience cheers]

Justin: Thank you. And, uh, I am... I am extremely excited to play Dungeons and Dragons right now!

Griffin: Yeah, baby!

Justin: I'm pumped, let's go! Skip these two, let's play!

Griffin: [laughs]

[audience laughs]

Justin: Roll for initiative. I win!

Clint: My name is Clint McElroy, and...

[audience cheers]

Clint: Aw, you already know the rest.

[audience laughs]

Clint: I play Merle Highchurch, a—

[audience cheers]

Clint: A beach dwarf... with fanny pack.

[audience cheers]

Justin: Dad, is that the one for sale at mcelroymerch.com?

Clint: Why yes it is, Justin! These are still available in a couple of different colors and patterns.

Justin: [exaggerated interest] I love the pattern, but can't I buy it as wrapping paper?

Clint: Of course you can, Justin, if that's what you so desire!

Griffin: I'm just impressed that Dad came out here with his Extreme Teen Bible and not the children's book that he's been selling at all of our live shows.

Justin: [laughs]

Clint: We have a second act, Griffin.

Griffin: Yeah, that's a fair point.

Travis: Yeah, yeah, yeah. Uh, my name is Travis McElroy, and I play Mongoose B— no, sorry.

[audience laughs]

Clint: [laughs]

Travis: *Magnus Burnsid*es, the fighter.

[audience cheers]

Clint: Although... Man Goose would be a pretty cool character.

Travis: Yeah. It's mine, don't take it, old man!

Clint: Okay.

Griffin: Would that be a mongoose or would it be a man goose?

Travis: A man mongoose, maybe?

Griffin: Yeah, that's nothing. Uh, I'm Griffin McElroy. I'm playing everyone else. And, uh, let's...

[audience cheers]

Griffin: Let's, uh, let's begin. Are you ready? Are *you* ready? Am *I* ready?

[audience cheers]

Travis: Yes.

Griffin: Here we go. Stage lights snap on from rigging suspended high above, burning your eyes as they adjust from the darkness that filled the room moments

ago. Your mind reels with a question as you squint away tears. "Where the shit am I?" To which your own mind answers, "I do not know."

Travis: Okay, Griffin, but what's happening in the game?

[audience laughs]

Griffin: Last you remember you were settling in for the evening in your respective beds, or if you all want, in a big adorable triple-decker bunk bed.

Travis: Aww, not one big bed?

Griffin: That— sure, they could also be... that could also be a thing. Your senses faded as you embraced your slumber, and then those same senses were flooded with the sights and sounds before you now. The cheering, well, you're used to by now. It's coming from all around you, from an audience you're unable to see through the brilliant spotlights shining down upon you. What you *can* see...

[audience cheers]

Griffin: Oh, sure.

[cheering continues]

Travis: It's like I can hear them now!

Griffin: What you *can* see is a structure towering in front of you, a tiered pyramid-esque tower with colorful and garish chambers with purposes you can't quite discern. You can smell some truly incredible, mouthwatering aromas wafting down from on high, the origin point for which are unclear. You can taste... well, nothing at the moment. The excitement? Sure, you can taste the excitement.

And you can feel dozens of eyes glaring down upon you, eyes filled with excitement and judgment. They're the glinting yellow eyes of massive, writhing serpents, floating a hundred feet in the air. Serpents that are, upon further inspection, attached to the scalp of an enormous, aged but still excruciatingly handsome head, which is similarly attached to the towering body wearing a pristine white chef's coat.

And this enormous being smiles as the lights hit him, and he begins his spiel.

Enormous Being: Taako from TV!

[scattered cheers]

Enormous Being: You— you once knew him as the world's most popular traveling chef/performer, until one fateful whoopsie in the kitchen left a bad taste in the mouths of a town full of unfortunate yokels.

Can this disgraced gourmand, with the help of his bumbling associates, reclaim his honor, and impress our judges with his feats of courage and cookery? Let's find out. I'm chef Gorgon Ramsay.

[audience cheers and exclaims loudly]

Clint: [giggles]

Travis: So proud.

Justin: [wheezy laughter]

[cheering continues]

Travis: I'm so proud of you right now.

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: I love you so much.

Justin: Ohh...

Gorgon Ramsay: I'm chef Gorgon Ramsay, and this is the Ziggurat!

[audience cheers]

[dramatic music plays]

Gorgon Ramsay: Let's meet our contestants. You there, Cherry Garcia! What's your story?

[pause]

Merle: [through laughter] Muh —what?

[audience laughs]

Travis: A great start.

Merle: [in Clint's voice] Well, I have a— an ice cream named after me—

Griffin: Who's this talking?

Justin: Who's this talking? Who's this talking right now?

Merle: [exaggerated hoarse voice] Umm...

Justin: There we are.

[audience laughs]

Merle: [shaky old man voice] Well, that kills the other joke.

Griffin: That's not what Merle sounds—

Merle: [shaky old man voice] I am Merle Highchurch!

Griffin: Okay, is this—

Travis: [simultaneously] That's not Merle either!

Griffin: —Merle Highchurch 300 years in the future?

Justin: [wheezy laughter]

[audience laughs]

Clint: [Doc Brown impression] Marty! Marty McFly!

Justin: No!

Clint: Wait a minute! What voice do you want me to use?!

Travis: [yelling] Merle!

Justin: [screaming simultaneously] Merle Highchurch!

[audience laughs]

Travis: I know he's in there, Dad! Let him out!

[audience laughs and cheers]

Travis: Can we speak to Merle?

Merle: [silly voice] Okey-doke!

Justin: No!

Clint: Which voice?!

Justin: No!

Griffin: Has it been that long?!

Single Audience Member: [distantly] Yeah!

Clint: [Doc Brown impression?] It was kind of a Christopher Lloyd voice.

Griffin: Okay, that's fine. Close enough.

Justin: There.

[audience laughs]

Clint: Wow. Well, you know, the pressures of touring. [wheezes]

Griffin: [through laughter] Yeah.

Merle: Uh, I'm Merle Highchurch! And I'm a beach cleric.

[audience laughs]

Merle: And I'm not sure what you want me to say, but I'm... [uncertain] happy to be here. At the Z— Cigarette.

[audience laughs]

[pause]

Gorgon Ramsay: I mean, typically we get a little bit of your backstory—

Merle: Ooh!

Gorgon Ramsay: —and sort of your, uh, cooking background and—

Merle: Well, it all started in a small 50,000-watt radio station in Fresno California.

[audience laughs]

Single Audience Member: [screaming distantly] Yeahhh!

Merle: Just in a kid in a crazy dream. And I— I make scrambled eggs, whenever I'm called upon. That's about it.

Gorgon Ramsay: You have not met my, admittedly, extremely low expectations.

[audience laughs]

Gorgon Ramsay: And you there, muscle man! [holding back laughter] You think you're all impressive, what with all your muscles?

Magnus: Yes I do!

[audience cheers]

Magnus: I'm Magnus Burnside: hero, folk hero, fighter hero...

Griffin: [wheezes]

Magnus: ... aspiring cooking hero.

[audience laughs]

Magnus: I've been reading cooking magazines, and learning... from them. Self-taught... by cooking magazines. I'm pretty good, I'd say. Uh, one step below Taako would be my self...

[audience cheers]

Magnus: *Below* Taako! Not quite equal yet.

Gorgon Ramsay: From what I've heard, that's, [laughs] not far off, eh? [laughs] Hey there—

Magnus: Alright.

Gorgon Ramsay: Taako from TV, uh... annihilated any villages lately?

Merle: Ooooooh!

Magnus: Yes, actually! [laughs]

[audience laughs]

Griffin: [laughs]

Taako: I was a bystander to that, to be fair. Hi, I'm Taako from TV.

[audience cheers]

Taako: They're already in the pocket for me, which doesn't seem too great for you. I'm the world's greatest television chef. I was trained in a spiritual plane by Ephemeral Lagasse and I'm so happy to be here!

[audience laughs]

Taako: To show you what I'm made of.

[audience cheers]

Griffin: He says, uh...

Gorgon Ramsay: Well, hopefully this will be the chance of re— uh, at redemption that you've no doubt been looking for.

Taako: I did save the multiverse, but sure, let's make some pizza!

Griffin: [laughs]

[audience laughs]

Taako: I'll prove myself that way, with a nice chicken colombo.

[audience laughs]

Griffin: He says...

Gorgon Ramsay: Today's challenge is simple. The three of you will scale the Ziggurat, braving its challenges as you collect ingredients along the way. At the peak you'll find a fully stocked pantry and kitchen, where you'll prepare the most delicious meal, and preferably least poisoned meal, of your career. Succeed, and you'll receive the honor of becoming the new Champion of the Ziggurat. Fail... and you'll join the Pantheon of Shame.

Griffin: And he gestures, and a light illuminates a platform filled with rows of chefs, all frozen in stone with expressions of pain and fear.

Magnus: Well, no wonder they failed. They're all frozen.

[audience laughs]

Gorgon Ramsay: Oh, I'm sorry. Have you seen— have any of you *seen* the Ziggurat—

Magnus: I don't really watch TV. I don't have one in the home. I think it's bad for you.

Travis: That's Magnus saying that, not Travis!

[audience laughs]

Taako: I used to have a few episodes, but I taped over 'em with the Fantasy Olympics. You know how it goes.

Justin: Kids, tape used to be how you would record...

[audience laughs]

Justin: TV shows. And then sometimes you would tape over—

Clint: On thousands of VHS tapes.

Justin: Dad had over a thousand with a corresponding card catalog.

[scattered cheers]

Justin: Pre-digital era, he would just have these 4x3— no, don't cheer for it.

Clint: No, cheer for it!

[audience cheers loudly]

Justin: It was a dysfunction. It was dysfunctional.

Clint: I was ahead of my time! And I'm still ahead of my time, [through laughter] 'cause now I don't even have a VHS player.

Griffin: Sure.

Gorgon Ramsay: Before you throw your lives to the whims of fate and flavor, do you have any questions?

Magnus: Is this a dream?

Gorgon Ramsay: [laughs villainously]

Magnus: Okay.

[audience laughs]

Gorgon Ramsay: I get that a lot.

Taako: How did we get here?

Magnus: That wasn't an answer, though! I was just looking for— it was, yes or no.

Gorgon Ramsay: You, uh... it's more about the destination than the journey, isn't it?

Magnus: Oh, so you're just gonna ignore my question and move over to his? Okay.

Gorgon Ramsay: Oh, but *whose* dream?

Magnus: What?

Taako: Huh?

Gorgon Ramsay: Exactly!

Magnus: Oh boy.

Griffin: He bends down and his giant hand reaches in and pinches you on the shoulder.

Magnus: Ow.

Gorgon Ramsay: Yeah.

Magnus: That means nothing!

Gorgon Ramsay: Maybe not.

Magnus: You can get pinched in a dream! I don't know why people think otherwise!

Griffin: [laughs]

[audience laughs]

Magnus: I can fly in a dream, but I can't get pinched?!

Gorgon Ramsay: [yelling] Let's begin scaling the Ziggurat!

Griffin: He says.

Magnus: Okay!

Griffin: And a door slides open, and you step foot into the first floor of the Ziggurat.

Magnus: This looks like the first floor of the Ziggurat.

[audience laughs]

Griffin: And in doing so, step foot into a twilit wheat field. A soft wind blows the chest-high stalks of wheat around in hypnotic waves. In the distance, you see three scarecrows watching over the crop, positioned about 50 feet away from each other. They're not identical. One appears ragged, barely clinging to the stake holding it off the ground. The second is holding together well, dressed in folksy attire. The third appears to have a glowing horrible smile, and is moving, kind of?

[scattered laughter]

Griffin: Each is positioned in a small, circular clearing. But what else sits inside that clearing is... unclear.

