

The Adventure Zone: Steeplechase - Episode 28

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Krystal: And that gets a little bit lost in the shake with all that yummy chocolate and pecan. But with so few new desserts on offer in Passion's Cove, this one is still well worth your snack credits. Lastly, another report of a guest getting mugged in Gutter City. A 63-year-old Spanish teacher visiting from Iowa not only had his backpack stolen, but then was pushed into a mud puddle by some local tough guys. It seems without Darla Davis keeping an eye on crime, it's getting a little bit out of hand in the city that rarely naps. But hey, that's Gutter City, right? It's all a part of the charm! If you're hoping to spend a quiet night there, we hope you never know when to stop dreaming!

[Steeplechase theme song plays]

Weaver: I'm not sure yet... I'm hopeful... Ah, Shookles... optimistic... or perhaps... perhaps optimism is just the last refuge of those... with nothing left to lose...

Justin: Hello, everybody and welcome to—

Travis: Sorry, was he talking to Shookles and Optimus Prime?

Justin: What?

Travis: He said Shookles and Optimus?

Justin: Optimus... to think—

Griffin: In Travis' mind, there was a big robot.

Justin: Yeah, that was part 37 of the riddle, I hope you guys have all been writing down the riddle.

Travis: It's Transformers!

Justin: There's lots of clues to the riddle, all the pieces of the riddle are in—

Clint: I'm gonna get ya! I'm gonna get ya.

Justin: Yeah. So, to catch everybody up, in case— you know, it's been a little bit since you listened to the last episode. Sticky Fingers Paul Pantry is dead. Long live Sticky Fingers Paul Pantry, as portrayed—

Griffin: But he is reborn, also.

Justin: He is reborn.

Griffin: In Chad Touch.

Justin: In Chad Touch.

Travis: In Chad Sticky Touch Pantry.

Justin: Right.

Clint: Ugh!

Justin: The worst. Don't know why I already had two characters that are all about like hand stuff, I don't know what that says about me, but Chad—

Griffin: Oh, Juice, running TAZ really teaches you a lot about your own—

Travis: It does, indeed.

Justin: It does, right?

Travis: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Griffin: ... Beautiful, dark, twisted fantasies.

Justin: It's like you open up your third eye and your third eye's like, "Hand stuff?"

Travis: "Hand stuff?"

Justin: And it's like, [chuckles] okay, can you come back—

Griffin: "Hey, come back, come back! Where are you going? Hey, Justin, come back here!"

Justin: "Hey, here's some hand stuff! What do you want? Hand stuff! Here!"

Clint: It's just a game! It's just a game!

Travis: It's just a game!

Justin: So—

Travis: Grow up!

Justin: In our last episode—

Travis: Adults do hand stuff, it's fine!

Griffin: Alright.

Justin: Through your... through your sleuthing, you notice that the footage had been doctored in some way. But that's not really the most important thing. The important thing is that Gravel was not actually present at the crime. As far as you can tell, it seemed to be a Hard Light simulcra of Gravel— Simulcra or the...

Clint: Simulacrum.

Justin: Simulacrum, okay... of Gravel. And the footage had been doctored by someone with a Dentonic workstation. And that the three of you had sort of decided that you weren't— you didn't wanna let this stand in your... in your territory, as—

Clint: We must protect this house!

Justin: You have to protect this house. So, what does that look like? And I know we're not gonna have a super concrete direction right at the moment, but I'd love to hear you guys maybe table talk a bit about like what the... what's the plan? What are we gonna do?

Griffin: Yeah, I think I've been pretty upfront about the fact that Montrose does not— is not particularly moved by the plight of saving Gravel, who is a competitor in the field. Sure, I— Griffin loves Gravel. Montrose is not gonna risk his own bacon to save her bacon. So, Montrose is, I think, most fired up right now by Beef Punchly's sudden investment in the criminal arts. With his impassioned speech last episode. And so, I just— wanna find whoever did this and put 'em in the ground. Or not... maybe not that.

Justin: That was very aggressive, Griffin.

Travis: Well, this is the thing, right—

Griffin: We'll see!

Travis: ... Of like, we have a— much like any heist, right, we have an overall goal, which is to end with more kind of influence and control, both here in Ustaben and in Steeplechase in general. The way that gets accomplished, there's a lot of like, "Oh, yeah, I mean, if that works out, that great. If this works out, that's great." But at the end of the day, the way we accomplish is not as important to me as making sure that our... our hold, our safety and security in Ustaben is stronger, right?

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: That like we end this having a better stronghold where we don't have to worry as much. That's Beef's thing, yeah.

Clint: And I think Emerich's thing is whoever did this, they need to make an example out of so people know that they... can't fuck with Poppy's... Patrol.

Griffin: Don't fuck with Poppy's Place. Fuck with Poppy all you want—

Justin: Poppy Patrol! Poppy Patrol is interesting.

Travis: It does start to feel like Paw Patrol.

Justin: Yes, Travis, that is the point, yeah, the point.

Travis: Is it the point?

Justin: The point of it is that it sounds like Paw Patrol, which is good.

Travis: Okay...

Griffin: Maybe we just shorten it to Pop. And so, it's Pop Patrol.

Justin: Interesting. Interesting. Let's think on that. So, you guys are big, tough guys! You're talking a big tough guy game!

Griffin: [chuckles]

Justin: [chuckles]

Griffin: I have an idea for a first step in this campaign.

Justin: Okay?

Griffin: 'Cause this is already not feeling like our other heists where it's like, "Let's go steal the thing and make some money."

Justin: When we get to a point where that makes sense, that will absolutely be the angle. But I think, right now, you're right. It's just... [in silly voice] 'What are you heisting?'

Griffin: [in silly voice] 'What are you heisting?' Here's what I'm been praying on... If we do this, right, if, this episode, we cracking this fucking case and get in there and find whoever did this in Dentonic and stop 'em and they never can do it again, that doesn't necessarily send a message.

Travis: Correct.

Griffin: That doesn't necessarily do this thing that we are hoping to do. I think we should go to the Butter Cream and I think we should try to find Gravel's crew. And just fuckin' loop 'em in. We don't really have many alliances, so to speak, and if we can, as a side-effect, save Gravel and get her in our debt... then it seems like getting in there with their— with her crew and kind of giving them a briefing and see what they can help us with, is maybe not the worst place to start.

Clint: If I can add to that, though, what is our status with the... the giant robot judges?

Justin: Oh, that's—

Clint: I mean, we destroyed— isn't there one still around?

Travis: There's two more still around.

Justin: Hold on, wait, let me look. Oh, yeah, there they are, right in my back pocket.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Okay, yeah, see? Yeah, any time—

Clint: But what I'm saying is, isn't it generally thought Emerich is responsible for the death of a couple of people—

Travis: Are you asking if that magically went away, Dad? Because the answer is no.

