

The Adventure Zone: Steeplechase - Episode 5

Published November 10, 2022

[Listen here on mcelroy.family](#)

Krystal: [in noir detective voice] It was a dark and stormy night and there was crime everywhere. But I, Krystal with a K, knew somewhere, the Steepies needed their watch.

Yup, you guessed it. We're taking a trip to Gutter City! I hope you brought your umbrella and your two-for-a-quarter Bolivar cigars. We're not big smokers here on the channel, but even we can admit that the smooth and never stale tobacco of two for a quarter Bolivar cigars always satisfies.

But that's not news! What is? Well, the remodel of the east wing of the Dusk Hotel is finally complete, and it is a stunner. And the wainscoting? Unreal! We thought we loved the cerulean blue wainscoting. But now that we've seen the cobalt blue, we are obsessed!

Bad news for Gutter City's criminal element in this update though, as Dentonic says that in addition to the Dusk's visual refresh, the updates have rendered the hotel's famous centerpiece, the Stealswell Diamond, 100% theft proof.

[in noir detective voice] Bad news for all the hoodlums out there. If you wanna get your hands on the rock, I hope you never know when to stop dreaming.

[Steeplechase theme song plays]

Weaver: It's been a long day for me, tending to the buck fields, children. Perhaps I have one more tale I could spin for you.

Griffin: We—

Weaver: Take a seat. Take a seat.

Travis: [in silly child voice] No, no, let the storyteller finish.

Justin: What are you doing?

Travis: I'm the children.

Griffin: Oh, that's fun. Can we be in it too?

Justin: [laughs] How dare you. How dare you.

Travis: I was just— I was just trying to buy in? I was trying to broaden your world?

Justin: This is level six of seven-layer multi-tiered narrative, that is happening simultaneously.

Griffin: [in silly child voice] Weaver? Weaver, may I have another licorice candy? Weaver?

Travis: [in silly child voice] Weaver?

Justin: You can't— You aren't there with the Weaver, 'cause you don't know if anyone's there.

Travis: [in silly child voice] Weaver, another bowl of muck, please.

Justin: We haven't established if the Weaver—[laughs]

Travis: He said children?

Clint: [in silly voice] Weaver, dear. You need to take out the rubbish.

Justin: Actually, Travis, I said children. Am I in a room with children? No. So, you can't say children if you're not—

Travis: But you established that the character—

Justin: Said that. I said that, Travis.

Travis: Oh, to nothing?

Justin: [whispers] You have to follow the clues. [laughs]

Travis: Oh, he's all alone.

Justin: Yeah, I have this— Listen, I don't have time to dig through my 1000-page document on the Weaver and all of his like— I just—

Travis: "And I'm the Weaver's pet talking donkey."

Justin: I have four chapters on the muck fields—

Travis: "Hee-haw!"

Clint: [laughs]

Justin: Welcome to TAZ: Steeplechase. [laughs] You are currently in Gutter City, where you are in the office of Darla Davis, who has, in exchange for helping you to facilitate a successful heist of the Stealswell Diamond, she has asked you to do a favor for her. And that is where you will pick things up. Right... this... second.

Beef: What kind of pornography are we talking—

Justin: No. Hm, thank you.

Darla: They stared at me. These three gorgeous little strawberries, for what felt like a week. I don't have a lot of talents, but I am patient. So, I started counting ceiling stains and enjoying my smooth, satisfying Bolivar cigar. I was just about to light up the second of my two-for-a-quarter smokes, when one of them spoke.

Emerich: [coughing from smoke]

Beef: Did you say—

Justin: Yeah, I've decided to fold in real time. So—

Emerich: [continues coughing]

Justin: There's a week between.

Griffin: Yeah. You all right, Dad?

Emerich: Oh, I'm sorry. The smoke!

Griffin: Oh.

Justin: Oh!

Emerich: Oh, the smoke... ah...

Griffin: Sorry, to step outside, sometimes you are infirm, IRL.

Travis: Yeah, that sounded like your real old lungs.

Justin: Dad, you may have made yourself sick [laughs]—

Clint: I'm acting! Thank you!

Griffin: Yeah, okay.

Justin: It was freaking great.

Travis: Yeah.

Clint: Thank you.

Darla: Oh, I'm sorry. You know, I forget how delicate you men can be. Hold on one second, let me— let me put this out for you and open a window.

Emerich: I didn't mean that to turn into a diatribe against my gender...

Darla: Well, you know what? I'm sorry, you're right. You are just as tough as me. Except for cigars, I guess.

Justin: So, Darla stamps it out and opens a window and starts waving some of the smoke out. And it's actually smokier outside. So—

Griffin: Yeah.

Clint: [laughs]

Justin: So, it's kind of a zero-sum thing. But it's Gutter City, what are you gonna do.

Beef: Is it— Sorry, Darla, Ms. Davis... Detective?

Darla: Davis is fine, or Darla.

Beef: Davis, did you say— sorry—[mumbles] we're gonna steal... pornography?

Darla: Yeah, that would... I was being maybe a little bit dramatic. It is pornography— Well, why don't y'all take a seat? I'll walk you through it.

Justin: Are you already seated or standing?

Griffin: Oh, yeah.

Justin: Okay.

Darla: There's a grocer, David Red. Nice sort, as nice as you're likely to find, in Gutter City, at least. Good egg. Always done right by me and I'm trying to do him a good turn. Sweet man, but he... His proclivities are a little bit darker than the usual. His... desires are sort of unconventional. And he doesn't hurt anybody, but he is... He's twisted. Deeply. Deeply broken down there. Sexually.

Griffin: [laughs]

Beef: Huh...

Darla: And I— But I'm not here to judge. When I said twisted earlier, I'm just saying how other would perceive. Me? I think whatever gets your engine revving, whatever puts the fuel in, that's fine. As long as you're not hurting nobody. And David isn't, he's a good sort. But... he got mixed up with a bad crowd. He's been spending way too much time over at Sinnuendo, where—

Travis: Hey, Justin. Just a side note, that's really good.

Justin: Oh, thank you, Travis. I will always stop the show to accept praise. You've judged correctly.

Travis: Sinnuendo is great, I love that.

Darla: And he goes in for some— to sort of... pursue his desires there. And it's supposed to be a place where secrets are locked up tighter than a broken-down refrigerator. Not in this case. In this case, he's being blackmailed by one of the staff there, mister... [sighs] Well, it's Chad Touch.

Beef: Mr. Touch...

Darla: He's a petter at the club. Now, he... he somehow caught David, mid... whatever it is David does. And took some pictures. Which is strictly taboo there, over at Sinnuendo. But now, he's telling David that if he doesn't come up with some Suites, then he's gonna release the pictures to everyone. I told David that we would buy those pictures back.

Justin: And she reaches under and slams down a suitcase on the table. And she says:

Darla: And that's what you're gonna do for me. You're going to go buy these pictures from Chad Touch, over at Sinnuendo.

Justin: And she opens the briefcase and you see a layer of bills. And then, she says:

Darla: There's just one thing you need to be aware of.

Justin: And she flips through the bills. And you find that under the layer of bills, there is newspaper.

Travis: Ah.

Justin: Cut to the proper shape that would give the impression that these are large stacks of cash.

Griffin: That's how the pros do it. A lot of people just put the whole newspaper down in there. But a pro cuts it into bill shape before they do this.

Darla: I can't get a reputation as someone who's causing trouble at Sinnuendo. I have too many leads in my business that take me through their hallways. But you three, you can handle it for me. You do that, I'll help you help whoever's stealing the diamond this week. What do you think?

Beef: Davis... If you don't mind, I do have just like two questions.

Darla: Ask away. I'll answer anything I can.

Beef: Question one, if it's taboo there—

Darla: Mm-hmm?

Beef: ... Is there any benefit to talking to management and saying you know, "One of your staff is blackmailing a client." That seems like something they might handle internally?

Darla: It's worth a shot. But I will warn you, from what I know, Chad Touch is a big earner. And unless you have something real cold to put him down, he's gonna wake up tomorrow smelling just fine.

Beef: Okay. Well, I guess that leads to question two, Davis. If he's a big earner, then probably Sinnuendo wouldn't want something happening to him? Wouldn't want... even, you know, damaged goods. If I'm— If I may use the parlance, correct?

Darla: Yeah... I think roughing him up is probably out of the question. Unless you can make sure that he's gonna stay quiet too. And whatever you do, please don't touch those beautiful fingers. They've brought petting pleasures to half of Gutter City. And I would sooner smash a van Gogh statue. I don't know much about art.

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: [laughs]

Beef: They're so rare!

Darla: I'm not—[laughs] There's so few. Some people think they're lost.
[laughs]

Clint: [laughs]

Beef: It's so hard to find `em these days.

Darla: It's so hard to talk—

Beef: There used to be so many!

Justin: It's so hard to talk for a long time and just make things up the whole time without saying something stupid!

Travis: If only there was a real guy named van Gogh who made real art.

Clint: [laughs]

Travis: That you didn't have to make up.

Justin: It's just what was there in—

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: It's just what was there!

Montrose: So, this Sinneundo club, is this a members-only type of deal? Or can we just stroll on in there, looking for whatever carnal lights catch our fancy?

Darla: You know... It's like a bakery. If you got a little dough, you're welcome to come on in.

Montrose: That is not how a bakery works.