Travis: Oh.

Clint: It's an unclearing.

Griffin: The door disappears behind you as it shuts. What do you do?

Travis: I want to attack 'em.

[audience laughs]

Taako: Let's not. I mean, we don't need to rush into anything.

Justin: I'm gonna, um—

Travis: [high-pitched] Ohhh!

[audience laughs]

Justin: I'm gonna do a, um... uh, I'm gonna do a Perception check, see what I notice about these—

Travis: Oh, right!

Justin: Yeah, Dungeons and Dragons.

[audience laughs]

Justin: For you? Physical dice. Here we go.

[audience cheers]

Justin: For you, a chunky, delicious 13 plus 5, 18!

[scattered cheers]

Griffin: Uh, okay. The wheat is moving. Uh, not—

Justin: Oh, god! Okay, good.

Griffin: Not from the wind that's blowing through it. You see odd sort of erratic movements. You can tell that it is, uh, moving sort of more quickly, with a little bit more activity closer to the scary scarecrow than it is to the sort of ragged scarecrow.

Justin: Is it kind of a evil movement? Or just like a—

Travis: Good question.

Justin: —or more neutral movement?

Travis: Is it a comforting moving wheat?

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: I mean, have you ever been in a wheat field—

Justin: No.

Griffin: —and seen it moving and been like, "Ah. Good."

[audience laughs]

Justin: No.

Griffin: "I like— I like this."

Travis: You know, though, can I be honest? I don't know if I've ever been in a wheat field, now that I—

Justin: [crosstalk]

Griffin: Yeah, I don't think I have either!

Travis: Yeah, now that I think about it. I don't know *what* to expect. [wheezes]

Griffin: Um, you— I will—

Clint: [loudly] I cast Detect Velociraptors.

[audience laughs]

Griffin: [laughs] I will also give you, Taako, because—

Justin: He's dumb. He's too damn dumb.

Griffin: You are taller than the rest.

Justin: [away from the mic] [unintelligible] *Jurassic Park*.

Griffin: It was a *Jurassic Park* joke.

Travis: Is Taako taller than Magnus?!

Justin: The hat.

Griffin: With the hat, yeah.

Travis: Fair.

[audience laughs]

Travis: And we've never mentioned this before, but Taako's eyes are on top of his hat.

Griffin: Yes. Uh, around each scarecrow is a table with some foodstuffs on it.

Justin: Ooh, okay.

Griffin: Uh, you can't quite tell the nature of the foodstuffs, but there are foodstuffs around each scarecrow.

Travis: One more question.

Griffin: Yes, please.

Travis: Is the wheat taller than Merle?

Griffin: [holding back laughter] Yeah.

[audience laughs]

Merle: Fellas?!

Magnus: Yeah, you wanna get on my back?

Merle: Guys?!

Magnus: Okay. I gotcha!

Travis: And I hoist him up on m'shoulders.

Clint: Oh, god. How embarrassing.

Griffin: Okay, make a— make a— make a strength check.

[scattered laughter]

Griffin: He's— he's not a—

Travis: A 17 plus 5.

Griffin: Oh, you fuckin' throw him into the sky!

[audience laughs]

Magnus: Whoops!

Justin: You should be able to overshoot checks. [laughs quietly]

Griffin: Yeah, for sure.

Justin: Do too good.

Griffin: Uh, no. You get him up on your shoulders. Merle, how long have you been waiting for this opportunity?

Clint: Uh, *never*.

Griffin: Okay.

[audience laughs]

Clint: Can I make a Pride check?

[audience laughs]

Griffin: Yeah, but I'm gonna give you a negative 10 to that stat.

[pause]

Clint: [morosely] I don't know what I'd roll...

Magnus: What do you see now, Merle?

Merle: Uh... there's food!

Taako: Yeah, can you make out any of it?

Merle: Uhh... I don't know. Let me make an Insight check.

Taako: What the fuck—

Griffin: Investigation would be more—

Clint: Invest— I had the first letter right!

Travis: Well, maybe he wants to know if the food is lying.

[audience laughs]

Clint: Alright. So...

Justin: What is food? Hmm, good Insight. Let's speak on that.

Clint: That is a... 11.

Griffin: Uh, okay. With an 11 you can tell that, uh, the three tables around each of the three scarecrows have foodstuffs of varying quality. The very scary scarecrow has some good-lookin' bread and other stuff around it, while the raggedy one has some moldy-looking busted baked goods.

Travis: Enough farting around. Magnus makes for the goods!

Griffin: Which— in which direction?

Travis: The good one!

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: I'm not going for the shitty food!

Griffin: Okay. And Merle, you go with him?

Clint: I— I guess I don't—

Travis: Not really up to Merle.

Clint: —have much choice, yeah.

Justin: That's right, you're catching a little ride. I'm gonna go to the bad food.

Griffin: Oh, okay! Uh...

Justin: Tis a— tis a poor craftsman that blames his tools.

Griffin: Sure.

[audience laughs]

Griffin: Magnus and Taako, please make Dexterity saving throws.

Justin: Son of a...

[dice roll]

Travis: Uh, 13 plus 2, a 15.

Justin: A natural 20?

Griffin: Holy shit!

[audience erupts with cheering]

Travis: That's a flip wizard right there!

Griffin: Uh, we'll start with Taako. Taako, this wheat, the path that you are following toward the raggedy scarecrow, is itself pretty beaten down. And so it is that you can see as you wander towards this raggedy scarecrow a about dinner plate-sized single oat, with arms and feet, holding a little knife.

Travis: Aww. That's cute as hell.

Justin: Sorry, an oat?

Griffin: Just a single oat.

Clint: [laughs]

Griffin: It is a— it's a— you'll know this because of your cooking background. It's an oat sprite. This oat sprite is holding a knife, and he's like...

Oat Sprite: Blegh!

[audience laughs]

Griffin: And he slashes at you, but you're so fast that you just kind of dodge out of the way, and a stiff wind picks him up and just blows him away.

[audience laughs]

Griffin: And you look up and you think, "Oh, that's weird!" And you look over just in time to see Magnus topple over, shrieking, as he is slashed with—

Travis: On a 15?!

Griffin: —with many knives, as several dozen oat sprites...

[audience laughs]

Griffin: ... uh, take him to the ground.

Taako: Hey— hey, everybody! Be careful, there's oat sprites.

[audience laughs]

Merle: Don't drop me, don't drop me, don't drop me!

Griffin: No, you're both going down. Magnus and Merle, you both take 11 points of slashing damage as you are...

Travis: That's nothing.

Griffin: ... surrounded by oat sprites, who are now holding you down and cutting into you with gleeful laughter.

Clint: [sighs]

Oat Sprites: [high-pitched] Hee hee hee hee!

[audience laughs]

Justin: So have I made it to the food yet?

Griffin: [holding back laughter] Uh, yeah?

Justin: Cool.

Griffin: I mean— sorry, you were halfway there when you saw your friends getting, uh... okay, just checkin'.

[audience laughs]

Taako: Yeah, I mean... they got it.

Griffin: Sure. Um...

Taako: Hey, do you guys got it?

Magnus: Yep!

Taako: Alright!

Merle: [muffled] No!

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: Okay. Yeah, you get to the clearing with the table in it, and there is a scarecrow on a stake, and sort of surrounding that stake is a big round table with a meager selection of ingredients. A moldy loaf of whole wheat bread, a half a sheath of saltines, and a trio of rock-hard dinner rolls.

Justin: Hmmm...

Griffin: This is not a puzzle.

[audience laughs]

Travis: Choose Jesus's rolls!

Justin: I take— [holding back laughter] I take them. In a bag.

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: That I brought. From home.

Griffin: Roll a Dexterity saving throw.

Justin: Son of a... it's just dumb. 4.

[audience laughs]

Clint: [amused] How do you not pick up a roll?

Justin: Yeah, you're gonna pick up a roll!

Travis: Oh, it was a roll roll!

Griffin: You reach down and you scoop all the stuff into the bag, and you feel like a broom hitting you in the side of the head as this raggedy-ass scarecrow hanging off its stake is just like... [blowing quiet raspberries]

Griffin: You take 1 point of bludgeoning damage.

[audience laughs]

Griffin: And he's like...

Scarecrow: [laughs villainously] Got you!

[audience laughs]

Taako: It's rude, honestly. It's rude!

Scarecrow: Yeah. You want more? I got more rolls inside of my body! [chuckles]

Taako: Wait, do you— do you really?

Scarecrow: Yeah, reach in and get 'em! I got more bread.

Taako: Yeah, okay, sure!

[audience laughs]

Justin: I reach in and get the brea—

Griffin: Make a Dexterity saving throw.

Justin: I reach into his breadbasket. [laughs quietly]

Griffin: Yeah.

[audience laughs]

Justin: Just for you. That's a 10 plus... 3.

[audience laughs]

Griffin: Uh, he hits you with both of his arms this time, like pow, pow! And you take two points of bludgeoning damage. There's no fuckin' bread in there, man!

[audience laughs]

Griffin: You fell for the oldest trick in the book.

Travis: Oh, the "I got rolls in my tummy"! Oldest trick in the book.

Griffin: I mean, I guess he's filled with straw. [laughs quietly] I don't know if that's...

Taako: Hey, do you have a s... a soul?

Scarecrow: [villainous laughter] Of course!

Taako: Okay.

Scarecrow: Thanks to my lord and savior! [villainous laughter]

[audience laughs]

Taako: [wheezes] Okay. I'm gonna just go? If that's...

Scarecrow: No, wait! Hold on, wait, man.

Taako: [wheezes loudly]

Scarecrow: Shhh.

Taako: Yeah?

Scarecrow: Hold on, man.

Taako: Yeah? You're not gonna hit me again?

Scarecrow: Shh, listen.

Taako: [laughs] Alright.

[audience laughs]

Scarecrow: Will you reach inside me again?

Justin: [wheezes loudly]

[audience laughs]

Clint: Come on.

Scarecrow: I'm not gonna lie to you, I'm gonna... bop you. But I don't have much else goin' for me.

[audience laughs]

Scarecrow: I'm a raggedy-ass scarecrow in a game show that might or might not even be in a dream.

[audience laughs]

Taako: Let me— tell you what. Let me help you get down.

Scarecrow: Thank you.

Taako: Then you can go on your way! Right? You're sentient.

Scarecrow: Sure.

Taako: Do you have legs?

Scarecrow: I got a stake.

Taako: Alright! [wheezes]

[audience laughs]

Travis: Cook with the steak!

Griffin: Do you go to help him down?

Justin: Yeah, I help him down.

Griffin: Make a Dexterity saving throw.

[audience laughs]

Justin: Uh, 16 plus 3, 19.

Griffin: I mean, he swings at you again, but you dodge him. He's like...

Scarecrow: Oh! You're learning! Heh heh heh.

[audience laughs]

Taako: Alright, you're— you're actually rude, and I am leaving now. Goodbye.

Scarecrow: Okay. I love you.

Taako: [holding back laughter] Yeah, for sure!

[audience laughs]

Taako: I get it!

Griffin: Uh, Magnus and Merle, you both are being cut with mini blades.

Travis: You said it's like dinner size plate oats, right?

Griffin: Yeah, but it's like, 40 of 'em.

Travis: Okay. Magnus is gonna stand up...

[audience laughs]

Griffin: Uhh, okay.

Travis: I could pick up 40 dinner plates, Griffin. It wouldn't be *easy*, but like—

Griffin: Could you pick up 40 sentient, killer dinner plates with blades?

[audience laughs]

Travis: Could Mag— okay. I'm saying compare me to Magnus, and I think that covers the sentience.

Griffin: Okay. Yes, you can stand up.

[scattered laughter]

Travis: Okay.

Griffin: You're standing!

