

## **The Adventure Zone Balance: The Crystal Kingdom – Chapter One**

Published on December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2015

[Listen on TheMcElroy.family](#)

**Griffin:** Previously, on The Adventure Zone...

**Director:** The Bureau of Balance has a singular purpose, and that is to collect and destroy weapons of mass destruction – what we call the Grand Relics. You will be reassigned to lodging more deserving of your accomplishments, and to that end, we've hired a new seeker whose sole responsibility will be providing you with live intel when you're hunting down a Grand Relic.

**Angus:** Hello, sirs!

[all gasp]

**Travis:** It's the boy detective! It's Angus!

**Lucas:** We don't know anything about this creature, and we're putting all of our faith into it!? My name is Lucas.

**Merle:** Lucas Humanman...

**Taako:** Lucas Humanman...

**Lucas:** And— and I'm asking him to let me take it back to my lab and just see if I can figure out what makes it tick.

**Taako:** [laughing] So are you part of the Bureau of Balance or what?

**Griffin:** You eye him over. He does not have a bracer.

**Clint:** Oh, I do not like this guy.

**The Announcer:** Where is our campaign going next? A haunted amusement park? A haunted... candy factory? I don't know, it's The Adventure Zone!

[theme music plays]

**Griffin:** Let's start producing content together, the four of us.

**Clint:** Content time!

**Travis:** Contented, contented.

**Griffin:** [laughs] Time to make the content. The— we're about to start a new leg of our adventure. Do you guys have any ideas as to where I'm about to whisk you away?

**Justin:** If I have learned one thing in the ensuing year since we began this podcast, it is don't try to guess... [starts laughing] ... where Griffin is taking this trip.

**Griffin:** Where do you want—

**Travis:** I will say, Griffin, I'm very worried that this is the episode where you add in, like, a lovable nephew character.

**Griffin:** Oh shit.

**Travis:** Oh wait, that's Angus, isn't it? You son of a bitch, you already did that!

**Griffin:** Yeah, uh—

**Travis:** Angus is like our— who's that kid from The Brady Bunch? Oliver.

**Griffin:** He's like when Leo DiCaprio came on Growing Pains. Pretty soon, the franchise isn't gonna be about the three of you chuckle-fucks at all. It's

gonna be all Angus, all the time. Dad, how are you feeling by the way? Let's do a quick dad health check.

**Clint:** I-I feel much better, thank you to the outpouring of love, and a little bit of hatred that came from all of our listeners.

**Travis:** Welcome to podcasting!

**Clint:** No, everybody was—

**Griffin:** You still—

**Clint:** Everybody was really nice and very kind, sent along healing words.

**Griffin:** Yeah, I'm glad you're back in good health. You do still sound like two big piles of garbage rubbing up against each other.

**Clint:** Well I'm gonna— I guess I'll be in character voice the whole time.

**Travis:** So you say that, Griffin, but I think he has an interesting jazz blues voice.

**Griffin:** That's— that is fair.

**Clint:** Kind of like Bessie Smith.

**Griffin:** Uh, enough tiddly-shittin' around.

**Clint:** Yeah!

**Griffin:** Time to get to the content. Um—

**Clint:** Content!

**Travis:** Content!

**Griffin:** Uh, before we start this— this leg of the adventure, um, I have an important question for all three of you. And that is, what did you get each other?

**Travis:** What?

**Justin:** For? What do you mean?

**Griffin:** Because it's Candlenights!

[festive music plays]

**Griffin:** It's Candlenights!

**Travis:** Oh!

**Griffin:** In the world of The Adventure Zone, it's Candlenights all around—

**Justin:** What synergy!

**Griffin:** All around Faerun. It's actually a different Candlenights. It's not quite the same as the one that we celebrate here on Earth prime. Uh, but it is Candlenights! It's a weeklong holiday celebration. You know, the world of The Adventure Zone is about as pan-religious as it gets, so everybody just kind of stopped doing their own, y'know, ritual celebrations 'cause it got sort of complicated, tracking who was partying down on what, and everything just kind of organically congealed into one super-holiday.

**Justin:** I'm gonna catch dad up on Candlenights super quick. Dad, do you remember all the Christmases we spent together as a family, uh, gathered around the tree and singing songs of Yule and basking in each other's love?

**Clint:** [deadpan] No.

**Justin:** Okay, let's try that again and you say yes to my fucking bit—

**Clint:** Oh, right! Got it, okay, sorry.

**Justin:** Yeah, do it, and learn to do a joke for fucking once.

**Clint:** Alright, sorry. Okay. [clears throat]

**Justin:** Dad, you remember all the times that we spent uh, gathered around the hearth, basking in the Christmastime Yule spirit of each other's love?

**Clint:** Aw, Justin, those are memories I'll never be able to forget.

**Justin:** Well, turns out you're wasting our fucking time.

**Clint:** Oh.

**Justin:** Cause just around the corner was a new holiday called Candlenights that was not only better than Christmas, it has absorbed Christmas and Hanukkah and every holiday.

**Travis:** Like Katamari Damacy.

**Clint:** I wondered why I hadn't seen any TV commercials at all, hardly, about Christmas.

**Justin:** Yeah, cause Candlenights ate 'em all. Solstice too, we won the war on Christmas.

**Griffin:** It wasn't much of a war though, was it, it was an invasion.

**Clint:** [laughs]

**Justin:** They didn't even realize. They looked behind them, "What's that knife to your throat, Santa? It's me, Candlenights Santa."

**Travis:** [laughs] I'm kind of like you but better.

**Justin:** Kind of like you but better, but I don't have all your memories.

**Travis:** I must consume you!

**Justin:** [frantic] Please don't ask Candlenights Santa questions that only Santa would know!

**Griffin:** [laughing]

**Clint:** [laughing]

**Justin:** [still frantic] Please, do not test Candlenights Santa, he will panic if provoked! [snorts]

**Griffin:** The Talented Mr. Santa Claus was my favorite Matt Damon slash Tim Allen movie. It was about time that the two of them got together to work on a project.

**Justin:** [imitates Tim Allen grunt]

**Griffin:** Anyway, fantasy Candlenights shares a lot of the same sort of aesthetic inspirations as Candlenights. Because of its countless multiple religious sources, people just kind of do their own thing and it's—

**Justin:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** And they're just cool with it. There's usually a tree or bush involved, or any kind of like, lush plant. Um, but that's about the only staple. And right now, the three of you are gathered around your own Candlenights bush, um, and, uh, you're havin' a little Bureau of Balance holiday party.

**Travis:** Is it like a white elephant, or like, uh, more of a Secret Santa, or are we just doing a straight-up exchange?

**Griffin:** It's more of just a straight-up exchange. The three of you are actually in your brand new dormitory suite that you got set up in after your pseudo-promotion in the last episode. Uh, it's been about a month or two since your last adventure, and yeah, it's wintertime, it's Candelights, you're in your dope suite, and it is dope. You've each got your own sort of private sleeping chambers that are attached—

**Justin:** Bed? Our own bed?

**Clint:** Our own rooms?

**Griffin:** Yeah, your— your own, like, sleeping rooms, and it attaches to a shared living room. It's a big space. It is a big step up from basically the dorm room you were sharing with Robbie, uh, AKA Pringles, uh—

**Travis:** AKA Jailbird. I miss that dude.

**Griffin:** Well, he's in prison now.

**Travis:** He's in prison.

**Justin:** [muffled] Not for long.

**Griffin:** Uh, so yeah, you're having this holiday party, and you've got a pretty big living space to host it in. The coolest thing about this living space and, uh, is why the Director was hyping it up so much... it's actually on the bottom of the moon base. You've got like, your own private elevator leading down to your— to your private living suite, and you've got like a big, dome glass window underneath you. Just sort of looking down into, uh, down towards the Earth that you are floating over.