Darla: I don't have—

Clint: [laughs]

Darla: It is, here in Gutter City. It's a real dark place. You gotta make your own bread.

Montrose: In Gutter City, you have to bring your own dough to the bakery, so that they can bake it for you?

Darla: I remember saying that, so it must be the way it works.

Clint: [laughs]

Montrose: Wow, okay. This place is twisted.

Justin: [laughs] I think— Guys, I think I'm—

Beef: We need to close the window, some smoke's getting in here, I think.

Justin: Guys, guys, I think I'm drunk on power! [laughs]

Griffin: [laughs] Yeah.

Clint: [laughs]

Justin: And I can do whatever I want! [laughs]

Darla: Yeah! Yeah, that is the way it works. If you got a problem, you can march your way right out of my office.

Montrose: Wow, okay. I didn't—

Darla: That's how we bake bread in Gutter City. [laughs]

Montrose: Clearly, I've touched a nerve.

Darla: Any other questions? It's gotta be— The one thing is, it's gotta be tonight. And it's gotta be as quiet as you can make it. 'Cause if it gets back to me, it's gonna be a lot harder for me to do my job and it's gonna be nigh on impossible for you to do yours. You understand?

Montrose: How are we to know— We are sticking our necks out for you. How are we to know that you are even able to uphold your end of the bargain? We already are on a job, you are asking us to do a second job on nothing but faith alone. And you seem like a trustworthy sort, Darla. But that is, in my professional opinion, a strategic mistake for us.

Justin: And Darla stands up.

Darla: Do you know how I've lived this long in Gutter City? Do you know how I have built a reputation here? How I have built a business, built a life? It's one thing. I have this little lady in my stomach. And I listen to her. She's the one that has guided me through this far.

When I'm in a situation where I don't know up from down, I trust that little lady in my stomach 'cause she... she tends to steer me right. And she's telling me that you three are the ones who can get this job done. Now, I don't know if you all have that, or if you take the time to listen to it. But look at me.

Justin: And she stares like, right down. And oh my God, you want to tell her something. You don't have a secret that immediately springs to mind. But like, you want to admit to whatever it is she's trying to get you to admit to.

Darla: Look at me and listen to that little person in your stomach. And see what it's telling you about me.

Beef: Can I talk— Can I talk to Montrose and Emerich, just privately for a moment, Davis?

Darla: You know what? I actually already got this cigar out. But I will— I will leave it there. And I'll sit here and go back to my stains.

Justin: And she leans back in the chair and folds her hands on top of her black turtleneck, and just stares at the ceiling.

Beef: [in hushed tone] I think we should say yes. But also, there's a lot of weird stuff here, and they like take their own dough to the bakery. There's not a real— I don't wanna sound stupid. I'm not a stupid guy. There's not a real tiny person in your stomach, right? 'Cause she was very detailed about it, in a way—

Emerich: Is she possibly pregnant? Is that...

Beef: And it's like a baby that controls her?

Montrose: That is...

Emerich: Oh, no. I just meant—

Darla: It's not— If you're— Listen. I'm listening to y'all whisper. It's not a Krang situation. I'm talking about intuition.

Beef: Oh, okay.

Darla: It's not— You all—

Montrose: I mean, as long as we're not whispering, as long as we're putting the tiger right up on the table. Is it a Meet Dave scenario?

Beef: Oh, good question!

Darla: It's just—

Beef: Or Innerspace, even.

Darla: I think I answered it.

Beef: Okay.

Montrose: Okay.

Beef: Krang is— Sorry, Ms. Davis. Krang is much different from either Innerspace or Meet Dave.

Montrose: These are completely separate sort of fictional person-in-a-person characters.

Darla: There are many, many, many different variations of a small person controlling a larger person, throughout fiction. And I celebrate every single one of them. And this is none. I'm just talking about your gut. Just your gut. You all have guts!

Emerich: Okay. Oh, oh...

Beef: Yeah, okay.

Emerich: I thought congratulations were in order. My apologies.

Darla: You can congratulate me when you're leaving. My patience is running thin and I'm out of stains to count!

Emerich: Right, let's go back to our huddle. Back to our huddle. I am extremely uncomfortable with this situation. If my conscience will allow me to have anything to do with pornographers... I...

Montrose: My word, Emerich. I had no idea you were so... I don't know, judgy? But if—

Emerich: No, no, I... I just... I am... For concerns of my own, I don't think my... someone in my past would have appreciated me associating with this. I just... You're gonna have to convince me.

Montrose: [exclaims] Okay... Well, you know how in church, when somebody's opening their eyes during prayer and you see them. But then, they caught you too at the same time. We're all in Gutter City. So, I do not think that someone's going to tattle and say, "Well, I saw..."

And here's the other thing. From a public sort of relations perspective, if people come after you because you talked to a pornographer, I think that'll just blow up in their face. 'Cause it's—

Darla: Sorry, you're talking very loudly. Chad Touch is a petter. I was sort of... using hyperbole when I said this is pornography. This man is being blackmailed.

Montrose: Yes, it's... Yeah. I think most of us understood that. We'll take this job. We'll... We'll get this done for you.

Darla: Now, I wanna make sure spidery over here, this wispy fella is on board too. Emerich, was it?

Emerich: Yes, Emerich Dreadway.

Darla: The way you say that, ah! Drives a woman wild, absolutely—

Emerich: I have a mellifluous speaking voice. Yes, fine. Beef, are you in?

Beef: You know, at this point, it's a little bit of the... penny/pound situation. You know what I mean? Like, it seems that life has set us on a bit of a trajectory. And if nothing else, man, Emerich, look at this... We've been asked to do three things at this point.

Two, I would say, are fairly morally questionable. But one is helping out somebody who is being blackmailed. And so, I would say if there's one that is perhaps most morally defensible, it's the one in which somebody is being overtly taken advantage of.

Montrose: Oh, no. I should make it clear that my morals do not need defending. And that this is not an act of righteousness, it is a means to an end. We will get this done. We are going to head on over to that bar. We are going to— Can we keep this money if we don't end up using it?

Darla: Oh...

Justin: I mean, I should be clear. The money that you're seeing, the... Okay. Money—

Griffin: I get that money is an abstract concept. I'm saying, is there any kind of...

Justin: Well, you should also know, money is not just an abstract concept. Money... When we talk about not— Like, when we talk about cash. That's the term we'll use. Cash or Suites. Cash is specific to layers.

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: So, you could—

Beef: So, this is gutter bucks.

Justin: This is gutter bucks. [laughs]

Clint: [laughs]

Darla: That's right, a big briefcase of gutter bucks! [laughs]

Griffin: Okay.

Darla: I'm surprised you know what we call cash down here.

Beef: I was honestly just guessing. But you know what? I say, the sooner we get started, the sooner we're done. You know what I mean?

Justin: All right. Well, guys, this is a score. So, I need you to talk about— Tell me what your plan of attack is gonna be. Assault, deception, stealth, occult, social or transport?

Travis: Hm... Well, a couple of those don't seem to apply.

Griffin: Yeah...

Travis: At least not in an obvious manner. So, I think—

Griffin: Transport would be fun, if we just sort of smashed a car into the—

Travis: Yeah, we hitched a big rig to the building and just took it with us.

Griffin: Going to whatever so of vault. Whatever sort of pornography locker they have there. And... No, I don't think that'll work.

Clint: I think deception is inherent, don't you? I mean, we've gotta deceive him at some point, to where he doesn't inspect the briefcase very closely.

Justin: Mm-hmm.

Griffin: I think there's deception, we can deceive... Tony Pets... I forget his name.

Travis: Chad Touch.

Justin: Chad Touch.

Griffin: Thank you.

Travis: Rhymes with bad touch.

Griffin: Social... Social, we could potentially go to the higher ups and rat him out. But... I don't know that we have the evidence.

Travis: We would also need proof, yeah. 'Cause just an accusation, I think—

Griffin: And our other option is stealth. We get in there and steal the... you know, the evidence. Steal the blackmail stuff, the photos.

Travis: But my worry there is that I've seen enough movies to know that unless we are absolutely sure we have like the negatives and all that stuff, then just stealing it ain't gonna do it. I feel like this has to be like there's an expectation of a tradeoff, right.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: So, that is where the deception lies. And it seems that is the most like down the middle... get this done. 'Cause this is also a means to an end score, right. So, this is like being done to get to there. That I think just like going for the easy point of entry, get the job done, get out, is the way to go.

Griffin: Okay. So, deception it is? Just go in there like we're gonna be doing the tradeoff and then sort of play it by ear from there?

Travis: Yeah, I think so? I mean, that's—

Griffin: That seems pretty straight forward to me, yeah.

Clint: Yeah, I think deception—

Justin: Okay, pick your... I need you guys to pick a load. What's your load gonna be?

Griffin: Light.

Travis: Yeah, I think light for this one.

Justin: Light, light. Dad? You wanna be as well?

Clint: Mm-hmm.

Justin: Okay. And the last thing that we needed to do is pick the detail. "When you choose to play and you provide a missing detail, the point of

attack, social connection, et cetera.” So, the detail in this case is the method of deception. What are you— How are you gonna pull this off?

Travis: What do you think, dad? Not to put you on the spot, but I want you to get a hand on the ball.

Justin: Yeah, I think Dad’s dialed in. What are you thinking, Dad?