[audience laughs]

Travis: Thank you.

Griffin: Merle?

Clint: Merle casts Firestorm.

Griffin: [splutters] Fuck!

[audience laughs and cheers]

Travis: Hey, guys?

Justin: Damn. On himself.

Travis: Damn, Dad! Just a heads up, Dad went through his spells yesterday, and I could hear him across the room keep going, "I can do that?!"

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: "That's something I can do?! Well, I'm definitely memorizing that one! I gonna memorize all the spells I've never used before!"

Griffin: Yeah, sure.

Travis: So hold on to your butts, folks.

Griffin: Yeah.

[extended cheering]

Travis: It's gonna get weird!

Clint: None of that healing shit tonight!

Travis: Yeah!

Justin: Yeah!

Griffin: [laughs]

[audience cheers]

Travis: That's played out!

Justin: Yeah, he's trying something new!

Clint: That's old school!

Justin: No more huge, helpful heals from Clint McElroy!

Clint: Uh-uh!

Griffin: Je— hold on. Jesus Christ. The area of the storm consists of up to ten ten-foot cubes. Which you can arrange as you wish!

[audience laughs]

Justin: Dad, what level spell did you use to kill small oats?

Clint: Ssss... seven?

[audience laughs and cheers loudly]

Travis: Papa!

[cheering continues]

Travis: Papa!

Clint: Wait a minute! And the scarecrow, the mean scarecrow!

Griffin: Okay. Hey. Hey.

Travis: We're on the first level of the Ziggurat!

Griffin: Check it, hey! Everyone, make Dexterity saving throws.

Clint: No!

Justin: No!

Clint: They do not!

Justin: It's of his choice!

Clint: Because I can arrange it in whatever shape I want with the ten-foot cubes, so I'm arranging it [yelling] to not hit myself, Magnus, and Taako!

[audience cheers]

Clint: You have created a monster in me!

Justin: Yes. He has gained the power of literacy!

Clint: Okay—

Justin: And now is unstoppable!

[audience laughs]

Justin: You'll never bring him down now that he can read!

[audience laughs]

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: Well, not just read; comprehend.

Griffin: Okay.

[audience cheers]

Justin: Casting those seventh level spells'll really dehydrate you.

Griffin: So here's what happens.

Justin: [quietly] Seventh level...

Griffin: Uh—

Justin: That kills gods, man!

Travis: Yeah, dude. Thank you!

[audience cheers]

Griffin: There is... heat and light that you all feel immediately.

Justin: [holding back laughter] Classic fires. [wheezes]

[audience laughs]

Travis: Is there maybe a smell of, like, burning?

Griffin: It smells great! It smells like you're in a fucking Panera Bread.

Travis: Yeah-ha!

Clint: [laughs]

Justin: Sure.

Griffin: Uh, and just as quickly as it— just a flash oven that just goes, and then is gone. And now you are all standing in for, maybe the third or fourth time in your adventuring careers, a blighted burned hellscape of your own creation.

[audience cheers]

Travis: Now, I assume the food's fine?

Griffin: Now... the food that Taako has put in his bag is fine. The raggedy-ass scarecrow got a crit on his save, so he is just like...

Scarecrow: [yelling] What the fuuuck?!

[audience laughs]

Justin: A crit! Wait, a good crit or a bad crit?

Griffin: A good crit.

Justin: Okay.

Griffin: He's like...

Scarecrow: This was my home! It's not much but it's all I got!

Justin: [laughs] Did he kill the bad scarecrow that I hated?

Griffin: The other scarecrows are— they're not even *there* anymore!

[audience laughs]

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: They will need to be identified via dental prints!

Clint: [laughs]

Justin: Oh yeah, did he mention the teeth? They have huge, distinguishable teeth.

Griffin: There is no wheat. There is no other ingredients that have survived the burning. There are also, like, about 10 oat sprites still sort of clinging on to the two of you that, like... just, like, back off. Like...

Oat Sprites: Alright, we're so sorry! Please, this is a *game*! It's a game show!

Clint: Grab 'em and put 'em in our bags!

Oat Sprites: Nooo!

Clint: Yesss!

Justin: Yes.

[audience laughs]

Clint: Wheat. We could grind 'em up and make bread.

[audience laughs]

Griffin: Uh, I'm gonna need an Animal Handling check from the two of you to gather up as many oat sprites—

Travis: I'm not complicit in this!

[audience laughs]

Griffin: Okay. Merle, I need a Animal Handling check from you to gather up—

Clint: Animal Handling. That would be... an 11.

Griffin: Okay. I'll let you get a couple dinner-size—[laughs] you need to... hmm. Ethically... [wheezes]

[audience laughs]

Griffin: Neutralize them. They will be sort of scrambling around in whatever sort of sack you've got.

Clint: Okay. Um... [blows raspberry] do I have any gluten-based spells? Well, I just kind of take 'em and I "Tap, tap, pop! Tap, pop!"

Griffin: [laughs]

Clint: "Pop! Pop!"

Griffin: Yeah, they just— they just, as oats do, go limp. And you gather up a couple of 'em. Uh, Magnus? You still have some on you. Are you just gonna...

Magnus: Get away from here. It's not safe anymore!

Oat Sprites: [tearfully] Thank you!

Magnus: Remember the day I saved you!

Oat Sprites: Benevolent Savior!

Griffin: They scamper away.

Magnus: I— I'm not with him, by the way. If there's more of you somewhere... please don't be mad.

Griffin: Uh, as the smoke clears, you all see that a staircase has lifted up from— well, it was actually there all along.

Clint: [laughs]

Griffin: It's just you can see it now because you burned fuckin' everything else in this room. The stairway leads to a door in the sky.

Travis: I'm gonna take some of the just random robot arms from my back— uh, from my bag. I mean, I've always got some. And just, uh, stick 'em into the scarecrow, give him legs, and say...

Magnus: You get outta here, too, man. Be free!

Scarecrow: Wow, you gave me... robot arm... legs! [laughs quietly] Just what I've always wanted!

Magnus: Better than a stake! Get outta here!

Scarecrow: You're right, you're right. [mechanical whirring noises]

[audience laughs]

Travis: And then I go up the stairs.

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: Oh! I get— I get his email address so we can stay in touch.

Griffin: Sure, sure, sure.

[audience laughs]

Griffin: You all reach the top of the stairs, and upon cresting the top step you— they disappear behind you. Paul, please, the next music cue. Of the... I think it's called "Tension Music".

[audience laughs]

[tense dramatic music plays in the background]

Travis: Wow. Tense.

Griffin: It deposits you in another enormous outdoor scene. This one, however, I have written here is not as peaceful as the last. You're met with the smell of smoke and decay. But...

[audience laughs]

Travis: You didn't— you didn't anticipate Dad losing his soul.

Griffin: Yeah.

[audience laughs]

Travis: Somewhere.

Griffin: You stand on a hilltop overlooking a battlefield stretching between two great castles. Each fly a great flag above a burning citadel, one sporting a proud and noble banana, the other a brilliant green stalk of broccoli. And blanketing the battlefield are fruits, vegetables, and the rusted armaments they wielded in what appears to have been a terrible and costly war.

Joining you on the hilltop upon which you stand is a single figure, seated by a tent and a roaring fireplace. They look... large and cylindrical, dressed in brown robes that obscure their appearance. And as they sense your arrival, they speak. And they say...

Robed Figure: Come and... sit by the fire a spell.

Magnus: Okay.

Taako: Yep!

[pause]

Griffin: He gestures you towards the fireplace. He says...

Robed Figure: I do not know what brings you to this—

Magnus: Do you have any cushions?

[pause]

Robed Figure: Oh, yes. I— one moment.

Griffin: He stands up and goes in the tent and brings you three cushions.

Robed Figure: Where are my manners?

Magnus: Any marshmallows?

Robed Figure: No. Any food that you require here must be earned through combat.

Magnus: What the fuck? Even marshmallows?!

Robed Figure: [gravely] Even marshmallows.

Griffin: He pulls back his hood and you see that this figure is actually a sentient, man-sized cucumber, and—

Travis: Oh, I was so afraid you were gonna say marshmallow! And I would've been so embarrassed.

[audience laughs]

Griffin: He says, uh...

Cucumber: So... thine quest is the same as the others, I imagine.

[pause]

Taako: Oh. Huh?

[audience laughs]

Cucumber: You s— you s— you collect ingredients [crosstalk]—

Taako: We need— we need groceries, yeah, for sure.

Cucumber: That is an insulting— the most insulting way that you could phrase that.

[audience laughs]

Taako: Okay...

Magnus: But you did just say if I wanted food I'd have to earn it.

Cucumber: But I said it in a sort of ominous and sort of fantastical—

Magnus: You also said "thine," and I wasn't gonna mention it, but if you're gonna talk about the way we phrase things, grow up, man.

[audience laughs]

Cucumber: I'm afraid that it is too late. Look around you. The fallen crusaders at our feet have become nourishment for the soil upon which they have died.

Taako: Oh, I'll just get those!

Magnus: Yeah!

Cucumber: Hmm... they're all spoiled and yucky.

Taako: Convenient.

Magnus: I mean, not all of 'em...

Travis: And I look at him real hard.

[audience laughs]

[pause]

Cucumber: I'm afraid... don't do— come on, man.

[all laugh]

[audience laughs]

Travis: "Be cool, bro!"

Cucumber: There is no food or ingredients to be had here.

Griffin: And then you hear a voice from the tent say...

Voice: Forget not the reliquary.

Griffin: And the cucumber says...

Cucumber: Ah, yes. Of course. I... I am Sir Lawrence of the Vegetable Kingdom.

[scattered loud cheering]

Clint: [laughs]

Sir Lawrence: And if it is fresh produce you seek, you must first provide for me fair compensation.

Taako: What do you— what do you want? What does a cucumber want?

Magnus: God, I've wondered that so many times in my life. When I'm high.

Taako: Other than— than your hairbrush, obviously. Your misplaced hairbrush.

[audience cheers]

Sir Lawrence: Friends... you are wise beyond your appearance.

Clint: [laughs]

Sir Lawrence: You see, me and my squire, we are the last of our people. We seek not currency. We merely seek hope. We seek... stories of worlds not blighted

like our own. Preferably featuring sentient fruits and vegetables as characters. We ask you—

Travis: Aw yeah!

Sir Lawrence: We ask you for a Veggie Tale.

[audience cheers]

Griffin: And he gestures towards the tent and says...

Sir Lawrence: Come, Sir Robert.

Griffin: And a large tomato rolls out of the tent and sits by the fire.

[extended cheering]

Magnus: I assume Robert is of the fruit kingdom?

Sir Lawrence: It's complicated.

[audience laughs]

Clint: [laughs]

Travis: "Culinarily, yes."

Sir Lawrence: Don't— don't... don't be an asshole about it.

[audience laughs]

Magnus: Well, have we got a tale for you!

Griffin: [laughs]

[audience cheers]

Merle: There was once a field of wheats...

[audience laughs]

Magnus: No! This is— nope.

Taako: No!

Magnus: Not this one. [laughs]

Merle: Oh, not that one?

Taako: Too— too grim. Too grim.

Sir Lawrence: This sounds like a tale of noble heroism and great sacrifice.

Magnus: One time a young asparagus... faced off against a giant.

Sir Lawrence: Oh!

Merle: Armed only with a spear.

Magnus: No, it was a sling.

Travis: It's fucking David and Goli— do you not remember fucking Veggie Tales?!

Clint: Asparagus spear. That was what I was going for.

Travis: I know, Dad! But— okay. Sorry. But it's from Veggie—

Sir Lawrence: Do you three need a moment?

[audience laughs]

Magnus: Oh, wait! Does mushrooms count? 'Cause we did that once.

[pause]

[audience laughs]

Sir Lawrence: Ye— yes?

