

The Adventure Zone Balance: The Crystal Kingdom, Chapter Nine

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Griffin: Previously on *The Adventure Zone*:

Taako: Abra-ca-fuck-you!

[all laugh]

Justin: And I— I cast Magic Missile at him.

Magic Brian: I'm going to die now...

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: And you don't see Jenkins anymore. He is gone. He has been deposited out of the back of the train. You hear him go...

Jenkins: [fading away] Smell you later...

Griffin: And it is Maarvey, the only surviving member of the Hammerhead Gang. You bring the axe down on him. Uh, he spins a full 360 degrees, and then he—

Travis: Is he dead?

Griffin: And then he falls to the ground, dead. Through that window you can see what appears to be a pretty large glass cylindrical fuse, which illuminates whenever this thing talks.

Noelle: My name is Noelle.

Travis: I might've just figured out what those fuses are for.

Griffin: You see three shapes appear. One is sort of massive, massively built, kind of gorilla-like. Another is much more slender, with what looks like a cannon for an arm. And another one is very short, and has what appears to be, like a bunch of wires sticking out of it.

Maarvey: Oh my God, I can't believe it's you guys!

Magic Brian: Oh, yes. This is going to be a lovely little rematch, isn't it?

Jenkins: That's right, motherfuckers. It's time for round two.

Announcer: Can our heroes claim victory once again against their old nemeses? I don't know, I haven't listened yet. Don't spoil it for me. It's *The Adventure Zone!*

[theme music plays]

Griffin: I think we should kick things off with a little bit of initiative.

Justin: Oh.

Griffin: I think we should take initiative in this new podcast episode we're recording.

Travis: I'm excited. This is my first time rolling my new dice.

Griffin: Oh, what are they, whalebone?

Travis: No, I got a beautiful translucent green emerald kind of thing.

[dice roll]

Justin: What if they got stank on 'em?

Griffin: You got that elephant dick bone...

Clint: [laughs]

Griffin: ... carved...

[multiple dice rolls]

Travis: And I rolled a 15. Good start.

Griffin: Good work, guys.

Clint: I rolled a 15. But I roll another one.

[dice roll]

Travis: That's 17 total for me.

Clint: Oh. Right. I rolled a 15. [dice roll] Plus... nothing.

Justin: It's a 12 for cha boy.

Clint: Hm?

Justin: 12 for cha boy.

Griffin: Cha boy gets 12. I just wrote 12. That's not your name. Your name's Taako.

Justin: Yeah. Who— okay.

Griffin: How are you guys doing? While I roll four different initiatives?

[multiple dice rolls]

Travis: Good, good.

Justin: I think they could just round up. In the rules, the official rules, I think you can just round— average 'em. Right?

Griffin: Yeah, sure, why not? So, first in the order, uh... well, before we do anything, these robots are just kind of cackling maniacally at you.

Travis: I cackle right back! A backle!

Magnus: [cackles]

Griffin: Now you're having a cackle battle.

Travis: A cack-off.

Griffin: The one with a cannon for an arm says, uh...

Magic Brian: I've got to say, I am so psyched for this rematch. I have been looking forward to this for— well, since I was vanquished. And I got to say, I'm so glad to be here with you two bros. My two main men, Jenkins and Maarvey. I'm just so psyched to, um— to have this opportunity to whoop some— to whoop— to whoop their booty-poo asses with you. So, um... let's just have a good, clean fight, and may the best robot win, I suppose.

Magnus: Magic B?

Magic Brian: Yes.

Clint: Break!

Magnus: Are you... are you a ghost in the machine?

Magic Brian: Uh... it would seem that way. You kicked me very good. And remember the following. I cast a Magic Missile at you, Taako, and then you cast one back at me, and our friendship, our budding friendship was betrayed. I thought the we might have a good thing going, and I...

Griffin: He reaches— well, he can't reach into his pocket.

Magic Brian: If I was still living, I would have reached into my pocket and shown you. I had— I was— I had a wedding invitation for you to come to my marriage ceremony.

Merle: Ooh, [sing-song] awkward.

Magic Brian: And instead of RSVPing to it, you murdered me.

Magnus: What's death like?

Magic Brian: It's pretty chill. You go over there and you're like— you just kind of float around in a big pool made up of, like, the sort of collected memories of everyone who's ever lived. It's like— it's pretty chill, actually. But I prefer living. And, uh, you know, I was so close to getting my hands on that sweet, sweet Phoenix Fire Gauntlet. So, you know, Daddy's got to get his.

Travis: I mean, you guys could just go away now. You got these new robot bodies. We don't have to fight and kill you again.

Jenkins: As good as that sounds, I would love to get back to my usual sort of MO, my daily routine. I have a beautiful garden that I need to go back and tend to.

Magnus: [hisses]

Jenkins: I have some begonias that, uh...

Magnus: Oh no.

Jenkins: What's wrong?

Magnus: Uh, nothing. Your garden is great.

Jenkins: How would you know how my— oh, you've been tending to it since you murdered me?

Magnus: Yep! Totally.

Jenkins: It seems like the least you could do, after getting my ass thrown off the back of a moving train is see to my plants and my begonias and my fruits and my lilies.

Magnus: Yep. They're all fine.

Taako: Are we fighting, or what?

Griffin: Jenkins says, uh...

Jenkins: Oh, yeah, we can— let's move on to that. 'Cause I'm actually—

Taako: I feel like— listen. I'm not here to dictate the narrative, but I feel like we've really explored your individual arcs pretty thoroughly. I'd like to get to the part where I shoot you in the chest with an acid arrow.

Jenkins: It's too bad that you're going last in the initiative order, then.

Griffin: Jenkins actually goes first.

Travis: He beat a 17?!

Griffin: Yeah, Jenkins whooped ass. Uh... Jenkins is this little robot, kind of spherical, that kind of looks like a Fry Guy a little bit, except he has all of these, like, individually moving waving wires. Um, and then his, like, fuse is sort of embedded in the middle of it. You can see it behind a little circular window. Um, his fuse starts to glow really brightly, and some sparks start to shoot off of all those different wires that are poking out of his spherical body. And this weird wave, and kind of like a supersonic sound comes out of him. And I'm going to need all of you to roll a wisdom saving throw.

Travis: Griffin, real quick, before I do that, with the Shield of Memories, does this count as robots, which I have told the shield about before?

Griffin: Yeah, this would count as robots.

Justin: Three for me.

[multiple dice rolls]

Griffin: Oh my Jesus, Justin.

Justin: Yeah, not good.

Clint: 23 for me.

Travis: A 12 for me.

Griffin: Holy shit. Uh—

Travis: 12 is good!

Griffin: The good news—

Travis: Abo— it's in the top 50%.

Griffin: Yeah. The good news is that Merle and Carey cleared their saving rolls. This spell didn't seem to have any effect on Noelle at all. The bad news is that Taako and Magnus, you have been confused.

Travis: Well, what else is new?

Griffin: This is a fun spell, and we're gonna resolve it when we get to your turns. Um, in fact, let's go ahead and get to the resolution right now, 'cause Magnus, you're up next. Before you do anything, my friend, I need you to roll 1d10.

[dice roll]

Travis: That was a 10.

Griffin: Oh, shit, okay. Uh, you can act and move normally.

Travis: Yeah! What was the deal? What was I trying to do?

Griffin: Oh. Well, let's not ruin it. Let's not ruin the surprise.

Travis: Alright, cool. I'm going to charge the gorilla one.

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: And I'm gonna try to axe into that panel in the front with the fuse in it.

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: So, yeah. I guess I'll just, like, two-handed Railsplitter that shit.

Griffin: Okay.

[dice roll]

Travis: That is not good. That was a critical miss.