Clint: Okay, it has to almost be kind of a Sting kind of thing. Because you have to be sure that when you get the photos or whatever the proof is that he’s got against David, that it is for real the only copies.

Justin: Mm-hmm.

Griffin: Yeah.

Clint: Or is that just something we assume?

Travis: Well, that’s just something that I think is always a better safe than sorry kind of deal, right?

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: That we ask about and... I don’t know.

Clint: Okay. Because what I’m saying is, if we make this exchange and he doesn’t inspect the briefcase. And then, he finds out that we cheated him with newspaper clippings, what’s to stop him from you know, reusing the evidence against him? In The Sting, they were able to con the guy out of his money, and there was still a logical reason for what happened.

Travis: Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah. I get that. Okay, yeah!

Clint: So, if we make the exchange and then something happens to the briefcase...

Travis: Yes! I love this.

Griffin: Love that.

Justin: All right. Oh, that's good. Okay! That's as far as I'm gonna let you guys get. Let's get an engagement roll going. You got 1d, start with that, for sheer luck. Do you have any major advantages or disadvantages? Does the— Is it bold or daring? No, it seems pretty normal. Does the plan detail expose a vulnerability of the target—

Travis: Well, hold on. I think we do have an advantage.

Justin: What's that?

Travis: He doesn't know who we are.

Justin: Mm-hmm...

Griffin: And we know you he is. And we have a prop briefcase. I mean...

Travis: Yeah. So, we're being sent in. He's expecting to meet someone. But not necessarily three people, right? So, we do have the advantage of not needing to engage in such a way that it's obvious that the three of us are together.

Justin: Okay... Here's what I'm gonna say. So, you have that advantage, you have one for luck. And I think you have one for Darla, 'cause you're a friend or contact, providing aid or insight.

So, we're gonna say that's three. But I'm gonna subtract one from that because you are in Chad Touch's... You know, this is his home turf. He knows everybody, he knows everything, this is his house.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: So, I'm gonna say two. Does that feel right to everybody?

Travis: Yup.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Okay, so—

Griffin: Y'all want me to roll?

Travis: Yes, please.

Justin: 2d6, please.

[sound of dice thrown]

Griffin: It's a 6 and a 4.

Clint: Ooh!

Justin: Wow!

Travis: Is that good? We're still new to this.

Griffin: Yes, it's good.

Justin: Exceptional result. Okay, so you have—

Travis: Yeah, we did it.

Justin: You did it.

Travis: The job is done and—

Justin: Yeah. So, you have overcome the first obstacle.

Clint: [laughs]

Justin: Congratulations. Dad, you have effortlessly found the entrance to Sinnuendo. Congratulations.

Travis: Was it hidden?

Griffin: So, hold on. The obstacle there could've also been overcome with a quick Map Quest sort of visit.

Justin: You didn't ask where it is. [laughs] So, I guess that's your first challenge. You overcame it.

Clint: [laughs] We just said, "We're heading out there!"

Justin: You just— You walked out the door and then you said, "Well, fuck! This place is— This place is all alleys. What are we gonna do now?" [laughs]

Griffin: Yeah...

Clint: [laughs]

Justin: No, the reason that this is a challenge is because there is no sign that reads Sinneundo. The location is actually not widely broadcast.

Travis: Mm-hmm.

Justin: In fact, it's—

Travis: It's only on Bing.

Justin: You see a burly guy in a suit, standing underneath a sign that says, "Giger's Rare Books." And you know because of... You are able to ask around, work your contacts and find— Or you walked back in and said, "Hey, by the way, where is it?" [laughs]

Travis: Yeah, "Just one more thing, ma'am. [laughs] Where is it?"

Justin: All right, and you are standing at the front door to—

Travis: Now, wait. Hold on, before we do.

Justin: Mm-hmm?

Travis: While we're still like in the shadows and we have eyes on it, right...

Beef: [in subtle tone] So, Emerich, Montrose. If the plan is that some section of us, some collection, is going to engage the exchange and then something's going to happen to the briefcase, perhaps we should not all enter at the same time? So as not to make it obvious that we're all together?

Emerich: [in subtle tone] I have a— I have an idea about that. I think my talents are not necessarily going to be dealing with people, face to face. And trying to... pass myself off as a... smut-meister.

Justin: [laughs]

Beef: Well, yeah. Just the way you said that whole sentence—

Montrose: That fact that you said it that way—

Beef: ... Made it pretty obvious that's true, yeah.

Emerich: I think you two are much better suited to smuttery. So...

Beef: Did you get bigged? Are you like three years old? What's wrong with you, Emerich?

Emerich: No, I... It's a long story that we don't have time to go into now. But I just... I'm very concerned about this.

Beef: Okay, just—

Emerich: Why don't I try to infiltrate and work kind of behind the... the scenes.

Beef: I thank that's great. But if I could make a little suggestion that might help you interact with people moving forward, Emerich?

Emerich: Mm-hmm?

Beef: Just remember that outside of Chad Touch, who is a blackmailer, most of these people are either providing a service or they're just patrons of this establishment.

Emerich: Mm-hmm?

Beef: Everyone inside of there seems on board with what's happening. So like, just take a deep breath and relax, okay?

Emerich: I'll explain everything at some point when we have some downtime.

Montrose: I cannot wait to hear that.

Beef: Explaining is great. But be careful and be light on the judgement, okay?

Emerich: Okay, right. Right. So, I was just thinking if I tried to get myself in as some kind of technician that works here?

Beef: Oh, yeah?

Emerich: Perhaps that—

Montrose: Oh, for the Jerkatron 5000, perhaps?

Emerich: [shudders]

Beef: They have the 5000? [laughs]

Montrose: They have the brand new model.

Emerich: Would that be acceptable to you fellows?

Montrose: I don't even think we need that level of—

Beef: I think you can just go in 10 minutes after us.

Montrose: It is a place of business. You can walk into those, most of the time.

Beef: Well, to be fair, Montrose. I do think, just listening to our friend Emerich, he might have a hard time selling the bouncer on him being a customer.

Montrose: Oh, I see, I see. So, the two of us—

Justin: For future reference, for future reference, when I tell you guys that I'm not gonna let you plan, this is why. You, you three—

Griffin: [laughs]

Clint: [laughs]

Justin: ... Will continue to crawl so far up your own assholes—

Griffin: I'm ready! I'm trying to get this—

Justin: ... That you never will do anything. I'm about to have him interrupt you and just be like, "Hey, you weird perverts standing in the shadows, can you please come over here?"

Travis: Come over here and be normal perverts.

Emerich: Hello, kind sir.

Beef: No, Montrose and I are going in first.

Emerich: Okay, oh. Right, right.

Montrose: Yeah, hi. Hi. Hello. Never mind our friend here, he—

Bouncer: Look at you two beauties. Look at this. Ah, what a delight for the peepers you two are. Look at this. Hey, give me a little... You, you, you, you, you, with the mask. Give me a little turn, let me check out all the looks.

Montrose: [mimicking Bouncer] A little tooch? A little... I don't know why I am talking like you now, what happened?

Bouncer: Hey...

Montrose: `Ey...

Bouncer: `Ey!

Montrose: It's me. You, from the future.

Bouncer: It's a fun voice to do, all right.

Montrose: All right.

Bouncer: So, what can I interest you guys in tonight? You want a little bit of longing glances? You wanna get a quick pinch on the keister? Maybe a little petting? What are you in the mood for tonight? What brings you to Sinneundo East?

Montrose: Oh, I'm sorry. I didn't realize that you all had a franchise?

Bouncer: Yeah, this is actually Sinneundo East 2. It's a big city, Gutter City, and we got a lot of perversions to... assist with. So, we've opened several Sinnuendo franchises throughout. I'm happy to walk you through the business plan. Or maybe you just wanna get that beautiful keister pinched, eh?

Justin: I should mention... The reason Sinneundo is the way it is, is that it adheres to the code that movies filmed during the '40s and '50s would need to adhere to. So, hence, innuendo.

Griffin: Right.

Justin: We are not going to see a lot of... This is what you're getting—

Travis: This is, "Come up and see me some time." Not, "Let's have sex."

Justin: Yeah, okay.

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: Got it.

Justin: So you know what you're getting into. And I imagine Darla would—

Griffin: That is, in a lot of ways, like way more off putting, I would say.

Justin: Mm-hmm!

Travis: Oh, yeah, yeah, yeah.

Justin: Yeah, it's a feature, not a bug.

Travis: It's way grosser.

Montrose: We are actually here for... a bit of the good stuff.

Griffin: And I flash open the briefcase.

Montrose: You can stick your hand in there, if you want me to Pretty Woman you. But it is quite big and it may hurt the fingers.

Bouncer: That's such a strange way to carry about a large chunk of cash. But I mean, with a stack like that, you could get both cheeks pinched, no problem. [laughs]

Beef: Let's just say we're looking for a little... touch.

Bouncer: You wanna— You wanna hold somebody's hand while you listen to an opera?

Beef: Like, light petting with Chad Touch. I was trying to...

Bouncer: Ooh! Big Spender! [laughs] I love to see it! You all a duo, or you want individual touches? You wanna be touched at the same time? I mean, this is some good petting he's doing. And he does do groups. It costs a little extra, but you know, Chad's a professional.

Beef: Yes, we would like a couple's touch.

Montrose: A couple's touch would be preferable.

