

The Adventure Zone Balance: The Crystal Kingdom – Chapter Three

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Griffin: Previously on the Adventure Zone.

Director: Lucas. He's gone too far. He— He's found a Grand Relic and has apparently been experimenting with it behind our backs.

Griffin: Uh, all of these uh crystal shards are flying together and sort of self-forming to create Crystal Golem.

Clint: I am casting *Guardian of Faith*. And I say it looks like Della Reese.

Griffin: Fuck yes. Yeah, Della Reese just stabs this right through the old chest.

As you move into the airlock, it is not crystallized. The hatch closes behind you and you hear, uh, a hissing sounds. And there's some—

Travis: Snakes!

Clint: [wheezes]

Griffin: — smokes in the room. And then the chamber's full of snakes and you drown in snakes.

Travis: [chuckles]

Griffin: You drown in snakes. You see a sign that says "The Magical World of Elevators".

Travis: Really?

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Griffin's really stickin' it to the people who way he's not allowed to have elevators in this game.

Clint: [laughs]

Narrator: Hell yes, he is. Elevators are sweet! Anybody who says differently can take a hike. To *The Adventure Zone*!

[intro music plays]

Griffin: So the three of you are, uh... After, uh, surviving a pretty thrilling, Della Reese-based climax, and—

Travis: [chuckles childishly]

Griffin: Yeah, that was a pretty troubling—

Clint: [chuckles]

Griffin: Troublesome sentence that I said, you find yourself in The Magical World of Elevators. Something of a museum, uh, dedicated to the uh elevator-based achievements of the Miller family.

Travis: Got it. Griffin, before we go on, I wanna do something that I should have thought of last episode.

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: Um, while covering the pendant that lets me talk to whatshisface. Whatsahooshee, um...

Griffin: Uh, Lucas.

Travis: Yeah. I wanna contact Angus.

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: And see what he knows about the Philosopher's Stone.

Griffin: Okay. Uh, alright. Ju— uh... Just put in his codec number.

Clint: [imitates phone dialing beeps]

Griffin: Ring him up.

Angus McDonald: Hello. What did you guys need?

Magnus: Hey, Ango.

Angus McDonald: Heh, is that— Is that happening?

Magnus: Yeah.

Clint: [gasps]

Angus McDonald: Okay.

Magnus: The Jangus. Um, what do you know about the Philosopher's Stone? We just ran into like a crystal golem thing that like sang to us, and it was like—

Angus McDonald: Yeah, that should— That definitely shouldn't happen. The Philosopher's Stone is just a, a very powerful, um, sort of cypher for transmutation magic.

Magnus: Mm-hmm...

Angus McDonald: And it allows you to change really any material into any other material, but it shouldn't be able to animate, um, material.

Magnus: Mm-hmm...

Angus McDonald: Because that, I mean that's— That's just beyond its capabilities.

Magnus: Do you know anything about like a crystalline demon— It was like a glowing ball of light, it sang, it was really creepy, sounded like a vocoder.

Angus McDonald: How did it— How did it find you? How did it— Tell me everything.

Magnus: Uh, well we were walking across a crystal—

Travis: Well, let me do my Magnus voice, hold on—

Clint: Just listen to the last episode.

Magnus: Yeah, tune into—

Griffin: [chuckles]

Magnus: Like, spin the propellers. We just told him everything.

Justin: Someone's been like setting aside their lunch hour to listen to this, and they're like "Are these motherfuckers..."

Clint: [laughs]

Justin: "Really. Seriously. I have one hour here, okay? Arby's getting cold in front of me."

Travis: Yeah, let's do a star fade, star wipe.

Clint: [makes transition sound effects]

Travis: I just told Angus everything.

Justin: I didn't— I didn't realize the voice was coming from the monster we fought.

Travis: It was from like a glowing ball that like—

Justin: Since you didn't correct him, I guess— that makes sense to me. It sounded really cool, by the way, Griffin. Kinda creeped me out.

Griffin: Thank you.

Travis: Yeah, that was good editing.

Angus McDonald: Um, yeah, it sounds like it was somehow enspirited, by like a ghost or something like that, but you said it came through some sort of like rift in spacetime?

Magnus: Yes.

Merle: Yeah, it did.

Angus McDonald: That's not— Ghosts can't really do that, so I'm not really 100% sure what we're up against here. Uh, but I'll, I'll start crackin' the books and see what I can find out for ya.

Magnus: Alright, do that.

Justin: Thanks, Ango.

Magnus: And let us know if you come up with anything.

Angus McDonald: Yeah, no problem. I lo— I love you.

Magnus: Love you too.

Merle: Shut up— N— No. Please, no.

Griffin: [chuckles]

Magnus: I'm a big fan.

Griffin: It's like a friendship thing.

Travis: Yeah, I tell my friends I love them. Come on, Dad. It's 2016.

Griffin: I love all my friends. I love our listeners. If you're listening to this, I love you. I can say that.

Travis: If you're not listening to this, go fuck yourself.

Griffin: Yeah.

Clint: [laughs]

Justin: We love you. Sorry we almost made you listen to Travis recap what happened last episode.

Griffin: Uh, so you're in the Magical World of Elevators, and there are— The room has these two rows, uh that you can tell, just like looking at the elevators featured in each exhibit, sort of is like a chronological detail of how this, this particular invention that the Miller family brought to this world sort of evolved.

Travis: Mm-hmm...

Griffin: And there's a little plaque and sort of description next to each one. The first one is just sort of a crude bucket with a thick rope. Um... That has a year that says 1469DR. Uh, Roman Miller, which is— you intuit to be Lucas Miller's grandpa, uh, that he talked about last week.

Clint: Yeah, 'cause we're an intuitive bunch.

Griffin: Yeah. Uh, clearly. Uh, this does not look like the safest elevator in the world. It basically does just look like a bucket. It looks— It looks hundreds of years old. Some cockroaches actually scurry away from that exhibit as you come close to it. Um, and go near your feet, which is yucky.

Clint: And we stamp on 'em. We stomp on 'em, okay?

Griffin: Okay, make a— Make a reflex check to see if you can— There's three cockroaches.

Clint: Okay.

Justin: One for ea—

Griffin: Roll your best to stomp on 'em.

Taako: One for each of us, baby.

Clint: Okay.

Taako: Come to daddy.

Clint: I hate cockroaches.

Travis: I rolled, uh, let's see. What is reflex? Is that plus Dex?

Griffin: Uh, yeah. We'll say Dexterity.

Travis: 14 plus two, 16.

Griffin: 'Kay.

Clint: Uh, three.

Taako: 13.

Griffin: Okay, uh, yeah. Taako and Magnus, you guys squoosh yours good.

Taako: Hey.

Griffin: Not yours. Yours scurries away.

Taako: Merle, why do you love, um, why do you love cockroaches so much?

Magnus: Yeah, what's up?

Merle: Shut up!

Taako: Thought— Thought you hated them so bad.

Magnus: Cock lover.

Merle: Shut up, you guys. I'm saving my good rolls.

Justin: [snorts]

Griffin: So there's a few more, uh uh, of Roman's designs. There's one that looks like a bucket, but the pulley looks like its gas-powered, which looks pretty deadly. There's one which has a face on it. And the plaque says that it's called "Upsy, Your Lifting Friend".

Clint: [cackles]

Griffin: And it's a— It's almost like a cartoonish elevator that was obviously made to like franchise. Like, obviously when elevators came to this world it was like a hot thing. 'Cause you can imagine, when elevators came to Earth, it was probably pretty sick, right? Like, "What? No more stairs? That's tight." Um—

Travis: "Where can I get one?"

Griffin: Yeah, so they obviously tried to do a theme park of—

Justin: You know the day elevators were invented, people just went around stairs, just in the neighborhoods, just ball-peen hammers. Just destroying them. "Never again."

Griffin: Right.

Travis: "Won't need these."

Clint: "I step into that closet and I'm on a different floor!"

Justin: "I'll never use these stupid stairs again."

Griffin: [chuckles] And then uh, on the other side of the room there's a row of elevators that were actually designed by Lucas's mother, uh, whose name is Maureen, uh...

Travis: And they're way better.