Griffin: Yeah. You bring your axe down. You sort of do a horizontal hard chop, and that glass is made of way, way, way, way sturdier stuff than you thought. It's basically like the shit that they put in those big tanks and aquariums, and you don't even leave a scuff mark on that shit.

Travis: Okay. Well... time to try again with my second attack. [laughs quietly]

Griffin: Okay.

[dice roll]

Travis: That's a lot better. That's a 19 plus 7, 26?

Griffin: That's a mi— no, I'm just kidding. That's a hit. Uh, yeah, go ahead and roll damage.

Travis: I'm also going to use goading attack. When an attack lands, dice plus damage equals wisdom saving throw. On fail, target has disadvantage on attack not against you.

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: Well, yeah. I'll do the damage first. So...

Griffin: Yeah, roll that first.

Travis: 1d10 plus 6...

[dice roll]

Travis: That's another 10. So 16 damage.

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: And then...

[dice roll]

Travis: It would have to be a 22 wisdom saving throw.

Griffin: Well, that simply won't happen. I mean, Maarvey was not a smart man to begin with, and now he's inhabiting a giant gorilla robot body.

[dice roll]

Griffin: Uh, yeah, no. I do not save.

Travis: Okay. So, 16 damage, and then disadvantage on any attack not against me.

Griffin: Okay. I'm gonna actually demand that you say something to goad him while you hit him.

Magnus: Hey, do you remember how easy it was to kill you the first time? I plan on doing that again.

Maarvey: Yeah, you chopped me—

Magnus: And we threw your body off a cliff! Off a cliff! Your loved ones will never find it. They probably have no idea you're even dead.

Maarvey: Hold the phone. Because right now, what you just said? That was racist. Because I know me and Barbara sounded alike, but I'm Maarvey.

Magnus: Uh-huh?

Maarvey: Barb— Barb— listen. Listen, Barb. Barbara told me the raw deal you gave him when we were over on the other side, and it was rough stuff. You didn't throw me—

Magnus: How did we kill you? I don't even remember.

Maarvey: You didn't throw me off a cliff or nothing. I'm too tough for that. You cut me in half.

Justin: [laughs]

Magnus: Oh, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah. Sorry, it didn't register. It wasn't even that big— it wasn't even in my top ten kills.

Maarvey: Well... let's see if I can make a mark in that book on my— in my...

Magnus: What?

Maarvey: Fuck— hey, fuck you!

Clint: [laughs]

Justin: Travis, you're fighting Paul Blart Mall Cop.

Travis: [laughs]

Clint: [laughs]

Justin: Right now.

Travis: Um, did I do any specific damage to the glass panel?

Griffin: Uh, yeah. You left a big crack in it. You didn't get all the way into it, and there doesn't seem to be any kind of, like, soul juice leaking out of it, but you did crack it.

Travis: Great.

Griffin: Next in the order is Maarvey, who says, uh...

Maarvey: You know what? Let's, uh— let's actually see if we can't start— right— let's see if we can't— let me get my pen out and dip it in the ol' inkwell and start writing down—

Magnus: [cartoonishly snores]

Maarvey: —somethin' in my book— hey! I'm doing my best out here!

Griffin: Um, he rears back one of his giant fists. This fist is, like, the size of your torso. His frame, like I said, is heavily armored, very tank-like. He's got these two sort of small bent legs that is not really holding up his frame as much as his, like, two arms with these two giant fists at the end of 'em is. Uh, and he doesn't seem to have any kind of, like, discernible head. His fuse is just kind of right in the middle of his body, and it is now cracked. But anyway, he rears back one of these ginormo fists, and—

Travis: I duck.

Griffin: —uh, tries to pummel you.

Travis: Weren't expecting that, were you?

Griffin: Uh, he hits you for— he rolls a 24?

Travis: That does hit.

Griffin: Uh...

[multiple dice rolls]

Griffin: Uh, he hits you for 18 points of damage. And he sends you flying backwards. Make a dexterity saving throw for me.

[dice roll]

Travis: That's a critical miss! So far not great, new dice.

Griffin: You land on your back, and you slide a ways, so you are prone.

Travis: Gotcha.

Griffin: Next in the order is Merle.

Clint: Alright. This is the new Merle. This is the new competent...

Griffin: Oh, boy. I'm very excited for this new Merle.

Clint: Well-read, confident Merle. I will be throwing spells around like a dog shaking off puddle water.

Griffin: Is this your— is this your press conference to— "Hello, everybody."

Clint: This is the new... ladies and gentlemen, this is the new Merle Highchurch. He casts Dispel Magic on his friend, Taako, to try to get rid of this confusion that he has. And with Dispel Magic, you choose one creature. He is a creature, so he... chooses him.

Griffin: I doubt that's how he prefers to be referred to, is as a crea— unless that was his nickname in college.

Clint: It's him. It's Taako. Any spell of third level or lower on the target ends. So... that's been—

Travis: Period.

Clint: That's been cast. Period.

Griffin: I really am— I want to tell you something, Dad. I am so—

Clint: You're liking this?

Griffin: I like it. I'm so proud of you. You're learning how to play the game of Dungeons and Dragons, which is good, 'cause we've been doing it for a little over a year and a half now.

Clint: Yes sir.

Griffin: Um, Confusion is a fourth level enchantment.

[pause]

Justin: [snorts]

Clint: Well, I'm casting this in my sixth level slot.

Griffin: You definitely, definitely don't have that.

Justin: For sure. Defo.

Clint: Then I'm casting it as a fourth level slot. *Because!* For each spell of fourth level or higher on the target, make an ability check using your spellcasting ability.

[pause]

Clint: [triumphant laughter]

Griffin: [laughs] What is wrong with you?! What does any of this mean?

Travis: He's so— he's so—

Clint: [simultaneously] I'm— I'm confident.

Travis: He's so overjoyed that he almost knows what he's talking about.

Clint: The DC... on a successful check, the spell ends. So... consider the spell ended.

Travis: Did you roll?

Griffin: Did you roll? Did you do any of the shit?

Clint: I'm getting ready to do...

Justin: Yeah. That wasn't Dad misunderstanding. That was him being braggadocious.

Clint: I'm preparing to do...

Justin: Consider it ended!

Clint: ... the shit.

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: Here comes the shit, everybody.

Clint: What am I rolling?

Justin: Exactly.

Griffin: Uh, a d20.

Clint: Shut up, Justin. [laughs] A d20.

[dice roll]

Clint: And it's... it's a 3!

Justin: It's a 3 on that one.

Clint: And then I add my spell modifier. Which I believe is a 5.

Griffin: It's 6.

Clint: So it's a 9. So...

Griffin: You did not— you didn't end shit. You didn't dispel shit from shit.

Clint: The— the— how about a little? Could I take the edge off of it, maybe? Maybe he's a little less confused, maybe?

Griffin: No. He's, uh— no, he's still very— he's still, like, really super duper duper confused. Um, I also—

Travis: If anything he's more confused, 'cause he just saw you waggle your fingers at him a bunch and nothing happened.

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: And literally nothing happened.

Clint: [laughs]

Justin: Highly confusing.

Clint: Hello!

Griffin: We do need to resolve the fact that, Taako, when you were confused the spell you were channeling to summon Garyl ended, and he vanished underneath Magnus. Which would've been hilarious if we had thought of it at the time, but...

Justin: Okay.

Clint: Wait, give him an exit line. Let Garyl at least have an exit line.

Justin: Sure. Uh, hold on. Let me come up with something.

Clint: Yeah.

Justin: Okay, I got it. Everybody ready?

Griffin: Mm-hmm.

Clint: Yep.

Garyl: Peace.

Justin: Poof!

Griffin: Alright. Good, I like it. Simple. Straight to the point. Uh, better luck next time, Merle.

Clint: Yeah, right.