Clint: [laughs]

Montrose: We are busy gentlemen, on the go. We have places to be. We don't have time to go in there, get touched, and then the other one goes in while the first one waits in the lobby. We need a couple's touch.

Beef: We have dinner reservations.

Montrose: We have dinner reservations for six o'clock.

Bouncer: Oh, okay. Hold on one second.

Justin: And he picks up a dirty spiral bound notebook off the ground and starts flipping through it.

Bouncer: All right, let's see here. It's Tuesday... All right. Chad could get you in for a couple's touch, maybe three weeks from now, about the same time? That sound good?

Montrose: How long does it take for him to touch... How long are these sessions?

Bouncer: I mean, to you, it'll feel like a moment. But to Chad, he's gotta do all the touching himself. And he's gotta take frequent breaks, so he doesn't get carpel tunnel, right. You want me to work him to the bone, one of the biggest earners in the club? He should just churn `em out like he's working at a bakery, helping people load their dough in and watching `em bake.

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: [chuckles]

Montrose: Listen, listen... I can tell that discretion is perhaps not your strongest characteristic. So, I will just say that Mr. Touch—

Bouncer: Weird, isn't it? For somebody in my position.

Montrose: It is extremely strange.

Bouncer: You would expect a little bit more discretion, no?

Montrose: Just a bit, but—

Bouncer: I'm a regular chatting Kathy over here.

Montrose: Mr. Touch is expecting us.

Bouncer: Fellas... Chad's on the clock and I got his schedule right here. He's booked full tonight.

Travis: Justin?

Justin: Yeah?

Travis: I would like to attempt to study that document that he is holding and flipping through.

Griffin: Mm-hmm.

Travis: To say:

Beef: He's actually expecting us. We already have an appointment. I believe it's right there on the document.

Bouncer: This is a— Let's see here... Okay...

Justin: All right, Trav. Let's see, let me think. I don't think he would be inclined to let you look at the schedule. So, I think for that, we're gonna need some way to persuade him. What are you thinking?

Griffin: Well, it sounded like Travis was trying to discretely study it.

Justin: Oh, okay. You're trying for—

Travis: Yeah, as he was flipping through, I was trying to look.

Justin: Trying to take a peek, okay...

Griffin: Then, we can try and alley-oop the deception, once we—

Justin: Give me... Is it a Survey? Does that sound like a Survey to you?

Travis: Yes.

Justin: Feel like a Survey?

Travis: Or Study? 'Cause it's— I'm studying a document, right.

Justin: Yeah... I mean— yeah— Do Study. Do Study— Yeah.

Travis: Yeah, because Survey seems more like I'm looking at like—

Justin: For sure, yeah. I think you're definitely right.

Travis: Is it risky, is it controlled, what am I lookin' at?

Justin: I'm gonna say it's risky because you're not gonna get a lot of opportunities to look through it, right.

Travis: Okay.

Justin: So, you're... You've got one chance to maybe see something.

Travis: Standard effect?

Justin: Yeah, I think reading a line is a standard effect. For sure.

[sound of dice thrown]

Travis: Oh, fuck. It's a 2.

Justin: Yeah, I mean, you just didn't— You didn't see anything.

Travis: I didn't do it, yeah.

Justin: Yeah.

Beef: We have an appointment, you should go ask him. I believe he's expecting us.

Bouncer: Yeah... I mean, I've got his entire schedule right here. He is booked solid. And I'm sure you'd love to get in, but I... The schedule is the boss around here. Really, I work for the schedule. Chad works for the schedule. We all work for the schedule. This may be a den of ill repute, but we do have a timetable.

Beef: Oh, okay. Then we'll just go in and find somebody else.

Bouncer: Oh, yeah... What kind of services are you in the mood for? I know what it feels like to have a thirst that must be quenched, right? [laughs]

Montrose: We are not picky, but we are in a terrible hurry. So, just, whoever is available. Whatever services are available right now.

Bouncer: I have to be honest with you, I do find it extremely disconcerting. [laughs]

Beef: Do you not want our money?

Montrose: Any port in a storm?

Bouncer: I've learned not to trust people who are like, "Whatever kink you got! Load me up!" [laughs]

Griffin: [laughs]

Beef: Okay, but we just flashed you a big suitcase of money. And you're like, "No, no, no."

Bouncer: I'll tell you what... All right, you know what? Let's see that case again. You peel me off one of those beauties and you can go right in.

Beef: Oh, okay. You got it.

Travis: And I open the case, but facing me.

Griffin: If we remove one beauty from the case, will it expose, permanently, the newspaper deception underneath?

Justin: Yup.

Griffin: That is terrible.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: The fact that they— The fact that Darla could not part with— Could not create like at least a reasonable layer of real cash on top of the newspaper.

Justin: Darla's a straight shooter, she's not sitting on a big pile of gutter bucks.

Travis: Okay. Wait, let me finish.

Justin: No, she had to sell something that she really liked to get that money. [laughs]

Travis: Mm-hmm...

Justin: It was a cello that she played. And she had to hawk her cello to get that. But it wasn't enough for Griffin. 'Cause he wants to peel off a bunch of gutter bucks to go blowing it around like he's... the kid from Blank Cheque!

Clint: You wanted her to sell her zither too, didn't you? Admit it!

Justin: Yeah, what do you want her to pay? Just the hammered dulcimer, Griffin? Should she toss it in as well?

Clint: Shesh... I thought I knew you.

Travis: I pull out one of the gutter bucks, right. But then I drop it! Oh, no!

Beef: Oh, I dropped— Can you grab it?

Bouncer: Me? Yeah, no problem. I don't mind a quick bend. And he scoops it up—

Travis: And then I clobber him over the top of the head with the suitcase.

Justin: Really?

Travis: Yes, I do.

Justin: Huh... Interesting. Okay. Well...

Travis: I have— I don't know if you guys know this. I level up by solving— addressing a challenge with violence or coercion. [laughs]

Justin: Mm-hmm.

Griffin: Yeah, sure.

Travis: So, it's hard for me not to do that.

Justin: It sounds like—

Griffin: He's gotta level up.

Justin: Yeah, yeah.

Travis: You want me to level up. Right, Justin?

Justin: Yeah! Of course, I do, Trav.

Travis: You're not like one of those DMs that doesn't want me to level up, right?

Justin: There is a funny experience that I have had— That I've learned to have as the Game Master... Is that if it all goes according to my plan, I don't know that it would be very interesting, or it would be much harder. 'Cause I have to come up with all the fun stuff.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: But when you do something... I don't wanna cause a judgement here, but like dumb or bad, then, I find that it's a lot of adventure opportunities. That's very exciting to me, when you make a bad choice.

Griffin: Yeah, sure, sure.

Travis: That is true. I also— I am layered—

Justin: So, you level up, but I level up.

Travis: Yeah, this is true.

Justin: You know, in a way.

Travis: I, as a player, playing a guy who solves things with violence or coercion. I find myself having a random count in my head of like, "Well, I tried something four times. And it didn't work. So, it's clobbering time."

Justin: Yeah, okay.

Clint: [laughs]

Griffin: All right. Well, let's roll those—

Justin: Roll it.

Griffin: ...The beautiful B-footage.

Travis: This is going to be Skirmish, I assume? It's risky, it seems.

Justin: Oh, yeah! Oh, boy, is it ever!

Travis: And it's desperate? Is it risky or is it desperate?

Justin: [sighs]

Clint: Risky.

Justin: Risky. I agree, Dad. I think it's risky. I mean, it's like... You know, this is not the first time that this has happened to this guy. This exact scenario. So like, I don't think it's so wild.

Travis: And do I get a bonus dice for using the suitcase?

Justin: I don't know?

Travis: 'Cause it's gonna hit harder, right? Than if I was just like—

Justin: I'm not a rule book?

Travis: I would say I should get a bonus dice for using a suitcase. Because if I make contact with him, it would hit him harder than if it was just like my fist.

Griffin: Let's not—

Justin: You can't just like invent stuff. Hold on one second.

Travis: What? I thought it was supposed to be a conversation.

Justin: Well, no. I literally just wanna see if what you're saying— What you're saying makes logical sense. I just wanna see if it's within the parameters of like how you would... Just give me a second.

Clint: Suitcase... suitcase... suitcase...

Justin: I mean, you guys all have access to the rules, as I do. So, if you wanna try to look for—

Griffin: I think we've already looked this up. If the tool is of exceptional quality, I think you can do that. But otherwise, it is just a narrative—

Justin: Yeah, but like, he's kind of— I'm trying to figure out if there's some way to account for the fact that Travis is getting the drop on him, in a real sense, you know? This is not a skirmish where—

Griffin: Well, then that would just change the position, wouldn't it? This would be great effect, maybe, because he is getting the drop on him, right?

Justin: Okay, you know what? I like that, Trav.

Travis: Okay.

Justin: Let's go with that. That makes sense to me.

Travis: Well, it makes sense to me as well. Risky to great effect.

Clint: Come on, Trav!

[sound of dice thrown]

Griffin: Travis, God!

Justin: [fart sounds]

Clint: More 2s!

Travis: All right, that's a 2 and a 2.

Justin: So, that's two 2s.

Griffin: Hmm, that's not enough.

Travis: Can I push myself to roll again? To roll another one, right?

Justin: I mean, you could try to avoid a consequence? You could try to resist it?