Justin: No, no, no, I think what Dad is saying is, is he known in the—

Travis: Oh, the Butter Cream—

Justin: Is having a tough time in the Gravel— and Dad—

Griffin: In the Butter Cream.

Justin: I don't know, man, but it sounds like compelling podcast audio to me!

Griffin: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Travis: Yeah, I'm with you. I think the stop is the Butter Cream to do some scatting. But first, Creaky Man spoke to us from a machine, is there anything—

Clint: Yeah! Yeah, we gotta get— are we just gonna pretend that didn't happen?

Travis: Well, I'm clearly not, 'cause I brought it up.

Clint: Good!

Travis: But you guys seem like you were going to.

Clint: No, I'm not going to!

Griffin: Let's pick it back up in the room right where we left off?

Montrose: Hey, Creaky Man? Creaky Man? You still there, Creaky Man? No, Creaky Man left. Damn it!

Weaver: [gasping]

Beef: Oh!

Montrose: Creaky Man!

Weaver: Not long...

Beef: Okay, then talk faster!

Montrose: Yeah, tell us what we should do, Creaky Man! You seem to be omnipresent. Damn, he was not kidding about not long.

Emerich: He's really an infuriating presence sometimes.

Griffin: [chuckles]

Beef: I still can't tell if it's a long pause, or I'm...

Emerich: Yeah, it might be! He breathes, so—

Montrose: He's creaky. He's just creaking.

Emerich: Creaky Man?

Beef: I don't think he's gonna say anything else.

Montrose: Okay...

Emerich: Okay.

Montrose: We have ourselves a ghost in the machine and we may need to interface with that at some point.

Emerich: Oh, do you want me to now? Do you want me to right— I have— I would to! Do you want me to interface with him?

Montrose: Sure, yeah, if you— yeah, if you can?

Clint: Okay, I think that... [chuckles] I think Emerich is going to tinker with whatever machine— which ever game that the—

Justin: What was it? It was the— I always forget the name of it. It's not How to Win Friends and Influence People, but it's like that.

Griffin: It's a joke on that.

Justin: It's a joke on that. How to Win Pals and Influence Persons. Come on... That what we did?

Griffin: That's not your best work. [laughs]

Justin: Not mine! That's not me. Okay...

Clint: Just to see if— okay, yeah, tinker! I'm gonna do a tinker roll.

Justin: Fuckin' great, man.

Travis: Do it!

Justin: That's a great idea.

Griffin: Would this be tinker or attune? If you're trying to talk to one of these things, or—

Travis: Yeah, you're not fixing it.

Griffin: Yeah.

Clint: Attune maybe?

Griffin: Yeah.

Clint: Okay, I'll do an attune roll. And that would be— what do you think, controlled?

Griffin: I mean, I can't see why—

Justin: Yeah. I mean, for sure. You know what? It is risky, Dad, because I think that whatever this is, is failing. And maybe you have one shot at it.

Clint: Okay. All right, so, attune... and it's risky... standard... okay... Come on, baby...

[sound of dice thrown]

Griffin: Oh no.

Clint: 1, 2, 2.

Griffin: Bye, Creaky Man!

Justin: Oh, that's just— this is really good, Dad.

Travis: We'll miss you!

Justin: This is really good, Dad. You pull out one of your tools to interface with it. I imagine it kind of like you pull a long cable out of the Give a Ghost Projector that like will automatically wind itself. And you pull a long cable out and you plug it into the data port of this machine. And just as you like plug it in, you see like a greenish crackle of electricity that arcs right back up this cable and shocks you, burning your arm for a level one harm. And the machine shuts down, it goes black, appearing to have blown some sort of fuse or circuit or something. Probably a fuse would be the thing that I would say.

Clint: Oh, oh, oh—

Justin: Hold on, Dad's got a— "Give me a second, ah! Let the palpable relief that that did not work just sort of wash over me for a second."

Griffin: [laughs] All right.

Justin: Whoo!

Montrose: All right. So, we know now that the Creaky Man is not to be trifled with.

Emerich: Oh, oh, does anyone have any Unguentine? Anybody? Ah, look, look, look!

Justin: That's an old— that must be some sort of old person cream.

Griffin: Yeah.

Clint: It was an unguent, it was a... a tincture.

Montrose: We'll... visit the old-man CBS on our way to—

Clint: So, I have to mark a level one harm?

Justin: Yes, sir.

Clint: Arm burn...

Justin: Bad arm burn.

Griffin: Bad arm burn, shit.

Clint: Well, not bad?

Justin: Embarrassing arm burn. [chuckles]

Montrose: Embarrassing. Did you get that trying to interface with a ghost in an arcade game?

Justin: Embarrassing.

Montrose: That's so... that's embarrassing.

Emerich: I'm sorry, fellows...

Griffin: All right, let's jump under a train or whatever.

Justin: What are you doing?

Travis: To get to the Butter Cream.

Griffin: Going to the Butter Cream?

Justin: Do it.

Griffin: Okay, I just said... the thing, and now, my watch has ended.

Justin: Do you wanna go... do you wanna take the bi-rail or do you wanna take one of your sneaky passages?

Griffin: Let's take a sneaky passage 'cause I... I don't like jumping— I feel like the train thing is gonna not go good for us one of these times.

Justin: Okay, do you wanna go up or down? Up is where you first saw Gravel, that's the—

Griffin: Yeah, up.

Justin: Up, okay.

Travis: Wait, but what is down? I wanna hear the options.

Justin: Well, there's up... and then there's down.

Travis: But what's down? You said up is where we first saw Gravel, what's down?

Justin: A different Butter Cream.

Travis: Oh...

Justin: I mean, a different layer of the Butter Cream.

Griffin: He's in the chocolate—

Justin: You're not as well-known there.

Travis: Let's go up.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Okay. With up, you— how would you get up, Griffin? You're the one with the knowledge of secret passage ways. How would you get up without the bi-rail?

Griffin: It is... I mean, it's pretty slap-dash, it's pretty... I imagine it's like a cable. Just a long, long, long cable that's maybe running from a gap in the panels above, to like behind... what's the driving around one? The Backseat Blast?

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: It goes behind the Backseat Blast and there's like a little stirrup for you to put your foot in. So, it's really a one person at a time thing.

Justin: Okay, you pull yourself up by this crappy rope that you've made and you've—

Griffin: Hey! I didn't say it was crappy.

Justin: Oh, you're right, it's good, actually. Now that you're—

Travis: I thought you said slap-dash? Is it good slap-dash?

Justin: Yeah, you said slap-dash, so, I just thought it was bad.

Griffin: I mean, it's improvised. That doesn't mean it's bad, you know what I mean? Like, this show is improvised, it doesn't mean the show—

Travis: There is some good improv, that's true.

Griffin: Yeah!

Justin: Okay. What do you wanna... what do you wanna do?

Griffin: I mean, we have not interfaced with— and I'm sorry I keep using that word, with anyone else in Gravel's crew since the... since the big crime, right? I have tried before— I know I have tried before to find their base of operations, when like the first time we came to the Butter Cream and failed in doing so.