Griffin: Next in the order, uh—

Travis: Hey, I'm sorry that Griffin was so mean to you, Dad. I was proud of you. You came at it, you had a plan ready to go.

Griffin: No, I was proud of you too! I wanted that— I wanted that to— yeah, I really wanted that to work out for you.

Clint: We need to reward our initiative. But that's okay.

Griffin: Uh, next in the order is Carey. Carey reaches into her pocket and pulls out what looks like a little white pebble that she throws upwards into the air, and it starts emitting this flashing light, and it kind of, like, hangs in the air emitting this, like, strobe light. And your eyes are kind of, like, naturally drawn to it. And so are your robotic opponents. And... uh, when your eyes kind of adjust as this thing stops blinking and these robots are still kind of looking up at it, you see Carey almost, like, hanging in midair with her arms outstretched with two daggers, one dagger in each hand, which she brings down in a cross chop on Maarvey's back. Uh, and...

[dice roll]

Clint: Wow.

Griffin: Very successfully performs a sneak attack on Maarvey. For...

[multiple dice rolls]

Griffin: Jesus.

[multiple dice rolls]

Griffin: For 28 points of damage!

Clint: Woo!

Travis: What?

Griffin: She buries her two blades in his back.

Travis: I should've been a rogue.

Griffin: You see a shower of sparks shoot out of these two wounds, giving him almost spark wings. Um, and she does a back flip off of his back and lands behind him.

Clint: By the way, if I may say, good move adding characters who are proficient at combat to our group.

Travis: Hey!

Griffin: That was just— that was just—

Travis: Suck a nut!

Griffin: [laughs]

Clint: [laughs]

Travis: I don't know if you remember, one time I kicked somebody out of a train.

Clint: Yeah. Doesn't feel good, does it, Gri— Travis?

Travis: No, but see, I'm actually good at this. [laughs quietly]

Griffin: Next in the order is Taako.

Justin: Uh, do I need to start off rolling a d10?

Griffin: Yes, you do.

[dice roll]

Justin: 8.

Clint: Wow.

Griffin: Uh... okay. With an 8, you... are going to use your action to make a melee attack against a randomly determined creature within its reach. If there's no creature within its reach, the creature does nothing this turn.

[pause]

Justin: Cool.

Griffin: Uh, so within your reach... let me think. Uh, Magnus just rushed up— I think it would only be Merle, is the only thing that would be nearby you.

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: 'Cause Carey just flipped behind the thing, and Magnus ran up there. Um... so go ahead and make a melee attack on Merle.

Justin: [laughs] I've been waiting for this.

[dice roll]

Justin: Uh, what we got there is—[laughs loudly]

Clint: [laughs loudly] Why am I laughing?

Justin: That's a 19. Uh, plus 4.

Clint: Jiminy!

Griffin: That's a good— hey, that's a solid hit. So were you—

Clint: No. It's— oh.

Griffin: Were you just bashing him what umbrastaff? Do you have, like, a dagger? What were you doing?

Justin: I have a short sword. I was using my short sword.

Griffin: Oh, fuck yeah!

Justin: Although if I was confused, would I pull that out?

Griffin: Uh, yeah, yeah, yeah.

Travis: Now, he's not without—

Clint: What if he just pulled out—

Travis: Merle's not within five feet of me, is he?

Griffin: No, no, no.

Travis: Okay. Sorry, Merle!

Clint: No, that would be too nice. Alright.

Griffin: Go ahead and roll damage on that.

Justin: Well, here's the good news.

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: His misfortune ends here.

[dice roll]

Justin: Uh, that's gonna be 5 plus 2, so 7 points of damage.

Travis: Oh yeah. Melee, not Taako's strong suit.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: Merle, I imagine you would be very confused and upset by this.

Clint: No, I'm used to it.

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: You're saying— wait, you're saying Taako—

Travis: "I deserve this."

Griffin: Taako just, like, freaking out in combat and attacking you elicits no response except for "Meh." Just sort of a begrudging sort of acceptance?

Clint: Well, yeah. I knew he was—

Justin: He assumes that I'm— he assumes that it's my retribution for him not successfully removing my confusion.

Clint: Yeah. I knew he was confused, and it's...

Griffin: That's quite the heel turn there, Taako.

Clint: It's not my— not my— not—

Justin: I mean, it is fair to say he did know I was confused somehow. So, I mean, he would just chalk it up to confusion. Personally.

Griffin: That is fair. Next in the order is Magic Brian, who says, uh...

Magic Brian: I've been working on my Magic Missile for a while. Would you like to see it?

Merle: Oh, you left off a word, "Merle," at the end of that statement.

Magic Brian: Oh no, I wouldn't attack you, Merle. We've got no beef here.

Merle: Thanks, buddy!

Magic Brian: Who's ready to see my new and improved Magic Missile?

Magnus: I— I actually am.

Travis: I say from the ground.

Magic Brian: Uh, just kidding. That's some—

Magnus: I like magic.

Magic Brian: That's some level one shit!

Griffin: Uh, and he casts Fireball, a 20-foot radius sphere. So he's gonna kind of point it at the ground in between all three of you. So all of you need to make a dexterity saving throw, and I'm gonna say Magnus, you're gonna have disadvantage on this, since you are prone.

Travis: Yeah, I thought so. Yeah. That makes a lot of sense, Griffin. Good DMing.

[multiple dice rolls]

Travis: Okay. Okay. Well, that's another critical miss!

Griffin: Holy shit.

Justin: [wheezes] Oh man, stink dice!

Travis: New dice, you are shitting the bed.

Clint: Can you burn dice?

Travis: You can, father. I'm about to switch over to the old greenie.

Clint: I rolled 11.

Justin: Yeah, I got a 22.

Griffin: Okay, fuckin' flip wizard Magoo over there.

Justin: I actually rolled a 19, which I feel pretty good about.

Griffin: Expertly leaps into the air and avoids a Fireball that consumes... oh, I need to roll for Carey.

[dice roll]

Travis: All of our fears.

Griffin: Oh, well, Carey was behind them, so no. Carey wouldn't—

Justin: All of our— it consumes our doubts, and we're left feeling braver and more confident.

Clint: [laughs]

Travis: Everything's good now.

Justin: Everything's gonna work out okay.

Griffin: Five... that's a lot of dice on Fireball. I know I've heard you rolling before, Justin, but that's a lot of dice on Fireball.

[dice roll]

Justin: Yeah, it's a lot of dice.

Griffin: Oh my God. Oh my God. Uh, 24 points of damage.

Travis: Oh, snapple!

Justin: Makes me short sword seem like a stiff breeze, doesn't it?

Travis: Okay.

[dice roll]

Griffin: Um, yeah. You are—

Travis: 24, you said?

Griffin: Yeah.

Clint: On each one of us?

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Not me.

Travis: Well, I'm Bloodied.

Griffin: Ooh.

Travis: But just barely.

Griffin: So Magic Brian literally, like, lifts up his cannon arm and, like, grabs his wrist and fuckin' cocks it, and then fires this gigantic, uh, burst of flame at the three of you. Taako, you dodge out of the way, and Magic Brian seems very impressed by that. Uh, but yeah. Magnus, you particularly just catch this one real bad. You're lying on the ground like a... like a—

Travis: Griffin...

Griffin: —like a starter log.

Travis: I have to know. Did it singe my sideburns?

[pause]

Griffin: Um, no. It didn't.

Travis: [relieved sigh] Oh, God. Phew!

Griffin: However, this'll be— this'll be fun. Uh, Merle, your hand is a little bit on fire.

Clint: Yeah, that's fun. [laughs] That is fun!

Travis: Well, remember you got that wood hand? You got that wood hand.

Griffin: You got that wood hand. And that's just, like— that makes sense to me. That feels right in my DM belly.