Griffin: Yeah, they're so much better. They're way more conservative. I mean, they were developed, you know, a generation after Roman's "lifting machines", is what he called them. So they look more like the more traditional elevators. Um, a little bit less stylish, more functional. And somewhere down the line of hers is "Upsy, The Rad Lifting Dude".

Justin: [chuckles]

Griffin: Which is like a cool reboot of Upsy, Your Lifting Friend. Um, he has sunglasses on.

Clint: [chuckles]

Justin: Are we ta—

Clint: That el— That elevator was a commercial failure.

Justin: Are we—

Griffin: Just in every sense of the word.

Justin: Intuit from the names "Upsy" and the nomenclature of "lifting machines", that like these— maybe they mastered getting people up first, and like didn't have a plan for like bringing you back down?

Clint: [laughs]

Griffin: It's funny you mention that. Actually, right next to Upsy, The Rad Lifting Dude was his arch nemesis in the cartoon, and his name was Downzo.

Clint: Downzo, The Pit.

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: Downzo. Downzo, uh—

Travis: Downzo, Watch Out!

Justin: Downzo, The Forty-Story Shaft.

Griffin: [chuckles]

Clint: [laughs]

Griffin: Uh, and then at the end of the line is just an elevator. But on the far side of this room, kind of in front of the next airlock leading out of this chamber, uh you see something that looks... unlike all of the other elevators in the room. Um. it is...

Travis: Stairs.

Griffin: It looks lik— It looks like some— Stairs. Isn't that crazy? No, it a— it's um... It looks very, very, very futuristic. Like way too futuristic. It has like almost *Tron* neon outlines, uh, it does— I mean, it looks like an elevator, but it's the most futuristic-looking elevator you've ever seen. And it is, uh— It's sitting on top of a cylindrical glass display case. And when you look into that glass display case, it almost looks like there is a miniature model of the town of Neverwinter inside of it.

Travis: Uh-huh.

Griffin: And atop it is this hyper neo-futuristic elevator, that is labeled as "The Elevator of Tomorrow".

Justin: To scale? Is it to scale with the rest of the town?

Griffin: Uh, no. It's gigantic.

Justin: Oh, okay.

Griffin: It's like your size, and it's on top of the glass display case.

Justin: Okay.

Griffin: Um, and Lucas chimes in through the pendant and says, uh...

Lucas: Ah, okay. So, um, I left that running in demon mode. It's The Elevator of Tomorrow, and it's consuming like a lot power, so if you could cycle through the demo, I'll be able to shut it down remotely, and that should actually free up a lot of energy for me to channel back into the—the lab's core, and keep us floatin' a— above the sea for a little longer.

Magnus: What i— What does the demo do? What is it?

Lucas: Uh, it's a... I don't wanna spoil the surprise.

Clint: [snorts]

Taako: Well, here's— Here's my—

Lucas: It's a—

Taako: Well, here's my surprise. I'm not doin' it.

Clint: [wheezes]

Lucas: But y—

Taako: Let— Listen, I'm not— Taako, that's me. Hi.

Lucas: Yeah.

Taako: I'm done with elevators. Never again.

Lucas: Okay. Well, don't say so—

Taako: Last time I was in an elevator, vines tried to eat my dick.

Clint: [wheezes]

Griffin: [chuckles quietly]

Taako: I'm never getting into an elevator again. Suck it.

Lucas: Let's not— Listen, don't say something you're gonna regret, okay?

Taako: Nope.

Lucas: Here's the thing.

Taako: Not in a million bajillion.

Lucas: It's a—

Taako: My dude.

Lucas: It's a— The demo takes three minutes. You just go in there and you do the demo, and then—

Taako: You will have to knock me out like BA Baracus gettin' on a plane. I— No way.

Merle: Here, have a drink of this water.

Taako: Absolutely not.

Clint: [chuckles]

Taako: Noooooo elevators for Taako.

Lucas: Okay, well some of you guys need to get into the elevator and run through the demo. Otherwise it's not gonna cycle and I won't be able to shut it down.

Taako: Go for it, thugs.

Magnus: Alright.

Taako: Taako's here.

Magnus: I'll take care of it. I'll take care of it.

Taako: Terra firma, baby.

Merle: How many will it take?

Lucas: I mean, at least one need to go in.

Merle: How do you know what we're doing? Are you watching us?

Lucas: No, I just heard th— I asked you, in the last episode, where you were, and you told me.

Merle: [skeptically] Mm-hmm.

Travis: I pick Taako up and I walk into the elevator.

Taako: Why can— I don't— I don't even think I need to do this. This is not important.

Magnus: Come on, buddy.

Taako: Don't do it. I swear to God.

Clint: [imitating Mr T] He pities the fool who carries him into an elevator!

Griffin: [laughs]

Taako: You will not like how this ends.

Griffin: Alright.

Taako: I will burn a spell slot on you. I give no shits.

Clint: [laughs]

Taako: Do not put me in an elevator. I'm done with them.

Griffin: Who's going into the elevator then?

Clint: How many does it need?

Griffin: This is—

Clint: How many does it take?

Griffin: At least one. One to three.

Clint: Would two—

Griffin: One to three players.

Clint: Would two give us better odds?

Griffin: I'm not g— It's an elevator!

Clint: [skeptically] Uh-huh.

Travis: Alright, I'm getting in it.

Clint: I'll get in it too.

Griffin: Okay. Magnus and Merle gets in. Taako, you're staying as is?

Justin: I open my Pocket Spa. And fucking chill.

Clint: You sold it.

Clint: Alright, you crack open—

Justin: Oh, I did sell it. That's right.

Clint: You sold the Pocket Spa.

Griffin: No no no. You held on to it. You sold the, the fan.

Clint: Ah...

Justin: I sold the— Yeah, that's right. I hold onto the Pocket Spa.

Griffin: Alright, you pop open the Pocket Spa, you get a little pop tent out, uh that folds up neatly, neatly into your pocket. And it's bigger on the inside than it is on the outside, and you pop inside and you get in a

hot spring. And uh... There's little pucks of scent that you can choose. T— Probably not a hot spring. To give yourself a scented bath.

Clint: [disappointed] Aww...

Justin: Aw, nice.

Griffin: And uh, also there is a sandwich waiting for you.

Taako: Oooo, uh...

Griffin: On the lip of the hot spring.

Taako: Daddy like.

Clint: Nobody ever mentioned sandwiches.

Justin: What ki— What kind of sandwich?

Griffin: Tuna fish. But it's a good tuna fish.

Taako: Any thi— any toppings?

Griffin: I— I'm trying to think. I can't think of what would be in the tuna fish sandwich that would also go into the, the TexMex foodstuff you're trying to get me to—

Clint: [cackles]

Griffin: You know, think about. Uh, no there's uh—

Taako: Well, it's no fun if I don't take it.

Griffin: There is some, uh—

Clint: Lettuce. You need lettuce!

Justin: Nope.

Griffin: Yeah, there's some diced tomato on top of it.

Taako: Wow! Delicious! Okay, great.

Griffin: There's some uh— Yeah.

Taako: Stupid. That was my plan.

Clint: Tomato.

Griffin: That was a small— I think that was a pretty small piece of the puzzle. So I don't mind giving you that one. On your continuing taco quest.

Clint: [chuckles]

Taako: Just wanna keep it alive.

Griffin: Okay, Merle and— Merle and Magnus, you hop into The Elevator of Tomorrow. Um, and there's just a single button there. And it has a timer over it that is stuck at three minutes.

Travis: I push it.

Griffin: Okay. As you push it, the doors of this futuristic elevator shut in front of you, and uh— Taako, you watching them? Are you like... lazing?

Taako: Yeah, I'm just eating a Triscuit and chilling.

Griffin: You're watching them through the open door?

Taako: I could give a shit. Yeah.

Griffin: You're watching them through the open door? Okay. You see uh a pretty incredible sight as The Elevator of Tomorrow doesn't go down— I mean, it does, but it doesn't go down in space, it actually goes down in scale. The Elevator of Tomorrow shrinks way, way, way down, and uh... Merle and Magnus, you don't really feel anything too different. Uh, but Taako you watch as their now shrunk down elevator, uh very—

Taako: Okay.

Griffin: — slowly descends into the glass display case.