Travis: Uh... I'm gonna see what happens. I made a mistake.

Clint: Once you talk through what happens, maybe that leads to an idea.

Justin: Okay.

Travis: You know...

Griffin: So, the suitcase is— The briefcase is like one of those aluminum—

Clint: Yeah!

Griffin: ... Super lightweight... Like, it dented the briefcase more than it dented the man.

Justin: Yes, okay. Here's—[laughs] Here's what—[laughs hysterically] Here's what happens... [laughs] Here's what happens. You swing and you fuck'n miss completely, right. And the briefcase slips out of your hands. And he does not even notice. He stands right back up.

Clint: [laughs]

Bouncer: Oh. Uh-oh, careful there. Go get your— Go get the rest of your dough.

Justin: But when it landed, you see that the briefcase has broken and now will not close all the way. It is—

Montrose: For the love of—

Justin: It is now stuck once inch open. [laughs]

Clint: [laughs]

Beef: Uh... I'll get the suitcase. Your turn, Montrose.

Bouncer: All right, sloppy fingers. You all go ahead in and have a hell of a time.

Travis: Okay, so what— Oh, 'cause I gave him the gutter buck, he's letting us in?

Justin: Yeah, you gave him a gutter buck. Yeah, you bought him off.

Griffin: Okay, great. That's cool. Yeah, I mean, the illusion I think is going to be much more difficult to maintain with our broken briefcase now. So, the missing gutter buck is no longer the chief of my concerns. Which is also great, because I would've felt bad if we had killed this man over a dollar.

Justin: Yeah!

Griffin: Over one dollar...

Travis: I wasn't trying to kill him!

Griffin: Yeah, well... yeah... Are you sure about that?

Travis: Listen, we're early in this game, we're on episode five. We cannot assume that any measure of violence like enacted, especially by Beef, who is a cutter, is like, "My goal is to kill." [laughs] That is rarely the case.

Griffin: Okay. I scoop up the briefcase.

Montrose: This is mine now.

Beef: Yeah, that's fair.

Montrose: I am now the briefcase man.

Bouncer: Yeah.

Beef: Yeah.

Justin: So, you two—

Beef: Hey, yeah. Sorry, Montrose. Sorry about that. That one's on me.

Justin: Emerich, what are you doing?

Clint: I think he's going to approach the same bouncer.

Montrose: Can we— Can we just— He's with us. And then we don't have to do like a whole... another, a second—

Clint: I got a bit.

Justin: Dad's got it, Dad's got it.

Montrose: You got another bit, okay.

Clint: I got this. I got this.

Bouncer: Well, hello, sweet cheeks. How's it going this evening? What sort of carnal delights do you find yourself in the mood for?

Emerich: Salutations— Sup, buddy?

Bouncer: All right, I can tell you're a real knock around guy, a guy from the streets. Your tastes probably hove a little closer to the meat and potatoes, but we got everything here. We got a guy— We have a guy that will lovingly

put a bite of meat in your mouth, let you chew it, no problem. And he'll keep eye contact with you the entire time. Very hot stuff.

Emerich: Hey... That's... That's great.

Clint: And while all the stuff was going on with the briefcase, Emerich had flipped open his wrist band and punched a couple of things in a tiny little crystal. And had made a Hard Light representation— very easy for him to do— A Hard Light representation of a... of like a... a tag for his coveralls.

Justin: Okay.

Clint: Okay. And it says, "Jerk Squad."

Travis: Ugh.

Justin: Oh boy...

Griffin: Oh my god.

Travis: Hey, dad. I know that it didn't sound like it with that sound I made. I love it.

Justin: Yeah, love it. Jerk Squad, okay.

Clint: And so, he says:

Emerich: Yeah... Aly... They sent me over from the office.

Clint: And he points to the label. And says:

Emerich: I understand you got some issues with your Jerkinator 5000?

Bouncer: Mm-hmm...

Emerich: And, hey, if you don't want some goomba to get his...

Justin: I don't know if goomba is— yeah...

Emerich: ... Love muscle squashed... So, I'm here to fix it up.

Travis: There's a lot in there.

Bouncer: Well... I am personally scandalized. I don't know what we would do with a Jerkatron. This is a classy establishment.

Justin: Let's see—

Travis: Now, to be fair, he did say Jerkinator. And I don't know if that has a different—

Bouncer: Oh, you said Jerkinator? Well...

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: It's a soda jerk... machine.

Justin: All right, dad... [laughs] I'm gonna say that you're trying to... I guess Sway this person into giving you entrance into this business.

Griffin: That can't be your strong suit.

Clint: It's not.

Travis: [chuckles]

Griffin: Great.

Justin: Okay...

Travis: All right. So, how can I boost this?

Travis: Now, I— Hm... This is where—

Griffin: You just walked into a room and set it on fire around yourself. And said, "What now? How do I make this better for me?"

Clint: Well, I actually thought the plan would work a little bit better...

Justin: You assume—

Travis: Well, yeah!

Justin: I told you—

Travis: Hey, dad. Of course, you did! I hope so.

Clint: 'Cause I thought the label— I thought the label—

Justin: The label's so great, dad.

Griffin: It's good, yeah.

Justin: I think the problem is—[laughs] I think the one major problem with this, is one of fiction. In that I told you that everything in here is about innuendo. And you were like, "I'm here to fix your—"

Griffin: "Fix your cum machine."

Justin: [laughs] "Fix your jizz nooker." [laughs] So, we have a problem here. If things go well, and it turns out that they have a Jerkatron—

Clint: Oh, no, no, no, no, no. You're completely misinterpreting. The Jerkinator is where you take verbal abuse from somebody who's a real jerk and you like it.

Justin: Okay, oh...

Travis: Now...

Clint: It's a masochist kind of—

Justin: Yeah, yeah.

Travis: Now, what does that have to do with their, "Love muscle?"

Justin: I told you— Yeah. [laughs]

Clint: The heart—

Justin: The heart!

Travis: The heart!

Justin: The heart is a love muscle! [laughs]

Travis: [laughs hysterically]

Griffin: You maniac! [laughs]

Justin: I love you so much, Dad. You're absolutely... You're unhinged. Okay—

Clint: The heart is a love muscle.

Travis: It is, baby. You're right!

Bouncer: Did you say Jerkatron or Jerk...

Emerich: Jerkinator!

Bouncer: Jerkinator, oh, right. Yeah, we—

Emerich: The Jerkinator. And it's the 5000. So, I'm pretty sure I'm the only one qualified—

Bouncer: I used it earlier? Didn't have no problems. Are you sure?

Emerich: Oh... Well, you know. Maintenance. I mean, it's not gonna work— I mean, it's gonna break somehow if you don't—

Justin: You are gonna Sway this man, Clint. You can do it in different ways. But you are gonna have to Sway this gentleman into letting you into the club. So, there's just no other way around it. There's many things you could do to improve the likelihood that this works. Getting into the building...

Griffin: Sure.

Justin: Where we have been for a little bit. So...

Griffin: I would like to assist.

Justin: Okay?

Griffin: I pop my head out the door and be like:

Montrose: What kind of establishment are you running in here? I wanted to use the Jerkinator 5000.

Clint: [laughs]

Montrose: But he immediately started going in on me and about sort of my childhood. And that is... that is bad pool. That is unfair. I think that this thing has got a major glitch in the system.

Justin: Okay.

Emerich: That was in the update...

Justin: Okay. So, Griff, you take one stress.

Griffin: Yeah, I know. This is definitely gonna be worth it, the stress.

Justin: [laughs] Dad, you take an extra die. You can also push yourself for another bonus die, dad, and take two stress.

Clint: I would like to do that.

Justin: All right. So, you have 3d6.

Travis: To enter the building.

Griffin: Wait, do you have any points in Sway?

Clint: No.

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: Well, in that case, you have— you roll two.

Travis: And you take the highest.

Justin: Yeah, you do a... Dad, do it as a Sway roll. And then, add, I guess... two bonus die. Right?

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Yeah.

Clint: Okay. So, this is risky or controlled?

Justin: I think... I mean, it's... Yes. You know what? I'm gonna say it's controlled. Because I feel like you could try another tactic if this doesn't work. So yeah, I'd say it's controlled.

Clint: Standard?

Travis: I feel like, especially with one of the Sway ones, if the worst outcome is they say no, that feels controlled, right?

Justin: Yeah.

Clint: So, standard?

Justin: Yeah.

Clint: Two bonus die.

[sound of dice thrown]

Griffin: Yes, baby!

Clint: 6 and a 4.

Justin: 6, congratulations, Dad. That's fantastic.

Clint: I'm very happy I got in.

Bouncer: Oh, all right, all right. Go on and get it all working real nice for papa.

Justin: And when he says papa, he points at himself like... [laughs]

Bouncer: You see, that's my thing.

Beef: Oh...

Bouncer: So, I like to know the Jerkinator is working [chef's kiss] real primo. Go ahead in, fellas. Enjoy.

Emerich: Oh! Oh, oh, oh.

Bouncer: Ah, oh?

Emerich: One last thing.

Bouncer: Oh, interesting.

Emerich: As you know, the Jerkinator 5000 works on an individual basis and you have to have a gutter buck to slip into the slot. And I don't have one, I can't really do my job. Could you possibly loan me a gutter buck?

Bouncer: Eh... I've just got the one...