Clint: Yeah, but green wood doesn't burn.

Griffin: In the—

Clint: Green wood doesn't burn. It's sappy.

Griffin: Um...

Clint: Alright, fine. [blows air]

Griffin: Uh, you can blow on it on your turn, or maybe Jenkins will blow on it, 'cause it's Jenkins' turn. Uh, Jenkins looks at how bad off Maarvey is and casts, uh... Stone Skin. Let me tell you what Stone Skin does, 'cause I know you're wondering. It's like a— so, let me explain. In this game, clerics can cast buffs on the other members of their party to, like, make 'em more survivable and keep 'em from getting hurt and taking damage. Or making them, you know, more... it's like a really good thing that clerics can do. This is the first time that you're learning this information.

Justin: He's not reacting at all.

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: He's acting like you're not even talking about clerics.

Griffin: Uh, the spell turns the flesh of a willing creature—

Justin: [simultaneously] I don't think he's paying attention.

Griffin: —you touch as hard as stone. Until the spell ends, the target has resistant to non-magical bludgeoning, piercing, and slashing damage, so all physical attacks Maarvey has resistance to. Uh, next in the order is Magnus.

Travis: Where am I in relation to Magic Brian?

Griffin: Uh, so you got knocked backwards quite a ways. You're about, maybe... [clicks tongue] 20 feet away from the three robots.

Travis: Okay. Um, so I'm going to stand up.

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: And then I'm gonna action surge, and I'm gonna charge Magic Brian.

Griffin: Ooh, okay.

Travis: So I'm right up on him.

Griffin: Okay, go for it.

Travis: And then with my attack, I'm going to pry his arm off.

Griffin: Oh, this old fuckin' chestnut.

Travis: Well, I just got blasted by his Megaman arm.

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: And I want to— I want to take his arm... off.

Griffin: So, um, I'm not gonna let you do that with an attack. If you want, as an action, to try and pull his arm off, but for you to be able to, like, deal damage and...

Travis: No, okay, that's fair. Yeah, we'll make it— this is my standard action then, instead of an attack, is I'm gonna use my crowbar—

Griffin: Oh my god.

Travis: —to pry his arm off.

Griffin: Okay. Yeah, I'll give you, uh— it's gonna be a pretty high check, but I'll give you advantage, since you have the crowbar thing.

[multiple dice rolls]

Travis: Well, that's a 19. Plus my strength, is a 26.

Griffin: Uh... pop!

Magic Brian: [pained yelling] Oh no! I'm just kidding, I can't feel anything. But, uh, it is a bummer! I, uh—

Travis: And then my second attack...

Magic Brian: Uh-oh.

Travis: I'm gonna hit him with his own fucking arm.

Griffin: Okay.

Clint: Can you shoot him with his own fucking arm?

Travis: Ooh, can I, Griffin?

Griffin: Uhh... yeah.

Clint: Please? Please?

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: Yeah. You, uh... yeah. Uh, yeah. I'm gonna say he just channeled Fireball through that arm, and I don't think you're gonna be able to cast another Fireball out of it, but there is definitely, like— this arm is still hot to the touch. Um, and there seems to be, like, um... you know how, like, when people use a flamethrower and they use it there's still that little spout of flame that comes out after they're done blasting it off? I know this—

Travis: Yeah. I'm gonna shove that into the glass on his chest.

Griffin: I just went to— oh, okay. That's very cool. I just went to Wrestlemania, and The Rock had an entrance that lasted about 25 minutes, and it involved him using a flamethrower to set his own name on fire. That's how I know so much about fireball physics.

Travis: Yeah. I'm gonna put that gout of flame into his chest.

Griffin: Alright. You aim it right into his fuse.

[dice roll]

Travis: That's another 19.

Griffin: That's good, 'cause I think that was technically a spellcasting check. Um...

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: You cast... Hmm. What do you cast? What's Fairy Fire? That doesn't seem like a thing that you... yeah, that's, like, a beautiful light made of fairy magic. Yeah, go ahead and roll, uh, 3d10. We'll say this is a very powerful use of the spell Fire Bolt.

[dice roll]

Travis: 6.

[dice roll]

Travis: 1.

[dice roll]

Travis: 10. 17 points of damage.

Griffin: Okay, yeah. You, uh— you put this thing right up against the fuse in the middle of Magic Brian's chest. You fucking cock it and release all of the leftover fire magic in his arm, and you just blast the thing in the middle of his chest, and, uh, it does a ton of damage to him. And his, uh... that glass fuse kind of, uh, shatters, and the white sort of floating light that was inside of it pops out and is now floating in between the two other robots. And you hear him go...

Magic Brian: Well, dammit.

Clint: [laughs]

Magic Brian: I had such big plans. I was... I mean, that was very cool. You blew me up with, like, a robot gun, but... I had such big plans for— for the— for the robot body that I had found. I was going to return to my love, and we were going to finish our wedding. But, um... apparently, uh, the best laid plans of mice and men, and all that, yes?

Magnus: Yep. [laughs]

Magic Brian: I am just going to— just one second. I'm— do you mind if I, uh— do you mind— do you mind— this might get a little uncomfortable, but do you mind if I...

Griffin: And then he— this white ball flies into the same fuse that Maarvey is inside, in the little wiry ball. And you hear Maarvey go—

Travis: No, wait. I thought Jenkins was in the wiry one.

Griffin: Oh, yes. Shit. You hear Jenkins say, uh...

Jenkins: Oh, come on. Your foot's on my butt, and my butt is on your ear. This is clumsy and ridi— there's only enough room for one in here. We're just nuts to butts in here. This is— this is un— this is wholly unacceptable.

Travis: Are they doing kind of like that dance, like when in cartoons, like, a squirrel goes into somebody's clothes?

Griffin: And then the squirrel says—

Travis: That's what I want to picture.

Griffin: And then the squirrel says "We're nuts to butts!" And it's like a funny joke, because squirrels and nuts and all that.

Travis: But no butts to nuts. I'm hungry!

Griffin: Uh, next in the order is Maarvey. Do I have to roll to save against your shit? Against your goading strike?

Travis: No, you're just— it just is that from now on.

Griffin: Forever?!

Travis: I mean, until the battle's over.

Griffin: That can't be right. Whatever. He's gonna attack you anyway, because you murdered him in real life. Uh, he is going to charge at you, and do, like, kind of a thunderclap with your body in the middle of it.

[dice roll]

Travis: Oh, sorry. Until the end of your next turn.

Griffin: Okay. Well, that's still this turn, right?

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Uh, okay. He rolled a 19 versus AC.

Travis: Um, well, that's a tie.

Griffin: Tie goes to the runner.

Travis: What was the attack? What kind of attack was it?

Griffin: Uh, hurting... hurting gorilla slaps.

Travis: Well, okay, but it's just like he's punching me.

Griffin: He's doing a thunderclap, but it would be bludgeoning damage.

[dice roll]

Travis: Oh no.

Griffin: 15 points of damage.

Travis: Okay.

Griffin: Sh-clack!

Magnus: Merle, just so you know, I'm not doing great.

Griffin: Uh, yeah. He hits you real, real hard. You feel a little bit woozy after that one. And next in the order is...

Travis: Oh, wait, wait, wait.

Griffin: Oh?

Travis: I'm gonna use my superiority dice to do Parry. When hit, use superiority dice to reduce damage by d8 plus my dexterity.

Griffin: Okay.

[dice roll]

Travis: That's 5... plus 2, so reduce it by 7, so I only take 8.

Griffin: So you take 8— 8 points of damage. Uh, next in the order is Merle.

Clint: I'm going to cast Prayer of Healing. Up to six creatures of my choice that I can see within range each regain hit points equal to 2d8 plus my spellcasting modifier. And since I'm using my last number four spell slot... if you're using a spell slot of third level or higher, the healing increases by 1d8 for each slot level above second.