**Travis:** I wanna say that I know that this is a fantasy world in which Griffin is painting a picture with words... I literally just had like a real-life reaction to the idea of having a hole in the middle of my room that looks down thousands and thousands of feet.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** My stomach just dropped into my testicles a little bit.

**Justin:** Was it a good reaction or bad reaction?

**Travis:** Bad.

**Clint:** Sounds bad.

**Travis:** Bad reaction.

**Justin:** Yeah, I don't think I could acclimate to that.

**Clint:** Fantasy vertigo.

**Travis:** It's like being on top of Willis Tower and standing on like, the glass windows?

**Griffin:** Yeah, sure.

**Justin:** Hey Griffin I bought— I bought— can you write down in your book that I bought a rug for my room and put it over the hole?

**Travis:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** Yeah, you can do that. You, uh, you roll a rug over your big beautiful glass window, which seems to disappoint everybody in the room, 'cause you're currently floating over Neverwinter? Which is ironic, 'cause this is definitely winter.

**Justin:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** And the— you know, the city's all lit up with Candlesights lights, but yeah, sure, you roll the rug over the room keeping me from having to describe things down below you anymore.



**Justin:** You're welcome. That's my Candelights gift to you!

**Griffin:** [holding back laughter] Thank you.

**Travis:** Laziness!

**Griffin:** So yeah, everybody's— you've invited a few guests over. A few like, we'll call them essential personnel at the Bureau of Balance. The Director showed up. Uh, Avi showed up, he's a little tipsy. Uh, Killian is in the mix. Angus is there. You didn't invite Angus...

**Travis:** Ugh.

**Griffin:** But he's— you know him, he's a detect—

**Travis:** He's a real Angus.

**Griffin:** He's a sleuth, and he figured out that you're having a party, and he rolled up. And Johann is there, he's playing some festive music on a fiddle, and you're having a good old time. And yeah, it comes to the part in the holiday party when everybody exchanges gifts. And Johann walks up to the three of you and hands you all three very small boxes and he goes...

**Johann:** I hope you... I hope you guys like it. Um, I've been working on this one for a real long time, and I thought that the three of you might, y'know, appreciate it and tell your friends about it.

**Travis:** Well, I got this for y— wait, sorry, let me do my voice, it's been a while. [clears throat]

**Magnus:** I got this for you, Johann. I carved you a small figure of yourself. Enjoy.

**Johann:** Neat! Well, uh, where'd you um, where'd you get the— where'd you get the wood for this?

**Magnus:** Uh, I got it from your violin.

**Clint:** [laughs]

**Johann:** Wait, which one? Not the— not the rosewood one, right?

**Magnus:** Uhhh, you know, I can't remember, it was the one with the tag from your mom—

**Johann:** [angry] Well this is, this was rosewood, this figure you've handed me—

**Magnus:** Uh-huh.

**Johann:** So...

**Magnus:** That's how I knew you'd like it!

**Merle:** You seem to really like rosewood and he asked us, "What do you think, would he like the rosewood?"

**Johann:** [angry] Oh, so this is from all three of you then?

**Merle:** No! No.

**Taako:** No, I made macaroons.

**Merle:** I'm just the one who stole it from your room, I— he did all the carvin'.

**Johann:** Okay, so a little theft present. I getcha. Well guys, cool holiday. Good— good interactions as always, my men, my main men.

**Taako:** Wait, don't forget your macaroons!

**Johann:** Oh, yeah, let me try—[fake chewing noises] These are actually really good.

**Taako:** Yeah, I know! I'm very— p-pretty good at doing this stuff.

**Merle:** He sprinkled some rosewood on top of it.

**Taako:** I did not, that's insane. And it's Candelights.

**Johann:** M'kay, well—

**Magnus:** I didn't—

**Taako:** Enjoy the macarons!

**Magnus:** I didn't ruin your vi— here's your violin. I was just joshing—

**Johann:** Okay but you did— you did steal it for the prank, though.

**Magnus:** Well, yeah!

**Johann:** Okay. Well...

**Magnus:** Pretty good though, right?

**Johann:** Yeah.

**Merle:** You're welcome.

**Johann:** You got me. I think I learned something about the holidays today.

**Taako:** Wait, he got you a statue *and* a violin—

**Magnus:** Mm-hmm.

**Taako:** —if you think about it.

**Johann:** The mystery remains of where you got the wood for the— anyway, good to see you guys. Enjoy— enjoy my gifts.

**Griffin:** As you unwrap the uh, the gift that Johann got you, it's just a small, like, very small, like the size of a lemon. It's a small, bronze box with a little crank on it, and as you turn it—

[music plays]

**Griffin:** —one of his compositions plays. And he's like...

**Johann:** It's my— I got you guys each a copy of my mixed tape. I think you're really gonna like it, it's fire.

**Magnus:** That raw fire.

**Johann:** It's pretty raw.

**Merle:** By The Pointer Sisters?

**Johann:** Anyway, if you meet anybody down there that wants to, you know, produce something, publish my work, then uh, you know, tell them to hit me up.

[music stops]

**Travis:** So Johann is doing the equivalent, like whatever the Faerun equivalent of handing out CDs in like, Times Square is?

**Griffin:** Yeah. Basically.

**Justin:** If we meet fantasy Rick Ross, I promise I will get this tape in his hands.

**Clint:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** Killian gives you guys some gifts, too. Um, similarly pretty small packages. As you unwrap them, they are each hand carved, personalized whetstones. Which, Magnus, you'll probably get some use out of, but the other two, you don't really specialize in bladed weaponry, but they're nice. They're carved in the shape of... ducks.

**Travis:** Aw!

**Clint:** Aw!

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Clint:** Aww!

**Killian:** They're my favorite!

**Griffin:** She says.

**Merle:** Regift!

**Travis:** I hand her a carved wooden duck.

**Killian:** That's... really weird.

**Magnus:** Yup!

**Killian:** It's really weird that we— how did that even... Did you know I was gonna get you a duck stone or— how did you—

**Magnus:** I read your diary.

**Killian:** Well that's... this is not a great Candelights so far, guys, just sort of judging by the interactions that we're all having in this room.

**Taako:** Hey, but wait, bright side... macaroons!

**Killian:** Let me try that bad—[fake chewing noises] Damn!

**Taako:** Yeah. How we do?

**Killian:** [laughing] That is how you do, indeed!

**Merle:** And by the way, we know that you like-like-like Johann!

**Griffin:** No. Don't. You can't put that into the— into the slashiverse.

**Clint:** It was there, it was right there in the diary!

**Killian:** No. Stop it.

**Griffin:** She's blushing.

**Travis:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** Uh, Avi gives you guys some gifts. And they're wrapped up, and they're obviously small bottles of stuff. And as you unwrap them, yeah, they're— they're little, like, airplane sized bottles of uh, of brandywine. But he promises, uh...