Travis: Well, you know, we're connected with Stimpson, and Stimpson is connected with people.

Griffin: Oh, yeah, let's go to Stimpson!

Justin: Mm-hm! Interesting... Okay.

Griffin: Maybe that's just who we got to? Maybe we fuck— like, if Stimpson is plugged in here and we need someone who can, at the very least, tell people what happened to the... what happened to Ustaben and then hopefully to never try that shit again, Stimpson would be like a good envoy for that.

Justin: Okay. Give me 30 seconds to hear Stimpson's voice.

Travis: Yeah, you need to listen to the voice, yeah, mm-hm.

Stimpson: Hello! I didn't think I would see you so soon. Welcome back! What can I help you find today?

Montrose: What is the traditional amount of time that one should go between Stimpson visits? Just so we don't catch you by surprise next time.

Stimpson: Well, that's a good point. I lose track down here. It didn't used to be a problem for me, but... I don't see the sun as much. So, I don't know how much time has passed. So, I just wasn't expecting it.

Beef: Do you want us to get you like a watch or something? Like a clock?

Stimpson: What would be the point?

Beef: Well, okay.

Montrose: Yours is a sad existence, isn't it, Stimpson?

Stimpson: I try not to dwell or make sort of judgements about it. I just am in my situation.

Beef: Oh.

Stimpson: And I find if I don't pass judgement on it as good or bad, I'm able to just... be in it.

Beef: That's incredibly Zen.

Montrose: I love that.

Stimpson: Well, you would be surprised! If you're trapped in a cat costume for long enough, you will eventually just sort of... make your peace.

Montrose: My friend here is pretty good with tools. We can try and cut you out of that thing?

Stimpson: Oh, I... I appreciate it, but I've... I've gotten used to it at this point, as I've made pretty clear.

Beef: Oh, so not stuck in it like physically stuck in it? But more like emotionally and mentally, you are in that suit.

Stimpson: Well, for a long time it was the first one. And now, I think it's the second one. But also, the first one, too, still.

Beef: Oh, okay, yeah. Oh, okay.

Stimpson: So, it's kind of— yeah, kind of... kind of both! But hey, this isn't about me. What do you all need?

Beef: Well, have you heard about what happened with Paul Pantry— or the Paul Pantry before the current one, and Gravel and all that stuff in Ustaben?

Stimpson: Nasty business, yeah. It's terrible!

Beef: It's not true... yeah, I mean...

Montrose: Oh, well, we need to— Paul Pantry is dead as hell, but it was a frame job...

Stimpson: Oh... yeah, I had wondered... from what little I knew of Gravel, it seemed very... out of character for her to be so brazen with a crime like that. Especially against another person. I don't think her heart was in the right place, but she didn't seem particularly violent. And certainly not one to take those big risks out in the open.

Montrose: Yes, this was an act of treasury from some mighty powerful folks. We are new to the game, Stimpson, I'm not ashamed to tell you. You're aware of our sort of fledgling status as a criminal enterprise... We find ourselves a little bit out of our depths on how to take on a target that is likely much more powerful than we are. And yet, we do feel compelled to defend our home turf, I'm sure you can understand.

Stimpson: Do you think it was another... a gang? Another gang that did this?

Beef: Well, no. And I think you'll appreciate this, Stimpson, as someone who's been burned before. We think this was on the Dentonic side of things...

Stimpson: Oh! [chuckles] Oh well... win some, lose some. Thanks for coming. Best of luck.

Beef: No, that's not— no.

Justin: And then he starts closing up.

Beef: Whoa, no.

Montrose: Stimpson! Stimpson, if I may sort of elucidate the nature of this framing... someone has created— and stop me if you've heard this one before— an incredibly lifelike, incredibly accurate Hard Light... a Hard Light simulation of Gravel.

Emerich: And it wasn't me.

Montrose: And it was not my friend here. You know we wouldn't be talking to you if that was the case, right, Stimpson? That it wouldn't be a crime, it would just be a thing one of us did.

Stimpson: Right...

Montrose: Right. So, someone used a phony Gravel that they made out of Hard Light technology to commit a crime and frame her, taking away her agency, and her freedom, ultimately. And that, Stimpson, seems like the kind of thing that might tug at your own heart strings. So...

Justin: Griffin, here's what I want you to do. I want you to give me a sway roll and it's gonna be controlled and it's gonna be great effect.

Griffin: Great.

Justin: Because I think that's a really good argument, but there— I do still need to introduce a little bit of randomness to it.

Griffin: I got you. Here it goes!

[sound of dice thrown]

Griffin: 1, 6, 5. That's a 6.

Justin: Oh my gosh, it's a 6.

Clint: Nice!

Stimpson: Well, that's an excellent... that's not good. It's not good at all. Okay... What can I do? I'll do whatever, but tell me, what can I do?

Beef: If you could put us like in contact with like Gravel's crew, like the people... any kind of like insight we could get on who might like have framed Gravel.

Stimpson: You wanna talk with... you wanna talk with Slipper and Match Stick?

Beef: Yes.

Montrose: Now, hold on, 'cause there has been some debate on which one of the guys my friend murdered.

Stimpson: Okay. So, this has been going— okay, so, we've been confused about this, too.

Griffin: [laughs]

Stimpson: Rumor has it, Slipper's fine. I've seen Slipper, right.

Montrose: Okay?

Stimpson: But either Match Stick or Trash Bag was killed by... well, you.

Justin: And he points at Emerich.

Emerich: Well...

Beef: Their death occurred.

Stimpson: It wasn't your fault, by the way. I meant— you knew that one of— whoever it was, I heard he had some sort of... condition, like a pacemaker. And all you did was sort of interrupt it with your shock. So, it wasn't like— it was just bad luck. I mean, not bad luck, you did shock a human being and we roll— that's always a roll of the dice. But I—

Griffin: [chuckles]

Stimpson: You know, if it makes you feel any better.

Emerich: It does... I'm going to say it does.

Stimpson: Okay.

Montrose: You've just been downgraded to manslaughter, my friend, and that is a huge—

Emerich: Oh!

Montrose: And you know what I like to call that? Man's laughter. If you think about.

Stimpson: That's beautiful. That's actually beautiful.

Montrose: So, yes, getting in touch—

Emerich: I caused a man's laughter...

Beef: Well...

Montrose: To end forever, yes. And we are— we do need to talk to Gravel's crew. Honestly, Stimpson, I think we're mostly just looking for advice, maybe a little bit of help on how to send a message to the world that our turf must not be infringed upon!

Stimpson: Well...

Griffin: I think what I'm trying to set up here is like, I want... if we are looking to bolster our street cred with this job, it seems like this could be part of the payoff of that. If we have a... someone who is our... street team, so to speak, in Butter Cream. Like, "Oh, shit, did you hear what happened in Ustaben? Somebody like tried to fuck with them and then the Paw Patrol like... wrecked their shop."