Magnus: Merle started a whole religion on a mushroom planet.

Sir Lawrence: [distraught] No!

Merle: No, no, actually—

Sir Lawrence: Heretic!

Merle: Technically I started a whole religion on mushrooms.

Griffin: [laughs]

Merle: So... it— it's a slight grey area.

Sir Robert: I am bored, Sir Lawrence.

Sir Lawrence: No, give them— give them a chance. They seem convivial.

[audience laughs]

Magnus: Are you guys, like, way into the Judeo-Christian God, or what?

Sir Lawrence: We are way into stories of heroism and noble sacrifice featuring preferably [holding back laughter] sentient fruits and vegetables! Why are you struggling— it seems like a pretty easy prompt?

Magnus: Uhh, let's see. Once upon a time... there... was an apple.

Sir Lawrence: Are you exquisite corpsing this? 'Cause actually I'm changing the parameters, and that's exactly what I want now.

[audience laughs]

Magnus: Once upon a time there was an apple...

Merle: Farmer. Who, uh—

Travis: No! It has to be a sentient fruit or vegetable! There was one—

[audience laughs]

Clint: This is backstory, Travis!

Travis: Is the apple the farmer?

Justin: It can't be— there can't be hu— unless the apple farmer is, like, [cough-laugh] an aubergine or something. Like, it has to be—

Clint: No!

Sir Lawrence: Did you hear that—

Clint: He's a farmer who's an apple!

Travis: Thank you.

Clint: He's an apple farmer!

Magnus: [speaking quickly] Once upon a time there was an apple, comma, farmer. [laughs]

Griffin: The tomato raises his hand.

Merle: Yes?

Griffin: Does he grow humans?

[audience laughs]

Merle: Taako?

Taako: This apple farmer... grew weed.

[audience laughs]

Taako: And he... loved the stuff, and couldn't—he... [sighs heavily] the apple farmer... well. I don't need to tell you. One day he heard a voice in his head. And the voice said... [pause]

[audience laughs]

Magnus: The voice said, "You know what? The government is only... policing marijuana because... "

[audience laughs]

Magnus: "... of big tobacco and big pharma!"

[audience cheers]

Magnus: "And... I don't know, man! Maybe... do your best, and fly below the radar!" And then he...

Griffin: [laughs]

Merle: Gave 'em a wink and a secret smile...

Griffin: Gave *who* a wink and a secret smile?!

Clint: Them!

Justin: It's a voice! A mysterious voice!

Clint: The mysterious voice!

Griffin: Okay, the voice winked.

Merle: The voice winked, and he said... "What will you have of me, oh Lord?"

[audience laughs]

Magnus: That's right.

Griffin: There— Law— Lawrence perks up.

Sir Lawrence: Ah, here we go.

[audience laughs]

Sir Lawrence: This is my shit.

Merle: And the Lord waved, and in the, uh... in the leaves of the trees, he saw this message. [snorts]

Griffin: [laughs]

[audience laughs]

Taako: If you build it, he will come.

[extended cheering]

Magnus: I'm sorry. If you build it, he will come? Was that it?

Taako: Yes. And the... apple farmer was like... "Build what? I'm— it's right up against harvest season, 420 just passed so it is, um, pretty dead here, honestly. What do you want me to build? I got some free time." [pause] And the voice responded...

[audience laughs]

Magnus: "A dispensary." Um...

Taako: Cost efficient.

Clint: [laughs]

Magnus: Yes. "You gotta do some, uh, integration. Uh, right now you're providing product. You need to also sell the product, my man. What are you thinking? Your supply and demand and business and stuff."

Sir Robert: It really feels like it's gotten away from them, Sir Lawrence.

Merle: And from that day forward...

Magnus: Yeah, a good transition.

Merle: He was known as... Johnny Appleweed.

[extended loud cheering]

Travis: A critical hit!

[cheering continues]

Justin: Yes!

Taako: Saved it!

Merle: Phew.

Taako: That's— that's lucky, actually. I was about to turn it into *The Matrix*, so...

Griffin: [laughs] Sir Lawrence looks at you and says..

Sir Lawrence: I'd actually like to hear that.

Magnus: Yeah.

Taako: That'll be on the DVD. [wheezes]

Clint: [muffled laughter]

Griffin: They confer for a moment, and then they nod, and he says...

Sir Lawrence: Bring out, like, the... you know, like the— the okay reliquary.

Sir Robert: Yes, okay.

Griffin: And they go— Sir Robert rolls into the tent and brings out a small wooden but refrigerated box, containing, uh, a very small selection of produce. You got your onions, your celery, and your garlic. Uh, and—

Travis: [singing] Broccoli, gotta be...

[audience cheers]

Griffin: Sure, I'll give you a broccoli, and an apple, just because of the story.

Travis: And they're alive and we have to kill them?

Griffin: They are—

Clint: [loudly] Leave it to me!

Griffin: No. They're— they are— they— and here's what's fucked up. They are— they have been sort of ritualistically bur— like, buried. And they are— they have faces, but it's very respectful and peaceful.

Travis: Okay.

[audience laughs]

Griffin: These were heroes to these people at one point.

Travis: And consuming their flesh would be an honor to them.

Griffin: Absolutely it would be an honor.

Travis: Okay, great.

[audience laughs]

Travis: Not weird at all.

Clint: Mm-mmm.

Travis: I wrote that down in my notes.

Sir Lawrence: Thank you, friends. Um... we shall rebuild our kingdoms and...

Taako: Can we go?

Sir Lawrence: ... our children's children—

Travis: I'm already going, yeah.

Taako: We're done here, right?

Sir Lawrence: [crosstalk]—ope, okay. Uh... take it— take her sleazy. Um...

[audience cheers]

Sir Lawrence: I had some cheat codes for the next floor, but...

Magnus: Wait!

Sir Lawrence: Oh, no! Too—

Magnus: Aww!

Sir Lawrence: —too late!

Merle: I didn't go anywhere!

Sir Lawrence: Nope, that's a escalator you're standing on. It's taking you up against your will.

Griffin: Once again, the escalator disappears as it carries you up, and then you find yourself standing at the edge of a coliseum. The walls are transparent, and the audience outside in the game show studio is cheering as they see you come up into the chamber.

[extended cheering]

[tense dramatic music plays in the background]

Griffin: *Threeee* podiums stand before you, each with a button featuring a dig insignia. One: an adorable-looking pig. The second: a simple blue fish. The third features what looks like a white box with a question mark on it.

Travis: Mystery meat.

Griffin: What do you do?

Travis: [chanting] Pig, pig, pig, pig, pig!

Clint: Hm...

Taako: Why is everyone looking at me? I'm the—

Magnus: [yelling] You're the chef!

Taako: I push the pig button!

Griffin: It... it clicks and breaks and falls over.

Travis: I press the mystery button!

Griffin: Ahh!

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: [laughs]

[audience cheers]

Justin: "Welcome to Railroad Kitchen."

[all laugh]

[audience laughs]

Griffin: You press the button that has a white box with a question mark on it. And as you do, the question mark smudges, and you realize it was actually just some dirt that got up on the button. And when that happens, I need all of you actually to make a Dexterity saving throw.

Travis: Could we do a different kind of saving throw that I'm good at? That was a 9!

Justin: I got a 4. Plus... 3. 7.

Griffin: Wow, wow, wow.

Travis: Now, what about a Strength saving throw? I have a plus 10 to that.

Griffin: There will be time for that.

Travis: That's... a d12 Dad just rolled with.

Griffin: Oh, that's fun!

[audience laughs]

Justin: Let's go ahead and crank out a d20 real quick, Mac.

Griffin: That's a 12 again. I—

Travis: Trust me, Clinton!

Griffin: Got lots of little faces. Big numbers.

Travis: Did you roll anything higher than a 12? 'Cause that would be the first clue I'm wrong.

Clint: 14.

Griffin: Total?

Clint: Yeah. I got no Dexterity whatsoever, apparently.

Griffin: Oh, god, guys!

[audience laughs]

[pause]

Griffin: There's a shadow that appears over you, and then a whistling noise, and then a sickening splorch noise. And—

Clint: Aw, if it's Bible Man, I'm leavin'.

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: The three of you can't... the three of you can't see what happened because it fell on you, but the audience can see, as a gelatinous tofu cube...

[audience cheers]

Griffin: Falls from the sky with a sickening plop, and engulfs the three of you.

Travis: Now, wait. Hold on.

Griffin: Okay. So... the three of you are going to take... [giggles]

[audience laughs]

Clint: [laughs]

Travis: Not a good sign.

Clint: Bad sign.

Griffin: Okay. So the three of you are going to take, uh, 16 points of bludgeoning damage.

Clint: Good Lord.

Travis: Still not that much.

Griffin: Uh, you all are—

Travis: It's great to be a tank.

Justin: You don't need to brag about all your great hit points all the time.

Travis: I'm just sayin', I'm beef.

Justin: I know, but you're cutting the tension! You know what I mean? Sheesh!

Travis: Just sayin'. I thought he wanted to hurt me.

Griffin: We will go— we will go in order of Dexterity saving throw for who goes next. Merle, you are engulfed in a giant cube of tofu. Uh, you can try and do stuff in here. You can't breathe. Uh, you can make a strength check to try and get out of the tofu, [holding back laughter] or you can make an action inside the tofu.

Clint: [snorts]

[pause]

Griffin: Isn't this more fun than fighting a pig?!

[audience laughs]

Clint: [sucks teeth] How about, umm... could I start eating?

[scattered laughter]

Clint: And try to eat my way out of the cube?

Griffin: You *absolutely* can start eating your way out of the cube.

[audience cheers]

Griffin: Let me just, uh, look at my helpful reference sheet here to see how that would work. Uh...

Travis: An Eating check.

Griffin: Yeah, sure.

Travis: It would be Constitution, for sure.

Griffin: I think it would be a Constitu— just a Con— not a saving throw, but a Constitution just check.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Straight up Constitution— oh, no, you know what? Maybe it's... I'll give you a choice. It's either a Constitution check or Survival.

[audience laughs]

Clint: Uh... I had better go with the, uh...

Griffin: I'm gonna guess—

Clint: Constitution check!

Griffin: Okay. Let's see what you got.

Clint: Uhh, that is a 15 plus 2, that's 17.

[audience cheers]

Griffin: Okay. Describe this. You don't get out of the space. You do make— you eat a large cavity of cube. And it's... for you two, pretty weird. Uh, but he eats, I would say, a comfortable cavity inside of the tofu for the three of you to kind of be in together.

Travis: Now, Griffin, let me ask you—

Clint: Wait! I'm eating, like... oh, okay. That's not exactly eating my way out.

Griffin: Well, your sense of direction is not the best.

Travis: Can I ask you a question seriously? Do you think in all our time together...

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: ... Magnus and Taako are in any way surprised by this behavior from Merle?

Griffin: No, not at all.

Travis: That's what I'm saying.

Griffin: I think you were waiting for a cavity to appear around you inside of the sentient tofu cube, as devoured by your small friend, Merle.

Travis: Thank you. Okay, great.

Griffin: Remind me, which of you— you got a 4, Taako? On your Dex save?

Justin: Do y'all remember? It was not good.

Griffin: It was not—

[unintelligible answers from the audience]

Griffin: 7?

Justin: 7.

Audience Members: 9.

Clint: [laughs]

Griffin: Okay then. Uh, thank you, everybody. Magnus—

Justin: You all should always be here. That's fantastic.

Griffin: Magnus, you are now within the cavity, the tofu cavity.

Clint: Wait a minute, wait a minute. [loud eating noises]

Justin: Ughhh!

Travis: Worst ASMR ever. Um...

Clint: [laughs]

[audience cheers]

Travis: Time to toast this tofu.