Justin: Taako— Taako—

Travis: Cut to inside the elevator. [imitates "The Girl From Ipanema"]

Justin: Taako is outside— Taako jumps out of the pocket— the pocket tent and says...

Taako: Do you see?! Do you se—

Justin: He's like running around, with his hands in the air, like Jordan after he won one of his many basketball championships.

Griffin: [laughs quietly]

Taako: Don't look so stupid now, do I? You tiny bitches!

Griffin: Uh—

Travis: Back inside the elevator. [continues to imitate "The Girl From Ipanema"]

Griffin: The elevator...

Taako: I could eat you.

Griffin: Comes to a stop, and uh uh, the doors open and all of a sudden, this glass display version of the city of Neverwinter, it now looks pretty big to you. Like, you're not actually— It's not actual size. You guys are actually almost the size of the, some of the taller buildings in town. Kind of a Godzilla thing going on. Uh, but uh, yeah. It's— It is a weird version of Neverwinter because it doesn't look like the version of Neverwinter that you three almost certainly visited at some point in your life. Um, there are some things about it that are... a bit off.

Um, the buildings are much taller, for one thing. They reach into the sky. Um... There's a, uh... There's streetlights. There's— Not like the gas torches that you might see in some of the more civilized towns in your world. They're actual like electric streetlights. And there are metal battlewagons. Uh, lots and lots and lots of them. Uh, there's a mobile in the sky, that is carrying uh these different airships of different shapes and sizes and models, that are— that are circling this model version of Neverwinter. Uh, and it looks like an impossibly futuristic version of

Neverwinter that you are now inside. And as the doors open up, that three minute timer begins to count down.

Magnus: Uh, Lucas? Can you still hear us?

Lucas: It's pretty cool, right?

Magnus: Yeah, so what's the deal? Like, can you tell us about it now?

Lucas: Yeah, this is— this is my vision for Neverwinter. And ideally any town. Um—

Magnus: So not really an elevator though, right? Like we didn't really go up and d— Like it's not like this didn't get us to a different floor, so it's a pretty shitty elevator, really.

Lucas: Well, it's all semantics, don't you think?

Magnus: But it was more of like the Shrink Machine to a Version of Neverwinter of Tomorrow.

Lucas: Well, you did go down, technically speaking.

Magnus: I mean yeah, but it didn't really elevate us.

Lucas: Okay. But imagine, what if we could build a tower that gets smaller as it goes up, and you could shrink in size and adjust your own size as you go up. Wouldn't that be neat?

Justin: Outside the glass, you guys can see Taako pretending to be Godzilla. Like, stomping around.

Clint: [laughs]

Justin: And I have little claws.

Clint: [imitates Godzilla]

Griffin: Yeah, Taako, as you look down as they step out of this elevator, all tiny like, you probably do feel a sense of, uh, grandiosity. Looming over you.

Justin: Yeah, absolutely. More than usual, which is considerable.

Clint: And I bet he's huge to us!

Justin: Gigantic.

Griffin: Yeah, he's gigantic. Taako, and actually from your vantage point, you actually see something else. Uh, on the outskirts of town, the elevator is sort of positioned in the center. The Times Square of this uh this uh, this display.

Clint: And it's a little statue of George M Cohan.

Griffin: Actually, you see... a cockroach. That is now scurrying over buildings and moving very very quickly toward them.

Travis: Damnit, Merle!

Griffin: And then suddenly.

Clint: I sho— Ugh...

Griffin: This cockroach is over the two of you, on the side of a, on the side of a nearby building. And you hear it hiss, uh, and rear up, revealing two dripping green fangs. Uh, and it hisses at you nastily. And then you hear like that sound effect that means you just ran into a random encounter in a *Final Fantasy* game. And we're off to the races.

Justin: I, uh... I— The moment I see that I see that happening, I turn on my heels, and I sprint back to the Pocket Tent, because I forgot my sandwich in there.

Clint: [wheezes]

Justin: And then I rush back, so— to where I can see really good.

Clint: [laughs]

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: Man, it'd be super cool if we had like... Our wizard with us...

Griffin: Uh, roll for initiative.

Justin: He's with you in spirit. And in large.

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: I rolled an eight plus two, a 10.

Clint: Oh god, I rolled a four, but I get another roll. A five!

Travis: You're really bad at D&D.

Clint: I am.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Uh, first in the order is Magnus. This thing is, uh, it's actually not too high up, 'cause again, you are the size of the buildings.

Travis: As a free action, can I tell my shield about the roach that I squished earlier.

Clint: Ooo!

Griffin: Uh, you're gonna have to make a Bluff check.

Travis: Okay, what do I have to roll?

Griffin: Oh no no no! It is not a bluff check. It is actually— 'cause you actually did kill a roach. It would be a... uh, Charisma check, DC 10.

Travis: That would be— Oh, that's, uh. What if I roll a 10?

Justin: Hey, if you're curious what my initiative would have been, it's a natural 20.

Griffin: [snorts]

Travis: Great.

Griffin: Uh, it's— it's a— Tie goes to the... runner.

Travis: Oh, wait! Charisma?

Clint: Don't you have Charisma?

Travis: Yeah, plus one. Yeah, plus one, 11!

Griffin: Yeah, okay 11.

Clint: Woo!

Griffin: Yeah, a picture of a cockroach appears in your shield.

Travis: Super cool.

Griffin: Next to an armless robot and... I think that's the only thing you've—

Travis: Yeah, I think that's the only thing I've done to it so far.

Justin: Crystal monster? He tried crystal monster.

Travis: I failed it.

Griffin: He tried, but he fucked it up.

Travis: Okay, I'm gonna two-handed axe that shit.

Griffin: 'Kay. You're attacking the— the cockroach?

Travis: Yeah, that's 18 plus seven, 25.

Griffin: That is a hit.

Travis: Cool.

Taako: Looking good!

Travis: Yes, it is.

Clint: [chuckles] Taako cheering on the sidelines.

Taako: You can get 'im.

Travis: Um... Cool, yeah. Um, I'm gonna just attack. I'm not gonna do any of my special stuff. Uh, 1d10 plus six. That is three plus six, that's a nine.

Griffin: 'Kay.

Travis: And then I'm gonna hit again, with my second attack.

Griffin: Go for it.

Travis: That's a nat 20!

Griffin: Holy shit! I forget what we do for that!

Travis: Me too!

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: Oh no! Critical hits. When you score a critical hit, you get to roll extra dice for the attack's damage. Roll all the attack's damage die twice, and add them together, then add any relevant modifiers.

Griffin: Okay, so roll your damage dice and then roll it again. And then add the two results.

Travis: Yeah. That is a six! Plus five, 11. Uh... what—

Griffin: Plus your modifier.

Travis: Yeah, so that's six, 17. So all together, with my two attacks, it was 26.

Griffin: [quietly] You're good at hitting shit.

Travis: Yeah! It's the only thing I'm good at!

Griffin: Uh, yeah, you uh— You take one of its antennae off. Just fwoomp! And you can see it drop to the ground, and it's pretty gross. Um... And can I just say, quick-thinking on the stomps. 'Cause this fight was gonna be much harder. Uh...

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: But it is the— It is the cockroach's—

Clint: Thank you!

Griffin: It is the cockroach's turn. Uh... and he's gonna... uh scurry on top of the building that he's kind of on top of, and then point down at the two of you and a cone of green slime—

Travis: Eugh.

Griffin: — is going to spray out of its mouth, uh and come towards the... come towards the two of you.

Justin: Point of order. You said "quick thinking", let's call it what it was which was, a fuckin' lucky break.

Travis: It was a joke.

Clint: No, it was not.

Travis: Let's call it a joke.

Justin: It— It never crossed your mind that like "I'm gonna have to get small and fight them".

Clint: Oh no, I saw that coming. Cockroach.

Travis: You saw it coming?!

Clint: Oh yeah. Yeah. I saw it coming.

Justin: [giggles]

Griffin: Uh, you guys are gonna roll a Dexterity saving throw.

Clint & Travis: [simultaneously] Okay.

Justin: Me too, or? No?

Griffin: No. No, you're good.

Travis: I rolled a 16.

Justin: 'Cause I'm so much bigger than it.