**Avi:** That's the good stuff. You're gonna— you're gonna enjoy that, my guys.

**Magnus:** Thanks.

**Avi:** Nothing for me though? Okay, uh, that's fine...

**Taako:** Oh wait! I got something. Macarooooons!

**Merle:** Macarooooons!

**Avi:** I'm on the Atkins diet. Can't eat that.

**Taako:** These are diet?

**Magnus:** I carved you this board, uhh, for beer tasting.

**Taako:** I've... I—

**Magnus:** You put little glasses on it!

**Taako:** Macarons are fine on Atkins. I replaced the ground almonds with chicharones. Or pork rinds.

**Travis:** [laughs] Oh god that sounds good!

**Avi:** Well yeah actually, let me take a stab at one of those bad boys.

**Taako:** The recipe calls for egg whites.

**Merle:** They're called mac-a-rone-ays.

**Taako:** Instead of using caster sugar like I normally would, I went with uhh... Splenda!

**Avi:** This is uh, yeah this is—

**Taako:** Fantasy Splenda!

**Avi:** I can taste like, artificially sweetened pork accidents.

**Taako:** [laughing] Beats the heck out of more celery and deli turkey! Huh, my man?

**Avi:** Yeah, I know.

**Taako:** Just gotta keep at it.

**Avi:** Yeah. Uh, thanks guys.

**Merle:** I have something for ya.

**Avi:** Oh boy!

**Merle:** Yup.

**Avi:** Let's check it out.

**Merle:** [clears throat] It's called a trick tract.

**Avi:** M'kay.

**Merle:** And when you are a worshipper of Pan, you hand out these little tracts.

**Avi:** Mm.

**Merle:** And they tell little stories, like The Little Shoes.

**Avi:** Yep.

**Merle:** And uh, but the thing is you get to the end, and it's not about any religions! So it's a trick tract!

**Avi:** Ohh, I see, like a little prank gift! I get it, I like how—

**Justin:** [laughing] They're just sort of just bad books!

**Travis:** Enjoy these shitty comics!

**Justin:** [laughing] Enjoy these shitty, small books! From me to you!

**Avi:** And it looks like it's printed on pinecone paper, that's fun.

**Merle:** It's actually made out of rosewood.



**Griffin:** [laughing] Uh, Angus walks up to you guys, and he hands you all three books, and they are each different—

**Travis:** Nerrrrrd!

**Angus:** Well, um, I thought—

**Merle:** Were they out of socks?

**Angus:** No, I— you guys don't need socks, it doesn't seem like, um, but these books mean a lot to me. They're from my favorite young adult book series.

**Justin:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** And as you unwrap them, they are different installments in a young adult mystery novel series, titled Caleb Cleveland: Kid Cop.

**Justin:** [laughs]

**Travis:** [laughs] Griffin, you asshole.

**Griffin:** Which is a young adult series about a young detective, and Angus says...

**Angus:** These— these books were very formative for me, and they taught me a lot about, um, y'know, checkin' things out and solving crimes, and cracking clues! That's— that's sort of the three main pillars. Checking things out, solving crimes, and cracking clues!

**Travis:** When— I'm— I put my arm around Angus's shoulder and I say...

**Magnus:** For Candlenights, I promise not to play keep-away with any of your stuff for the coming season.

**Angus:** [choked up] Do you really mean it?

**Magnus:** Yes.

**Merle:** No.

**Travis:** And when I take my hand away, I've stuck a "Kick Me" sign on his back.

**Angus:** This is the best— this is uh, a Candenights miracle. Did you guys hear that?

**Clint:** I kick him.

**Angus:** [startled and sad] Oh God.

**Taako:** Uh, listen Angus, I have something for you too.

**Justin:** And I reach in my bag and I pull out three spoons.

**Angus:** [gasps]

**Taako:** Now listen, I uh, it took me a while to buy these back from... the place where we lost them. Don't think about that too much.

**Angus:** Wait, what you just said— like, I'm deducing, that what you just said when you—

**Merle:** Shh, shh.

**Taako:** I had a little— I had a little extra—

**Merle:** Christmas. Christmas.

**Taako:** Christmas doesn't exist.

**Merle:** [loudly] Candenights.

**Taako:** I had a little extra gold, so I uh, bought you these three spoons.

**Justin:** And Griffin, that'll get rid of the extra gold I had, after last week.

**Griffin:** Okay, that's fair.

**Justin:** I bought these three spoons for Angus.

**Angus:** This is amazing! It was a 48-piece set, so now I've got um...

**Travis:** My hand starts to creep towards taking them away from him. I grab my wrist and pull it back. No!

**Angus:** Yeah, a promise is a promise. Um, thank you, this means a lot to me, I'll keep work— this is my personal quest. I know a lot of people are invested in my storyline and that is to recover the remaining 44, you know, knives, spoons, forks, pieces of flatware that belong to my grandfather, and once I do, maybe I'll uncover a terrible secret about the universe!

**Merle:** Okay.

**Magnus:** Alright! Can't wait to tune in!

**Merle:** And this is for you, Angus. It is a whetstone shaped like a duck.

**Travis:** [laughs]

**Angus:** Well, this is great. I can use it as like a paper weight or something.

**Merle:** I thought you'd like it.

**Angus:** How did you know I like ducks so much?

**Taako:** Haven't we talked enough?

**Angus:** I guess so...

**Magnus:** Is it adventure time yet?

**Angus:** Thanks, bye.

**Griffin:** There's actually one more person that has a gift to give you, and it's the Director! And she walks up to you and discreetly—

**Clint:** Bonus!

**Griffin:** —hands you three envelopes.

**Clint:** [laughs]

**Justin:** As Angus is walking away, I chuck a macaroon at his head.

**Taako:** I forgot! That too!

**Griffin:** [laughs] And inside the envelopes— I don't know why I said envelopes, because this isn't going to make any sense but there is 200 gold pieces a piece in each envelope.

**Justin:** [laughs] Hey, thanks for these shitty jangly envelopes.

**Director:** Well, uh, I didn't really think about the delivery mechanism quite so much, but this is your holiday— your Candlenights bonus. The three of you put in good work this year, and you got a little bit more than everybody else, so if you could be sort of discreet abo—

**Merle:** [loudly] Wow! Two hundred gold pieces!

**Director:** Okay damn, damn it. I don't expect any gifts from you, I'm your employer. Frankly, that would be um...

**Travis:** I hand her a coupon for one free backrub.

**Director:** This is exactly what I was actually afraid of. This is actually, Magnus... this is the nightmare scenario.

**Taako:** Ah, wait—

**Magnus:** You can use that whenever!

**Director:** Yeah.

**Taako:** But, but wait! [singing] Elderflower macaroons!

**Director:** I'll take a sta— I'll take a run at it. [chewing noises]

**Taako:** Okay!

**Director:** Hot diggity shit.

**Taako:** That's what we do. That's how we do it.

**Director:** That is a baller cookie. How did you—

**Taako:** Yeah.

**Director:** How did you— h-how did you even do this?

**Taako:** The secret is to get the almonds ground down really fine before you try to uh, make the cookie.

**Griffin:** She pulls out a—

**Taako:** And also, the filling should be thick enough so that the cookie can stand on its side and stay together.

**Griffin:** She pulls out a notebook and she's like, writing all this down. She tears a page off and stuffs it in her pocket.

**Taako:** You can check it out in my book. I got a book.

**Merle:** And I have a little something for you too, Madame Director.

**Director:** Are you—? You sound like death.

**Merle:** Thank you. It uh, it's a little music box with a crank on the side. And uh—

**Director:** That's weird, I got a very similar thing from Johann. He said it was his— he said it was like a fiery tape or something?