Stimpson: The problem with going against Dentonic is that they are the ones in control of the message. And they can cover up anything, they can make anything happen and they can hide anything. And if you get too loud, they'll make you go away, too.

Beef: Yeah, but—

Stimpson: It's figuring out a way to do something that they won't have such an easy time covering up. Maybe making it clear that it's not so easy to change your story to whatever they want it to be.

Beef: Stimpson, there must be people, like, outside of Dentonic that talk about what happens in Steeplechase, right? Like non-Dentonic people who talk about like the news and stuff that comes out.

Stimpson: You mean like the bloggers and the Steepies and stuff? Yeah.

Beef: Okay, bloggers, Steepee, whatever. How do we like get a message to them, right? How do we like contact them so it's not just news coming through Dentonic channels, but like, we're getting the news spread... like beyond them, right. How do we get something out to them?

Stimpson: Well... you'd have a problem with that, I think, because they all really rely on Dentonic for access. When there's early events, news... new snacks or new like, potted plants going up or bathroom renovations or any of it, Dentonic is the one who's controlling access. So, none of them wanna get on their bad side. But I will say that they, you know... they're always covering stuff, they're always making stuff— you know, they're always... what do you call it, with the... the cameras, you know? They're always... streaming? You know?

Beef: Mm-hm?

Stimpson: To their audiences, live from the parks. And not everybody can be here but you know, someone the vloggers are allowed to like film like a day in the life or day in the park or something. If you could maybe make something happen live? Something that wouldn't be so easy for Dentonic to cover up, like... maybe... Like, if you're paying attention, I noticed, for example, they've been trying to cover up that... the castle. But you know that wasn't them, there's no way they'd make a castle disappear and blow up their own castle.

Montrose: Hey, Stimpson? That was us.

Stimpson: You didn't tell me that. You didn't tell me that.

Beef: Okay.

Stimpson: You didn't tell me that.

Montrose: I did, just now, Stimpson.

Stimpson: You didn't tell me that or we're done.

Beef: Yeah, we didn't tell you that.

Montrose: No, we didn't tell you that. That was a goof.

Stimpson: Whoever did it... whoever did it... they're trying to cover it up. They've put up kind of a crummy replacement just to save face... And who—I'm assuming you all aren't walking around with a castle in your back pocket.

Emerich: [chuckles]

Stimpson: So, where ever that has ended up—

Montrose: [chuckles] No.

Emerich: It's not in our back pocket, it's... No, that's ridiculous.

Stimpson: It's nowhere!

Emerich: It's nowhere.

Beef: It's nowhere.

Montrose: It's nowhere.

Emerich: It's nowhere. No, uh-uh.

Stimpson: Please, you guys can't get stupid now.

Emerich: Right.

Stimpson: I'm serious about this. You can get stupid at this point.

Montrose: I thought this was a circle of trust, Stimpson. I... I apologize for overstepping your boundaries.

Stimpson: You don't know what they're capable of. I don't wanna... [sighs] I wouldn't burn you all, I just—

Beef: This is also a criminal underground, so like, we should be careful with the trust aspect of it.

Stimpson: You should just be careful with trusting anybody.

Emerich: Stimpson, have you ever considered opening a branch of your... mercantile endeavors in Ustaben? We are cultivating a very positive workplace atmosphere there.

Montrose: Mm-hm.

Emerich: And I think your services would be extremely sought after. I'm just putting a little bunk in your feline-like ear to maybe think about coming to Ustaben and opening up a branch of—

Stimpson: I set foot topside, I'm in the brig within... what... an hour? I mean... hour and a half?

Emerich: Well, not if you have our protection.

Beef: Hey, Emerich? That's a great idea. Let's maybe focus up though for a minute.

Emerich: Oh, right, right, sorry, sorry. You know my brain, tangent, tangent, tangent. [chuckles]

Clint: Can we have a huddle up here soon?

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: No... Yes. [chuckles]

Travis: It's huddle time.

Beef: Hey, Emerich? This is a wild idea, but how long do you think it would take you to whip up a good Hard Light version of Kenchal Denton?

Emerich: Hm...

Montrose: Jesus Christ...

Emerich: I... Well, I could do it, but I will tell you what I would need, and I don't want to complicate things. I would need to have some source materials to make a convincing copy of Kenchal Denton. I would need to speak to someone who has a vast array of video recordings of Kenchal Denton, because for something that sophisticated, we would need to contact someone like... Krystal with a K or someone like that to obtain a great deal of video footage. I'm fairly sure I could do it. I mean, I still have a rather convincing Sticky Fingers Paul Pantry in my arsenal, if you remember.

Beef: That one might— that might be hard to pull off because he is famously murdered.

Montrose: He has been murdered, yes.

Justin: I would say, dad, this might... okay... This might be possible. What I would say is that you were— we were all sort of caught off guard by the idea that they had replicated Scott Boldflex, right? This idea of creating a simulation of a person that already exists is fairly new. I mean, Scott Boldflex... that's why it didn't occur to anybody it was Scott Boldflex, right?

Travis: Mm-hm.

Justin: The idea that you could like make a new person as a result of that is like a new sort of concept, I think. So, it would be hard. Like, it would not be an... this is not something you would just like be able to do.

Clint: No, it would take... I think it would take the equivalent of... a side-project, a side... at least.

Griffin: Yeah, yeah.

Justin: Mm-hm.

Clint: And it may... and it may take some sacrifice of existing materials. Like existing crystals that we already have.

Travis: Mm-hm.

Clint: You know, we have very sophisticated crystals like from the... the Gallspire.

Justin: Mm-hm.

Clint: That... ooh! Ooh, ooh! Oh, you're— exciting!

Montrose: What are you thinking there, Beef? What do we get with a fake Kenchal?

Beef: Well—

Montrose: Aside from murder all three of us as soon as anyone finds out what happened.

Beef: Well, we get, as I see it, three things. One, if we can find somebody live streaming and blogging here in Ustaben, an interview with Kenchal Denton where he's like, "Yeah, we're working on stuff, trying to fix up the fact the the— you know, the tower was stolen and that there was a murder here in Ustaben." Right? Like, that... is a big thing. Two, if granting access, if we were trying to get into like a security center or to where Gravel is, if we have our own Kenchal Denton, then nobody suspects losing Kenchal Denton, makes this easy to get there. Three, if it ends up getting Kenchal in enough trouble that he is removed from the equation, it makes us a lot of secure and we don't have to worry about being like blackmailed or scapegoated by Kenchal Denton.

Montrose: I'm confused, Kenchal Denton is the closest thing we have to a contact on the inside. Not that I trust him, I almost— I certainly don't. But

this thing that you are suggesting won't just sort of end any relationship we might have with Kenchal Denton, it will end— and I can't stress this enough, our lives when we are you know, shot by laser drones or whatever kind of advanced technology that they have.