Griffin: Actually, did you— Go ahead and roll initiative, Taako, if you want.

Justin: I did, it was a natural 20.

Griffin: Ah, well I forgot to drop you in, but if you want to do some, um...

Justin: I don't. [chuckles]

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: Uh, I rolled, uh... My Dex saving throw was 16 plus two, 18.

Griffin: Daddy?

Clint: Yes?

Griffin: Dexterity saving throw.

Clint: Oh, 12. 12.

Griffin: Okay, Magnus, you uh, uh swiftly dodge to the side, stepping out of the way of this green slime, uh which coats your short companion. Uh and Merle—

Travis: Do I get to do the thing with the shield that gives disadvantage?

Griffin: No, that's for melee hits.

Travis: Okay.

Griffin: This is a uh, Merle it is a bad feeling, when this slime gets on you. A bad, burning, bubbling, acidy feeling. Um... And you take...

Clint: In my tummy?

Griffin: Uh, on your skin.

Clint: Oh.

Griffin: Oofa doofa! Uh, you take 19 points of acid damage.

Travis: Ooooo, mommy!

Clint: How did that get through my suit?

Griffin: It— It just did. It permeated it. Uh, soaked through it.

Clint: How convenient!

Griffin: It's actually wet— Your suit is wet with acid. And it sucks.

Clint: Okay.

Griffin: But it didn't burn any holes in it or anything like that. It's a pretty great suit.

Clint: Yeah.

Griffin: Magical, one might even say. Uh, Merle, it is your turn.

Clint: Wait a minute, how many points of damage?

Griffin: Uh, 19.

Clint: Okay. I'm going to cast *Banishment* on the cockroach.

Griffin: Okay, you're just gonna yell "Get out of here, cockroach! I don't love you anymore!"

Clint: No, my friend. *Banishment* is a spell where you send one creature that you see within range to another plane of existence. Target has to succeed on a Charisma saving throw, or be banished.

Travis: For good?

Griffin: No way you have this spell. This is some like...

Clint: I'm showing it to Justin.

Justin: Level four cleric spell. *Banishment*.

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: He is sending that cockroach, to another—

Travis: And you're using it against a cockroach.

Justin: Well, is tha— If you're looking for uncharismatic targets.

Travis: That's a good call.

Justin: You won't be able to get much better than a cockroach.

Travis: And he did just hit you for 19 damage, so I don't know why I'm turning my nose up at it.

Justin: Yeah, that too.

Clint: Yeah, he can suck old bub.

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: [laughs]

Clint: Yeah!

Griffin: Uh, the spell lasts for uh one minute. Just making sure you know that.

Clint: Yeah.

Griffin: That's fine. Uh, uh, I will roll it. Okay, so you're trying to banish him to another plane of existence. Uh, I rolled a 13.

Clint: Well, I have 12 in Charisma, plus three, which is 15.

Griffin: Uh, I don't think that's how it works. I think it's your spellcasting modifier, which is still more than 13, so okay, yep. This, this thing, after coating you in acid, just goes "Ssssss, pop!" And disappears.

Clint: Phew!

Griffin: Uh, being spirited away to a harmless plane of existence.

Justin: Okay.

Clint: 30 experience!

Travis: And now we just need to stand here for a minute while Merle concentrates.

Justin: Why don't you fucking dip?

Travis: Yeah, we're gonna get back in Ye Olde Elevator.

Clint: [chuckles]

Griffin: Okay, uh then you pop back in the elevator, and the timer above that button says 1:30 on it, and it's counting down.

Travis: Cool. We wait. Patiently.

Griffin: `Kay.

Magnus: Hey, Lucas?

Lucas: Yeah.

Magnus: Was there anything else that we needed to do in here? Besides get attacked by one of your janky-ass cockroaches, because you don't clean your elevator room?

Lucas: Yeah. Yeah, that's how it works. It's my cockroach, just `cause it happened to appear—

Magnus: It's your lab. Clean your shit!

Lucas: Yeah. My shit is pretty clean, okay? I don't spend a lot of time polishing the elevators. My bad, I guess.

Magnus: Well.

Lucas: Anyway, there's not much else to do in there except to appreciate my bold vision of the future but I guess pearls before swine and all that.

Magnus: No, it's super great.

Lucas: Did you see the—

Magnus: I love your shitty elevator and your weird glass town.

Lucas: Did you see the airships?

Magnus: Yeah, that was great.

Lucas: They're impressive.

Magnus: You're a real dork.

Merle: How much time left on the timer?

Griffin: Uh, it's at 45 seconds.

Lucas: I thought it was a nice touch.

Magnus: No, it was great. I loved the way that they... were there.

Merle: Mm-hmm.

Lucas: Yeah, they were there. And uh, actually there was a way, if you climb up one of the buildings, you could have ridden—

Griffin: Ssssss, pop! The cockroach appears. It appears on the top of the building that it was on. And it is, uh, who's turn? Magnus, it is your turn. You are in the elevator and this cockroach just appeared on top of the elevator it was on— or the— on top of the building it was on.

Travis: I'm going to brace at the door of the elevator, with my shield between the cockroach and us.

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: As— As this is happening, you see Taako, uh uh, it looks like he's trying really hard to open the glass that's encasing the town.

Griffin: Okay.

Clint: But is there another sandwich inside the glass?

Justin: No, he's not. But it looks—

Clint: Oh, okay.

Justin: He's making a very convincing show of it.

Clint: [laughs]

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: Do you need to roll a bluff check there?

Justin: Yeah, I'm gonna roll a bluff check, on the— on them. That's an 18.

Travis: Alright.

Magnus: Well, we hav— Taako's doing his best, we just have to make it to get back there.

Griffin: [chuckles]

Clint: [laughs]

Justin: [laughs]

Magnus: We have to protect Taako!

Griffin: Uh, okay, we'll say you're preparing an action, I guess, Magnus. To...

Travis: Yeah. I'm going to push back if it gets in the elevator.

Justin: Is it attached, by the way? Just out of curiosity.

Griffin: Uh, what?

Justin: The glass encasing the—

Griffin: Yeah yeah yeah. It kinda like— Uh, kinda like comes down in a funnel. Uh, the, the pathway that they came through. Uh, like a glass funnel that they travel through in this elevator.

Justin: Really isn't a lot I could do. I mean, really without raining shattered glass down upon them.

Griffin: Uh... Okay, next is the cockroach, who is going to scurry your way, and I guess let's do, uh...

Travis: Strength check.

Griffin: Uh, yeah, a grapple check, I guess. Which is just a Strength, uh, contest, uh to see if you can buffet this thing away.

Travis: That's a 22.

Griffin: 'Kay. This is just to see if he can get in the elevator with you.

Travis: Correct.

Griffin: This is not his action. Uh, that's only a 14 for me. So yeah, this thing tries to get past you, you kind of push him back with your shield, and then he's going to take a, uh— he's going to kinda jump in and bite at your ankle with his pincers. Taako. Er, Magnus. God, why am I— I keep getting you confused.

Travis: Like from outside the thing?

Griffin: Uh, yeah.

Travis: Okay.

Griffin: He's gonna like poke his head in through the elevator.

Travis: I gotcha.

Griffin: Uh... that is a... 19?

Travis: Uh... Cool, cool. I'm trying to remember what the thing is. Oh yeah, so the Shield of Heroic Memories I get a plus one.

Griffin: Yup. To your AC.

Travis: Well, that's only 19.

Griffin: Yeah. Uh, and that is nine points of damage as this thing bites around your ankle and lat— latches on.

Travis: Okay.

Griffin: With its pincers.

Travis: Ow.

Griffin: Um, Merle you're up.

Clint: Okay, I'm going to cast *Prayer of Healing* on me and Magnus.

Griffin: Okay. There's about 12 seconds left on the elevator timer.

Clint: What part of the cockroach is inside the elevator?

Griffin: Uh, like half of it managed to get in. Magnus was like bracing the door with his body, and so like only just enough of it for it to get a mouth around Angus. Er, around Magnus.

Clint: Then I change my mind.

Griffin: [chuckles] Okay.

Clint: Yeah. 'Cause I have the funny feeling that he's gonna block the elevator doors and we're still not gonna be able to get out of here.