Justin: And he holds it up like a child with a Snickers Bar. Like:

Bouncer: I've got this one gutter buck!

Emerich: Well, yeah. But you know you'll get it... You know you'll get it back. And I'll program—

Justin: Mack, are you— My man. Mack, my man.

Travis: Yeah, yeah.

Griffin: Hey, my man.

Justin: You are going to go for another Sway roll?

Travis: I love it. Dad...

Griffin: I'm not— I'm not—

Clint: I thought I'd go—

Justin: You— No, you had to say these things. This is a great idea and I love it. But you are going to roll for it. [laughs]

Clint: I know. I know.

Justin: [laughs] Okay!

Travis: Dad is—

Griffin: All right, I'm not—

Travis: Dad is very good at this game. And that's what I've decided to lean into hard in this series. Dad—

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: ... I fully support this decision. You saw a need, you fill a need, you get that gutter buck back. I'm proud of you.

Griffin: Do you support it enough to spend one of your stress to assist him there, Beef?

Travis: Yeah, you know what? I do. I do.

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: I am going to... You hear me from down the hall go:

Beef: Ah, man. This thing's being so mean! This isn't what I paid for. I'm gonna have to ask for my money back if somebody doesn't fix this.

Clint: Actually, concept wise, Travis, it would be being nice to you if it was malfunctioning.

Travis: Oh. No, it's mean in too sincere a way.

Griffin: It's too mean, yeah.

Justin: [laughs] It's too targeted.

Clint: I gotcha, okay. [laughs]

Beef: I wanted a rough time, but this is cutting deep in a way that like, they're going... they're crossing some lines in here.

Griffin: Yeah, sure.

Beef: Not in a fun way.

Griffin: [in robot voice] "There's a reason your friends don't call you back." Like, "Oh, shit, man..."

Travis: "No! That's what I'm worried about."

Clint: [laughs]

Griffin: "Oh, no. Uh-oh."

Justin: Dad, I—

Travis: "Do you remember that shirt you wore for picture day in 6th grade? It didn't look good."

Justin: Okay, I like this move a lot. Here's what I— We gotta move forward. Here's what I'm saying to you... I will offer you a devil's bargain if you wanna get an additional die. If you choose to take this bargain, I will give you one more d6.

But I'm going to start a clock that is Sinneundo management. Who will start to become aware of something unusual in the club. So, you can take the extra die, but I will start a clock that will be working against you all.

Clint: Okay. I couldn't push myself to get an extra die?

Justin: Yeah, you could. You could do that as well, yeah. You could do the exact same thing, yeah. You could take the additional stress.

Clint: And do I get an extra die from Beef helping me out?

Justin: Yes, yes.

Griffin: Yeah. This isn't even the heist yet, though.

Justin: Yeah, we're not even into the—

Clint: Okay, I'm not gonna take the devil's bargain then.

Justin: Okay.

Clint: I don't want the clock starting.

Justin: Then roll—

Griffin: No, no, no. I'm saying your stress is like your main currency for—

Clint: It's all right.

Justin: It's fine.

Griffin: Okay.

Clint: Emerich can handle stress.

Travis: [chuckles]

Griffin: Okay.

Clint: So, this is controlled...

Justin: You will also— I should say, this is a score. So, you will have all the normal downtime activities after this. It's just a smaller score.

Griffin: Oh, then great. Burn it. Yeah, sure.

Justin: Yeah... This was supposed to be an easy one. I didn't think it would take a half hour to get through the front door. But here we are.

Travis: Well, hey, you've learned an important GM lesson—

Justin: This is TAZ, huh? This is TAZ, baby! [laughs]

Travis: ... It's just universal. Put a door in front of your players, it will take five times longer than usual.

Justin: Max roll. Max roll.

Griffin: They will come up with two discreet—

Clint: I'm rolling!

[sound of dice thrown]

Justin: 1 and a 3!

Emerich: Okay, keep the buck.

Justin: [laughs]

Bouncer: No problem. Go ahead in.

Clint: [laughs]

[theme music plays]

[ad break]

[theme music plays]

Justin: All right. So, you find yourself in Sinnuendo. It is dim, dark. But there are tables, round tables with red tablecloths on them. There are like candles in the middle. And you see like just an assortment of people.

You would've thought it was a separate club or maybe like a nightclub. But it looks completely normal. What you do see are, there are... Each pair of people is engaged in some sort of intimate activity.

But one person seems to be really enjoying it and one person seems like it's their— their standard of... much more comfortable situation. I'll say that. And you walk through the door. And there is someone else to greet you on the other side. And they say:

Viola: Hello, my name is Viola. And I am here to cater to your... desires. Who do you have an appointment with this evening?

Montrose: Mr. Chad Touch.

Viola: Sorry, Chad Touch? Ooh. Big spender, all right. Well, walk right this way.

Justin: And she leads you back to a beaded curtain hanging over an entryway. Emerich, what are you doing while they're doing this?

Clint: Looking for like an access door to like a general maintenance area.

Justin: Okay.

Travis: The back.

Justin: Trying to get into the back.

Clint: Into the back, yeah.

Justin: Okay.

Clint: Actually, you know what? I think he's going to try to find— He's going to make his way to the kitchen.

Justin: The kitchen? Okay, yeah, yeah. I think that's all right. Let's start with— Let's actually start with that before we go in. They... I'll tell you what, Montrose, Beef, she leads you into a room that has a...

Couches line— it's like one big, long sectional that is purple and tufted, and lining the walls. And then, one circular couch in the middle, that is similarly purple and tufted. And she says:

Viola: Make yourself at home and dress to your level of comfort. Which means you could unbutton your top button or not, it's completely up to you. And Chad will be with you in just a moment.

Montrose: Top shirt button, yes?

Viola: Yeah.

Montrose: Okay.

Justin: Okay, let's check over— Before we get to that scene, let's check over with Emerich, see what Emerich's up to. Emerich, you wander into the kitchen. And people look up, but not a whole lot of attention.

As you know, at this point, if you're wearing something that looks like a working guy's costume, then people tend— Especially the staff tend to assume that you're there doing something. So, what do you do?

Clint: I think he raises a hand to his head and kind of shakes it a little bit and says:

Emerich: Pardon me, I... Whew. I seem to be having a little bit of a blood sugar issue?

Johnny: Oh, no?

Emerich: Yeah, I'm a little off my meds. I'm not the best about it, at keeping up on my medication.

Justin: Dad, is this you or your character?

Griffin: This is another bit where I can't tell which one it is.

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: I thought it was excellent acting and gameplay, father.

Emerich: Are you... Is there a cooler somewhere, where I could perhaps pour myself a glass of juice, or something like that?

Johnny: Yes, of course. Come right this way. My name is, Johnny. Johnny Clay. What's yours?

Emerich: I'm Emerich.

Johnny: Emerich, okay. Emerich, take a seat right here and I'll go fetch you some juice.

Emerich: Oh, I can— You— You don't have to go through the trouble. Just point me towards whatever back secluded area, where the refrigerator is, and I'll go get my own juice.

Johnny: The refrigerator's right there.

Justin: [laughs] You see Johnny points at a fridge and says:

Johnny: It's right there. You help yourself.

Emerich: You expect me to—[laughs] ... To drink juice in front of strangers?

Johnny: Do you have a weird way of doing it?

Emerich: Yes!

Johnny: Yeah, well, I haven't encountered that before. Okay, I'll tell you what. I'll go fetch you your juice and then I'll busy myself with my tasks. I won't look right at ya. How's that sound? You can drink your juice however you like to. But I do have to warn you, if this is your... thing, I'm gonna need to charge you extra.

Emerich: Oh, no. I'm here on an official capacity.

Griffin: [laughs]

Johnny: Non-sexual, got it. Okay. Let me get you a different juice, then. `Cause this is actually the juice that we have for drinking in a sexual way.

Griffin: [laughs]

Emerich: Oh... That isn't... that isn't cringe-worthy—

Johnny: [laughs] Here you go. The least sexual juice that we have, pomegranate.

Travis: Oh, no. Justin!

Griffin: [laughs] No, Justin. Come on...

Travis: There's no way!

Clint: That is the sexiest juice.

Justin: Pomegranate-banana is...

Travis: Hm... close.

Justin: Okay.

Griffin: That's still...

Travis: Grapefruit, man.

Justin: Grapefruit, yeah.

Johnny: The least sexy juice we have, grapefruit.

Emerich: Okay. Okay, I— And I have to walk around a little bit while I drink. Is that all right?

Johnny: Of course. Make yourself at home.

Emerich: Thank you.

Justin: I don't know why dad found someone accommodating. Maybe someone was just frustrated by how long we spent at the front door and they just wanna keep things moving.

Travis: Yeah, man.

Justin: I don't know why Johnny Clay takes such a shine to Emerich, but here we are.

Emerich: [sipping noises]

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: All right, dad, when you— Without digging too far down into like what you're sort of thinking, you tell me when like a good moment to like cut away would be. 'Cause I don't wanna interrupt—

Clint: Now. [laughs]

Justin: Okay! We find ourselves—

Griffin: Yeah—

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: It's a good collaboration.

Justin: Okay, the lights dim. Montrose and Beef, the lights dim, and you see a very small disco ball lower from the ceiling. And you hear over the speakers, [sings] "You got the touch!" [mouths riff and sings] "You got the power!"