Travis: Excellent.

Griffin: Okay. So an extra 2d8 on top of the normal base amount.

Clint: And the 6.

Griffin: And the 6.

Clint: So I'm rolling the d8.

[dice roll]

Clint: It is a 6. So, 4 times 6 is—

Griffin: Nope. You gotta roll all four.

Clint: Justin, will you keep count?

Justin: I will. 6.

[dice roll]

Justin: 9.

[dice roll]

Justin: Uh...

Clint: 15.

Justin: 15, thank you.

[dice roll]

Justin: 17.

Clint: 17.

Travis: Okay.

Clint: 17 plus 6, which is my spellcasting modifier. That means 23, and that means each one of my compatriots and myself get 23 points of healing.

Travis: I am no longer bloodied.

Griffin: Yeah, I'm sure they appreciate that. Um, okay.

Clint: Well, I was down to 3, so.

Griffin: Holy shit! Uh, okay. Um, next in the order is Carey. Uh, who does a little...

Magnus: Hey, Merle! Real quick, before she moves, you should move! Use your move action, get away from Taako! He's confused as shit!

Merle: Okay.

Clint: I do that.

Griffin: Which— are you moving towards the robots or away from the robots?

Magnus: Come towards me!

Clint: I'm moving away from Taako, and I'm moving towards Magnus. And I'm kinda— I'm kinda hiding behind him a little bit, and cowering.

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: Good. I have the whole protector thing that I never get to use.

Clint: Yeah, I know!

Griffin: Boy, I love this teamwork and this strategy. Uh, okay. Carey does a little gymnastic roll to end up right behind the now-conjoined Jenkins-Brian bot. And she is going to grab a big fistful of those wires and just kind of drag a knife across 'em, to give 'em a little— give 'em a little rude haircut.

[dice roll]

Travis: That's my favorite Edgar Allen Poe story.

Justin: [snorts]

Clint: The Rude Haircut.

Griffin: Um, that is a hit.

[multiple dice rolls]

Travis: For those of you keeping score at home, Griffin's right now fighting himself.

Griffin: That is true.

Travis: And he's doing a great job.

Griffin: And she hits them for 15 points of damage. And you hear both Magic Brian and Jenkins yell at the same time, uh—

Magic Brian and Jenkins: Ow!

Griffin: And maybe I'll edit that to make it so that they both happen at the same time. Or I can use my, like... I've been studying Malaysian throat singing? It's this cool new technique. All the kids are talking about it.

Travis: I don't think it's Malaysian.

Griffin: They do it in Malaysia all the time. Coldplay learned it when they were over there.

Travis: Okay.

Griffin: Studying. Next in the order is Taako.

Justin: Mm-hmm.

Clint: Come on, big boy.

Griffin: Oh, I'm sorry. Taako, Taako, Taako. Taako. We should have resolved this last time.

Merle: Come on! Do it, buddy!

Griffin: You gotta roll a wisdom saving throw. You can save out of this. If you do good.

[dice roll]

Justin: That is a 16 plus—

Griffin: Yeah, you saved.

Justin: Okay. Oh, thank God.

Taako: Okay. First off, some apologies.

Clint: [wheeze-laughs]

Taako: Are due. To the stabbed parties I have so grievously wronged. I am sorry, uh, about that, darling.

Magic Brian: There's that sweet voice I've missed so much.

Taako: You're on the list, bucko. Hey, bad news for you. I better— you better hope you have a lot of robots, my friend. Because—

Magic Brian: I have a question for you, my dear new friend.

Taako: Yes, only friend, really.

Magic Brian: I'm ready to let bygones be bygones. Just answer this one question for me, sweesed? Sweese?

Taako: Sure.

Magic Brian: That's French for please.

Taako: Mm-hmm.

Magic Brian: Would you like the fish or the beef?

Taako: At the wedding, you mean?

Magic Brian: Yes, yes.

Taako: Uh... I'm a vegetarian, actually. So, do you have a third option, or...

Magic Brian: I, um... no. Uh, well, we'll have some sides. Uh, some hearty sides. And of course sweet bread rolls. Um, but I'll send you a link to my registry later. I had a toaster on that registry, but I no longer think that that will be necessary.

Griffin: And you see a little toaster attachment pop out of that robot, and two pieces of bread pop out of him.

Justin: [laughs] So the two robots that are left, how close are they to each other?

Griffin: Uh... they are very, very close. These three were standing, like, shoulder to shoulder.

Travis: Like, emotionally?

Griffin: Well, right now Jenkins and Magic Brian are, like... super uncomfortably close.

Justin: Yeah. I reach into my bag and, um— I reach into my bag and I pull out a single glass sphere.

Griffin: Okay. Well, I'm gettin'— ooh, I got goosebumps.

Clint: [laughs]

Justin: I said, uh...

Travis: Inside is the memory of the goblin king.

Justin: Uh, you're not too far off. And I say...

Taako: You know, you two remind me of somebody.

Magic Brian: Who's— who's that?

Maarvey: Yeah.

Taako: You remind me of the babe.

Clint: [gasps]

Justin: Then I throw the glass sphere at them. It shatters, and they float into the air.

Griffin: Oh shit!

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: There is no longer gravity around them.

Griffin: Wh—

Justin: They don't have gravity.

Maarvey: Oh shit! Oh God!

Griffin: The— okay. This is especially effective on the gorilla robot. 'Cause like I said, like, he was sort of— all of his center of gravity was based up on his fists, and now that he does no longer have that, he is, like, kicking and flailing like a little baby throughout the air.

Travis: Ohh, I am scrunchin' for some punchin'.

Griffin: The circular wire bot, you see those wires sort of extend and expand and retract, trying to, like, find purchase on this conveyor belt. Um, but it is not doing an especially great job of steadying itself.

Taako: Cool, okay. I'm not confused anymore. Pretty much figured it all out.

Magnus: Like life?

Taako: Yeah.

Justin: And I scurry back behind... [snorts] I run away and hide behind, uh, hide behind Merle, behind Magnus.

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: You guys— can I say something? You guys are adorable right now.

[music plays]

Griffin: Hey everybody, this is Griffin McElroy, your best friend, your dungeon master, your best friend... and your dungeon master. Thank you for listening to episode 37 of *The Adventure Zone*. Working through a bit of a lost voice situation thanks to Wrestlemania, but I'm on the mend, and thank you for your patience and your thoughts and your prayers in these trying times.

I want to say a huge mega gigantic thanks to everybody who donated to the show during the Maximum Fun Drive. We hope you enjoyed the episode. We're gonna be doing more episodes of *The Adventure Zone Nights*, the bonus campaign that Travis did an episode of as a donor-only bonus episode. We're talking about how to best do that. We're gonna release it to the donors. Uh, we're gonna do a few more of 'em before the next pledge drive, so we're really excited to do that. I'm mainly excited 'cause, like, God, like, all I can think about is playing Dungeons and Dragons. I want to play Dungeons and Dragons really bad, but I can't, 'cause I gotta do... I gotta do this part of it.

And thanks to everybody who's been tweeting about the show using the hashtag #thezonecast. That's #thezonecast, the hashtag. If you do that, you might end up as a character on the show. A character like, well, shit. Jenkins, and Maarvey, and Magic Brian, who's— I can't remember what Twitter names they're named after. Could end up as a character like Noelle, who's named after Chloe Noelle, Chloebert on Twitter. Uh, we're gonna be starting a new arc probably in the next episode or two, and so make sure you get those tweets in now. I'm always looking for names. I've already got a couple picked out for the next arc, so yeah. Tweet about the show using the hashtag #thezonecast, and help us spread the word. We appreciate that part of it too. We appreciate you leaving reviews on iTunes, and just telling a friend about the show. We don't pay any money to advertise it, so you telling your friends who you think would be into listening to four people play Dungeons and Dragons, that's the only way we have of getting the word out, and we really, really appreciate it.