**Merle:** It's a set. It's a mix, it's a matched set.

**Director:** Let me see—

**Griffin:** And she cranks it. She cranks it—

[music plays]

**Director:** This is the exact same song that plays on my mixbox.

**Magnus:** I can't believe he stole your idea, Merle.

**Merle:** Pssh. Little bastard.

**Griffin:** So yeah, you've exchanged presents with everybody, had a good ol' time.

**Travis:** I have presents, hold on. I have presents for Merle and for Taako!

**Griffin:** Okay.

**Magnus:** I made you guys chairs for your new digs, and if you lift up the cushion, it doubles as an indoor toilet.

**Griffin:** [laughs]

**Merle:** That's some heavy magic!

**Magnus:** I carved it with my own two hands, because I was a carpenter, if you remember from my backstory.

**Merle:** You didn't even use a tool?

**Magnus:** Well, I— don't be a dick.

**Griffin:** He just chopped— he just chopped the wood apart in the shape of toilet chairs. [laughing] The Director is still standing nearby.

**Director:** Wow, no gifts from you guys to Magnus, huh? That's a little awkward. Welp.

**Merle:** Well, do you, uh... you speak too soon. Here's a book.

**Magnus:** I was standing next to you when he gave us all three of these books.

**Merle:** Oh. Here's a macaroon!

**Magnus:** Alright...

**Taako:** You know, I haven't given you any macaroon. Merle, here's a macaroon, one for y—

**Merle:** Thanks. Here's a macaroon!

**Taako:** No, one for you, Magnus. There, nobody splits macaroons.

**Travis:** I eat the macaroon and I get a +2 AC!

**Justin:** And all your rolls get plus three!

**Griffin:** There is one—

**Merle:** I have a BOGO coupon at Fantasy Costco!

**Griffin:** There is one present left underneath the Candlenights shrub and it has a tag on it and it says, "For Taako, Merle, and Magnus." It's wrapped up in a very ornate paper, very shiny, glossy, silver paper. And it doesn't have a "from" name on it. Doesn't say who it's from, just says it's to the three of you.

**Clint:** Hmm.

**Travis:** I open it!

**Griffin:** M'kay.

**Clint:** Of course.

**Griffin:** You run up, tear the box open and it explodes, you die. You tear the box open, it doesn't explode, you don't die.

**Travis:** I'm fine either way.

**Griffin:** Wow.

**Justin:** [laughs]

**Clint:** So which is it?

**Griffin:** Uh no, it's safe. It's a safe box. You tear it open, and inside is a small, sort of fine, velvet, almost like a jewelry gift box. And as you pop it open, and the three of you are sort of looking over into this, uh, this



package... as you open it up, you see there are three iron-on badges inside of this box.

They're these dark blue circle, like, iron-on emblems. And inside of each of these blue fabric circles, there is, there are 12 more circles. All different colors, sort of around the outside of each badge. And in the middle is a word that is written in a language that none of you recognize. You cannot read, you cannot make out what the word is, what these badges are for, because you can't seem to read this word in the middle. And tucked in between these three badges is a note that says, "For your eyes only."

**Clint:** Hmm.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Griffin:** And the Director looks at you as you open up the box and says,

**Director:** What is that? What'd you guys get?

**Magnus:** Nothing!

**Director:** What do you mean—

**Merle:** I think it's a James Bond movie.

**Travis:** I cover `em up real quick and put it in my bag.

**Director:** That's not really the spirit of Candlenights, you know. We're all just trading gif—

**Magnus:** It's pornography!

**Director:** It's porn—

**Merle:** Oh, then I'll take it.

**Taako:** It specifically says for our eyes only.

**Director:** Well that is very—

**Taako:** Suspicious right? I realized after I said it. It's really suspicious.

**Director:** Listen, this sounds like it could be a security risk, I think you guys might need to—

**Magnus:** No.

**Merle:** Nooo.

**Griffin:** She's interrupted by a voice that is coming from a stone pendant that she's wearing around her neck. This stone starts to glow and uh, you hear a very muffled, static-y distant voice come through her necklace that says, uh...

**Pendant:** Lucretia!

**Travis:** It's me, your necklace!

**Griffin:** And she like—

**Justin:** You know that new sound you've been looking for?

**Travis:** [laughs] I got this music box! You gotta hear it.

**Griffin:** She looks mortified.

**Clint:** Because we know her name's Lucretia?

**Griffin:** And she stands up and stops her line of questioning immediately and stands up and turns around, and you hear her gruffly, uh, whisper into the necklace...

**Director:** How did you get this frequency?

**Travis:** What's the frequency, Kenneth?

**Griffin:** And then you hear the necklace say something, but she sort of moved away from you, so you can't exactly make out what is going on, but you do hear her say...

**Director:** You did *what?!*

**Travis:** To who?!

**Griffin:** And she walks even further from the crowd and seems to be having a very intense conversation.

**Travis:** With her necklace.

**Griffin:** With her necklace. Um, and she pulls out that small notebook and keeps writing stuff down, and eventually— she is just— she is just like yelling. She is having a very— she is very disappointed in whatever is on the other side of this necklace.

**Travis:** Griffin, is this the kind of thing where people have started shuffling out of the party awkwardly like, "Ooh, okay..."

**Griffin:** A pall has fallen over the crowd, and nobody's like—

**Travis:** Somebody pick up Paul!

**Griffin:** [trying not to laugh] Nobody's talking and drinking and having a good time so much anymore. Everybody's just kinda like— everybody looks pretty worried, because if the Director is this upset about something, some shit is going down.

**Merle:** Thanks a lot, Lucretia, for spoiling our party.

**Travis:** I make eye contact with Johann and kinda like spin my finger in a "play some music" kind of gesture.

**Griffin:** Uh, okay. He starts playing the— that part of that one song, [sings] "Play some funky Dixieland!" No, he's just—

**Travis:** That everyone loves.

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Justin:** Nobody knows what it is, though.

**Griffin:** Yeah, he doesn't know what it is either, that was a joke. Um, yeah—

**Clint:** It's Black Water by the Doobie Brothers.

**Griffin:** Thank you. Yeah, uh. He plays some music but it's slow, and very— it is of a concerned tone.

**Justin:** [very slowly] Play some funky Dixielaaaand...

**Griffin:** It's in a minor key.

**Justin and Clint:** [singing slower and pitched lower] Play some funky Dixieland...

**Travis:** [laughs] You guys sound like Tuvian throat singers.

**Clint:** Oh black water...

**Justin:** Keep on rollin'...

**Clint:** Just keeps rollin' along!

**Justin:** Oh, black water!

**Justin and Clint:** He don't do nothin'!

[all laugh]

**Justin:** Stupid, stupid show.

**Griffin:** After a, uh, after a couple minutes of muffled argument with this pendant, she writes down something else in her notebook, tears out the page, and walks over to Avi and hands it to him. And she says...