And then, a door to the side bursts open. And there he is. He's wearing a sequined jacket and no shirt, and he's got tight pants. His hair is long, he's got black sunglasses on and he's wearing two purple velvet gloves that match exactly the couch that you find yourself sitting on right now. And he says:

Chad: 'Ey! Welcome! You all ready to get touched by Chad Touch?

Clint: [laughs]

Montrose: Oh... Oh, no...

Chad: Is this a couple? I love it! I love it! You know what people won't tell you? I'd do this for free!

Justin: And then, he raises his hands and starts, in a very sexual, gyrating manner, raising his hands above his head, he starts gyrating towards you.

Chad: So, you wanna get touched at the same time? I'll do a little petting with you, a little petting with you. You wanna get pets at the same time?

Beef: Hey, Chad.

Chad: Any pets—

Beef: We're here for—

Chad: This is kind of my spiel, so...

Beef: Yeah, we're here for—

Montrose: Don't interrupt the man. The man is working!

Beef: All right—

Clint: [laughs]

Montrose: Show some respect for his craft!

Beef: Okay, Montrose.

Montrose: He is obviously a master hand at this. Do you— Does Chad Touch wander into your place of business and tell you how to do your job? You're being extremely rude!

Chad: You, I like! You, I like!

Justin: And then, he starts—[laughs] He takes his hand and puts it on both of your shoulders, simultaneously. And he's somehow making eye contact with both of you. Like, I don't know how he's doing it.

Griffin: Yeah, sure.

Chad: So, what do you think about this so far?

Montrose: It's... it's indescribable. I do not want to receive the merchandise under false pretenses, though. We are not here for the touch of Chad.

Justin: His hands recoil, as if he just touched a hot stove and return to their default position. Which is raised above his head, so that no harm can come to them.

Chad: So, what's your story?

Montrose: We're in the market for... nude photographs of a local grocer.

Chad: I don't have any nude photo—

Beef: No... I think innuendo is the way to go here. We're here as representatives of David Red.

Chad: Oh... Well, then, allow me to dispense with the pleasantries.

Justin: And then, he removes his sunglasses and folds them into his shirt.

Chad: I appreciate you taking this seriously. I've never really had much of a problem with David and his pursuits are his own. Sure, there's whispers, but... When I saw it for myself, I knew that kind of behavior was not permissible, here at Sinneundo.

This is a place that I've dedicated my life to, and I will not allow it to be besmirched by him. And I'm hoping that he learns his lesson from this. So, do you have the— Do you have the money?

Montrose: Yes, I do say... I must say that the further we get into this operation, the more terrified I become that we will not make it out of it without finding out what David has done.

But yes, we have the money. I must though, offer one small critique. It seems to me that in a place that values discretion so much as this, that blackmailing the clientele sets an awfully bad precedent. Wouldn't you agree?

Chad: To echo the words of a very wise man. Does Chad Touch come to your place of business and tell you how to conduct yourself?

Montrose: Hm... It's a fair point.

Beef: Mr. Touch?

Chad: Mm-hmm?

Beef: Chad—

Chad: Please, Mr. Touch.

Beef: We do have the money here in the briefcase. But—

Chad: Imagine my relief.

Beef: The issue here, when it comes to ending a blackmail extortion—

Chad: Oh, oh, oh, oh, oh. No, no, no, no. I wouldn't use those terms. I tend to think of it as a discretionary fee. He is paying for my discretion.

Beef: Absolutely. But you see, the position that we are in is that we need to make sure that you have every scrap of documentation of the indiscretion, before the exchange is made. Because if we give you the discretionary fee, there's no guarantee that it... that this exchange will not continue in the future.

Chad: It's a fair point, but I would argue that you have no leverage here. I'm Chad Touch, I thought the dance and the spiel would give it away. I'm Chad Touch, and around Sinnuendo, what I say goes.

I don't know what leverage you would have that would put you in a position to negotiate with me. I need the money, you get the photos, and our business will be concluded. If you'd like to... linger for some heavy petting...

I'm sure I can find someone who is open to that. If you would like my services, I understand it will be several weeks until I have an availability. But that is the conclusion of our business together.

Travis: Beef looks to Montrose.

Griffin: Yeah, I had an idea. Did you have an idea?

Travis: Okay. Well, no. It's just more of like remembering what happened with Sticky Fingers Paul Pantry, when Beef was in a similar situation. Attempting to like leverage...

Griffin: Yeah, I got it.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: I stand up, I pick up the briefcase and I say:

Montrose: Well, that is disappointing. I suppose we will have to seek remedy through other channels. My associate and I will be leaving.

Griffin: And I walk for the door, and stop... Put my hand on the doorknob and stop, and turn back and say:

Montrose: Oh, I did just remember something.

Griffin: And I'd like to flashback real quick.

Justin: Mm-hmm?

Griffin: To right before we go in to Sinneundo. I reach into my pocket, and I pull out the all mixed up Walkman that I have on me. And start recording onto a mixtape. And subtly slide it back into my pocket.

"The GM sets a stress cost when you activate a flashback action. Zero stress, an ordinary action for which you had easy opportunity. One stress for a complex action or unlikely opportunity. Or two or more stress for an elaborate action that involves special opportunities or contingencies."

Justin: I'm gonna say one stress.

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: Because you know, it's not so wild. But it is a good idea, and it doesn't seem that bizarre that you would have it. So, we'll say that. We'll say it's a one.

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: One stress for this flashback. Are you showing this to Chad Touch?

Griffin: Yeah. I withdraw the Walkman from my pocket and show it to him, flash it to him and say:

Montrose: As you said, your word does carry quite a bit of weight around here, from what I understand. So, why don't we try this again. And you can take the briefcase, and we will take the photographs. And you can continue your extortion business uninterrupted.

Chad: Hm... All right. You... You've put me in a challenging position, I'll admit.

Justin: Griff, let's go ahead and try a sway.

Griffin: Okay. Position?

Justin: Risky.

Griffin: And effect?

Justin: Standard. I'm dictating these. If you guys ever wanna push back, feel free. But I'm just trying to keep things moving.

Griffin: Yeah, sure, sure, sure. I'm not using a disguise or other form of covert misdirection. So, I don't have any bonuses to this I don't think—

Travis: Well, it does feel like if we're saying like, my character getting the drop on somebody physically gave a bonus, then this seems like it—

Griffin: It affected the effect, not the—

Travis: Oh, right, right, right.

Griffin: Not the bonus dice.

Travis: Then, this seems like it would be a great effect, right? That this would drain his resistance?

Griffin: It's up to Juice.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Yeah, you know what I'm gonna do actually, this is a great— this is a great— I'm gonna have a clock. I'm gonna have a clock, a four segment clock that is Chad's willingness to cooperate in this scenario.

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: And I'm gonna say it's a four segment clock. And without action, you have done away with two segments. So, there are two segments remaining.

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: And if it's empty, he's... what?

Griffin: He'll hand over the stuff.

Travis: Okay.

Justin: Yes, he will conduct business with you on an even playing field. Where you make sure that you get all of the negatives.

Travis: Perfect, perfect.

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: You have whittled him down. If, of course, this first Sway roll goes your way.

Griffin: I'm gonna push myself.

Justin: Yeah, makes sense.

Griffin: Give myself a bonus die. All right, please... please... please... please...

[sound of dice thrown]

Griffin: Yes! 1, 6, 3.

Justin: 1, 6, 3, hachi machi!

Griffin: We'll take it.

Chad: All right. Yeah, I can see you've got me in a challenging position here. I will admit, I was gonna try to bleed David for a little while. But... You seem like you got a good head on your shoulders. So, I'll tell you what. I'm going to go get the photos and the negatives. Stay comfy.

Justin: And he walks out of the room.

Montrose: I do believe that man is going to come back and attempt to do us grievous harm.

Beef: Yeah... At what point do I like break his fingers or something? Or threaten to. I mean, I guess I don't need to—

Montrose: I mean—

Beef: But I'm very big and he's very precious with his fingers?

Justin: Emerich, what are you up to right now?

Clint: [laughs] Okay. I'm going to set something up.

Travis: Okay.

Clint: Okay... Emerich, planning ahead. He is going to call up Eustace Shabon, his Hard Light ghost.

Travis: Has he always had a last name?

Justin: Okay, wait, wait, wait...

Clint: No?

Justin: Eustace is a Hard Light projection that works at Prize Pantry. You cannot just like summon Eustace, he works there. Like, that's where he works. He doesn't— He's not like owned by you.

Clint: Okay.

Justin: So, that would be tricky.

Clint: Would it be... Would it be... to much of a conceit to say that they use Hard Light waiters in the place?

Justin: Do they have Hard Light waiters in the place... Why don't you do a Survey roll and see if— Or would that be— or would that be maybe Attune, would be more accurate for what we have discussed?

Travis: Mm-hmm.

Clint: Okay, Attune.

Justin: Yeah, Attune. See if you can sense any Hard Light.

[sound of dice thrown]

Justin: 6! Okay. Yes, Dad. You, with honestly just a casual glance, you realize that they are using Hard Light wait staff. You can tell last generation Hard Light. You, not everyone, but you can tell, there's sort of a shimmer around the edges that you can detect in certain lights. And you realize that yeah, they are using Hard Light for the wait staff.

Clint: Can I use Tinker to take control of one?