Beef: Okay—

Montrose: I love the idea of having a phony Kenchal, it's just... if you're gonna aim at the king, at the very least, we need to make sure that he is at the spa or in the toilet with some sort of terrible stomach malady, just to shut him down.

Beef: Well, what about... what about like his cousin or sister, whoever it is that's in charge right now? He would appreciate that, right?

Clint: There's also Evelyn Denton, that's the... that's the one that took over.

Travis: Okay, yeah, so—

Clint: And then Devon Denton is the cousin, who's apparently a shit head. But Evelyn was the first born... of Karmine.

Travis: So, here's my thinking, Ditto, is that... that happening in the middle of a live stream, in Ustaben, right, would be a big enough security issue that it's gonna pull security away from where ever Gravel is and where ever the information regarding like the edited video and shit is. And it's gonna cause some chaos that says to people and Denton like, we have resources to fuck back, if you fuck with Ustaben.

Clint: And it also— another tertiary thing is that it will call into question being able to use realistic Hard Lights—

Griffin: That's what I like about the—

Clint: Yeah!

Griffin: That's what I like about the fake Kenchal plan, is even if it comes to life that it's a fake Kenchal, people will now know that is— all of a sudden, you identity is no longer—

Clint: Okay, yeah, now— yeah, now, that— okay, so, that's kind of a leverage thing, if we...

Travis: Yeah.

Clint: If we can get somebody to do a video, or some kind of live stream or something, that... but we're presenting it not to say, "Hey, this is Kenchal Denton." But saying, "Look what you can do!"

Travis: Well, I— to Griffin's point, if we wanna not fuck with Kenchal, who is our contact, Devon Denton I think is a better way to go. Right? That's Evelyn's kid.

Clint: Right.

Travis: And Denton's— Kenchal's rival. And known shit head.

Clint: Yeah! Oh, that, I like that.

Griffin: The problem is that— the problem is that Kenchal is sus. The way he conducted himself with the arrest of Gravel was... really made it seem like he was in on it, right? 'Cause why else would he do that? Why else would he be the one who is like boots on the ground, arresting this person—

Travis: Then it seems like what we need to is talk to Gravel's crew to see if we can figure out what his role in it was, and that will—

Clint: Yeah, I— yeah, we still need to talk to the creamers, I think.

Griffin: Yeah, we still don't know— we still don't know who the target is.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: I think talking to Gravel's crew and finding out why she would be framed would help us figure out who did the—

Clint: And why she wouldn't fight back!

Griffin: Why she wouldn't fight back, yeah.

Travis: Okay, great, cool. Same page.

Beef: Maybe Kenchal isn't the one to blame? I think next step is trying to talk to the like Gravel crew and figure out what exactly the like situation is, why she— how she's involved and why Kenchal did— what they— all that stuff.

Montrose: Okay, Stimpson, we need you to put us in contact with the most definitely alive member of Gravel's crew.

Beef: So, it's Slipper. Slipper is definitely—

Stimpson: It's Slipper. Slipper's for sure alive. I've seen Slipper.

Emerich: And Trash Bag. You said you've seen Trash Bag?

Beef: Oh?

Stimpson: No, we're not clear on that. Either Trash Bag or Match Stick is... dead as disco!

Emerich: Well, I would think that someone could pin that down if I'm being accused of murdering them?!

Beef: It's not their real names! Like you can't just check certificates and what not.

Stimpson: You could've just— they may have switched, also. You know? They just decided like—

Beef: Yeah, if you went to a hospital and you— like a regular hospital and you said, “Hey, is Trash Bag dead?” They would like at you like you had a tree growing out of the top of your head.

Stimpson: My gut says Trash Bag died, but it’s really hard to say. Anyway... Yeah, but I can get you Slipper... Yeah, he’s usually over... You know, he hangs out around The Future is You, you all set up. He’s usually in that neck of the woods if you wanna go poke around for him?

Montrose: That is an excellent idea. Stimpson, thank you so much.

Stimpson: Hey, it’s been a pleasure.

Montrose: Keep working on it.

Emerich: I feel like we should purchase something. I mean, it’s like when I go into a restaurant to use the rest room, I always buy a soda because I feel guilty, you know, taking advantage of their services and not rewarding them in some way.

Stimpson: Okay?

Emerich: Could we buy— do you have anything that I could purchase?

Stimpson: I got lots of stuff, what do you want?

Emerich: I don’t know, something... something that would justify—

Stimpson: Do you just want some gum?

Emerich: Oh, gum?

Stimpson: Do you just want some— if this is about guilt, just buy some gum.

Emerich: Do you have Peep `em’s Nasty Gum?

Stimpson: That is... so rude that you would say that to me actually.

Montrose: I can't believe you would say that.

Beef: Yeah, wow. He's a reputable—

Stimpson: I'd like you guys to go, I'm gonna need to cool off a little bit.

Beef: Yeah, I understand. Hey, we're sorry about him. Come on, Emerich... I can't... I can't...

Montrose: What you just said is very racist in the future.

Emerich: Oh, it is?

Justin: [chuckles] Okay—

Griffin: [laughs]

[theme music plays]

[ad break]

[theme music plays]

Justin: You all headed on over to The Future is You. And... let's make it—there's no point in belaboring this. You poke around for a bit and...

Travis: Justin, you just said there's no point in belaboring it and then said the phrase, "You do something for a bit." That's belaboring!

Justin: Well, when I say you do something for a bit, what I mean is I'm looking for the thing in the thing that tells me what Slipper's voice sounds like.

Travis: Ah!

Clint: [laughs]

Justin: But guess what, guys? Good news!

Griffin: Slipper never talked!

Justin: Slipper never talked!

Griffin: Fuck yeah.

Justin: You see Slipper, he's sitting by himself and he's just turning a Rubik's Cube. He's probably mid-40s, he's got a... long, grey trench coat and some like very utilitarian black boots, black pants. A cream-colored long sleeve turtle neck. And he's got a... what do you wanna call it, a toque or a tossle cap. A toboggan, whatever you like—

Travis: A beanie?

Justin: ... Pulled down over his ears. Yeah, a beanie. It's a little chilly and damp in the Butter Creams.

Clint: Well then Emerich has also, because of that, pulled up his cowl over his head and has put on a pair of very large, very dark sunglasses to try to disguise his identity.

Justin: Smart. Smart. Okay. Smart.

Emerich: Perhaps one of you two should have a word with Mr. Slipper?

Griffin: I lean over his shoulder and I say:

Montrose: Ah, the Fridrich method, hey? Gotta watch those corners.

Slipper: Sorry, what?

Montrose: It's just... it didn't look like you were properly orienting your last layer before you permuted the next one. And that's... that's... If you are trying to do the Fridrich method, that is kind of the first thing that you do.

Slipper: I've been trying to learn the Parsons algorithm, so I'm... I found Fridrich to be a little bit... [sighs] pedestrian, in my later solving years.

Montrose: Oh?