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: I draw the [mumbling] Flaming Raging Poisonous Sword of Doom.

[audience cheers loudly]

Travis: Or, excuse me. The Flaming Poisoning Raging Sword of Doom.

Griffin: Yes, please.

Taako: Stop! No, wait!

Griffin: I'm gonna—[laughs] okay. Uh, okay.

Magnus: This is where we find out if this is a dream or not.

Taako: Tofu has its own despicable place in the kitchen! Please don't destroy it!

Magnus: No, I'm not. I'm just gonna slice it in half.

Taako: Okay, great.

Griffin: I want you to make, before this happens—

Taako: Precision.

Griffin: I want you to make a Sleight of Hand check. You are inside a cavity inside of a tofu cube with two... friends? And...

[audience laughs]

Griffin: This is a 20-foot-long flaming—

Travis: It is a 16 plus 2, an 18.

Griffin: That's your Sleight of Hand check?

Travis: Yep.

Griffin: Okay. It's, like— it takes you a while to just, like... [pause] [squelching noises] Get it without cutting your friends or burning them or killing them and killing everyone.

You draw the Flaming Raging Poisoning Sword of Doom. You call can see each other now inside the tofu hole.

[audience laughs]

Taako: Hey!

Merle: [mouth full] Hey.

Griffin: [laughs loudly]

Magnus: "Hey, where do you wanna get lunch?" "Um... we could go to the tofu hole?"

Clint: [dry heaves]

Magnus: "No, no. I've heard bad things about the tofu hole."

Merle: I'm not hungry.

Travis: Uh... I'm gonna attempt to slice it in half.

Griffin: Okay. Uh, make an attack roll against the tofu cube that you're engulfed within.

Travis: Uh, that is a 23 total.

Griffin: Fu-u-uck. You don't have to show me. I...

[audience cheers]

Clint: Nah, he really does.

Travis: Yeah, I really do.

Griffin: Okay. Uh, suddenly the suffocating smell of tofu and the actual suffocating tofu that is suffocating you, uh, is rent in half. Uh, and two seared tofu halves just kind of fall to the side, leaving the three of you, again, on the arena floor. And then the two tofu halves sit back up, and now there's two sort of half tofu cubes that are going to attempt—

Travis: Okay. I use my second attack.

Griffin: Aw, yeah. That's right.

Clint: [laughs]

Travis: Uh, that is a 28.

Griffin: Okay.

[audience cheers]

Travis: Uh... and then that is... uh, 28 points of damage as well.

Griffin: Uh, okay. One of the other tofu cubes get cut in half. Now there's one half tofu cube and two—

Travis: And I— I'll just make it easy for you. I use my third attack.

Griffin: [tired] Okay.

[audience laughs]

Travis: Uh, that is an 18 total.

Griffin: Uh, yeah, that's gonna hit this tofu.

Travis: Uh, and then... uh, 32 damage.

Griffin: Yeah, okay, yeah. That tofu half... [laughs] it's like...

Tofu Half: Oh— okay. [farting noise]

Griffin: And it melts. Taako.

Justin: Uh, I am going to cast Reduce on— wait. Okay, wait.

Griffin: There's two quarter tofus now.

Travis: [simultaneously] There's four.

Justin: Please do some fractions for me.

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: Well, okay. I assume that I didn't destroy—

Justin: [crosstalk] You be quiet now. You be quiet. There's a half— you killed all my tofu! I need this to cook!

Travis: I killed it, but it's not like I turned it to ash!

Griffin: You— he—

Clint: Wait, was it sentient?!

Griffin and Justin: Yeah!

[audience laughs]

Clint: Ohh!

Travis: You can't—

[audience laugh]

Griffin: Oh, shit! Wait, hold on! Merle! Merle! Merle, Merle, Merle!

Travis: Now's the Con save throw.

Griffin: Merle, Merle, Merle! Make another constitution saving throw, Merle-Merle-Merle!

[audience cheers]

Justin: Daddy, make a Constitution saving throw.

Griffin: This one's gonna be digestive in nature.

Clint: Oh, god.

Justin: [wheezes loudly]

Clint: That's a 10.

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: Okay. You see Merle look like he's sick for a second, and then he stands up straight and he's like, "[villainous voice] Actually I'm feeling just fine. [chuckles]"

Travis: Oh, no!

[audience groans]

Justin: Not again!

Travis: I chop Merle in half!

[audience laughs]

Travis: Wait!

Audience Members: Not again!

Justin: Thank you.

Clint: Thank you.

Justin: You all appreciate me when no one else does. Thank you.

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: Yes, I did say "Not again." It was very funny. What do you want to do now?

Travis: It's up to you.

Griffin: You've got two quarter tofu cubes and one apparently tofu-possessed Merle.

Taako: Okay... that's not my problem!

Justin: Uh, so I'm gonna move on to the to— there's two quarter tofu cubes?

Griffin: Yes.

Justin: How big are they?

Griffin: Ah... hmm... waist high.

Justin: Okay. I'm gonna cast Reduce on one of 'em.

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: And I'm gonna put it in my bag.

Griffin: Okay. [blows raspberry] He's still blorpin' around in there.

Justin: Let him.

Griffin: With the fruit and vegetable corpses and, uh... yeah, and the oats, and the moldy— er, the— what did you get? The bread rolls and crackers and moldy bread. Uh... so you have that going for you.

Taako: Okay. Uh, well, that's my time! Hey! Uh, it seems like Merle is possessed by tofu, so I don't know what you got planned.

Magnus: I don't have ma— unless I can cut it out of him, I don't have anything to add here, magic man!

Clint: Are you the keymaster?

Travis: Oh boy.

Griffin: Oh shit!

Magnus: Maybe if I hit him hard enough in the tummy he'll throw up.

Taako: [halfheartedly] Please, Merle, you have to fight.

[scattered laughter]

Taako: Please. You have to [mumbling] fight back against it...

Merle: Gozer?

Magnus: Okay.

Taako: You have to fight back against it, Merle. Summon all your strength or whatever.

Griffin: Actually— okay, we're running over time. Merle, you feel the tofu inside you go, "I actually don't wanna be in here anymore."

[audience laughs]

Merle: Well, you got two ways to go, pal!

[audience laughs]

Griffin: Make...

Merle: And I'm not gonna do one of 'em onstage.

Travis: Griffin? As the tofu, make a Constitution saving throw to see which end of Merle...

Griffin: That's a 3, so I don't know if that's good or bad.

Travis: That's the— that's the back.

[scattered laughter]

Griffin: Can we just say that... that there's a whistle that blows and Gorgon Ramsay leans down and he's like...

Gorgon Ramsay: Oh, what's— what's the pro— oh, you need to... take a 10-2? A little bathroom break?

[pause]

Merle: Sure!

Gorgon Ramsay: Okay.

Merle: Actually I do, yes. I'm glad you mentioned that.

Gorgon Ramsay: Okay. Well then, we'll pause production for just a moment while Merle goes backstage and deals with this, uh— this problem. I'll be honest, been doing this show for 200 years. Never seen this happen before.

Magnus: Never had a sentient bathroom break?

Gorgon Ramsay: No. So we're going to— this will all be delicate for both you and the sentient tofu, so we'll take a brief break, during which the audience can go and maybe use the bathroom themselves.

Travis: Or buy posters.

Gorgon Ramsay: Or buy some lovely posters [holding back laughter] outside. And we'll be back in a little bit. Does that sound good? [pause] Okay, sounds good to me! We'll be right back!

[audience cheers]

[calm music plays]

[ad break]

[piano music plays]

Griffin: Thank you to *all* of you, holy shit, for coming! This has been so much fun.

[audience cheers]

Griffin: Uh, thank you to The Orpheum. Thank you to Paul, and to Amanda, and to Rachel, and to—

Travis: And to Storm. We never thank Storm for letting Paul come to the show.

Griffin: Yeah, thanks, Storm, for giving Paul [laughs] time off.

Clint: Giving us visitation.

Griffin: Thank you to our families, who have traveled with us. Thank you to, uh...

Travis: Minneapolis.

Griffin: Minneapolis for doin' it so right.

[audience cheers]

Griffin: Alright. I have— there's a— there's an account—

Travis: Thank you to Zach Sterling! The posters, Zach Sterling.

Griffin: Thank you to Zach Sterling for these beautiful posters.

Justin: [simultaneously] Zach Sterling did those—

Griffin: Get 'em if they're still there. Okay. There's an encounter that we should skip for time, but I don't want to. Merle... poops. And then we're on to the next encounter.

Clint: Well, wait a minute! Let's not just breeze through that.

Griffin: No, we are going to breeze right through that. Uh, you all enter an antechamber from the coliseum, and it is musty and foul. It's a barn-like habitat with an enormous mound—

Justin: Oh no, this is where Merle used the bathroom!

Griffin: [high-pitched laughter] There's an enormous mound of hay positioned— thanks, I forgot— on the back wall, flanked by sconces. As you enter, the gate—

Travis: It's pronounced "scones".

Griffin: Sconeses. The gate to the arena slams shut, and something within the hay pile shifts its weight. As the mound collapses you see the figure it was obfuscating: a 30 foot long black and white spotted dragon, with long horns, and swollen udders dangling from its abdomen.

[audience laughs and groans]

Griffin: A neon sign illuminates behind it, flashing two words: "Procure Dairy."

[audience laughs]

Travis: You know what? I'm gonna do a Sleight of Hand check to milk that cow snake. Not the first time I've said that sentence.

[audience laughs]

Griffin: To milk that what?

Travis: Cow snake?

Griffin: It's a dra— it's a cow dragon.

Travis: Sure. That's not as fun to say.

Griffin: Okay. It is to me, and it's more important that you know that this does dragon stuff, too.

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: Ohh, wait, wait, wait, wait. [pause] Yeah, I'm gonna do it.

Griffin: Okay, sure! Didn't change your mind at all. I love it. That's very Magnus.

Travis: That's an 11. Plus 2... 13.

Griffin: Nah, man. Nah, man. Nah, man.

Travis: I'm gonna roll Indomitable.

Griffin: Okay. What's that do?

Travis: It lets me reroll, and I have to use the second one.

Griffin: Okay, fun.

Travis: Okay. 17 plus 2, a 19.

[audience cheers]

Travis: I used up my one Indomitable to milk the cow snake.

[audience laughs]

Griffin: Um, okay.

Clint: Dragon.

Griffin: You get— you get—

Travis: I said what I said.

Griffin: You get a hand on that udder, and the cow dragon looks down at you like, "What are you fucking doing?"

[audience laughs]

Magnus: Listen, you don't like it, I don't like it, look at the sign.

Griffin: Uhh... with a— what'd you get? A 17?

Travis: 19 total.

Griffin: 19... um... yeah, I mean, you use—

Travis: That was so clearly "I don't want this to be a success but I can't justify it not."

Griffin: What are you collecting the stuff— the fluid— the milk into?

Justin: They bucket they have there.

[audience laughs]

Griffin: [holding back laughter] Sure, yeah, there's a bucket.

Travis: There would have to be!

Griffin: There would have to be a bucket. It'd be ridiculous if there wasn't a bucket. Thank you, guys. [laughs] Dumb-dumb. C'mon!

[audience laughs]

Griffin: Uh, yeah. You start collecting dragon milk. Now, Taako and Merle. This dragon doesn't love this. Uh, looks down like, "Huh, this i— hmm... "

Travis: Now, in *Stardew Valley* when I milk my cows they love it. [wheezes]

Griffin: Yeah.

[audience cheers]

Griffin: Uh, it looks like it is confused, and maybe a little bit agitated.

Taako: What's wrong, big guy?

Cow Dragon: [unintelligible grumbling]

Griffin: Do you speak Draconic?

Justin: That's a good question.

Griffin: Do you speak Cow?