Justin: Hm... It would be— Yes.

Clint: But I wanna take control of it.

Justin: Yeah. I think that would be Attune. That would be an Attune roll.

Clint: It wouldn't be command?

Justin: No, command—

Travis: Command is for people.

Justin: Command's for people. And Attune, we're sort of like making this up as we go along to account for the fact that there's not like magical stuff. And this is as close as we get to magic. But you are going to try to attune to— Let's say a waiter has just walked in and Johnny is cooking a beautiful steak, looking so nice. And—

Travis: Johnny is, or the steak is?

Justin: Both, honestly.

Travis: Nice.

Justin: Real nice. And you see a waiter walk in, in like you know, the black and white, standard waiter outfit. And he walks into... Well, let's say he's got some dirty dishes and he's taking it towards the sink.

Clint: Okay. I'm going to push myself again.

Justin: Okay.

Clint: So, I take another stress, right? So, Attune...

[sound of dice thrown]

Clint: 6, 5, 5!

Travis: Wow, nice.

Griffin: Wow!

Justin: Holy crap. Okay, dad. You, with like artful, like really slick, no problem at all... What does it look like, how are you— When you interact with an extant Hard Light projection, what are you doing? It is just a—

Clint: Surreptitiously, flipping open the wristband. And kind of working a crystal in my fingers and pointing it towards... pointing it towards the Hard Light ghost. It's almost like a laser pointer. But it's blue and very, very thin. Nobody's gonna see it.

Justin: All right, the waiter turns around.

Raúl: [gasps] Oh, papa! I didn't recognize you! How can I help?

Emerich: I need you to place an order...

Raúl: I... place an order? Oh, papa, you say the silliest things. Place? I take the orders. I've never placed— Oh, my mind is spinning with possibilities. What order to place, papa? I haven't been programmed for this. I have no idea how to place an order?

Travis: Just looking forward to the MaxFunDrive, can we make a MaxFunDrive goal where Justin, as one of these Hard Light characters, has a conversation with Griffin, as a blink shark.

Clint: [laughs]

Travis: Because the two... Their speaking patterns, both of them together, would make me so very happy.

Emerich: Oh, my good friend. I need you to tell Johnny that you have a rush order for a Bananas Foster.

Raúl: [shudders]

Emerich: And tell him you need it as soon as possible.

Raúl: Okay. [laughs] Okay. So, who is ordering the Bananas Foster, papa?

Emerich: I'll tell you that after you— You know, he has to get started on it.

Raúl: You're right. You're right. I shouldn't ask too many questions. I'm just so excited! I've never done an order myself. Okay...

Emerich: You're doing so well. You are— I'm so proud.

Raúl: Thank you, papa! Okay...

Justin: And you watch this waiter turn.

Raúl: Excuse me, Johnny? I have a regular order! [gasps] It's a rush order for a customer. It's a Bananas Foster!

Johnny: Okay, okay. Don't need to get so worked up, pal.

Justin: And then, you see Johnny start making a Bananas Foster, with all the expediency he can manage.

Clint: And I give a big wink.

Raúl: Did I do well, papa?

Emerich: Ah, you did well, Raúl.

Travis: [chuckles]

Clint: I just named him on the spur of the moment.

Travis: Yeah.

Raúl: My papa has given me a name! Announcement!

Emerich: No, shh-shh-shh.

Raúl: Oh, I'm so sorry, papa. I'm so excited about the name Raúl.

Emerich: It's all right. This is between you and me. You and I now know your name is Raúl.

Raúl: You and Raúl shall share this secret, papa. I love it! May I go back to my duties, papa? They make me so happy.

Emerich: Yes, yes! But be ready to take the Bananas Foster.

Raúl: Okay.

Clint: You can cut back now.

Justin: Cutting back. [laughs]

Travis: If we cut back and Emerich's just eating some Bananas Foster, I'm not gonna—

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: "I swear to god, I think my man just wants some juice and Bananas Foster."

Clint: [laughs]

Travis: "Sorry, guys. I forgot what we were doing. I was having a snack."

Chad: All right. Gentlemen, I have procured both the images and the negatives. I would urge you to not look inside, it's pretty disturbing stuff.

Justin: And you see a plain manila envelope that Chad lays down in the middle of the purple couch.

Beef: Oh, boy... I do need to— I do need to look inside...

Chad: And now, I'm gonna need to see the color of your money.

Beef: Chad, I think... No, I do need to look and make sure the photos and the negatives are in there first, sorry.

Chad: Are you quite sure?

Beef: Yeah.

Travis: Beef looks.

Justin: Well... [sighs] You peel back the envelope and it's a series of pictures that have been stapled together to create a sort of ad hoc flip book. In there, you see David Red. As you flip through, you see it creates the moving image of David Red spanking his own butt.

Beef: Ugh...

Griffin: [laughs]

Clint: [laughs]

Travis: Beef looks at it and goes:

Beef: Sorry, we wanted the compromising photos?

Chad: I know, it's dark stuff...

Clint: [laughs]

Chad: Compromising doesn't quite go far enough, is it? There should be a word—

Travis: Wait, is he nude in the photos? Or is he just—

Justin: No. [laughs]

Travis: Fully clothed?

Clint: [laughs]

Justin: He's wearing a smart pair of slacks and a white button-down. Now, the top button is unbuttoned. So, he is relaxing a little bit.

Clint: Uh-oh!

Justin: So, it's a little bit risqué. But yeah, it's just a flip book of him spanking his own butt.

Beef: Hey, Chad. I don't know how to tell you this, this is nothing.

Montrose: I do kinda wanna see it now.

Beef: Yeah. Here, look.

Montrose: Here, let me... Oh, man. I mean—

Beef: Like, this could be charades.

Montrose: Whenever I— When I leave the house, I sort of instinctively check to see if my wallet is in my back pocket.

Beef: Yeah.

Montrose: That could very much be what he— This is a nothing burger, Chad.

Beef: This could— It could be like a fly landing on his butt, or like, a hot like I don't know, ash from—

Chad: So, I'm— I am assuming that you gentlemen aren't from... around here? This is the kind of thing that could ruin somebody in Gutter City. This kind of perversion could ruin someone here. So, again, I need to see your money, please.

Beef: But this is the photos and the negatives, right?

Chad: Yes. Well, let me— Now, hold on. Let me check—

Montrose: No.

Justin: Excuse me?

Griffin: I step in the way as he goes to check.

Chad: I'm just going to double check to make sure everything's there. Because he's saying these photos are nothing. So, I need to make sure it's all—

Beef: No, that's okay. So, if we have the photos and the negatives, and the money and the recording, our job is done here.

Montrose: Yes. Typically, in the future, whenever a handoff like this does occur, you wanna make sure that it is a simultaneous exchange. Typically, this type of thing is done with proxies on a long, long bridge. But...

Beef: Yes, or like a... or like a same time kind of thing—

Montrose: Samezies timezies.

Justin: You see Chad start to eye a large, red button on the wall. And you see him start to inch closer to it.

Beef: Just a reminder, the recording, we've got that. So, if you're moving to like call in management or security or anything...

Montrose: Oh, I'm sure they'd love to hear this cassette.

Chad: I'm sorry, I'm Chad Touch. So, if the... Well... You shouldn't push this any farther.

Travis: Is he within reach of me?

Justin: Hm?

Travis: Is he within reach of me?

Justin: No.

Griffin: I open up the briefcase and show it to him.

Justin: I'm starting another clock—

Griffin: Oh, boy.

Justin: ... That is Chad presses the button.

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: And it is a four-segment clock. One of the segments has been depleted.

Griffin: Sure. I flash open the briefcase, holding it in a way that I am trying to like, I don't know, with one hand, obfuscate the one missing bill.

Montrose: I believe you'll find that this money will spend just right. You're right, there's no need to escalate things. We do not mean to interfere with your business and side business. We just want to protect the reputation of Mr. Red.

Chad: Very fair. But I don't enjoy being threatened. So, I will ask now—

Montrose: Does anybody enjoy being threatened?

Chad: A fair point.

Beef: That's a good question.

Chad: I have met some people in my line of work that enjoy it very much, actually.

Montrose: I suppose the Jerkinator 5000 fulfills that very role.

Clint: [laughs]

Chad: So, I will ask now. Leave the money on the couch immediately.

Montrose: Sure.

Griffin: I close the briefcase and—

Justin: Well, you don't quite close the briefcase, but you do try to.

Griffin: Oh, fuck me.

Justin: There's about an inch left.

Montrose: Oh, hold on—

Chad: Immediately, please.

Justin: You have two segments of the clock left.

Montrose: Okay.

Griffin: I set the briefcase down on the couch and step back.

Justin: And he starts walking towards the briefcase.

Clint: Just then—

Travis: [chuckles]

Justin: Smash cut!

Travis: [laughs]

Clint: Raúl comes bustling in from the kitchen, carrying a tray of Bananas Foster.

Justin: [laughs hysterically]

Clint: Which has already been set alit and is on fire. And Raúl comes rushing up to them, per instructions from father. Just bustles in going:

Raúl: Ah, yes! The Bananas Foster is—

Clint: And then, pretends to trip. And the flaming Bananas Foster goes right into the briefcase.

Justin: [laughs]

[theme music plays]

Maximumfun.org
Comedy and culture
Artist owned
Audience supported