Slipper: So, I'm working with some... developing an adapted algorithm. But—

Montrose: Oh, to each their own. Not everybody can memorize the 78 formulas that make up the Fridrich Method. [chuckles] But...

Slipper: Oh, really?

Montrose: I suppose if you do not possess that level of mastery, you will find it pedestrian.

Slipper: Oh, really? Oh, you don't believe... you don't believe so? Hm... Front, front, up, down, left, front, right, front...

Montrose: You've already fucked it up.

Slipper: Up prime, left prime, right, up, front, left prime, up, right, front. And that's all the moves you need. See, I've inverted the classic algorithm.

Montrose: You've inverted the Fridrich! You son of a bitch!

Slipper: [chuckles] It's always nice to meet a fellow appreciator of the cubic arts.

Montrose: Yes. My name is Montrose Pretty. I... I realize I probably catch you at a hard time, with what terrible fate has befallen your associate.

Slipper: Which one?

Montrose: Sorry, I should be clear, Gravel, not the one who tragically perished—

Slipper: Oh, this is— that was a shame... I'm not great fan of Gravel, though. She abandoned me mid-job, as you remember, as you were there.

Montrose: Yes. Yes, I remember that now. Let me think about how to approach this conversation.

Slipper: That's smart.

Montrose: Do you mind if I take a beat? Thank you.

Slipper: That's smart, take a beat.

Beef: Hey, Slipper? What do you know about Kenchal Denton?

Slipper: Hm... Sort of a... a bit of a black sheep, yes, of the Dentonic family. Light on the actual responsibilities, more of a... a figurehead. He's kept around and trotted out at meetings, mostly to give an air of youthful energy.

Beef: Okay, no, sorry, we know that. I mean like what do you know about Kenchal Denton's—

Justin: I thought that was good stuff! I don't know, I thought that was good context I was giving you?

Griffin: I thought so too, I thought— yeah.

Justin: But hey, if you don't need to know more about Kenchal Denton and his role within the family, then by all means, let's—

Beef: Sorry, Slipper, you know what? Slipper, I interrupted. Why don't you go ahead?

Slipper: I noticed, yes. Interrupted, you did, yes!

Beef: Yoda?

Clint: [laughs]

Montrose: Yoda Man?

Justin: [in silly voice] Noticed, I did!

Travis: Oh, Clipping Yoda, get out of here!

Griffin: [laughs]

Clint: Deep Dark!

Griffin: No, Clipping Yoda!

Slipper: But low on the actual power. Seems like kind of a dill weed.

Montrose: Can you think of any reason that he might be beefing with Gravel? He asks to someone who Gravel has famously fucked over, is probably— know, in fact, has confirmed that he is beefing...

Slipper: Mm-hm...

Montrose: Should we just put our cards out on the table?

Beef: Yeah.

Emerich: Yes.

Montrose: Gravel didn't do the thing that she is being accused of, and yet, she seems to be... she possesses a somewhat obsequious nature that we have never known her to possess, with regards to this crime. Can you think of any reason why she would be the target of a framing and why she would kind of just go along with it?

Slipper: Do you... oh, let me just think... Well, it's not uncommon for people to be taken out of the Butter Cream and made an example of. Everyone knows that we're living on borrowed air here. Sometimes, we... it's not uncommon for a Creamer to get framed for something that Dentonic wants to make go away. So, that's not that unusual. It could've been anyone of us, I assume. Maybe Gravel was just chosen at random.

Griffin: Is he lying?

Clint: Oh, yeah!

Justin: Is he lying?

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Nope.

Griffin: One of these days, that ability is going to—

Justin: I could make the argument that it is working because you know that he's telling the truth!

Griffin: That's fair, that's fair, okay.

Beef: But Gravel is like... why would Gravel go along with it peacefully and non— like, not argue with it and not try to fight it, not— like, we got her attention and said like, "Did you do this?" And she was like, "That's what they say." And there was like no fight in her.

Slipper: Mm-hm... Well... oh... if you find yourself the target of the old-timers from Ustaben... some of the crews from Passion's Cove... where have you, there's a chance to... to push back, to take a stand, to run a scam. But if Dentonic zeros in on you, there's just... that's it. There's no reason to put up a fight. Why would— we would sooner fight the sun.

Beef: Damn!

Emerich: [in silly voice] Hello, my name is Lawrence Talbot...

Slipper: Hello, Emerich. It should be noted, you didn't shock me and I did not enjoy Match Stick or Trash Bag. So, whichever one of them—

Montrose: Do you think the problem might be you? 'Cause if you go everywhere and everyone you talk to is an asshole...

Beef: That's a bold tactic to take with the person we're trying to get help from, Montrose?

Montrose: Oh, he has expressed a... I would say an over-arching sort of disdain for taking any kind of action in this enterprise. So, we may be barking up the wrong tree.

Slipper: Well, I mean, Emerich did shock me as well...

Emerich: I... I didn't... So, you knew it was me. I had a cowl on? I was wearing a cowl...

Slipper: And it was very impressive.

Emerich: But the point I was trying to make is that... they couldn't have just picked Gravel out of a hat because the sophistication of the Hard Light, they definitely copied Gravel. And that wouldn't have been just... a choice out of thin air. There must have been a reason why they selected Gravel? To go to that expense and that trouble?

Slipper: Is there anything that connects Gravel and Sticky Fingers Paul Pantry?

Emerich: Yes! That's what we're asking!

Beef: No, the answer is yes, the pin.

Slipper: I... Well, if I may be so bold...

Beef: Please?

Slipper: I think there's something more obvious that you're missing that connects the two of them. It's the three of you.

Beef: Oh! Fuck...

Emerich: Oh...

Beef: Yeah...

Emerich: Oh fuck... Oh...

Montrose: You're saying that what happened was for our benefit? Or—

Beef: In one fell swoop, they removed two of our contacts. They took out Paul, who was connected to us and helping us. And took out Gravel, who was connected to us and helping us.

Slipper: Well... Listen, I... I actually think this is kind of interesting, I like puzzles. But I'm not going to keep helping for free.

Emerich: Oh... What... [in deep voice] What kind of payment—

Montrose: Completely unnecessary. You know it unnecessary.

Emerich: Yes, I forgot—

Montrose: You just like doing the voice, and that's fine, you can do a different voice—

Emerich: I do enjoy the voice.

Montrose: But just have it be you, you know?

Emerich: Yes. What kind of recompense do you need?

Slipper: Two suites.

Emerich: Hm! Hm...

Beef: And what do we get for two suites?

Slipper: I... Well, you've already received quite a bit of free help.

Beef: Yeah!

Montrose: Right, he's asking—

Slipper: Call it an earnest payment.

Beef: No...

Clint: [chuckles]

Montrose: This is the Butter Cream, friend. You know that's not the way it works here.

Slipper: Mm-hm, yes, but I've extended to you a big courtesy by giving you information for free. Insight, if you will. Well, let... One suite?