Justin: Common, Dwarvish, Elvish. No.

Cow Dragon: [unintelligible grumbling]

Travis: Can I justify I learned Draconic—

Griffin: Fuck no you can't!

Travis: —from Carrie?

Griffin: No.

Travis: My best friend?

Griffin: No.

Clint: Merle casts Animal Friendship.

Griffin: Okay.

[scattered cheering]

Griffin: I'm just googling what Animal Friendship does. Uh, the animal lets you convince a beast you mean it no harm. Yeah, okay. Uh, it must succeed on a Wisdom saving throw. Okay.

[dice roll]

Griffin: Uh, that's an 11. That's gonna do it.

Clint: No, that doesn't do it.

Griffin: You're a big boy. Okay, it is— it is— it is chill with you.

Clint: Well, I need to— can I— may I talk to it?

Griffin: Uh, no. But you can— it's not gonna devour you immediately.

Travis: Can I just interject and say I just realized I chose to do Sleight of Hand instead of Animal Handling or something like that?

Griffin: Yeah. So you're like—[crosstalk] close up magic.

Travis: [crosstalk] The dragon was, like, about to attack, and then looked down like, "Wha?" And I was already milking. [wheezes]

[audience laughs and groans]

Griffin: Uh, the cow—

Merle: It's okay.

Griffin: The cow dragon leans its head down toward you, Merle.

Merle: Ohh. [exaggerated baby voice?] Come on... let us have some milk...

[audience laughs]

Griffin: Magnus, you notice that the milk is melting through the bucket.

Travis: Oh, acid milk!

Griffin: It's cow dragon milk, yes. Taako, what do you do?

Justin: It's melting through the bucket, huh?

Griffin: Yeah, it is.

Justin: I wi— aw, man. I got a lot of spells, but I only have dumb ones.

[audience laughs]

Justin: I decided that I don't—

Travis: Once again, just to follow up. Justin did say before we started? "I'm only gonna learn dumb spells."

Justin: Yeah. I'm getting more into, like, preparing spells.

Griffin: Sure, sure.

Justin: And I only prepared dumb ones. [wheezes]

Travis: [laughs]

Clint: Trust me, it's a lot of fun!

Justin: Yeah... you don't prepare spells, but thank you.

Clint: I do indeed!

Justin: Okay. Um...

Travis: This time.

Griffin: This was a mistake. I should've skipped this fucking encounter.

Travis: Oh! You know what, Griffin?

Griffin: Yeah?

Travis: I put it in the Tankard of Po— Potent Drink.

Single Audience Member: [yelling distantly] Yeahhh!

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: That I have—

[audience cheers]

Travis: It is a magical super rare item that I have.

Griffin: [laughs loudly] And therefore cannot be melted by dragon milk?

Travis: That was my hope, yes.

[audience laughs]

Griffin: Okay, I'll allow it. But mostly because I wanna get out of this scene.

Travis: I know! That's why I said it!

Griffin: You all collect the dragon milk inside the c— the ta—

Travis: And the dragon is glad it happens.

Griffin: Yeah. The dragon's like...

Cow Dragon: Well, thank you.

Griffin: And you make your way up a staircase. As you leave the room, the dragon shifts its weight, and some of the hay falls aside, and a refrigerator appears, filled with all kinds of milk and butter and—

Travis: Dammit!

Clint: [laughs]

Griffin: Jesus Christ, you guys!

Clint: We've gotta look around more.

Justin: Why wouldn't we milk a dragon?!

Griffin: You make your way to the top of the Ziggurat where, waiting for you, is a full kitchen filled with—

Travis: Milk.

[audience laughs]

Griffin: Shining—

Clint: Sound effects.

Griffin: Shining chrome appliances. All you could ever want from a kitchen. Stove?!

[audience laughs]

Travis: Does it do the thing where the door slides into it?

Griffin: Ohh, yeah! It's got that *Great British Bake-Off* shit for sure.

Justin: Is there a—

[audience cheers loudly]

Travis: [yelling] That's the dream!

Justin: A cherry red Kitchenaid stand mixer?

Griffin: Yes, yes.

Travis: With the paddle attachment?

Griffin: Yes, the paddle attachment is there! And it is all ready for you to go. All the ingredients disappear from your bag and appear on a big table in front of the cooking station. There's fruits and vegetables. There's moldy bread, and some crackers, [holding back laughter] and some dead oats.

Justin: Tofu.

Griffin: There's some tofu. Some sizzling, possibly inedible dragon milk. Is that it? Yes, I think so.

Clint: Wheat.

Griffin: Yes, some ch—

Travis: Some toasted wheat.

Griffin: Some toasted wheat. There's a sign hanging over the cooking station that lights up.

Travis: This isn't your mother's kitchen, so clean up the dishes yourself!

Griffin: The first thing that appears is a timer that says 30 minutes and 7 seconds on it. And also, a sign that says: "Cook. Begin."

[scattered laughter]

Travis: Well, which one?

Taako: Okay, let me think. Uh, we don't have a lot of options. There's moldy bread... vegetables and fruits, yuck.

[audience laughs]

Taako: Tofu. We should've gotten a protein. Why didn't we get a protein?

Magnus: Tofu's a protein.

Taako: Come on.

[scattered laughter and cheers]

Taako: Even the vegans are like, "Come on."

[audience laughs]

Taako: Okay. Oh, god, no. Oh no...

Magnus: What's wrong, Taako?

Griffin: Flashback!

Unknown: [little kid voice] Hey, Mr. Taako? Can I have some of the chicken, pwease?

Justin: Sorry, what is this? What is this scene you're doing?

[audience laughs]

Griffin: This is, um... this is a flashback [through laughter] to Taako's last performance.

[audience exclaims]

Travis: When a tiny robot asked for chicken, I guess.

Justin: Okay. Uh, and you're my assistant.

Griffin: No, this is a 45-year-old man in the audience. Uh...

[audience laughs]

Travis: Can I hear it again?

Old Man: [little kid voice] Chicken, pwease!

Justin: [incredulously] Chicken, please?!

Griffin: Yeah, he's asking for the chicken you've cooked for him.

Taako: Oh, I would, but I have nothing to hand it to you... in. I have no vessels. I didn't bring any of my... bowls. And I— I know, I know. I have bread. But only the lowest, low-rent chefs would ever use bread as a bowl. As god is my witness—

Griffin: [laughs loudly]

Taako: —I will never, ever, ever—

Travis: Well—

Taako: —ever, *ever*, ever use inedible bread as a bowl!

[static noise?]

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: And that's when a deity appears to you. "Hey, it's me, Pan. And it's a new era. It's the Pan era!"

Griffin: [laughs loudly]

Clint: Ohhh!

Griffin: Stop it, no!

Travis: "It's time for you to use—"

[audience cheers]

Griffin: Alright.

Clint: Man! I'm the dad joke guy!

Taako: This is the Pan era. I'm doing it! I'm making bread bowls!

Griffin: You husk out the dirty parts of the bread to make delicious bread bowls. Merle and Magnus, you all are sous chefs in this competition. What are you doing to these ingredients?

Travis: I am going to take the apple.

Griffin: Yes.

Travis: And the oats.

Griffin: Yes!

Travis: And make an apple cobbler. I'm gonna make some poison cow butter... to make a cobbler.

Griffin: Okay. You— only one dish is required for you.

Travis: This is just for me.

[audience laughs]

Taako: Sa— save me an oat!

Griffin: Mmkay, yeah, sure. You make a cobbler. Why the fuck not? Roll, uh— [laughs] roll a... uh... fuck. Justin, what would you roll for cooking?

Justin: Uhh... probably...

Travis: Strength?

Justin: [wheezes]

[audience laughs]

Griffin: Yeah, roll Stre— roll Strength, and then we'll act it out!

Justin: I think it would probably be Dexterity or History.

Griffin: No, this is good! Roll Strength.

Travis: Oh, good. It was a natural 1, Griffin.

[audience cheers loudly]

Travis: Sometimes the dice tell the story! [wheezes]

Griffin: Yeah. Taako and Merle, you see him grab— sorry, sorry, Taako— all the oats and the apple, and just go, "Cobbler time!"

[thumping noises]

[audience laughs]

Justin: [laughs]

Magnus: I'm gonna wreck it!

Griffin: Soon the set is covered in apple and oats. None of it is edible. Merle, I'll say some of the dragon milk is still leftover. Merle, what are you doing?

[pause]

Clint: Um... Merle looks at the tofu... and feels a certain emptiness inside.

[audience laughs and groans]

Clint: Are we not gonna have, like, appetizers or anything?

Griffin: One dish! Don't get ambitious! [wheezes] You have very few ingredients now.

[audience laughs]

Clint: [sarcastically] Oh, do I?

[pause]

Griffin: Yeah?

[audience laughs]

Clint: Merle casts Hero's Feast.

[audience erupts with cheering]

Travis: You had all the clues!

Clint: Sirrah!

Griffin: Alright. A feast.

Clint: And makes those little chicken livers wrapped in bacon.

Griffin: A feast—

Travis: Wait, what?!

[audience laughs]

Travis: That's not a thing, Dad!

Griffin: A feast fit for heroes appears on the table in front of you, and the audience goes completely silent.

[scattered laughter]

Griffin: Shh!

[audience laughs]

Griffin: And then you hear a click. And there's a red light cast upon you now, and when you look up you see that the sign above you has changed. It no longer reads "Cook." Now it reads "Kill."

[audience exclaims]

Griffin: And a light illuminates the Pantheon of Shame, and three of the statues come to life.

[combat music plays in the background]

Griffin: And in a flash, appear atop the Ziggurat in front of you, ready for battle. The first... well, I'll introduce them.

You see Gorgon Ramsay lean down, and he says...

Gorgon Ramsay: Oh, you didn't think it would be that easy, did you? Our first combatant—

Merle: Yeah.

Griffin: And you see a man with, uh, just sort of red hair and tentacles hanging down from his mouth. He says...

Gorgon Ramsay: Welcome to the arena... Bobby Mindflay!

Travis: I knew it!

Clint: [laughs]

[audience cheers and laughs]

Griffin: And then there's a burst of flame, and a warlock with a robe of living fire appears in front of you.

[audience cheers]

Griffin: And he says...

Gorgon Ramsay: It's time for... Diners, Drive-ins, and *Die!* It's Guy Fieri!

[audience cheers]

Griffin: And then... there's a purple wisp.

Justin: [shaky] No!

[audience laughs]

Griffin: [laughs loudly] And appearing in front of you, Taako...

Taako: No!

Griffin: ... is a man with short, curly, dark hair, and two bandoleers filled with various spices. And he shouts...

Unknown: Let's incrementally increase the flavor! Bang!

[scattered loud cheering]

Griffin: And Gorgon Ramsay says...

Gorgon Ramsay: It's Ephemeral Lagasse!

Taako: Nooo!

[audience cheers]

Griffin: Roll initiative!

[cheering continues]

Travis: 17.

Justin: 22.

Griffin: Jee-sus!

Clint: Woo!

Justin: Yeah, right when I need it the most. [laughs quietly]

Clint: [laughs]

Griffin: Alright. Uh, you're first up, Taako.

Justin: Yeah... I just have so many spells, and if one of the people who just hits things could go first, that would give me more time... I'm gonna d—

Travis: [simultaneously] You can delay your turn.

Griffin: Here's what I will say. You can also take a cooking action.

Travis: You could delay your turn.

Griffin: Or you can delay your turn.

Justin: [simultaneously] Wait, what?

Clint: Wait, wait, wait, wait. Cooking action?

Travis: What do you think that means, Dad?

[audience laughs]

Travis: Why are you perplexed by those two words?

Justin: No, no, no.

Griffin: There's 22 minutes left on the clock hovering above you.