**Director:** Move the headquarters to these coordinates right now. Pronto. We're in a hurry.

**Travis:** I walk over to her.

**Magnus:** Need that backrub?

**Director:** Ohh, it is not the time nor the place. Nor—

**Magnus:** Name it!

**Director:** —the situation. Okay. Later, not now, maybe.

**Magnus:** Okay.

**Taako:** You should set it up in advance though, he books up quick.

**Magnus:** That is true!

**Griffin:** Uh, Avi looks at this piece of paper and says...

**Avi:** These uh, these coordinates are south of here.

**Travis:** [laughs] Okay?

**Griffin:** And The Director's like...

**Director:** [confused] Yes?

**Griffin:** And he says uh...

**Avi:** [disbelieving] The— the moon typically doesn't move south.

**Griffin:** And she says...

**Director:** Just do it! Just go! Just do it.

**Griffin:** And Avi scurries—

**Travis:** You got to pick my brother up at the airport!

**Justin:** What would— what would cardinal— cardinal directions be in relation to? In a moon base?

**Griffin:** Uhh, probably as you were viewing the sky from the ground.

**Justin:** Okay.

**Griffin:** If... yeah.

**Travis:** She just had a conversation with her necklace, don't worry about compass rose.

**Justin:** I— yeah okay, that's fine.

**Griffin:** Yeah, she says...

**Director:** I wasn't having a conversation with my necklace, my necklace is an important—

**Travis:** Was having a conversation with me.

**Director:** Yes... Listen, it's Lucretia's time.

**Travis:** [laughs]

**Director:** No, my pendant is a Stone of Farspeech that is specifically for emergencies only, and somehow Lucas, our scientific advisor who has helped us build this base—

**Magnus:** Ohh, the guy who was an asshole to the Voidfish.

**Director:** [annoyed] Oh, so you have met him, yes. I would also use those adjectives to describe Lucas.

**Taako:** Oh, I hate that dipshit.

**Merle:** Oh yeah, not a fan.

**Magnus:** Oh yeah, he's a douche.

**Merle:** [singsong] Douchebag!

**Director:** I mean he's a bit abrasive, but we owe a lot of our success to him.

**Taako:** [softly] Don't owe anything to him...

**Director:** He, uh, that was him, on the other line.

**Magnus:** He's a fart in a shoe.

**Merle:** I don't even like him. We didn't even invite him to this party.

**Taako:** [mumbling] I didn't even make him a macaroon.

**Director:** Okay, that was him. Somehow, he hijacked the frequency of my— of my emergency Stone of Farspeech, and he's informed me of a fairly dire situation. He's gone too far. He's found a Grand Relic, and—

**Magnus:** He what?

**Director:** He found a Grand Relic and has apparently been experimenting with it behind our backs.

**Magnus:** But he's not a Reclaimer.

**Director:** [irritated] He is not, yeah, good point. He managed to get his hands on it, because he is a... a, uh... what's the word I'm looking for?

**Merle:** Douchebag. Douchebag?

**Director:** No, he's a consultant for us, we did have him inoculated with the Voidfish's ichor. So he's able to know about them, but he absolutely is not authorized to find them and hunt them down, and especially not to use them. But he's been experimenting with it and it— it's a bad one to be tinkering around with, boys, it's— it's the Philosopher's Stone.

**Merle:** No!

**Magnus:** The book?

**Merle:** Whoa.

**Director:** What's that?

**Magnus:** The Harry Potter book?

**Director:** I have no idea what you are talking about. It's, it's—

**Clint:** Good try.



**Director:** It's a stone that allows the user to transmute any material into literally any other material, and in the wrong hands, it could bankroll the army, or in this case... it could turn the entire world into a solid crystal, extinguishing all life on the planet.

**Magnus:** And that's the bad one.

**Director:** That's the bad one.

**Merle:** So it can take one comedian's jokes and turn it into another comedian's jokes?

**Director:** Without crediting them. Exactly.

**Merle:** Oh my God...

**Director:** And Merle? Here's your sign.

**Clint:** [laughs]

**Taako:** So wait—

**Clint:** [in a rough voice] Git `er done!

**Taako:** I'm confused. Why does Lucas want to Ice-nine the planet?

**Griffin:** You hear Lucas chime in through the pendant, and he says...

**Lucas:** Listen, it's not me who's doing this okay? Yes, I found the Philosopher's Stone, and I was doing some experiments with it to help the Bureau of Balance, and maybe my grasp outreached my sort of, my scientific ethical boundaries. Yes, okay, I will give you that, but something has taken over the Philosopher's Stone, and it used it to turn the exterior of my lab into crystal.

And um, specifically, solid pink tourmaline. And whatever is channeling that relic is still somehow using it, meaning everything that the gem touches is going to get King Midas'd, or— sorry, it's also going to get coated in gemstone, so—

**Magnus:** Is there anyone else in the lab, or were you the only one working on the project?

**Lucas:** Yeah, I mean, I have some, robotic helpers, but they don't possess the sort of sentience required to pull off a stunt like this. I don't know what it is that has taken over this stone, but I-I'm— right now, I'm trapped in my own medbay, because right outside is a crystallized room.

I should explain – my lab is separated into different chambers by what I call arcane airlocks, which kept my whole facility from getting all tourmaline'd. But unfortunately, the entire exterior of the base is covered in what is essentially a sort of virulent crystal, and the suspension cores of my lab... it's basically what your Bureau of Balance headquarters is modeled after. They can't compensate for the extra weight, and so, I-I'm sinking because of my lab's new candy coating, and if I hit the Stillwater Sea below, it's— that's it for the world. It's gonna spread—

**Travis:** I look at Angus.

**Magnus:** You got all that? Because none of that made sense to me.

**Griffin:** He's been writing all of this down.

**Travis:** Okay, great. I'm glad we got this girl Friday.

**Griffin:** [laughing] He says...

**Lucas:** Based on my calculations, we've got about 82 minutes before I touch down, and that's going to be very, very bad for life. So, I need you all to get here and rescue me, and help me get this stone back before— so I can undo what's been done and before, you know, the world gets crystallized.

**Merle:** Well, we have people over. We got company.

**Magnus:** That is true, can we do it tomorrow?

**Lucas:** If we do—

**Merle:** I got lunch, I got like 11. I could get free at 11.

**Lucas:** If we do it tomorrow, it might just be a little bit too late, because I did just specifically said— oop, 81 minutes now. Cool. Cool, cool, cool.

**Travis:** Okay so Ditto, quick rundown... basically the deal is, anything that this touches will turn to crystal, right?

**Griffin:** To pink tourmaline.

**Travis:** Right. I'm not going to say that, because I'm an adult.

**Griffin:** Okay.

**Travis:** And so, if the, if his lab touches the ground, whole planet, crystal.

**Griffin:** Um, yeah. His lab is floating over the Stillwater Sea, which is a sort of unique body of water that doesn't have any sort of waves or any sort of tidal motion at all, and his lab is floating over it, and yeah, if it touches that, it's just going to spread and, like Justin suggested, it's going to Ice-nine the whole planet.

**Magnus:** Lucas, Magnus here. How do we get in then, if there's this whole contagious crystalline thing?

**Lucas:** Um, I think I have a solution for that. Um, Lucretia?

**Griffin:** She says...

**Director:** Stop doing that. Stop— it's Madame Director.

**Lucas:** Okay, Madame Director, I think you're gonna need to use the null suits, and I'm going to need them to bring me one, too.

**Griffin:** And she writes down another note in her notebook and tears it out and hands it to Johann, and she's running low on notebook paper, she's like:

**Director:** Damn, I should've asked for another notebook for Candlesnights. That would've been very forward-thinking.

**Travis:** I hand her a coupon for one free notebook.

**Griffin:** That doesn't make any sense, but she hands it to Johann and sends him off. She tells him to go to Leon to prepare the null suits. And she says into her pendant...

**Director:** Lucas, we're going to pull your ass out of the fire this time, but we're going to have a nice long talk about ethical—

**Magnus:** About your ass.

**Director:** About your fiery ass when this one's... over and out. Damn it.

**Griffin:** The pendant has stopped glowing.

**Director:** Damn it, I could've done way better there.

**Magnus:** You'll get him next time.

**Griffin:** But yeah, she points a wand at her stone pendant and it clicks off. And then she says to the three of you...

**Director:** Despite what you just heard, your mission falls under normal parameters. Taako, Merle, and Magnus, you're in charge of retrieving the Grand Relic, not Lucas. Don't let him anywhere near it.