[ad break]

Griffin: Got a few personal messages to read out in this here commercial break. If you want to get a personal message on the show or a message for your small business, just go to Maximumfun.org/jumbotron. You can find out all those hot deets right there. This one's for Captain Brotastic. Well, no, let me stop. I apologize for saying "hot deets." I felt bad as soon as I said it. Okay.

Captain Brotastic, this is message is for you. It's from Andrea, Alice, Ray, Morgan, the Honey Swadger, and Zach. And that rogues' gallery says to Captain Brotastic:

"Joe, congrats! You survived another year. You dinged! Let joy be unrestrained, and so on. Without your unpredictable, capricious, and invariably excellent RP, our games would be impoverished, and in general our lives would be mired in unsupportable dreariness and ennui. Boundless love from your DM and your fellow skid marks, and hello to Jason Isaacs."

Sup, Jason? Hit me up. It's your boy, Griffin. How come you stood me up at the Taco Bell yesterday? We were supposed to meet at Taco Bell for some reason? I don't know. That didn't— that wasn't going anywhere. Anyway, happy birthday, Joe! I think that's what that message was about.

Here's another message. This one's for Ryan, the Supreme DM, and it's from Lydia Knifefight, Oliver Depeester Gildersly III, Millhouse, Da Wood, [laughs quietly] Tuscon Smith, and Dolemite Bat. Fuck, please let that be a D&D party. Or, no, fuck, let it be, like, a real life, like, ska band or something. Um, or maybe a D&D ska band.

"Happy International GM's Day, Ryan! We hope your day is like rocks." Um... I think that was, like, a month ago. Which wasn't ideal. And I wouldn't blame you, dear listener, for forgetting, 'cause my whole family did. Didn't get any presents in the mail. No special cards. But that's, you know, that's fine. The real gift I get is the time I get to spend with 'em on this podcast. Happy GM's Day, Ryan.

And one last personal message. This one's for Bob, and it's from Chelsea, who says:

"Happy Birthday, Bob! I can't wait until this summer when we get to move in together and be the amazing gay sibling duo we were always meant to be. Thanks for always being there for me, and I hope hearing a birthday message from the brothers who are almost as cool—" oh, no. I read that wrong, like an asshole. "I hope hearing a birthday message from the brothers who are almost as cool as you is as awesome as I think it'll be. Love, your sister, Chungle— Chungle Fever. Ps: nagalog."

I can't— I literally cannot tell if this is a foreign language or a coded message, or if backwards it just said something racist. I'll just assume it said something racist.

I will say happy birthday to Bob, and I will apologize to America. That's not me. I don't own that.

Hey, if you're a donor to the Maximum Fun Network, or even if you're not, go listen to the other shows on the Maximum Fun Network. Just go to Maximumfun.org, go tune into shows like *Getting Curious*, like *Throwing Shade*, like *Sawbones*. *Jordan*, *Jesse*, *Go!* Like *Judge John Hodgman*. if you like the stuff that we're doing here on this podcast, you can go to mcelroyshows.com and find all the other shows that we do. We do *My Brother*, *My Brother*, and *Me*, and *Sawbones*, and *Bunker Buddies*, and *Can I Pet Your Dog?* And *Shmanners*, and tons and tons and tons of other podcasts, all at mcelroyshows.com.

That's it for this commercial break. Thank you all so much for listening, and thank you once again for all of your support during the Max Fun Drive. You all killed it. We smashed our stretch goal, like, completely out of the water. And the *The Adventure Zone* crowd, like, came out in a major way for us, and we really appreciate that support, because again, this show wouldn't exist without the support of the Maximum Fun Network and the people who listen to it. So, thanks once again. That's it for this commercial break. We'll get back to it. Next episode will be up on April 21st, so we will talk to you then. Bye!

[music plays]

Griffin: Uh, alright. Next in the order is Magic Brian.

Magic Brian: Alright, let me see if I can control your— do you mind if I— let me just take control of, like, these— can you give me control of, like, these 14 wires? And you can have the other 28. You just give me these four—

Griffin: And you hear Jenkins, like...

Jenkins: Yes, okay. God, yes. You can have— let me— let me rewire— let me route you access to— okay, let me open up the packets in the kernel— okay, fine. You now have access to those 14 wires. Please use them wisely. Those were some of my favorite wires.

Griffin: He casts Haste. The target's speed is doubled. It gains a plus 2 bonus to AC. It has advantage on dexterity saving throws, and it gains an additional action on each of its turns.

Travis: What the fuck?! Can you do that, Merle?

Clint: [sheepishly] N... n...

Travis: Where have you been?!

Clint: No?

Griffin: The components for this—

Travis: I've been begging for extra AC!

Clint: I don't have the components!

Griffin: The components for this— this is fun— is a shaving of licorice root, so I just imagine you, like, [popping noises] pop in a little Cracker Barrel candy into there. [eating noises] And then you—

Travis: The components have been in you all along.

Griffin: And then you cast the best buff ever. Um... when the spell ends, the target can't move or take actions until after its next turn as a wave of lethargy sweeps over it.

Travis: Well, that's kind of a downer, I guess.

Griffin: But it lasts for a minute, which is ten rounds of combat. Uh, next in the order is Magnus. Oh, no, I'm sorry. It's Jenkins. Jenkins still has—

Travis: That was—

Griffin: Jenkins still has control.

Travis: Wait, hold on.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: But it's one creature!

Griffin: [singing] Two minds, one body. One heart, two hearts, two souls, one body. One robot, two loves— one love, ja! [speaking] Jenkins says, uh...

Jenkins: Time to bring out the big guns.

Griffin: And his 28 wires all point at you, Magnus, and they spark up. And he casts Dominate Person—

Travis: [simultaneously] Yeahhh, spark up!

Griffin: —as he rolls up a fuckin' fat 420 blunt. Uh, he's trying to dominate your person. Let's go ahead and make that wisdom saving throw that you've been looking forward to this whole time.

Travis: Oh no.

[dice roll]

Travis: That is a 20.

Clint: Welcome back, Travis.

Griffin: [laughs] Uh, you actually have advantage on that roll, since you're actively in a fight with this thing, but you cleared the save.

Travis: Yeahhh.

Griffin: Cool. That— spoiler alert: they added that caveat because Dominate Person is bad, bad stuff. Uh, it's your turn now, Mag.

Travis: Okay. Remind me, what's the Stone Skin?

Griffin: Stone Skin is they have resistance to melee damage. Um, in addition to that he also has Haste, so he has plus 2 to AC, advantage on dex saving throws, and an extra action on his turn.

Travis: Great, great, great. Great, great, great, great, great. I am... I'm gonna grab those 28 wires. And I'm gonna swing the Jenkins bot into the Maarvey bot.

Griffin: Uh, okay. This is, um... you're just, like, going through and making sure you find the fuckin' Jenkins wires and— like, you're, like, threading—

Travis: Well, you said they were pointed at me.

Griffin: Yeah, alright, that's fair. Uh, they're pointed at you from this floating, uh, wiry body.

Travis: I'm picturing like a Fry Kid. Is that the right—

Griffin: Yeah, it's a— well, they're called Fry Guys, not Fry Kids. That would be crazy.

Travis: Well, they have Fry Kids. Do you think they're just born fully formed Fry Guys?

Griffin: Well, how— do they reproduce asexually? Do the men carry the children?

Travis: I've never asked.

Griffin: Like— like seahorses?

[dice roll]

Travis: I don't know, Griffin. What do I need to roll? I rolled 15 plus 7, 22.