Griffin: [chuckles]

Beef: So, just like— sorry. One suite for a job well done, is what you're asking for? So, you're negotiating—

Slipper: I mean, we'll see if there's anything else up here in this incredible steel trap I call a mind. I'll stroll up to the palace inside my mind and see if I can find anything else that may be of use to you.

Beef: Well, how about this, let me ask you this question, Slipper...

Slipper: Mm-hm, yes?

Beef: When you're on a crew, right, what is your skillset? Like, what's your strong suit, what's your position on a crew?

Slipper: Problem solving.

Griffin: [chuckles]

Beef: Huh...

Montrose: That does sound useful.

Slipper: I'm amazing at puzzles and figuring out problems that people have when they can't think of a way forward.

Montrose: He's... this man inverted the Fridrich method, so he— I will testify to his problem-solving capabilities. They are considerable. All right, here, let's do this the only fair way.

Griffin: And I take out three dice and hand each of you one of them.

Montrose: Let's roll to see who's gonna pay him.

Travis: Sorry, what are we rolling?

Griffin: Just a D6.

Justin: You're rolling a D6. Who's gonna give him a suite?

[sound of dice thrown]

Travis: Well, I got a 2...

Griffin: Dad's just typing.

Justin: Dad's typing a number, I think?

Griffin: Oh, dad just said, "Roll D6."

Justin: Right, Dad, just type the words 'roll D6.' Open Lycos, check Google Mail. [chuckles]

Griffin: [chuckles]

Travis: Ask Jeeves to roll a D6.

[sound of dice thrown]

Justin: Ask Jeeves to roll—

Clint: I rolled a 4.

Justin: A 4. Okay, Travis, that you.

Montrose: All right, Beef, the fates have decided.

Justin: It's up to you, though, Trav, if you wanna kick him a suite or not.

Montrose: It's not—

Beef: Okay, wait, no, I— hey, Mr. Problem Solver, I have an idea. You find us a way to get into the Ustaben security area and you can have two suites.

Emerich: Ooh!

Slipper: Oh... I would have no idea even where to start, that's extremely dangerous work. Look, this is exhausting.

Beef: Okay!

Slipper: I'll just tell you what I was going to tell you... Are there others?

Beef: Like other friends that are at risk? Yeah.

Slipper: Who else have you... been in contact with? Because that is the list of people that—

Montrose: Oh, fuck.

Slipper: What?

Montrose: Sorry, we're all cussing a lot in this conversation.

Slipper: There is a lot of cussing.

Montrose: It's mostly because of the sinister nature of your revelations. Yeah... yeah, I can think of someone.

Slipper: Mm-hm?

Griffin: Um... I'm trying to think if there's anything else we can use this gentleman for.

Justin: Nothing.

Griffin: Okay.

Clint: Then I should make a suggestion—

Travis: No, wait. Now hold on, Griffin just said, "Oh fuck, I've had a revelation." And we need to resolve that.

Justin: Yeah.

Clint: Okay.

Montrose: Thank you for your time, Mr. Slipper. You two, come with me.

Beef: Oh, okay. What is it?

Montrose: We have not only worked with Darla in the past, we have worked with her mere hours ago when she showed us security camera footage that she probably shouldn't have.

Beef: Oh, shit.

Montrose: We should probably, at the very least, go give her a heads up. And then we can keep rolling merrily along our crimey way.

Emerich: I think that's an excellent instinct. I think you're absolutely right. Did we give him a suite?

Beef: No.

Montrose: No, fuck that dude.

Emerich: Oh, okay. All right, fine.

Montrose: He said he inverted the Fridrich. Like, it doesn't need to be inverted!

Justin: So, wait, I need to clarify in this sheet, you didn't give him a suite for the help?

Travis: No.

Justin: Okay. An interesting choice. I hope it pays off.

Griffin: I mean, I would've paid the man. We rolled bones and everything.

Travis: Fine!

Justin: No, but you've made the decision.

Travis: I gave him—

Justin: No, no, no, no, no! I don't wanna second guess you.

Griffin: No, sheepishly walk over there.

Travis: [chuckles] Yeah. I go:

Beef: Oh, yeah, we gotta— wait, hold on. There you go, thank you.

Slipper: The price doubled because my feelings were hurt.

Beef: Okay, how about this? I'll give you a suite...

Montrose: Jesus Christ with the horse trading, just...

Beef: Oh god... Okay, here's two suites. Jesus Christ.

Slipper: Wow, that worked?

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: [chuckles]

Montrose: I can't believe you just did that.

Slipper: Wait, sorry, I meant it tripled!

Beef: No, that's it. Bye!

Justin: [chuckles]

Emerich: [deep voice] But you are in our debt.

Slipper: Who the fuck are you?!

Griffin: [chuckles]

Emerich: [deep voice] Lawrence Talbot! I've already established that.

Montrose: He's strong, you can tell by the voice. We have to go right now, it is a matter of life and death.

Beef: Yeah—

Emerich: Farewell, Slippers!

Griffin: Did we get— we know that Darla is working a different position now, right?

Clint: Yeah, she works for—

Griffin: So, we probably would not find her in Gutter City, in the place we know to find her?

Travis: No, she— last time we saw her was in Ustaben, doing security shit.

Clint: So, surely, there's a police headquarters, right? A security headquarters?

Griffin: Did she give her like— did she give us her number or any other sort of way to contact her?

Justin: There was an active crime scene investigation. I mean, there was an active investigation happening in Ustaben. And I think that it stands to reason Darla would still be there.

Griffin: Okay, we head back to Ustaben and try to find Darla.

Justin: When you head back to where the investigation had been sort of headquartered out of, they had taken over a room in the rear of Sticky Fingers Paul Pantry, outside of the accessibility— or the area that is accessible to the public. And so, they were in a back office. The room that you knew that they had sort of taken over, you see a guard standing outside the door, another member of the customer experience team.

Travis: Not Garret Long Johns.

Justin: No, it's a new guy. He's the meanest one yet. [chuckles]

Griffin: Fuck.

Justin: And the coolest.

Beef: Hey, you! What's your name?

Guy: Coolest Mean.

Beef: Coolest Mean?

Guy: Guy.

Montrose: No, sorry, sorry, you've... He asked your name, not the adjectives that one would use to describe you.

Guy: Oh! Right. I'm—

Montrose: Sometimes when people ask— I get it. Sometimes people ask me my name and I'm like, "Oh, charming, debonair."

Guy: My name is Guy Meanswell.

Beef: Okay! Guy? Where's Darla Davis?

Guy: She's inside, working the case.

Beef: Oh, okay. Excuse me, I need to go talk to her.

Guy: No, no, no. Hey, hey, hey... Listen... Nobody's getting into— especially not you three.

Montrose: Especially— what is that supposed to mean?

Guy: Oh... Yeah, the boss, he—

Justin: You can see Darla in there. She's got her head over a table, she's going over several different files.