Griffin: 'Kay.

Clint: So, I'm gonna hit him with *Spiritual Weapon*.

Griffin: Alright, what is it gonna look like this time? This is so exciting for me.

Clint: Yeah.

Travis: You sh—

Clint: It's, uh, it's going to look like a great big golf shoe. A gigantic spiked golf shoe.

Griffin: Like a cleat? Like a cleat?

Clint: Yeah, but with spikes. You know, like in golfing.

Griffin: [chuckles] Okay. I don't know, but fine.

Clint: Well, you're not a golfer like me.

Griffin: Fair.

Clint: Uh, so—

Griffin: A lie. A lie, but fair.

Clint: [sighs] Seven plus six which is thirteen.

Travis: I don't think that's your spellcasting modifier.

Griffin: It i— What, six?

Travis: Yeah, hold on.

Griffin: Yeah, it is.

Travis: Okay.

Griffin: He's got the Extreme Teen Bible that adds one. But the shoe comes down on this thing and it just kind of like gives it a weird Shiatsu massage.

Clint: [disappointed] Okay...

Griffin: And then it disappears.

Clint: Fine.

Griffin: Uh, Magnus, it's up to— Or well, Taako, it is you. Uh, unless you choose to keep sandwiching down.

Justin: I, um... Mm...

Clint: Wave the sandwich, try to distract him!

Justin: The sandwich is very good, is the one thing that I—

Griffin: [laughs]

Clint: Yeah, but if you wave a giant sandwich, the giant cockroach is gonna want it!

Justin: I'm trying to find something that won't...

Clint: You mean something you can pretend to be doing to help us?

Justin: Yeah.

Clint: Uh-huh. [frantically whispered] Wave the sandwich!

Justin: Uh...

Clint: I start to pray.

Justin: That's fine. Uh, I'm gonna cast... um, a cantrip. [wheezes] Called *Minor Illusion*.

Griffin: 'Kay.

Justin: And, uh...

Clint: Is that like "allusion" with an "a"?

Griffin: Are you gonna make like a— Are you gonna make like a—

Justin: Creates a sound or image or— of an object within range, that lasts for the duration. This illusion also ends if you dismiss it as an action or cast this spell again. Um, so I'm gonna— Behind him, I'm just gonna cast like, um... Like another on— Like a picture of an, um, another cockroach? I don't know. And it's wearing a dress.

Clint: A really sexy, lady cockroach.

Justin: Yeah, like a sexy lady cockroach. And it's wearing a dress, and um... That's heteronormative. I don't know what the, what the cockroach's thing is.

Travis: Whatever the cockroach is attracted to. It's his greatest desire.

Justin: Okay, yeah, it's like it sees, in itself— No, it's just like—

Griffin: You create a sexual— a sexual mirror of desire.

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: That projects— That's kind of sophisticated for you to make an illusion of. [chuckles]

Justin: It's a sophisticated illusion. How about this then? It's an illusion of a sandwich, that, like, with a...

Griffin: Is wearing a dress.

Clint: [cackles]

Travis: It's a very sexual sandwich.

Justin: It's like a garbage sandwich that a cockroach would just go bananas for.

Clint: Yeah.

Griffin: Okay, uh...

Justin: It's like dancing. And it's like singing that "Let's All Go To The Lobby" song.

Griffin: [laughs]

Clint: [sings] "Let's all go to the lobby."

Justin: This is— This is important, by the way, I am not risking my actual sandwich.

Clint: [laughs]

Justin: In any sort of distraction-based activities. I cannot risk it falling onto the ground of this filthy elevator museum, so it is— I'm not— I am holding onto the thing with the grip of life.

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: In fact, if I need more than one hand to cast this *Prestidigi*— This, uh... This particular cantrip, I am out.

Griffin: Okay. Uh, yeah, you create a garbage sandwich. A dancing, singing garbage sandwich. Uh, and the cockroach, still attached to Magnus' leg starts to scoot backwards, but like doesn't want to let go of Magnus' leg, so let's do another Strength check as this uh, as this cockroach attempts to pull you backwards out of the elevator.

Travis: That is an 18 plus seven, 25.

Griffin: Aw, that's only an 11. Okay, uh, he— He, uh, he can't pull you backwards out of the elevator, to take you back to his desired sandwich prize. And you hear him sigh, and he sounds kinda bummed out.

Travis: Okay.

Griffin: Now it's your turn.

Clint: So does that mean— Does he let go of him?

Griffin: Uh, no, he's still holding on. The clock has, uh, about six seconds left on it.

Travis: Okay, I'm gonna, free action, put my shield away.

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: I'm gonna grab, um... Oh, let's see. Would it be better to pull off his legs or his mandibles?

Griffin: Oh my god, not again.

Travis: I'm gonna go for the mandibles.

Clint: Yeah!

Travis: 'Cause I've got my— I got my Fletcher's Mitt and my, um, my... magic punching glove.

Griffin: Okay, yeah.

Travis: So I'm not worried about his poison or whatever. I'm gonna grab them and pull them apart.

Griffin: Alright, yeah. Go ahead and wishbone this guy, I guess.

Clint: [imitates the *Rocky* theme music]

Travis: That is a 17 plus seven, 24 folks.

Griffin: Yeah, that's—

Clint: Slorp! [chuckles]

Griffin: Uh, these— these two curved, uh pronged, acidic mandibles come right off your leg, and right off the cockroach, who you hear hiss again, and he kind of rears back. And his, uh... uh... Actually, the two of you guys make another Dexterity saving throw, 'cause there is gonna be a— just a little bit of gunk coming out of this guy now.

Travis: That is a 12 plus two, 14.

Clint: Uh, 10 plus nothin', which is 10.

Griffin: Okay, yeah, you both— Uh, both you guys take four acid damage as this thing, uh— produces a... upsetting amount of goop as it rears backwards. But as it rears backwards, the uh, the doors almost with perfect timing, shut, leaving— leaving this now sadly mandible-less uh cockroach back, stuck in Tiny Town.

Uh, and the elevator, Taako, you see it come up to the surface of the glass display case and return to its regular size. Um, and the doors open. And as it does, the lights inside of Tiny Town and the lights— those neon lights all over the elevator, and even the lights in the museum, shut off.

And the three of you actually feel like a jostle, and your stomachs give out just a little bit, as the lab very suddenly moves upward a little bit. And you hear Lucas chime in and say...

Lucas: Wow, great work, guys! Uh, we— we just added a whole lot more time to the clock. I was able to give us an extra like 24 minutes. Uh, that was, that thing was using a lot of power.

Magnus: I'm gonna watch an episode of *Parks and Rec*!

Lucas: Yeah! You got— you got the time for it. What did you think of my city?

Magnus: It was super great.

Travis: I put the mandibles in my bag.

Griffin: Okay, yeah, you put these two—

Merle: Wait a minute, wait a minute, wait a minute! Let's share the mandibles. There's two of 'em.

Magnus: No, they're my fucking mandibles.

Merle: No, they're not!

Taako: Hey, wait. How do we split two mandibles three ways?

Griffin: [chuckles]

Merle: You don't get any, sandwich boy.

Travis: I hu— I hug Taako.

Magnus: Thanks for everything you tried to do.

Griffin: [laughs quietly]

Taako: Well I—

Magnus: I saw you working your face off out here.

Taako: Yeah.

Magnus: I really appreciated it.

Taako: See— Did you see, did you see the sandwich?

Merle: Thanks for risking the sandwich.

Magnus: I did.

Taako: Yeah, no. I never risked my sandwich, don't you ever say that. I just made a pretend sandwich, for you.

Travis: I give one of the mandibles to Merle.

Clint: How wa—

Travis: And when we put the mandibles together, it says "best friends".

Clint: [laughs]

Griffin: [laughs]

[electro music plays]

Griffin: Hey everybody, this is Griffin McElroy. Your Dungeon Master, your best friend, your... yoga instructor. I want you to take a deep breath.

And I want you to hold that breath in. I want you to twist your body up until you feel calm and enlightened and stuff.

Uh, thanks for listening to episode 31 of *The Adventure Zone*. The third, I think, part of the Crystal Kingdom epic saga. Coming soon to a theatre near you, if you listen to podcasts in theatres. Don't do that. You paid for the movie, watch the movie.