Griffin: Uh, this should be a throwing attack. And you're just— what's the— what's the— I guess the point is— what are you— what are you trying to accomplish, here? You're just trying to make these two big robots hit each other?

Travis: Yeah!

Griffin: Okay. This is very Power Rangers. I'm very much into it. Make a— you—

Travis: Yeah, I wanna smash 'em together.

Griffin: What did you roll?

Travis: The attack was a 15 plus 7, 'cause that's my combat— my attack bonus, so 22.

Griffin: Okay. That ties with the buff with the big guy, so you'll do damage to both of 'em. Just roll 1d10 plus your modifier.

Travis: I rolled an 8. Let's say that my damage modifier is a plus 4.

Griffin: Okay. You throw the wiry bot that held Jenkins and Magic Brian into the big ol' gorilla bot that held Maarvey. And as they collide, the wire bot takes all that damage. The Maarvey bot does not, 'cause it has the Stone Skin. It takes half that damage. Um, and you see the fuse inside of the little wiry bot shatter and explode, and two balls of light fly out of it, and fly into the big gorilla bot. So now all— you see these three fuses— you see these three lights inside of the fuses. The fuse in the big gorilla Maarvey bot. And you can't really, like, distinguish between them anymore. It's just, like, glowing very, very, very brightly. And you hear just sort of the three of them fighting amongst themselves.

Justin: Aren't we in sort of a confined area?

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Um... okay.

Griffin: Why?

Justin: I would argue— wouldn't the gorilla bot take another hit colliding with the wall?

Griffin: The Jenkins robot is, like, pretty little. It's about shoebox-sized, so don't think it would have enough force. It was the tiniest of the three robots, so I don't think it would have enough force to, like, do that kind of wrecking ball damage to him. But sort of the force of it hitting it did enough, but not enough to, like, move it backwards. So now all—

Travis: But the good news I get a second attack.

Griffin: Yeah, and now all—

Travis: And I'm gonna punch the shit out of that gorilla bot.

Griffin: Mmkay. You're just gonna punch it?

Travis: I'm gonna Phantom Fist the fuck out of it.

Griffin: What— okay.

[dice roll]

Travis: That is a... 14 plus 7, 21? Does that hit?

Griffin: It does not. No, it doesn't hit his Stone Skin AC.

Travis: Would you say I'd still push it, though? 'Cause it is floating.

Griffin: Um, yeah, you push it a little bit, but not enough to, like, kill it.

Travis: Well, bummer. Alright.

Griffin: Um, Maarvey is going to take a swipe at you, Magnus. He is floating.

Travis: I duck.

Griffin: Okay. Wow, that was easy. No, he is gonna have disadvantage because he doesn't— he can't, like, put his feet on the ground to, like, you know, turn into it.

[dice roll]

Griffin: Uh, that would be a hit.

[dice roll]

Griffin: Uh, that probably isn't. 16?

Travis: Nope!

Griffin: Nope, alright. Yeah, you block his blow away with a shield.

Travis: Riposte! If attacked and missed, attack plus the superiority die.

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: Um, that is a 16 plus 7, 23?

Griffin: Yes, that is a hit.

Travis: Excellent. Um, and then it's just standard melee attack, so we'll say one-handed Railsplitter.

[dice roll]

Travis: Uh, 1... plus 6. That's 7, plus the superiority die, 3. So 10 points of damage.

Griffin: Uh, okay. It does not do very much, again, because of his Stone Skin. Uh, but it is— it is enough to make Maarvey bot give up the ghost, quite literally, as the fuse in his chest explodes and the three ghosts come flying out of him. Um, and Magic Brian says...

Magic Brian: Oh, good going, Maarvey. You really proved yourself there, Arnold. Good going, strong man.

Griffin: And Maarvey says...

Maarvey: Hey, I did my best, okay? I— I— I'm a dead guy inside of a robot, I'm new, I'm learning my body, I'm going through robot puberty, I'm learning all kinds of stuff about myself. Are you there, God? It's me, Maarvey! I don't know how my robot body works.

Griffin: Um, and Jenkins says, uh...

Jenkins: Boy, you guys are just absolutely hopeless. I can't— I'm going to go find another robot to get inside.

Travis: Oh yeah, they can do that.

[sound of dice rattling in the background]

Griffin: And Carey— Carey shouts at you, Merle. Uh, but, like, whispered. She's like...

Carey: [stage whisper] Merle! Can't you, like... can't you, like, do some cleric stuff? Can't you, like... channel divinity, or banish them or something?

Merle: Hmm. Yes I can.

Travis: Good question.

Clint: I cast Turn Undead... and destroy the undead.

Griffin: Uh, okay. They get to roll a wisdom saving throw. Maarvey...

[dice roll]

Griffin: Rolled a critical miss... uh, and evaporates. [laughs quietly] Uh, Jenkins...

[dice roll]

Griffin: Rolled a 7, and evaporates. And Magic Brian...

[dice roll]

Griffin: Holy shit. Magic Brian, uh, also does not clear it. Jesus. The three of them just kind of turn into beautiful particles. The white light just sort of starts to fade away. And—

Clint: What? Wait a minute. [wheezing] What?

Griffin: You, uh— yeah, you—

Travis: You were successful. You did it.

Griffin: You shout— you shout a command word from the divine *Extreme Teen Bible* of Pan, and that command word was...

Merle: Boogedy Boogedy!

Griffin: Alright. And Magic Brian says...

Magic Brian: What— what is he— what is he saying? What is a boogedy—
[screams]

Griffin: And they start to disintegrate, and Jenkins says, uh...

Jenkins: Looks like Team Rocket's blasting off again.

Travis: [laughs loudly] Now, Griffin. When you say they evaporate, do they go back to, like, heaven or hell or the afterplane or whatever? Or are they gone?

Griffin: Kind of seems like you just obliterated their soul.

Justin: Whoa.

Griffin: Kind of seems like you just kind of erased 'em.

Travis: Man. You know, at the end of the day, I punch people, but Dad unmakes their existence. Who's the real monster?

Clint: [wheeze-laughs]

Justin: Well, I guess Griffin, 'cause he told Dad to do it.

Travis: That's fair. Griffin's a monster maker.

Clint: Well you've taught me a lesson. I've learned the lesson.

Travis: He taught you to kill!

Clint: No. To obliterate.

Justin: To obliterate, yeah.

Travis: Dad unmade an existence. Three!

Justin: They got any gold?

Travis: [laughs] [snorts] What's the loot? What's the fat loot? Do we need to roll need?

Justin: Check the loot table.

Travis: I roll need.

Justin: See if their very existence left behind any gold. [laughs quietly]

Griffin: Um...

Travis: Maybe some kind of, like, power from, like, unmaking a human.

Griffin: You, uh, strip some copper wire out of the wiry robot, and you think you can sell that for some fuckin' meth money, baby. Um... you do have Magic Brian's blaster arm, still. Um, which it seems dormant now, but you can still feel a bit of, like, magical energy still coursing through it.

Travis: I hand it to Taako.

Magnus: I don't have any use for this magic shit.

Taako: Thanks!

Merle: I could use a spare arm.

Magnus: You— you earn that spare arm and you'll get it!

Merle: Uh, I'm the guy that just obliterated three dudes.

Taako: You're not— you're not— you're not Mr. Potato Head. You can't just swap your arms out interchangeably.

Travis: [laughs] No, not till you reach level eight.

Griffin: He is level eight.

Travis: Oh!

Griffin: Let's have a fuckin' arm party!

Travis: I went to an arm party once. Trust me, you don't... you don't want to.

Griffin: [laughs quietly] You take your arm off, you throw it in a bowl, and then some...

Clint: Can we celebrate my victory?

Travis: No!

Justin: I feel like we did.