Clint: I was just trying to throw a little pregnant pause in there.

Justin: Okay. I'm gonna search for a, uh... uh, an oat that is—

Griffin: Yeah, you got an oat. There's one oat that survived. He still alive, and he was crawling—

Justin: It's okay if he's dead.

Griffin: He was crawling away with one arm.

Travis: But then he dies of natural causes. [laughs quietly]

Griffin: And then he dies of natural causes.

Justin: Okay. I cast Polymorph on the dead oat.

Griffin: Okay?

[scattered cheers]

Justin: And I'm gonna change him to a dead chicken.

Griffin: [laughs loudly]

[audience cheers]

Griffin: I mean, as long as you're polymorphing it, are you changing it into a dead *cooked* chicken of some sort?

Justin: No, cooked chicken is not a creature.

Griffin: Okay, fine.

Justin: Creature is chicken, but it's already dead, so you don't have to get all weird about it.

Griffin: We can all agree a dead oat is fine, right? So via the transitive property...

Justin: You didn't have a problem with it when it was an oat!

Griffin: Okay, you have a dead chicken. What are you doing to I?

Justin: Uh, I'm—I—

Griffin: We'll say it's already [holding back laughter] been prepared for cooking and stuff, so we don't have to get even grosser.

Justin: Okay. Uh, I am... putting it in a pot with some of the vegetables.

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: And cooking it.

Griffin: Cooking 101, baby!

Justin: Cooking— you gotta— no, wait! [clicks tongue] Aromatics first.

[all make impressed sounds]

Travis: Yeah, there you go!

Justin: [crosstalk] Oil.

[audience cheers]

Travis: With a little bit of the cow butter?

Justin: What?

Travis: The cow dragon butter.

Justin: Butter?!

Travis: Yes.

Justin: Oh, we turned it, right. Okay. Yes, I put a little bit of... [reluctantly] the dragon cow butter.

[pause]

Griffin: Okay.

[audience laughs]

Justin: In the—

Travis: He's a gorgon!

Justin: You didn't let me finish the sentence! In the trash can.

Clint: [laughs]

Griffin: No, you put—

[audience laughs]

Griffin: Uh, you get all that sizzlin' up, and it's starting to smell aromatic, it's starting to smell pretty good. Make a Dexterity saving throw.

[audience laughs]

Justin: Just do a quick one of those, no big.

[dice roll]

Justin: That's a 20.

Griffin: Holy shit.

[audience cheers loudly]

Griffin: You... you don't even have to look up, because you can smell him coming. You smell the potent spices as Ephemeral Lagasse floats up towards you and tries to throw a spray of spicy dust both into your face, and into the pot that you are cooking, rendering it inedibly spicy. But you catch him, just without looking. What happens in that moment of connection?

Justin: I turn around and blow it in his face.

[audience cheers]

Griffin: And before it hits his face, he looks at you and nods.

Ephemeral Lagasse: You've... you've learned well.

[audience laughs]

Travis: Bang.

[audience laughs]

Taako: Damn.

Ephemeral Lagasse: I'm trying to actually move on past that.

Travis: You said it five minutes ago.

Justin: Did he die from that?

Ephemeral Lagasse: It's— it's been an important—[screams in pain]

Justin: [laughs loudly]

Griffin: He floats away from the Ziggurat.

Taako: Hey! I— no hard feelings?

Travis: Uh, Magnus doesn't know who either of the other two are?

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: And so he's going to attack... Bobby Mindflayer.

Griffin: Okay, let's see. Let's have it.

Travis: Umm...

Griffin: It's just Bobby Mindflay, but that's... okay.

Travis: Whatever.

[pause]

Travis: Uh, let's see. [mumbling] Flaming Raging Poisoning Sword of Doom... that is a 22?

Griffin: Okay.

[distant echoing dice roll]

Travis: And that is...

Griffin: Those are some loud magic dice.

Travis: 36 points of damage.

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: And then that's a... 27.

Justin: He's got a lot of franchisees that are relying on him. You realize that, right?

[audience laughs]

Justin: What about all the Bobby's Burgers?

Travis: And then that's 27 points of damage.

Griffin: God almighty!

Travis: And then that's a 26...

[audience laughs]

[distant echoing dice roll]

Justin: Oh no. I— I see Bobby Flay actually slowly walking out of the theater.

Travis: [simultaneously] 34 points of damage.

[distant whooping]

Travis: Is he dead?

[audience laughs]

[pause]

Griffin: [incredulously] Is he dead?

[audience laughs]

Travis: It matters.

Griffin: This is a challenge level 7 enemy.

Travis: Okay, and then I'm going to take... my action surge.

[audience cheers]

Clint: Should've just told him yes, he was dead.

Travis: That's an 18?

Griffin: Yeah...

[audience laughs]

Travis: Buckle up. Um, that's 31 points of damage.

Griffin: If you could read the actions available to Bobby Mindflay—

Travis: And then a 36. No, sorry—

Griffin: He has one called— he has one—

Travis: [simultaneously] 26, sorry.

Griffin: He has one called Extract Brain. You don't wanna find out what that does?

[audience laughs]

Justin: [laughs] I think we can get it from context clues!

Travis: 30. 32 points of damage.

Justin: [loud wheezy laughter]

Travis: That's a... 17.

Griffin: Yeah... yeah...

[audience laughs]

Travis: Uh... how many is that?

Griffin: A billion and 55!

Travis: 31 points of damage—

Griffin: He's fucking— he's dead! He's fucking dead! He died!

[audience cheers]

Travis: I wanna be clear, too. Magnus did that completely separated from emotion.

Griffin: Yeah, sure.

[audience laughs]

Griffin: [laughs] He... having been stabbed and cut and slashed and burned and poisoned a hundred times... takes a step back, and he bumps into Guy Fiery, and as he does he is consumed in Guy Fiery's brilliant flames, as he triples in size and turns into a raging fire elemental. He is next in the order, unless you have a seventh attack you'd like to make.

Travis: Uh... yes.

[audience cheers]

Griffin: How?! Tell me what!

Travis: No, I— I don't.

Griffin: You just want that to be true. Uh, okay. He is, uh... okay, let's see. Guy Fiery. What can Guy Fiery do? He is going to reach two flaming arms in the air. With one, he is going to touch you, Magnus. With the other, he is going to try and touch the workstation upon which the bread bowl and chicken and vegetables are being cooked.

Clint: [gasps loudly]

Griffin: Magnus. First attack is a 26 versus AC!

Travis: That hits.

Griffin: [emphatically] That is going to be... [makes thinking noises... Ooh, boy! Uh, 28 points of fire damage.

Travis: Um, I'm going— because I am a Defender...

Griffin: Oh, okay.

Travis: Will you allow me to use my reaction to take the hit if he tries to hit... the kitchen?

Griffin: It'll be a critical hit against you.

Travis: Okay.

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: Hey, listen. When you're a tank... you do that.

Griffin: Oh my goood.

[audience cheers]

Griffin: Jee-sus! Uh... 65 points of fire damage?

Clint: Tank you!

Travis: I'm still up!

Griffin: Okay, so he—

[audience cheers]

Griffin: He touches you with one flaming finger, and then you just get hit with fire, and you're like, "Whatever. That's a Tuesday for me."

And then you leap in front of the other flaming finger before it touches the bread bowl and you are immolated. Uh, and you land singed but still awake. Uh, next in the order is Merle.

Travis: And I— wait. To be fair, I laugh.

Griffin: [wheezes] Okay!

[audience laughs]

Griffin: He's gonna action surge—

Clint: Because the fire has driven him insane.

Griffin: Yeah, no.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Uh, Merle. You are up next.

Clint: Uh, Merle casts Guardian of Faith.

Griffin: Okay.

[audience cheers]

Clint: In the form of... uh, Giada De Laurentiis.

Travis: Hell. Yes!

[audience cheers]

Griffin: Okay.

Clint: And she... turns to Bobby Mindflay.

Travis: He's dead.

Griffin: [simultaneously] Who is dead.

[audience laughs]

Clint: She turns...

Griffin: Ephemeral Lagasse is still—

Justin: [through laughter] She continues to turn past the corpse of Bobby Mindflay.

Clint: She turns again. This time she turns towards... uh... Emeril Lagasse.

Griffin: Ephemeral Lagasse, who's floating in the sky, still scraping at his own face!

[pause]

Clint: And, um... says... uh, gosh. I really hadn't realized Blobby Mindflay was gone.

Travis: Did you say Blobby?

Clint: Blobby—

Griffin: If she wants to do something to his scorched corpse...

Clint: She falls on her Guardian knees beside it and weeps bitter tears.

Travis: [yelling] To what end?!

Clint: Well, because they know they won't have a second season of *Bobby and Giada Go to Italy*.

[audience laughs]

Travis: Okay!

Griffin: His— you see—

Travis: Hey, Dad! Your turn's done!

Griffin: You see...

[scattered laughter]

Griffin: ... the corpse... sit up.

[audience laughs and exclaims]

Griffin: And a charred skull says, um...

Bobby: Hey, thanks. Um... that was pretty rough. Um...

Clint: So now he's on our side.

Bobby: Being cut and slashed and stabbed and burned and poisoned and then burned again quite badly by my very good friend, Guy Fiery... maybe it was that betrayal that hurt the very most. But— no, actually it was the seven attacks that I suffered at the hands of the big—

Magnus: Six!

Bobby: My apologies. The six attacks.

Magnus: Thank you.

Bobby: I have decided to be a good guy now. Uh...

Justin: [laughs]

Clint: And Giada says, "I always knew you were a good guy, Bobby."

[scattered cheers]

Bobby: My brain extracting days are behind me. To whatever aid I can help you with, you have my sword.

Griffin: And he holds up an arm and it just falls off because it's so horribly burned. What do you— he ha— he walks over to you Taako and he says...

Bobby: What do you need?

Taako: Can you pass the salt?

[audience laughs]

Bobby: Sure.

Griffin: He spills a little bit on himself and then is like—

Bobby: [screams in pain]

[audience cheers]

Griffin: Uh, he hands you the salt. He says...

Bobby: Is that it? I am celebrity chef Bobby Mindflay. I can do a whole lot more stuff than that.

Taako: And the pepper.

[audience laughs]

Bobby: He hands you the pepper.

Taako: Now, cook this good!

Griffin: [wheezes]

[audience laughs]

Justin: And I hand him, uh... the— some more bread to hollow out. I don't know.

Taako: No! Sear this off!

Justin: And I hand him the tofu.

Griffin: Okay, he starts searing off the tofu.

Justin: Good.

Griffin: Good. Uh, back to the top of the order is... Taako.

Taako: Perfect.

Justin: I'm gonna cast a spell!

[audience cheers]

Justin: Have you heard— oh, you've heard of spells. [muffled laughter]

[audience laughs]

Justin: I'm gonna cast... Conjure Elemental.

Griffin: Oh, shit!

Justin: Yeah! I thought it could help me with— I thought it would be a funny way of, like, over-zealously cooking. Uhh... but now I'm gonna use it for this, for the fight.

Griffin: [laughs] Okay.

Justin: Who's the elemental now?

Griffin: Guy Fiery.

Travis: [simultaneously] Guy Fiery.

Taako: Yeah. I want to meet my friend!

Justin: And I summon a— I conjure a water elemental.

Taako: This is WETFREY Zakarian!

Griffin: [wheezes] Say it again!

Clint: Say it.

Justin: [strained] Wet—WETFREY Zakarian! Like Geoffrey Zakarian? But I changed it to WETFREY Zakarian. [wheezes] My other option was Stormy Moto. That would be—

Griffin: Chef Stormy Moto? Are you sure you don't wanna do Chef Stormy Moto?