**Griffin:** And then she turns to Killian and says...

**Director:** Killian, it's time to get the squad together. It's time for the Regulators to roll out. We're sending you in to detain and extract Lucas for his abuse of confidential information. Standard protocol applies. If he makes a move for the relic...

**Griffin:** And Killian just says...

**Killian:** You got it!

**Griffin:** And walks out of the room.

**Taako:** What! If—[stuttering] What would happen? You didn't finish your sentence, if he makes a move for the reli—

**Griffin:** Killian turns around and says over her shoulder as she walks out of the room...

**Killian:** Bad stuff.

**Travis:** [laughs]

**Clint:** Wow.

**Travis:** Guitar sting!

**Griffin:** And a dove flies out of the door she just walked through. And all of a sudden the people in the room are just like, "Oh shit, oh God! There's a dove in here!" And you spend like, 20 minutes trying to get rid of the dove. You're wasting a lot of time.

**Taako:** Well! Sixty-one minutes now.

**Clint:** [laughs]

**Magnus:** Lucretia, how well do you know Lucas? Is it possible that this is all a trick?

**Justin:** I don't buy— I don't buy that the administrator would let Magnus continue to call her Lucretia.

**Director:** Yeah, that shit ain't gon' fly.

**Magnus:** Madame Director Lucretia, what— how well do you know Lucas?

**Director:** I know him fairly well. We've worked together to found the Bureau of Balance. I wouldn't be able to do the things that I do if it weren't for his scientific innovations. I mean, everybody to some extent knows the Miller family. They are a long lineage of inventors responsible for most of the technological advancements in our world. If you've ever, I mean, if you've ever been on an elevator, certainly you know the Miller family's work.

**Magnus:** I'm no boy detective, but the artifacts we've encountered up to this point had a really strong corrupting influence.

**Director:** Yep.

**Magnus:** It sounds to me like he's—

**Director:** If he's using—

**Magnus:** —a scientist and this is a very, uh... this would be the most, uh, corrupting of a scientist.

**Director:** It would be pretty bad for— it would be pretty bad for anybody, other than the three of you who seem to be the only ones capable of resisting the thrall of these relics. It would be bad for anyone, but the fact that he's already using it means that it's probably already too late. Oh God.

**Griffin:** She looks really worried, and kind of tired.

**Magnus:** I guess what I'm trying to say is, what if we have to kill him?

**Director:** If that's what it takes to keep him from using it, then—

**Merle:** Ohhh, okay then!

**Director:** Leave the detainment to the Regulators, but—

**Merle:** You kind of buried the lede there, Lucretia.

**Director:** If it comes down to it, and I hate to say this—

**Taako:** You had my interest and now you have my attention. Listen, why isn't Lucas a full member of the Bureau?

**Director:** He's not interested in joining. I couldn't convince him to join in full. And now I'm starting to think that this has been his plan all along. He's been taking the information that our seekers have been gathering and the confidential information I've been sharing with him under the promise that he would help us in return. I—[loud exhale]

[music plays]

**Griffin:** She is seething now kind of, with anger. She says...

[music stops]

**Director:** You have to stop him and bring him to me so that I can—

**Davenport:** Davenport!

**Griffin:** Davenport stumbles into the room and he's wearing some goofy looking armor, he's carrying a big light-up toy candle. He's just doing a little dance. He's like...

**Davenport:** [rhythmically] Davenport, Davenport, Davenport!

**Griffin:** He's doing like a little holiday song and dance. [laughter] And the Director says...

**Director:** Davenport, read the room!

**Davenport:** [disappointed] Davenport...

**Travis:** Davenport...

**Magnus:** Alright Regulators, mount up.

**Taako:** Wait, real quick. [whistles like to a dog] I got a macaron for ya boy. [whistles again] Open up, Davenport.

**Merle:** Come on!

**Griffin:** He cracks open the visor of his knight armor and goes...

**Davenport:** Davenport...

**Justin:** [makes chewing sounds]

**Griffin:** Do you just drop it into his mouth? Like he's a—

[music plays]

**Justin:** I drop it into the visor.

**Taako:** It's Davenport flavor, just like you like.

**Travis:** You're a cannibal!

**Davenport:** Mmm, Davenport!



**Justin:** Alright!

[music plays]

**Griffin:** Hey, everybody! This is Griffin McElroy, your dungeon master, your best friend, and your benevolent... anonymous benefactor. That's right, it was me who sponsored your hockey team. Thank you for listening to The Adventure Zone, episode... I want to say 29, but my gut is telling me it might be 28. We'll figure it out in post.

Uh, we really appreciate you giving us some patience this week, as Dad was sick, as you can hear from just sort of the way he sounds in this episode. We weren't making that up. But thank you all for being cool while we got him on the mend, and I hope you enjoy the episode!

I want to thank everybody who's been listening to and tweeting about the show, using the #TheZoneCast hash tag. We appreciate you getting the word out. If you tweet about the show using the #TheZoneCast hash tag, you might end up as a character in the show!

We have a few characters in this episode, one of which, not exactly a character, but Caleb Cleveland, Kid Cop, is named after Caleb Cleveland on Twitter, @calebisdrawing on Twitter. Thank you, Caleb.

Uh, and you're about to meet a couple other characters, one of which is named after Carey Pietsch, @careydraws on Twitter, who has done some really cool character art for us. And Steve Boyland, who is @SABoyland on Twitter. Might be Boy-land. We had some trouble sort of figuring that one out. But thank you to all three of you for tweeting about the show using the #TheZoneCast hash tag.

We have a bunch more characters coming up in this arc, so keep tweetin', and you might end up immortalized forever. Thank you also to people who have been reviewing the show on iTunes. Uh, it really does help us out when you review, and especially when you subscribe, it helps bump us up the chart.

And thank you to everybody who voted for us in the AV Club Best Podcast of 2015 chart! We appreciate your help in getting ranked up there! We didn't even ask for it, and y'all came out for us, so thank you very much!

[ad break]

**Griffin:** I have a couple of personal messages to read this week. If you want to get a message on this show, it's easy! Just go to [MaximumFun.org/Jumbotron](http://MaximumFun.org/Jumbotron), and just find out how to get on the show! We have plenty of spots available, so if you want to give a shout out to somebody, think about doing that. It helps support us as well, which we really like.

Here's a message for Corey Sessums, my brother. I should clarify, I only have the two brothers. This is the brother of Billy Sessums, who sent this message. And Billy Sessums says to Corey Sessums, "This is the coolest Christmas gift I can think of getting you. With me traveling all the time and you moving to crazy places, ha ha..." It actually says "ha ha." That wasn't me adding an additional burn stinger there.

"Ha ha! I sometimes fear we might grow apart. But whenever I listen to MBMBaM or The AZ, I know that no matter where in the world I am, that you are listening, too, and that reminds me of all the great times we had." Oh, man! This one just affected me in an emotional way! This is a very, very sweet gift, Billy. And I'm not just saying that because it monetarily benefitted me and my family. That's just a really sweet thought.

Uh, happy Christmas, happy holidays, and enthusiastic Candlesnights to both of you. And the whole world.

Here's another personal message. This one is for... Kes? And that's not my usual sort of questioning tone because I don't know how to pronounce a name. Don't get me wrong - I don't know how to pronounce this name. It actually says K-E-S question mark. So I'm going to hit that with... Kes? And it's from Garth and Seven-P. And Garth and Seven-P say to Kes?

"Happy birthday, Kes! I still can't believe you moved across the country to Rhode Island with me on a whim. You are a true friend, you weirdo. Your navigation skills have kept us alive, both in New England traffic and rogue trader. A moment of silence for our psychic phases. Necron's OP. Garth."