Travis: [laughs]

Clint: Why?

Justin: Griffin, can you do the— tell Dad he solved your whatever puzzle?

Griffin: Uh, yeah. You solved your, um... you solved my... doing a thing that you learned to do at your class level two [laughs quietly] puzzle.

Clint: Yes!

Griffin: You solved my thing you've been able to do for literally over a year now... puzzle.

Clint: And I did it by completely obliterating three of the most beloved NPCs we've ever had on the show. Yeah!

Griffin: Hey, maybe they'll come back. There's always a possi— no. They're done.

Clint: No. They're gone.

Travis: Let's move forward, down the pipe, where we were going on the conveyor belt.

Griffin: Okay, yeah. You—

Justin: Yeah, before we got stopped by these nerds.

Griffin: Um, yeah. Uh, uh, uh...

Travis: Also, Carey's been really quiet. Could Carey say something like "Great job, guys!" Or like, "It was really fun fighting with you."

Clint: Was she stunned by my obliterations?

Griffin: Yeah, she's actually pretty blown away. She's like...

Carey: Wow, Merle! I didn't know you had that in you! That was savage shit.

Merle: Yeah. I didn't either.

Magnus: I mean, I did kill all three of them.

Carey: Yeah, no, you—

Merle: No you didn't.

Carey: Magnus, you did a great job, too. I mean, I definitely loosened—

Magnus: I destroyed the robot bodies.

Carey: I definitely loosened the lid of that there pickle jar, but let's— let's— you know what? Let's just split the— we'll split it four ways. We all did— oh, sorry. Five— five ways, Noelle. Sorry.

Griffin: Noelle actually is being extremely quiet. Noelle hasn't, like, said anything this whole time since the three ghost robots showed up. And she is just kind of floating sullenly away from you down the tunnel with her flashlight on. And she's—

Magnus: [stage whisper] Psst, guys! Noelle's a spirit in a robot body.

Merle: Ohh, man.

Magnus: She's got the fuse! She's gotta be real bummed out about this news.

Merle: Taako, go talk to her.

Noelle: Come on, guys. We gotta... we gotta move on. We're almost— we're almost there.

Magnus: Noelle?

Noelle: Yeah?

Magnus: I recognize now that you are a spirit in a fuse in a robot body, but I want you take that I appreciate you as a member of this team. You have helped us out a lot.

Noelle: I don't know— I don't— I don't know what you're ta— I really don't know what you're talking about.

Magnus: Okay. Whenever you're ready.

Taako: I mean, holistically, speaking, you've gone from being a sentient AI to being a soul trapped in a machine. It's— I think it's a zero sum game. You didn't have any illusions about your own agency, right?

Noelle: Is this, like, funny? Is this, like...

Magnus: No!

Noelle: Are you, like, jo— are you j— are you joking about this?

Taako: I'm not jo— no, I'm not joking. I mean, I just don't— I mean, you thought you were a robot before, right?

[extended pause]

Taako: Oh no.

Griffin: She says, um...

Taako: [holding back laughter] Oh, gosh. This is... oh, okay.

Travis: [wheeze-laughs]

Merle: Ooh...

Taako: Somebody's really stepped in the old spectral doo-doo now, eh? Um...
hmm.

Travis: [laughs]

Noelle: I... I di— I... [sighs] I did— I died.

Griffin: She's like...

[music plays in the background]

Noelle: I'm— I— oh my God, I'm re— I'm remembering now. I... I... my name is... Noelle Redcheek. My family runs a— a cider press, out... out in Hogsbottom. I was... I was riding our donkey into town and I was... I was making a delivery to some dive bar. The... it was The Sleeping Giant. And it was in town, in... in Phandalin. And we heard—

Magnus: [hisses]

Taako: Oh.

Merle: [strained] Never heard of it.

Taako: No.

Merle: Nope.

Noelle: And we— we heard screams from outside, and there was a— there was this man. He came downstairs. He called himself... he called himself Blue Jeans.

Magnus: [gasps]

Noelle: And he was— he was so kind. He told us to hide in the stockroom, and he— he— he hid us, and he fought off this dwarf that was on fire, and he got him out of the bar, and we thought we were safe. And then the— the whole world got burned up.

Merle: Pshew, that sucks.

Taako: Yeah...

Merle: That is bad news.

Taako: Woof. Whew! Hate to hear that, you know?

Merle: Oh, too bad.

Taako: I'm so sorry.

Magnus: But what matters now is that you're technically alive.

Merle: Well, no, not technically.

Magnus: No, literally technically. She— you're in a techno body, so you are technically alive.

Griffin: Um, she actually starts laughing.

Travis: Oh, good.

Noelle: [laughs]

Clint: [laughs loudly]

Griffin: She's like...

Noelle: I— I'm sorry. I just... sorry, I just remembered. I was in that back room, and everything was getting burned up, and I remember my last thought was that the whole world was getting destroyed. And the fact that I'm here, and you're all— y'all are still here... I thought the world was ending! I thought my whole family was gone. But the world's still here, right? It's still here!

Magnus: Yep. Yep.

Taako: Well, okay. Let's—

Merle: Yeah. Phandalin, not so much.

Taako: Let's parse— let's parse the question. Was your family in Phandalin?

Noelle: Naw, they were out in Hogsbottom.

Taako: Hell yeah! They're good!

Magnus: [simultaneously] Oh, okay, yeah, you're good!

Merle: Oh yeah.

Taako: They're money. They're money.

Noelle: Do you guys know what happened to Phandalin?

[pause]

Merle: Hmm, no?

Magnus: Uhh, nope.

Merle: Mm-mm.

Magnus: I heard— you just said that it burned. It burned. I think— you said that, right? That was you. Yeah.

Taako: We... are part of the people...

Noelle: Yeah?

Taako: That tried to keep things... like what happened in Phandalin, from happening.

Merle: Yeah. Yeah. Yeah.

Taako: We have... a pretty good success rate, if you count— if you don't count that one, which we can all agree was a world-class boner.

Clint: [wheezes loudly]

Taako: Now, if you want to keep what happened to you from happening to other people, it is imperative that you aid us down here, in— in— in completing our mission.

Noelle: Okay.

Magnus: In this.

Noelle: You're saying—

Magnus: This thing now.

Noelle: You're saying... that this... this thing that's turning this lab to crystal, it's trying to do the world like what happened in Phandalin?

Merle: Okay.

Taako: You can save world, Noelle.

Noelle: Alright, then. Let's fuck 'em up.

Taako: Hell yeah!

Clint: [wheeze-laughs]

Griffin: The fuse pops out of her chest, pops out of the bot, and it seems to be floating in midair. Not, like, smoothly. It's almost like the spirit inside of it is, like, pushing up on it, like... imagine, like, a bird sort of, like, moving its birdcage, just by flying really hard into the top of it. This is like an extreme amount of effort that this soul is using to push its fuse upwards into the air. And you see it move its way over into the pile of parts that you left on the floor that were the robots whose asses you just kicked. Um, and she floats into the big gorilla suit's body.

Clint: Oh yeah.

Griffin: And you see that mech— you see that robot stand up, uh, and pick up the wires, and sort of tie it around its back, and you see it pick up one of the arms leftover from, uh, Magic Brian's robot and strap that onto itself, and take some of the plating off that one, and take some of the plating off the old Noelle bot, and sort of—

Justin: And I— I throw the buster arm and say...

Taako: Take— let's go to fuck up town!

Griffin: You see a fuckin' port open on this robot's side that the bu— it catches that buster arm in midair. Uh, and these four robots combine, fuckin' Voltron style, with Noelle in the middle of it. Uh, and she says...

Noelle: Hero time.

Griffin: And cocks her gun arm.

[theme music plays]

[chord]

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[music plays]

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