[ad break]

Griffin: I have a personal message. If you want to give a personal shout out to somebody on the show, uh it's real easy. Just go to maximumfun.org/jumbotron and figure out how to do it there. [chuckles] I said figure out. We tell you how to do it, there's no puzzle. There— There are no clues you have to unravel.

This message is for Wolfgang, and it's from Gimble, Juzbin, Dag, Korin, and Satoru, your loyal dog squad. Uh, and they all say to Wolfgang. "Wolfgang, you've been a beacon of light in the terrible world you've designed for us. Thank you for DMing us through burning bushes, stone shaper jokes, and so many flippin' dragon eggs. Here's to many more sessions, several spicy chicken sandwiches, and drawing pantsless monks."

I love this. I want this show to be like— I wanna basically become a singing telegram for Dungeons & Dragons players to appreciate their DMs. 'Cause it's hard out there, and he deserves those spicy chicken sandwiches. Bring him a spicy chicken sandwich every game that you play, until he's just so fuckin' sick of the things that when he sees a spicy chicken sandwich, he just pukes.

One last personal message, this one is for Kinchi, and it's from Jimmer. What's with the names this week, gang? What's with the names that everybody has? Jimmer says to Kinchi, "Happy 13th Anniversary. Thanks for being the Killian to my Johann." So we're just gonna go ahead and make that... cannon. I don't know that I'm ready to do that yet. Um, it's— I certainly see a lot uh of sparks between the two of them, but uh— And sparks between the two of you, and really, that's all that really matters. Happy 13th Anniversary. Thank you for shipping our characters.

Thank you all for listening to *The Adventure Zone*. We really appreciate your support. If you wanna help us out, you can uh subscribe to the show on iTunes, or leave a review there. It helps get us a little bit of visibility on the iTunes charts. Um, you can uh tweet about the show using the hashtag #TheZoneCast. Uh, I think maybe in the next episode we're going to introduce some new characters, and we might name one after you, if you tweet about the show using the #TheZoneCast hashtag.

[ad break]

[electro music plays]

Griffin: Uh, so the only other thing of note really in this room is the exit into the next arcane airlock. Um, and really it's providing the only source of illumination in this room, now that all the power's gone out in the uh, the... Magical World of Elevators.

Travis: Great, let's do that.

Griffin: 'Kay. Uh yeah, it pops open and you hop inside. It's very similar to the last arcane airlock you were in. It is a brightly illuminated white chamber full of white light. Um, and as you get in, there's another hissing sound as smoke comes out—

Travis: Oh God!

Griffin: And, uh, oh God we can't do that every time, guys. There's gonna be a lot of elevators— There's gonna be a lot of airlocks. We can— We can't snake it up each time.

Travis: Okay, but just know, folks at home, every time Griffin says "hiss", just in your head, think snakes.

Clint: [wheezes]

Griffin: Uh... [chuckles] And uh, yeah there's another Y-branch. There's another sign hanging in between these two rooms right in front of you. Um... One of the signs is labeled "Radiation Ventilation Maintenance Chamber".

Travis: Uh-huh.

Griffin: And the other direction is labeled "Little Genius Buddy Bot R&D".

Travis: I feel like this is trick. Like if we went— Why would Griffin make it a Y-chamber, when he so clearly wants us to go to the right. If we go to the left, maybe that takes us straight to Lucas.

Clint: I think he's been playing *Fallout*. [chuckles]

Justin: I—

Griffin: No.

Travis: It does sound like that.

Clint: Can we take a rest? I'm down to 20 points. 20 hit points.

Justin: Oh.

Griffin: I mean, you only got about— You only got about 28 minutes.

Travis: How long's a short rest?

Griffin: Like an hour.

Justin: Yeah.

Travis: What?

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: You— Don't you have healing spells?

Clint: Can I cast one of my healing spells?

Griffin: Yeah, sure.

Clint: I'll, uh, I'll burn *Prayer of Healing*.

Griffin: Okay.

Clint: Actually, I can cast it— Are you full hit— ?

Justin: I'm good.

Clint: Okay, I'll cast it on me and Magnus.

Griffin: Okay.

Clint: Alright, five plus six, which is 11.

Travis: Great.

Griffin: 'Kay.

Clint: Oh, wait wait wait. 2d8, right?

Griffin: Tight.

Clint: Seven.

Justin: 18.

Clint: So...

Travis: Nice.

Griffin: 18 points of damage. Or, healing. What's the opposite of damage?

Justin: [snorts]

Travis: Non-damage. Undamage?

Griffin: Now that you've been thoroughly undamaged. Uh, time to make your choice.

Clint: What was the— What was the one to the left?

Griffin: The "Radiation Ventilation Maintenance Chamber". And the other one was the "Little Genius Buddy Bot R&D".

Travis: Okay. I— I feel like we're supposed to go to the buddy bot one, 'cause it's the one that sounds fun.

Griffin: Go whichever one your tummy tells you to go to.

Justin: [snorts]

Travis: What do you think, Justin?

Taako: Who's Justin?

Clint: Taako.

Travis: No, this is OOC.

Justin: Nope.

Clint: Fantasy Justin.

Justin: Fantasy Justin. Oh, do you—

Griffin: I wanna— I—

Justin: Do you wanna speak to Fantasy Justin? Let me get him for you. "Hello."

Clint: [laughs]

Travis: Which one do you think we should do?

Justin: "You're on the line— You're on the line with Fantasy Justin. I understand you guys are playing some Dungeons & Dragons."

Griffin: [chuckles]

Justin: "Uh, would love to hear your queries. Just very— "

Griffin: "I take a— I take a ball out."

Justin: "Just press three, if you wanna hear what my fantasies are, and press four for a dice roll."

Griffin: And if I press the—

Clint: “Catchin’ a bit of coffee right now.”

Griffin: If I press the hang up button, does the— does that end everything?

Justin: “Well, you’re charged per minute, so you are charged for the first minute.”

Clint: Hi, Fantasy Justin. Long time listener, first time caller.

Griffin: [chuckles]

Justin: “Wow. Caller, so good to hear from you.”

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: “So...”

Clint: We got a question out there and it’s from a Maggie Nuss.

Justin: “Lot of people are saying ar— is magic real? And the answer is yes, of course it is.”

Clint: Magnus, go ahead. You’ve got Fantasy Justin on the line.

Justin: “Magic is the real thing.”

Travis: I hate both of you so much right now.

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: I don’t know which—

Travis: Should we go to the left or the right?

Clint: What do they think, Fantasy Justin?

Justin: “Comin’ up in the next hour, Peabo Bryson.”

Travis & Griffin: [cackles]

Justin: "Oh man, nothing says love in a fantasy time like Peabo."

Clint: This is "Yah Mo B There". "Yah Mo B There".

Griffin: "This is Fantasy— This is Fantasy Justin filling in for Delilah."

Clint: [laughs]

Griffin: "Who I killed and have taken over her life, *The Talented Mr Ripley* style. Okay."

Justin: "If you're like me out there, you are just lookin' for that shoulder to cry on. If you're like me out there also, you're wearing Delilah's skin."

Griffin: Okay.

Clint: [wheezes]

Justin: "Fantasy Justin on the line."

Clint: And remember, put in the promo code "Fantasy Justin".

Justin: "If you want 1-800-PRO-FLOWERS..."

Clint: [laughs]

Griffin: [chuckles] The—

Justin: "To show the fantasy person in your life— "

Clint: Let's go to Little Groaty.

Justin: I wan— Yeah, let's go to the little buddy bot. That sounds fun.

Griffin: "Little Genius Buddy Bot R&D"?

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: Okay. Uh, you place your hand on the door to the right, it opens, and reveals a much smaller room than the one you were just in. It is, uh— It's a circular room, with a vaulted ceiling, um and about 15 feet high. And uh, it's pretty dark in here actually. There's only a single light straight overhead that is shining down on a pedestal in the center of the room. And uh on the— On that pedestal, you see, almost kind of like built into the pedestal, you see a adorable little robot.

Magnus: Dibs!