I'm not gonna pretend like I know what either of those last things I just said meant. As always, I hope it wasn't secretly racist in some way. But I'm guessing it's probably from a tabletop roleplaying game in some way. Just sort of like, based on like, what this show is that they have decided to put this message out on. Uh, but happy birthday, Kes?

If you have some extra time on your hand this holiday season, and you want some entertainment, go listen to the other shows on the Maximum Fun network. They're all free, and they are all really, really hilarious. Pop Rocket is a good, relatively new one about pop culture recommendations and discussion and stuff like that. Bullseye is a classic, a favorite. Go listen to The Flop House, which is ranked as AV Club's best podcast of 2015, and deservedly so.

There's a bunch of really, really great stuff on the network, and I'm betting that you're gonna find something that you just love. That's it for this episode. The next episode, let me check my calendar, make sure I get this right, will go up on... oh, shit! New Year's Eve? Yeah, I guess New Year's Eve. Well... [laughs] Alright. The next one's gonna go up on a day that nobody's gonna listen to it. Whatever. Thank you all for listening, and enjoy the rest of the episode. And have a happy holidays!

[music plays]

**Griffin:** So you are uh...

**Justin:** It's snowing here.

**Griffin:** What?

**Justin:** I just wanna let you guys know it's snowing here. It's beautiful.

**Griffin:** Ohh, that sounds really nice!

**Justin:** It's picturesque.

**Griffin:** It's snowing in our fantasy world, too. The three of you have gone to Leon the Artificer's chambers under the direction of the Director. That was a weird sentence. And it's in, you know—

**Justin:** A lotta horseshit in there, huh? Just a lotta horseshit words that don't mean anything.

**Griffin:** Yeah, kind of. I thought you were talking about Leon the Artificer's chamber. Which is also full of a lot of magical horseshit.

**Clint:** Horseshit! [laughs]

**Griffin:** He actually walks over to a large object in the corner of his room. And he pulls a big tarp off of it, and reveals sort of a big cylindrical tank. It almost looks like those new security scanners that they have in airports. And by new, I mean that they've had for like a decade now. Only it's a fully closed-in tank, and it's pretty big. And it has like a pedestal in the middle of it. And he says...

**Leon:** This is very exciting! We've never actually gotten to use the null suits before. This was actually an invention of Lucas's own creation. And these suits allow you to cancel out a particular school of magic.

**Griffin:** And he looks at the note that the director gave him and says uh...

**Leon:** Okay, you three pop in. I think I know how to get this thing rollin'. What color suits do you wanna take?

**Magnus:** What?

**Leon:** You get to pick your color.

**Magnus:** Oh, does it have any effect on anything?

**Leon:** Oh no, it's just, what's your style?

**Magnus:** Oh great. I'm gonna go with a... burgundy.

**Leon:** I got orange.

**Magnus:** Oh nope, nope, no orange. I'm a winter.

**Leon:** Let me size you up real quick. Oh damn, orange is the only suit in the size that you...

**Magnus:** [inhales through teeth] That's gonna clash with my green undertones, but alright.

**Griffin:** He hands you an orange suit.

**Leon:** Merle, color?

**Merle:** Uh, burnt umber?

**Leon:** Uh, I got one yellow dwarf suit left. Somebody already took the burnt umber suit.

**Merle:** Yellow?

**Leon:** Yeah, good, cool. Good.

**Merle:** Like pee yellow or baby poop yellow?

**Leon:** It's a bright neon yellow. And Taako?

**Taako:** Umm. Cinnam—

**Leon:** Green, got it. Green, here you go. Green suit.

**Magnus:** I feel like maybe there was uh... no point in asking?

**Leon:** Listen, we don't have a lot of null suits.

**Justin:** It really drives me crazy when DMs don't fuckin just let people be creative.

**Leon:** Oh no, look at the, oh wait no, look at this. I found a burgundy and a burnt umber and whatever dumb color Taako said. Cinnamon? Cinnamon? What, so you guys—

**Merle:** No, we'll go with your choices.

**Leon:** No, no, no, these are all—

**Merle:** No there's a reason, I can tell there's a reason.

**Leon:** No, there's no reason, it's just different dumb shades of red. Here you go, idiots.

**Clint:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** So the three of you. I can't believe you all went with the red shirts, but fine. You're all wearing different shades of red.

**Magnus:** Burgundy's more purply, but that's fine.

**Leon:** M'kay.

**Merle:** I don't even know what burnt umber is.

**Leon:** Yeah, I didn't think you did.

**Taako:** And I thought I was ordering a latte. So, guess we all have egg on our face, huh?

**Clint:** [laughing]

**Travis:** [laughing]

**Griffin:** He hands each of you suits that are tailored to fit. Not exactly tailored to fit, but they do fit.

**Travis:** Is there room in the crotch?

**Griffin:** There is ample space in the crotch.

**Clint:** Not for me!

**Griffin:** These suits sort of— they wrap around your whole body. And each of them comes with a glass, almost fish-bowl style helmet with a retractable visor on it.

**Travis:** Sweet!

**Griffin:** And each one has like a little panel in the wrist. And Leon tells you to get inside the chamber and take all the weapons and items that you're gonna bring with you and set them down. He takes some of these hoses from the pedestal in the middle and then connects them to those panels in your wrists, and steps out and shuts the chamber. You see him turn a dial, and then all of a sudden, this chamber is like sprayed by all of these different nozzles all around the chamber. You guys are secretly just getting a spray tan. Joke's on you.

**Travis:** Oh, that's nice!

**Griffin:** Your suits actually are filled with sort of a sharp, chemical smell—

**Travis:** I farted.

**Griffin:** Oh boy. That's gonna be the first of many jokes like that, I bet, in this campaign arc.

**Travis:** Yep.

**Griffin:** And when the process is ended, all of your belongings have been sprayed down with this material, and your suit— the panel on your suit has a meter on it that was in the red before you sort of connected and got all filled up, and is now filled all the way to green. And Leon says...

**Leon:** So, with this, any transmutation magic that tries to affect you or any of the belongings you brought into the chamber are going to be impervious. Taako, unfortunately, this means any outbound transmutation spells aren't going to work. So keep that in mind.

**Taako:** Alright, seems fair.

**Leon:** Also, the suit is extremely durable. But try not to let it get punctured, because you inside of the suit are still vulnerable, but the suit itself will provide you protection from transmutation magic so long as you are wearing it.

**Taako:** Got it.

**Merle:** Check.

**Griffin:** So yeah— after equipping these null suits, which don't bestow any armor benefits. They sort of go on over your armor. Sorry Magnus.

**Travis:** Nah, it's cool.

**Griffin:** You make your way up to the hangar. And this whole time, the headquarters has been moving, which has been sort of a nauseating effect. It typically moves a little bit in the night sky.

**Travis:** Is it like a cruise ship thing? Where it's like, you don't notice it until you think about it, and then you wanna puke?



**Griffin:** Yes, exactly. Like, yeah. And it's also like when you're just sort of normally moving the normal route that your moon base moves, it's very slow, but it has to move to sort of give the appearance to people on the ground that it's an actual moon. But imagine people on the ground just saw the moon at like, 90 miles an hour. Just turn—

**Travis:** Just really hoofing it.

**Griffin:** Just turn 90 degrees in the night sky and start zippin'. So yeah, there might be some 'splaining to do later. But you've made your way to the hangar. And the back of the hangar's been sort of opened up, and you— you see the night sky in front of you. It's snowing actually pretty hard. It's actually a pretty bad winter storm going on.