Montrose: Darla! Hey, Darla!

Guy: Yeah, the... she heard from the higher-ups, I guess— she got a call not too long after you all took off. And... well, the bosses said that I guess she's not supposed to have anything else to do with y'all.

Beef: Montrose?

Justin: And she looks up at you and is— like, she finally notices— who was it that was knocking? Was that you, Montrose?

Griffin: That was me.

Justin: She looks up at you, Montrose, and gives like the faintest head shake.

Beef: Oh god... If she's here and she's cut off from us that way, is Shroog okay?

Montrose: Oh, god damn it, we have to go right now! You wait here, we're gonna be back here in like 15 minutes. And I want you to think about the rudeness you have just displayed. We have to go warn our friend, Shroog! No, okay, fine. We'll handle it one step at a time. Do you enjoy working with Darla Davis?

Guy: Do I— I mean, she's... I mean, she beats the hell out of my last boss.

Montrose: Oh, yeah?

Guy: Mm-hm.

Montrose: Tell me about that, what you just said.

Guy: Pert Doesbad was his name and... he did a lot of bad stuff. And I'm not allowed to talk about some of it, but... Sorry, guys, I'm kind of distracted by the fact that I have the same voice as a lot of other people that I've met around here.

Montrose: And the same strange naming convention.

Justin: [chuckles]

Guy: Yeah. Is there something you need from me? I don't know anything, I can tell you that, roll-free. I don't know anything! But I am very strong and you will not get past me.

Justin: [chuckles]

Montrose: Yeah, yeah, yeah, I can tell that.

Emerich: [deep voice] Is there a place—

Guy: Holy shit! Who are you?!

Emerich: [deep voice] Lawrence Talbot, hi. You know what? We really have come a long way and are extremely thirsty. Is there a place where you security agents like to hang to you know toss back a couple? You know—

Guy: Oh, like a brewski bar. Absolutely.

Emerich: A brewski bar, `cause I need me some brewski.

Guy: Yeah, I hear you. When I'm ready to party, there's only one choice for me.

Emerich: Yes?

Guy: A sight off the premises because no alcohol is permitted to us that are working currently in Dentonic, is what they tell me.

Emerich: But I bet after— on your breaks—

Guy: We go to a bar far away that no one can— knows about.

Emerich: I see. What about lunch? Where do you go for lunch? I bet you have a lunch spot that you go—

Montrose: You gotta eat.

Emerich: Gotta eat, right? And it's almost lunch time!

Guy: Sure.

Beef: You know what?

Guy: Sure, we do eat. Yeah.

Emerich: Maybe we could go there?

Beef: Guy? Guy?

Guy: The point— yes?

Beef: Guy?

Guy: Yes?

Beef: I want you to pass up the chain, however you need to or how ever to get it to `em. We have information regarding Paul Pantry's murder. But we will only talk to Kenchal Denton.

Guy: Hm... Oh, I mean, I'll tell the boss, but... I don't know what good that would do you. You know, it's not exactly the easiest guy to get a hold of.

Beef: That's fine.

Guy: I'd like to talk to Gandalf, I mean, as long as we're making requests.

Beef: Well, one of those is a real person that exists in this world and then the other is one from a book.

Guy: Right, that's why it was kind of a metaphor. I was saying— let me slow down. It is unlikely that I would be able to meet a fantastical sort of person, as it is that you would be able to arrange a meeting with Kenchal Denton.

Beef: It's just not a very good— it's just not a good metaphor, is the thing, because it's not— it's not— if you said, "I would like to become best friends with like a gorilla who helps me solve murders. That could hypothetically happen. But meeting Gandalf, Gandalf doesn't exist. There's no chance of that, right. So, you see—

Emerich: There could also be a—

Guy: That we know of. That we know of. Right, everybody? That we know of.

Emerich: Right.

Guy: Gandalf doesn't exist, that we know of.

Emerich: Right. But you know, your gorilla idea would make a great CW series.

Beef: We can work on that later.

Montrose: Well, it was... it was the plot of Fast and the Furious 19. So, it's... it's been... that's old, old hap. I say thank you— I say thank you— I say thank you to you.

Guy: Oh yeah, of course. Of course, yeah.

Montrose: Come here.

Griffin: And I give him a hug.

Guy: Wow. Okay. Yeah. This is nice, thank you.

Emerich: Well, he means well.

Montrose: All right. So, which one of us is gonna walk away?

Guy: I think you three are. In fact, yes, that's it. I'm pretty sure.

Beef: Oh, okay, yeah.

Griffin: As we get out of eyesight from him, I say... I just— I reach down and I pull out his keycard. [chuckles]

Justin: Do you?

Clint: [chuckles]

Travis: Do you?

Griffin: I reach down and I pull—

Justin: Do you?

Griffin: ... Pull out his keycard.

Clint: Sleight of hand roll, yes!

Griffin: I got his keycard. Oh yeah! Flashback to eight seconds ago.

Travis: It was a good sleight of hand roll he didn't even have to do it.

Griffin: Flashback to eight seconds ago when I'm hugging him... and I'm gonna try and take his keycard.

Clint: [chuckles]

Justin: Okay! You can roll. It's risky and standard.

Griffin: Can I push it—

Justin: `Cause I did let you hug him. So...

Griffin: Yeah, you did. And that's on you. Now, here's the question, if it fails... [chuckles] have we broken the time-space continuum?

Justin: No, no, no, I'll come up with something if it fails.

[sound of dice thrown]

Griffin: 5, 6, 6. A crit success.

Justin: Whoo!

Griffin: Give me that fucking keycard! Yumma-yumma-yumma-yumma-yumma!

Justin: Holy shit, you did actually get his keycard, yes.

Griffin: Fuck yeah!

Justin: Wow!

Griffin: I can't believe that worked that way!

Clint: And a 5er.

Justin: Wow.

Griffin: And a 5er, I want his fuckin' wallet too! Give me his wallet.

Justin: You know what? With a double 6, you got his wallet.

Griffin: Hell yes! Is there anything good in it?

Justin: [chuckles] From long away— you guys are out of the building and from far away you hear:

Guy: Ah, mother fucker!

Clint: [laughs]

Griffin: [laughs]

Guy: Fucking shit! Where the fuck are they?! God damn it! It can't be those three guys, they got a double 6! So, it's gotta be something else!

Clint: [chuckles]

Griffin: [chuckles]

Guy: Mother fucker! My whole thing! My fucking shit's all in there!

Clint: [chuckles]

Griffin: [chuckles]

Guy: I gotta get a new fuckin' driver's license! God damn it!

Clint: [chuckles]

Griffin: [chuckles]

Guy: Hey, let me in! Hey, boss, let me in! These fucking— fuck!

Clint: Can't get in! You don't have a keycard!

Guy: Can't get in!

Clint: [chuckles]

Griffin: Oh man...

Guy: It's really me! Fuck!

Griffin: [chuckles]

[Steeplechase theme song plays]

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