Griffin: Uh, and this little robot uh is uh— He's got like an LED display face, that right now is just showing two closed eyes and one thin, closed mouth. Seems to be in idle mode. Uh, and it's pretty cute looking, except for one sort of problem, and that is this robot, and in fact pretty much the entire room, is pretty badly scorched.

Travis: Hmm...

Griffin: Yeah, he's been— He's been blackened a little bit, uh... But as you enter into the room and the airlock seals behind you, his eyes open up and he plays a little power up tune.

[electric power up sound effect plays]

[electronic background music plays, as in 8-bit video games]

Griffin: Uh, as he turns on, and he says...

Hodge Podge: [in a robotic, digital voice] Hello there! My name is... Hodge Podge! Are you kids ready to learn?

Magnus: Yes.

Taako: Yeah. I could learn.

Merle: Sure.

Hodge Podge: Please say your names.

Magnus: Um, Magnus.

Hodge Podge: Magnus.

Justin: Is that what Magnus sounds like? Gosh, Trav, I'm really shocked.

Travis: Magnus has had a bit of a sore throat lately.

Griffin: [chuckles]

Merle: Merle.

Hodge Podge: Merle.

Taako: Taako.

Hodge Podge: Tay-ko. Welcome.

Clint: [chuckles]

Hodge Podge: Thank you for playing. Are you excited to learn?

Magnus: Yeah.

Taako: Yeah.

Magnus: Always!

Hodge Podge: Please select a difficulty setting. Child, adult, or master.

Magnus: [quickly] Chi-child!

Hodge Podge: Child, accepted. [chuckles]

Justin: [chuckles] I call that— I call A—

Hodge Podge: Chi— Child mode activated.

Justin: Before anybody else does anything, I call Angus.

Griffin: Okay.

Angus McDonald: Hey, this is Angus. What's up?

Taako: Angus. Are you dow—

Angus McDonald: What's crackin'?

Taako: Hey, listen, are you down here? 'Cause I could swear I'm talking to you right now. Are you down here?

Clint: [laughs]

Angus McDonald: No, I'm back in the— I'm in the Director's office. We're working to figure out what that thing was. That crystal golem that attacked you.

Taako: Oh, a likely story. Do you have a brother?

Angus McDonald: No, I—

Taako: I swear to good, there's a little robot down here that—

Magnus: Did you sell your voice for like a robot company?

Taako: Did you sell your voice to a robot company?

Angus McDonald: Do you think I'm a robot?

Taako: [simultaneously] Yes.

Magnus: [simultaneously] No.

Taako: A friendly robot.

Angus McDonald: No, I'm a flesh boy.

Taako: A fle—

Travis: [giggles]

Clint: Oh my god, this just gets worse!

Taako: That's the worst way you could say a person.

Clint: A flesh boy?!

Angus McDonald: If— If you— If you guys— I need to get back to work. Do you need something?

Magnus: No.

Angus McDonald: Is it pressing?

Magnus: No.

Merle: Oh, I'm sorry! Are we inconveniencing you?

Taako: Yeah, sorry.

Merle: When we're about to get blown up and burned up?!

Angus McDonald: Help m— Help me—

Taako: If we don't wanna talk to you, you disappear from existence, right? Ask anybody. That's how it works.

Griffin: Um, Lucas chimes in, through the pendant, and he says uh...

Lucas: Oh, uh, well that's, uh... That's— That's Hodge Podge, the Buddy Bot. He-He's there. He's one of my inventions I'm most proudest of. Um, because he's gonna teach the youth of tomorrow to be you know sharp, like me. Um, we can't have a better tomorrow if the children of tomorrow aren't educated to be you know whip-smart adults. So I made Hodge Podge to sort of pass some of my, my intellect on to the future generations! He's— He's a real sweetheart.

Magnus: Cool.

Lucas: Um—

Magnus: What's he do?

Lucas: Uh, he just, you know, quizzes you on stuff. And you learn, and you become smarter by being quizzed on stuff.

Magnus: Oh, okay. Oh, yeah yeah. That sounds straight forward. What about the fire?

Merle: We get smarter?!

Lucas: What about the what?

Magnus: Fire?!

Lucas: Oh. Oh, yeah that's right. The room was in R&D mode. We had to— We had it, uh— We were doing some stress-testing on him, just to make sure you know before we release him as a commercial product, he can stand up to you know enormous amounts of pressure, or—

Magnus: For when kids set him on fire.

Lucas: Well, yeah. If a kid put him in an oven, we didn't want him to like break immediately. He's gonna be a pretty expensive toy, so you know, the room has some um, some stress-testing capabilities. But just like don't go around poking into the— poking on the walls and it'll be fine.

Justin: [quietly] Sounds like us...

Lucas: If you could actually run through his programme, you'll be able to shut him down and I'll be able to remotely turn that room off. So, um, get to work.

Taako: Alright, yeah. Child mode, Robbie.

Hodge Podge: Child mode activated. Thank you for playing.

Magnus: Alright, Boy Wonder. Let's do this.

Justin: [snorts]

Hodge Podge: Please select a category, kids. The categories are—

Travis: Thank you.

Hodge Podge: — Math, science, magic, spelling, problem solving, history.

Travis: So not— Okay.

Clint: No movies?

Taako: Nothin' about food?

Hodge Podge: Math, science, magic, spelling, problem solving. And history.

Taako: I'll take magic.

Hodge Podge: We'll start with magic, child mode. Name a spell.

[pause]

Justin: [snorts]

Merle: *Zone of Truth!*

[electronic success sound effect plays]

Hodge Podge: That's right! That's a spell! Discrepancy detected. Error detected. Please wait. Biometric scan shows the three of you are not children.

Magnus: Well...

Hodge Podge: Difficulty setting changed to master.

Magnus: Well. Hold on.

Hodge Podge: Please select a category.

Merle: [chuckles] If we're talking about emotional growth...

Travis: Yeah.

Merle: I— I'm really good at spelling.

Travis: I whisper to them...

Magnus: Spelling or problem-solving.

Hodge Podge: Spelling selected.

Magnus: What?

Merle: What? No! Wait, wait!

Hodge Podge: Please spell the name of the magical creature, "aarakocra".

Justin: [cackles]

Hodge Podge: Please spell "aarakocra".

Magnus: No.

Clint: Aarakocra? Um... Ara—

Magnus: E-R-I-C—

[electronic failure sound effect plays]

Magnus: Damnit.

Hodge Podge: Incorrect.

Magnus: Eric Kokra! I went to middle school with him.

Hodge Podge: Incorrect.

Magnus: No, I did.

Hodge Podge: Please wait.

Griffin: Uh, it starts to make a pretty horrific buzzing sound. And then—

Clint: Here comes the fire...

Griffin: And then you hear, uh, some almost like some old dial-up beeps and boops coming out of him. And then you hear, uh, a pretty— a much deeper and less friendly voice come out of him. Uh, and he says...

Hodge Podge: [in an ominous, gravelly voice] Accessing R&D facilities. Accessing flame jets.

Travis: I reach down and turn my belt to fire.

Justin: [snorts]

Griffin: Uh, okay. Yeah, you very quickly turn your, your elemental belt to fire. Uh, and you feel a wave of warmth wash over you. And then all three of you feel a wave of warmth wash over you as small holes open up in the room, uh all around you, and jets of flame blast out of each one. Uh, uh, for about one second, you are wreathed in flame, so all of you make a Dexterity saving throw, please.

Travis: An— Oop, that's not good. Seven plus fou— Ah, no, two. Nine!

Clint: [gasps]

Justin: 17.

Clint: Five.

Travis: Wow! Are you using the right die? Are you rolling a d6?

Griffin: Yeah, these have been some real stinkers, Merle. One more time, what were those numbers?

Clint: 25.

Griffin: No.

Justin: 17 for Taako.

Griffin: Okay, Taako you, you— [imitates a swish of wind] you duck down behind the pedestal and get out of the way of these jets.

Justin: I lift up, at the last second—

Travis: Nine for Magnus.

Justin: I lift up my sandwich to get a nice little toast goin’.

Griffin: [chuckles] Okay.

Travis: Oh, nice.

Griffin: How long are— You just nursing that sandwich?

Justin: Uh-huh, it’s the first sandwich I’ve ever encountered in the entire world, ever.