[scattered laughter]

Justin: Yes, okay, I will submit Iron Chef Stormy Moto. [wheezes]

[audience cheers]

Justin: If you were reading Welfrey Zakarian it would've landed for you, I promise. It's very good in my head.

Griffin: Uh—

Justin: But Stor— Che— Iron [wheezes] Chef Stormy Moto is—[laughs]

Griffin: Okay. Iron Chef Stormy Moto. What does Iron Chef Stormy Moto look like? What does this water—

Justin: He looks like Morimoto, the human chef.

Griffin: Yeah, but—

Justin: But it's wet.

Griffin: [laughs loudly]

Travis: That is what he's called on the show?

[audience cheers]

Travis: "Will you face off against Human Chef Morimoto!"

Justin: No, no, no, no.

Griffin: So it's chef Masaharu Morimoto, but he just got out of the shower.

Justin: Yeah.

Clint: [laughs]

Justin: And he's— and he's huge.

Travis: He might just be sweaty.

Griffin: Okay.

[audience groans]

Justin: No, no, no, no, no, no, no.

Travis: No, wetter than that?

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: He's extremely wet.

Griffin: Are you looking at what the water elemental can do, or is this up to me to...

Justin: Yeah, you could just do it on your own.

Griffin: Okay, sure.

[audience laughs]

Travis: I didn't know that was an option.

Griffin: And you want him to attack the fire elemental? Is that what I'm assuming?

Justin: Yes.

Griffin: Okay. Roll a...

Justin: *Wait.* I'm not up on my— is water good— I know they opposites. Um, does fire hurt water, or earth hurt fire?

Griffin: One way to find out. Roll a d20 as [laughs] Iron Chef Stormy Moto, uh, slams one of his giant wet appendages into Guy Fiery.

Justin: That is a 18 plus—

Griffin: That is definitely a hit.

Justin: Okay.

Griffin: Uh, roll a— roll 3d8.

Justin: Oh man. Okay, 3d8 gets me... 15!

Griffin: Fi— fi— how much?

Justin: 15?

Griffin: 15? Okay, and now double that.

Justin: 30.

Griffin: 30 points of, uh— 30 points for the two attacks, and then double that again for the susceptibility that fire elementals have to water.

Justin: [loudly] Yes!

[audience cheers]

Justin: Woo!

Clint: Now, can you describe how the water elemental attacks Guy Fiery?

Travis: Just a hug.

Justin: No. Yeah, he gets out a bottle of his delicious sake and he takes a knife in the other hand and he just punches him in the face. [laughs]

Griffin: [laughs]

[audience laughs]

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: Uh, okay. Guy Fiery is still standing. Uh, Maganus...

Clint: Maganus?

Griffin: Maganusa Burnasides. Magnus...

Travis: How much is still standing?

Griffin: He is smaller now, but he is still a living thing. And he still looks mad at you, and Chef Stormy Moto, and the chicken, and the bread bowl. In that order. That's his threat list right now.

[audience laughs]

Griffin: Merle is not on it. [laughs]

[audience laughs]

Griffin: Merle is at the bottom, beneath the chicken and the bread bowl. So to recap, it goes Magnus, Taako, Chef Stormy Moto, some chicken, a bread bowl, and *then* Merle at the bottom of the threat list.

[audience laughs]

Clint: Maybe he should let the tofu make the list. See who's the more dangerous.

Griffin: [laughs] The tofu's threat list is: Merle. And that's the end of the list.

[audience laughs]

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: Um...

[laughs continues]

Griffin: The tofu knows things about Merle...

Clint: [laughs]

Travis: [laughs] That no one should know!

[audience laughs]

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: What someone's teeth feel like. [wheezes]

Griffin: [through laughter] Yeah.

[audience laughs and groans]

Travis: Moving through them.

Griffin: Magnus.

Travis: Um, I'm— you know what? I'm gonna attack him.

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: Whoa.

Travis: With a weapon.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: And try to hit him.

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: Okay.

[scattered cheering]

Justin: Y'all like that. Alright!

Travis: Yeah. Um, I'm going to use, uh, Railsplitter.

Griffin: Hmm.

[audience cheers]

Travis: 17.

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: So actually it would be 18, 17... 16.

Griffin: Uh, all three of those hit.

Travis: Yayy!

[scattered cheers]

Travis: 3, 14... uh, and then 26 plus... [pause] uh... uh—

Griffin: Let's say 8 feels good—

Travis: Plus 15. So 41 total.

Griffin: It's actually 20 points. He has resistance to all non-magical attacks.

[scattered groans]

Griffin: Yikes.

Travis: Hey, Griffin? Hey, everybody?

Griffin: Yeah. I'm just going by the ru—

Travis: [raising in volume] Hey Griffin— Griffin— no—

Griffin: [raising in volume] I don't make the rules! I didn't make up the guide!

Justin: [simultaneously] It's just on the sheet.

Griffin: I didn't make up the guide!

Justin: Next!

Travis: Hey, Griffin. Just between us?

Griffin: Yeah?

Travis: What the fuck, man?

Griffin: Hey.

[audience laughs]

Griffin: If you had attacked— can I tell you this, though? If you had attacked him with Flaming Raging Poisoning Sword of Doom, he has immunities to poison and fire. So at least you got some damage on the board.

Travis: Yeah, but I was... I was trying to be cool to you?

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: And then you embarrassed me in front of everyone...

[audience laughs]

Travis: Can it be double damage?

Justin: These people gotta get home! They got babysitters! Go!

Griffin: Uh—

Travis: We only got four minutes and 39 seconds left?

Griffin: Next in the order is the fire elemental. The Guy—

Travis: [through laughter] He gives up and walks away!

Griffin: [laughs] Guy Fiery, uh... realizing that things are not going particularly well, he does a sort of flammability scan, and he does see a nice piece of tinder in front of him. It is the Soul Wood arm of Merle Highchurch. So...

[dismayed reactions from the audience]

Griffin: Ignoring his threat list, he is going to try and burn the only burnable thing he sees in sight. He is going to attack Merle Highchurch two times.

Justin: Whoa!

Griffin: That is a nat 20.

Justin: Whoaaa!

[dismayed reaction from the audience]

Travis: As a Defender?

Griffin: Yeah?

Travis: I impose disadvantage on that attack.

[audience cheers]

Clint: Phew.

Griffin: That is a 24.

Travis: You're welcome!

Griffin: [laughs]

[audience laughs]

Justin: [laughs] What a lifesaver! That could've been so bad!

Travis: You— yeah!

Griffin: Uh, that is... oh, that's just 7 points of fire damage for the first attack. The second attack is a nat twentyyyyy!

[audience cheers]

Travis: I believe you're on your own. [laughs quietly]

[pause]

Griffin: How you doin' over there, Merle?

Clint: Good! Good, good, good.

Justin: How's your Sudoku going? What's up?

[audience laughs]

Griffin: Uh, this is gonna be 25 points of fire damage.

Clint: [hisses]

Justin: You still up?

Clint: [strained] I'm still up.

Griffin: Okay, good. I was a little worried actually for a second. Merle, your arm's—

Justin: He didn't— he didn't hear no bell... peppers.

Griffin: Your arm is on fire, my man. What do you do? Its your turn, Merle.

Clint: Okay, Mr. Smarty Pants.

Travis: Hey, just a quick reminder. Your tank's down to, like, 15 points of health.
[laughs]

Griffin: [muffled voice] Two minutes remaining.

[tense dramatic music plays in the background]

Clint: Okay. I am going to cast Create Water.

[audience cheers]

Clint: But instead of putting my own arm out, I'm going to Create Water around Guy Fiery.

[audience cheers]

Griffin: Okay.

[music swells]

Griffin: What's it look like? What is the shape of water? [laughs quietly]

Clint: It is— I'm—

[audience cheers]

Clint: I'm making it in the shape of a... big colander.

Griffin: Okay. With holes in it?

Clint: No, no, you know what it is? It's one of those things where you cover the dish when you bring it up to serve dinner.

Justin: A cloche? A cloche?

Clint: Is that what it's called? A cloche?

Griffin: Yeah...

Clint: And it's— I'm *rammin'* it down on Guy Fiery's head!

[audience cheers]

Clint: And I do it so hard that it splashes back on me and also puts my arm... out.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: We have a minute and seven seconds.

Griffin: An aquatic dome splashes over Guy Fiery, leaving nothing but steam in its wake. And the sign clicks again and says "Cook." There's 56 seconds left on the clock.

Justin: My dish is done. Right?

Griffin: Is it?

Justin: Yes.

Griffin: Finishing touches! Plate it!

Justin: I'm plating it!

Travis: A squirt of a sauce!

Justin: I fire the hole thrower [through laughter] and dump Merle's meal into it!

Griffin: [laughs] Dump what?!

Justin: Merle's whole meal! Like, it just goes right there.

Griffin: [laughs loudly] Sor—[laughs]

[audience laughs]

Justin: And then I put my bread bowl tofu right down in the middle of the table—

Griffin: [wheezes loudly and laughs]

Justin: —and raise my hands.

[audience cheers]

Travis: And I eat my gross cobbler with the Glutton's Fork!

Taako: I would put my terrible tofu up against Merle's fake magic meal— wait!
[pause]

Justin: I cast Distort Value, seventh level.

[audience cheers]

Justin: On the food. I increase its value by half, with the help of illusory touches and flourishes.

Griffin: [wheeze-laughs] Show me!

Justin: What?

Griffin: Show me!

Taako: Cilantro...

Griffin: [laughs]

Clint: [laughs]

[audience cheers]

Justin: Sorry, doubling. Doubling the object's perceived value.

Griffin: Okay. A siren goes off and... Gorgon Ramsay leans down. And he looks at your dish and he says...

Gorgon Ramsay: It's time for the judging.

Griffin: And he just kind of scoops it all up. [wheezes] This big— this big pile of food with a tofu chicken bread bowl in the middle of it!

[audience laughs]

Griffin: And first he holds it up to his snakes, and his snakes all have some. And then he shovels it into his giant maw, and he... closes his eyes.

[pause]

Griffin: And... he remembers.

Travis: What?

[audience exclaims]

Justin: [gasps]

Griffin: A time when he... was... just a wee lad.

Justin: [gasps]

Griffin: And... he fell off his bike and scraped his knee, and—

Taako: Gorgon!

Griffin: And his... his Mummy...

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Scooped him up and said, "[high-pitched] Don't— don't worry, dearie. Mummy will make your favorite tonight."

Travis: "Also, don't look in my eyes."

Griffin: [wheezes] Yeah.

Travis: "Obviously."

Griffin: And that night he sat down with a bandaid on his knee and ate his... big food mess with a tofu bowl.

[audience laughs]

Justin: [strained] It's a bread bowl with tofu, but go on!

[audience laughs]

Travis: And a gross, gross, burnt cobbler that he hated.

Griffin: And a gross cobbler that he hated to be eating. And then he looks over while eating his favorite meal and sees the charred corpse of [holding back laughter] celebrity chef Bobby Mindflay as a child. And his eyes open. And rays of light shoot out of his snakes! And... he says...

Gorgon Ramsay: That was... absolutely... de... sgustingly—

Travis: I stab him!

Gorgon Ramsay: —delicious!

Justin: Yes!

Clint: A-ha!

[audience cheers]

Griffin: Confetti and sparks and fireworks and fire *and* balloons start shooting out of the Ziggurat in all directions. The noise is so loud... that in his Hollywood mansion... [wheezes] celebrity chef Gordon Ramsay awakes from a dream. Ah!

[audience laughs and cheers]

Clint: [yelling desperately] It was a dream!

Travis: And he takes his headphones off and says "I've listened to too much *Adventure Zone!*"

[all laugh]

Griffin: Thank you everybody for coming! This has been a blast! Goodbye, Minneapolis!

[audience cheers]

[theme music plays]

[chord]

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