And on the edge of this sort of dock are these two gondolas. And uh, standing next to one of the gondolas you see Killian, who is also wearing a null suit. And she has two accomplices with her, one of which is a dragonborn woman. A fairly slight dragonborn as far as dragonborns go. They're usually pretty big dragon-lookin' people. This is more of a lizard-born. And a dwarf, who... you're assuming it's a dwarf because it's a short, stout figure, but their glass helmet, like, is completely opaque. You can't see through it at all.

**Travis:** All sounds great.

**Griffin:** Killian motions to you over to the gondolas and she says...

**Killian:** Oh, I want you guys to meet my regulators, my rollin' crew, my squad. This is Carey Fangbattle. She's a rogue, and she's damn good at what she does, rogue-like stuff.

**Magnus:** Fangbattle.

**Taako:** I've heard tale of your brother, uh, Scales?

**Carey:** Oh man.

**Griffin:** Hold on, I need a voice for her—

**Carey:** Oh man. You know about Jeremy? Yeah, he can be a real tool sometimes. Ha ha ha. That's not me though. I'm Carey Fangbattle. I'm a rogue. I'm the best there is at what I do. Rogue stuff. You know.

**Taako:** No instrumentation whatsoever, huh?

**Carey:** No, I didn't go the bard route. Which my dad wasn't so psyched about, but hey, I'm good at rogue stuff! You know how I do my thing.

**Magnus:** Rogue-ing around? Rogue-eo—

**Merle:** Rogue-ery, you're good at rogue-ery?

**Carey:** General rogue-ery, yeah. You know the point. Have you seen my brother—

**Justin:** I bet that is kind of a bummer as a parent when your kid steals something and they're like, "Hey Deborah?"

"Uh, yes Carl?"

"She seemed... very proficient at that didn't she?"

"Yeah, she did seem very proficient at theft."

"Ah, son of a bitch, she's a rogue."

"Aw, man."

**Griffin:** The dwarf opens up his helmet and a thick cloud of smoke comes out. And you see inside—

**Clint:** Cheech and Chong!

**Griffin:** No, it's actually a very— the gruffest looking dwarf you've ever seen. It's like if somebody put Merle through a meat grinder and just sorta schlupped him back together again and then like glued some hair onto him.

**Justin:** [laughs]

**Clint:** Is it a female?

**Griffin:** No, it's a man, and he's smoking a big cigar. And he says uh...

**Dwarf:** Hello. Suppose introductions are in order.

**Magnus:** Nah, it's not necessary.

**Dwarf:** My name... is Boyland.

**Justin:** [laughs]

**Taako:** `Scuse me?

**Boyland:** What are ya laughin' at? I mean I know what you're—

**Griffin:** Keep in mind this is the name of a real person that we borrowed for the show.

**Magnus:** It's just your name was so cool that we were struck by it.

**Justin:** [giggling]

**Boyland:** Ah yeah, it happens a lot.

**Taako:** Boooylaaand!

**Magnus:** Boyland, can I just jump in here and—

**Boyland:** It might— it might—

**Magnus:** You look like shit.

**Boyland:** It might be Boyland.

**Taako:** Boy-lund makes more sense.

**Merle:** Go with Boy-lund, please.

**Taako:** I don't wanna tell you how to say your name, Boyland, but like, maybe Boy-lund would be the way to go.

**Boyland:** Did you just say I look like shit? It's just what I look like.

**Magnus:** You kinda look like shit. Are you okay? You apparently look like my friend Merle here has been put through a meat grinder and had hair glued to him.

**Boyland:** I think that's an accurate description, but I don't need to look good. I— let's just say I don't have a charisma-centric build.

**Magnus:** Do you feel good?

**Boyland:** Not on the inside.

**Justin:** [laughing]

**Magnus:** Oh no, we're gonna have a lot to talk about, Boyland.

**Griffin:** The Director is there too. And she walks over and holds out her pendant, and Lucas addresses the assembly. And he says...

**Lucas:** So there are a few points of entry that you can conceivably get into the base through, but your best bet is the conservatory. I have a pretty big skylight there that was open when everything went down, so you should be able to get through there pretty easily.

And once you're inside, just start making your way to the center of the facility. You'll find the medbay where I'm holed up. I'm in the main elevator lobby on the same floor as the conservatory. Just go— you just have to go through some of my lab facilities to get there from the conservatory. Also, if you can power them down as you go, you'll be able to free up some power

that I can channel back into the suspension cores and buy us all some more time.

**Travis:** Griffin, when eventually we make a movie out of the Adventure Zone, will this be more of like an Ocean's Eleven style like... y'know, we'll see the corridors and lasers and stuff?

**Griffin:** This is all completely original from my head. I didn't make any of it up based on stealing theft.

**Clint:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** Angus chimes in through your Stones of Farspeech which you have tucked away inside your suits so you can sort of communicate. And you hear him say...

**Angus:** Be careful in there. According to the psych profile I've drawn up based on what the Director has told me about Lucas, he's a pretty reckless individual, and I'm willing to bet his experiments aren't above-board safety-wise.

**Magnus:** Cool.

**Merle:** Is there any way to turn off the radio in the suits?

**Angus:** I mean, I wouldn't advise it. I'm gonna provide some good helpful intel and some charming dialogue.

**Merle:** [sighs]

**Taako:** Can you at least try to talk a little lower, darling?

**Angus:** [slightly lower] H-Hi.

**Taako:** Butch it up a bit?

**Angus:** Okay let me... [not actually lower at all] Hi everybody, it's me, Angus.

**Merle:** Oh god, that's worse.

**Angus:** [still attempting to speak lower and failing] No, I'm here to provide you with valuable—

**Taako:** Nooo, no—

**Angus:** —valuable intel.

**Taako:** No, it's like—

**Magnus:** Lucas, it's Magnus here.

**Taako:** It's like Will Ferrell's impersonation of Harry Carey fell down a flight of stairs.

**Merle:** And landed on Grandpa Simpson.

**Magnus:** Lucas, this— Magnus, here. Real quick, before we jump on down there into your... whatever lab of horrors, is there, uh... you mentioned there were some robots... Um, uh... are we gonna be facing any like crystalline monsters, or bad guys of any sort?

**Lucas:** I didn't— I didn't, I mean... I mean, I didn't see anything? I just saw the lab around me sort of start to get all pink and crystalline, and so I ran as fast as I could for the nearest airlock, so, I—

**Magnus:** Real quick—

**Travis:** I take a minute and I tell my shield of the story of the time I ripped a robot's arms off.

**Griffin:** Okay, yeah! It etches that into the face of it. The Director says...

**Director:** If— you guys are gonna probably need this.

**Griffin:** She takes off her necklace and hands it to— well, she just hands it out into the three of your direction.

**Travis:** I take it.

**Griffin:** Okay. And she says...

**Director:** You'll probably need this to stay in touch.

**Travis:** Now, Ditto, to be fair, we didn't have this when we did the null suit coating.

**Griffin:** You can put it on underneath your suit.

**Travis:** I put it on underneath my suit.

**Merle:** Wait a minute wait a minute, you need help with the clasp, honey, turn around.

**Griffin:** No, you've got a visor that sort of slides upward and retracts pretty easily. So yeah, you are now able to stay in touch with Lucas, and Carey Fangbattle says...

**Carey:** Alright guys, time to roll out! You guys ready to get busy livin' or get busy dyin'?

**Magnus:** Um, yeah?

**Merle:** Sure? [pause] Wait a minute. Dyin'?

[theme music plays]

MaximumFun.org

Comedy and culture.

Artist owned.

Audience supported.