Griffin: Okay.

Clint: And he’s bogarting it.

Griffin: Fair.

Clint: Uh, the late Merle Highchurch rolled a five.

Griffin: [cackles]

Justin: In his final act! [laughs]

Clint: Of defiance! [laughs]

Griffin: Ooo, okay. Merle, you take 10 points of damage. Magnus, you take 5, because your elemental belt gives you resistance.

Travis: Cool.

Taako: Okay, so listen. May—

Hodge Podge: [normal] Don’t give up! I know that you can do better than that. Don’t give up!

Taako: Okay, next time, we don’t just have to fuckin’ spell, okay? We have like skills and stuff. We can roll dice.

Travis: Yeah.

Hodge Podge: Please, select a— select a category. Math, science—

Magnus: Problem-solving.

Clint: But first! Let me cast *Shield of Faith*.

Justin: What's that do?

Clint: *Shield of Faith*. Shimmering field appears and surrounds— Oh, a creature of your choice. No, that's alright. I don't wanna just cast it on me, if I can't protect everybody.

Justin: Aww... Alright.

Travis: Cast it on him. I don't know why, but—

Clint: No.

Griffin: [chuckles]

Clint: Go ahead, I'm sorry.

Magnus: Problem-solving.

Hodge Podge: Problem-solving.

Merle: Yeah, problem-solving. 'Cause we're really good at that. [laughs]

Hodge Podge: Problem-solving, master level selected. Three houses occupy a lonely village in the wilderness. One house is red, one is yellow, and the other blue. The houses are occupied by three beings; a dwarf, an orc, and a human. One of those three owns the sharpest axe in the land. Another, the most balanced sword in the land. And another, the heaviest hammer in the land. Using the following clues, please tell me the color of each house, from left to right, the occupants of each house, and the weapons of each person.

Your clues are: The dwarf and orc hate each other and refuse to be neighbors. The human lives in a blue house. The orc does not use swords. The yellow house contains the hammer. The human lives to the left of the dwarf. The red house is on the far left.

Magnus: One more time.

Merle: Eat me.

Taako: Please repeat the question.

Hodge Podge: Please give me your answer.

Taako: Repeat the question, please. Just once.

Hodge Podge: Awaiting your answer.

Justin: [snorts]

Hodge Podge: Repeated questions are prohibited on master level.

Magnus: The, the... The or—

Merle: Can you use it in a sentence?

Magnus: The order of the houses... from left to right, is red, yellow, blue. Occupied by the orc, the dwarf, the human. Human has the hammer. The... orc has the axe, and the dwarf has the other one.

Hodge Podge: Almost completely wrong.

[electronic failure sound effect plays]

Clint: [cackles]

Hodge Podge: Of the matrix of answers you provided, you had nine options to be correct, and you got very few of them correct.

Magnus: Awesome.

Hodge Podge: I expected more from the three of you playing on master level. Why did you not choose a lower difficulty setting?

Magnus: To be fair, we did.

Justin: [chuckles quietly]

Hodge Podge: I will offer you a second chance.

Clint: The dwarf has to live in the first house.

Travis: But isn't—

Clint: The dwarf has to live in the first house. Human in the second house, and the orc in the third house. Has to be.

Travis: Yeah. Okay.

Clint: Well, that's my part. Contribute. [laughs]

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: The human's in the blue house.

Justin: So the human can't be on the far left.

Clint: No, the human has to be in the middle. That's the only choice. Human has to be in the middle.

Justin: Okay.

Travis: Okay, okay, okay.

Clint: So, probably balanced sword.

Travis: Okay, got it. Got it got it got it. Okay. I know this. The order of the houses is yellow, blue, red.

Justin: Wait, from left to right?

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: He— He said the last clue was the red house was on the far left.

Travis: Oh, sorry, that's what I mean. Red, blue, yellow.

Clint: Right.

Justin: Right.

Clint: The human is—

Travis: The occupants is orc, human, dwarf.

Clint: Orc, human, dwarf.

Justin: Right.

Travis: And the weapons, I have no idea.

Clint: Well, the human has to have the sword.

Justin: And the hammer is in the yellow house, right?

Travis: Yes.

Justin: Yeah, so the— it would be... Axe, sword, hammer.

Hodge Podge: Your answer, please.

Magnus: Okay.

Merle: Okay, um.

Magnus: The order of the houses is red, blue, yellow.

[electronic success sound effect plays]

Magnus: The order of the occupants is orc, human, dwarf.

[electronic success sound effect plays]

Magnus: The order of the weapons is axe, sword, hammer.

[electronic success sound effect plays]

Hodge Podge: Congratulations. The three of you might just become geniuses after all! Like me! Your buddy, Hodge Podge!

Magnus: Thanks, Hodge Podge. You're a real dick.

Clint: We completely— We completely broke character there.

Hodge Podge: Please select a category.

Merle: How many of these damn things we gotta answer?!

Hodge Podge: Until you're [sinister] geniuses. [normal] Please select a category.

Travis: I attack him with my hammer. Or, my axe.

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: That's a 18 plus seven, 25.

Griffin: Okay.

Clint: [laughs]

Griffin: Uh, roll damage.

Travis: Oh, yeah yeah yeah. D10... That's a 10 plus six, 16.

Griffin: Uh, you actually only do eight damage to him. Uh, and he says...

Hodge Podge: Oh, be careful! You're playing [evil voice] a little rough.

Griffin: And then the holes in the wall light up again.

Clint: Oh, no...

Griffin: Another spout of flame shoots out at all three of you. Dexterity saving throws, please.

Clint: [sighs]

Travis: Uh, 16 plus two, 18.

Griffin: Okay.

Clint: Lucky number 13.

Justin: A two. [wheezes] Wait.

Clint: Dexterity.

Justin: Wait. I got a Dexterity modifier. That's a six.

Griffin: Oh, well that doesn't do it! Uh, Ter— Taako and Merle, uh the two of you take... uh that's eight damage each.

Clint: Aw...

Griffin: As you are wreathed in flames.

Hodge Podge: Play easy! You don't want to [evil voice] break me, do you?

Merle: [nervously] No.

Travis: Oh wait, I have a great idea.

Clint: No, you don't. You just had a horrible idea.

Travis: I do! Hear me out. Hear me out. I pick up my Stone of Far Speech.

Magnus: Angus!

Angus McDonald: Yeah, what's up?

Magnus: I want you to just stay on the channel and listen.

Angus McDonald: Yeah, okay. That's great. Um, what are you doin'?

Magnus: Uh, there's like a robot, who's like asking us questions, and I want you to—

Angus McDonald: Oh, like a puzzle game! That's my favorite.

Magnus: Yeah, I thought that might be the case.

Justin: Yeah, it is. Alright, we just set— Can we just set the stone in front of the robot and can we leave? Or, can we just—

Travis: Yeah. We're good now, right?

Justin: We're good now, right?

Travis: Griffin, you can talk to yourself.

Griffin: The robot says, uh...

Hodge Podge: Please select a category. Math, science—

Taako: Ma— uh, spelling.

Hodge Podge: Spelling. I'll give you another chance. Spell "aarakocra".

Griffin: And Angus uh chimes in and says...

Angus McDonald: Oh, guys, this one's easy. It's A-A-R-A-K-O-C-R-A!
Tell him! A-A-R-A—

Magnus: A-A-R-A—

Angus McDonald: K-O-C-R-A.

Magnus: K-O-C-R-A.

[electronic success sound effect plays]

Hodge Podge: That's right.

Clint: [sighs in relief]

Hodge Podge: Please wait. Error detected.

Travis: Tits.

Justin: [snorts]

Hodge Podge: External communication detected. The three of you aren't cheating, are you?

Magnus: No!

Merle: A little.

Taako: We might be.

Griffin: [chuckles]

Magnus: No!

Griffin: Uh, uh, the room starts to glow blue a little bit, and then you hear Angus go, uh...

Angus McDonald: Hey, guys? Is something go— Guys is a— I can't— Wrong with— Oh—

Griffin: And then the line goes dead.

Travis: Okay.

Hodge Podge: Now it's just the four of us. It's time to have [evil voice] some real fun.

[outro music plays]

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