

## The Adventure Zone Balance: The Crystal Kingdom, Chapter Ten

Published on April 21, 2016

[Listen on TheMcElroy.family](#)

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

**Director:** Lucas... he's found a Grand Relic. It's the Philosopher's Stone.

**Magnus:** The *Harry Potter* book?

**Lucas:** The astral plane, which is where our unconscious forms or our souls retire when we die.

**Magnus:** Did your mom die or did she, like, disappear one day?

**Lucas:** She... passed away. I accidentally broke the Astral Mirror, so I gotta grow a new one of those, although—

**Magnus:** Smooth move, X-Lax!

**Griffin:** These purple volts of electricity surround you.

**Travis:** Aww, dammit.

**Lucas:** And I am so, so sorry.

**Magnus:** Like, I was fighting for you, you ass!

[whispering] Guys, Noelle is a spirit in a robot body! She's got the fuse!

**Taako:** You can save the world, Noelle.

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

**Taako:** Hell yeah.

**Announcer:** Aw, dang! Ghosts? I didn't sign up for ghosts! Guess that's the cost of doing business in... *The Adventure Zone*!

[theme music plays]

**Griffin:** Uh, okay. You just kicked some robot asses and got a new, more badass robot companion as a result. That was a pretty good trade off. And just took a short rest, which we did before the recording, to disguise the fact that we don't know how to do that.

**Clint:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** You, uh— so you've made your way down this conveyor belt out of the robot manufacturing facility. Um, and have turned off of a branch of this conveyor belt, and Noelle in her new, big, badass robot suit kicks open a hatch into the main experiment chamber, and it certainly looks like the type of room that a climactic standoff might happen in.

**Clint:** That's convenient.

**Travis:** Just your standard final fight room.

**Griffin:** Yeah. If Dracula was a thing here, he'd be... this would be his place.

**Travis:** Is it crystallized, Griffy?

**Griffin:** So, this is weird. It's the first room you've been in this time that is only partially crystallized.

**Travis:** Percentage-wise, how much?

**Justin:** Because it spread so quickly elsewhere, right?

**Griffin:** Um, no. I mean, the behavior of the crystal, of everything you've seen, is it just spreads throughout everything it's touching. In fact, it almost looks like it's been perfectly shaped to encompass the ceiling where it has sort of crept in some vents in the ceiling, and through some very narrow exterior windows, some exterior vents leading outside. You can tell it leads outside 'cause there's a stiff Candelights breeze blowing in. And hanging from this crystalline amethyst ceiling, you see a stalactite. And it is— the ceiling's about 15 feet up. The stalactite reaches down about nine feet. And this stalactite is huge. It's made of pure amethyst, and, uh...

**Clint:** Cheese.

**Griffin:** Uh, amethyst and cheese. No, it's just amethyst. On the floor immediately below you, underneath this hatch, there's a big old pile of deactivated robots like the ones that you saw in the assembly room. They all have fuses in their torsos, but they're all deactivated. And opposite you on the complete opposite end of the room is the gigantic locked door that you were unable to get through when you first reached this level of the lab.

So, inside the stalactite you see a robot, frozen, that looks far more humanoid than any you've seen before. In fact, it's kind of difficult to discern whether it's a robot or not. It has the shape of a human woman without any kind of, like, extraneous armor plating or insane peripherals, like Noelle has on her. She has a fuse in her torso, and that fuse is lit up like a Christmas tree. She's frozen in place in the stalactite, and the fuse light is the only thing you can see in there that's moving. However, you can see she's holding an object in each hand. In her right hand, which she has extended out in front of her, she's holding a large silver disc that's comprised of a series of interlocking rings, etched with a really intricate pattern that kind of resembles circuitry, all leading to a bright small light in the center of the disc, and that light is pulsing. And in her left hand, which she's holding at her side, you see a very plain looking stone. Um, directly— sorry, it's gonna take a while to describe this room. Directly in front of you—

**Travis:** No, you're doing great, Griffin. I'm drunk on your words.

**Griffin:** Directly in front of her...

**Travis:** You're a poet! A poet laureate, I would say.

**Griffin:** About ten feet away in the direction that this disc that she's holding is pointing, you see a large circular pedestal, about three feet high. And floating above it is a mirror, much like the ones that you saw floating in orbit in the cosmoscope chamber that you were in. This one is made of brilliant sapphire with an intricate platinum trim. And like the cosmoscope—

**Travis:** And it retails for 9.99!

**Griffin:** And it can be yours for ten easy payments of 99 cents.

**Travis:** What a deal!

**Griffin:** Like the cosmoscope mirrors, you see in this sapphire mirror another world.

**Travis:** [gasps]

**Griffin:** And in that world you see tens of thousands of these floating white lights, sailing over a giant lake comprised of swirling rainbow-hued waters. And the lights float. They occasionally interact with each other and dive under the water, causing a ripple of light to move across the surface of the lake. And it's kind of a wondrous sight, but it's made slightly less wondrous by kind of an eyesore slightly in the background. You see an island in this lake, and on that island you see a massive fortress comprised of stone and steel. It looks like a pretty intimidating building.

**Travis:** Like Castle Greyskull?

**Griffin:** It actually looks more like a prison.

**Travis:** Like Prison Greyskull?

**Griffin:** Like Prison Greyskull. Um, so between this mirror and this stalactite with a robot frozen in it, you see Lucas. He's standing under the stalactite and he's holding a big stick in his hand, and there's a— he's taking off one of his gloves of his null suit and tied it around what appears to be a hammerhead at the end of this stick, and is just banging this against the stalactite, and not doing, like, anything to it. Uh, he's got his sleeve tied around his exposed hand that he took his glove off from, and he takes a few hits on this stalactite. Doesn't really do anything, and kind of just falls over and slumps over his hammer. He looks completely exhausted. His head is bandaged up, which you noticed earlier, and that bandage is— you can see some blood coming through that now.

**Justin:** He's inside the mirror?

**Griffin:** No, he's between the mirror and the stalactite. And he's banging on the stalactite trying to bust it open to get at the robot inside. He sort of slumps over. He's leaning on his hammer, and when Noelle kicks that hatch open he looks up at the three of you, and he's panting, and he says...

**Lucas:** Oh, shit.

**Travis:** Now, Griffin, real quick. From where we are, do we see any immediate, like, threat?

**Griffin:** No. Nobody— I mean, you've got all those robots immediately below you, but none of 'em are activated.

**Travis:** And there's no, like, area of ground that we would be afraid to touch and turn to crystal or whatever?

**Griffin:** No, the ground is not crystallized. Regardless, you are in your null suits. Noelle would be at risk. Carey is fine, she's in a null suit. Noelle might be at risk, but there's no crystal on the ground.

**Travis:** Gotcha.

**Justin:** And who— and the robot in the stalag...

**Griffin:** Stalac—

**Justin:** ... mite. Mite.

**Griffin:** Stalactite. 'Cause they hang tight— they hang tight to the ceiling.

**Justin:** And stalagmite might—

**Travis:** [simultaneously] 'Cause it might be on the ground. [laughs quietly]

**Griffin:** A stalagmite might be a stalactite. It's a terrible mnemonic device.

**Justin:** The worst rules, yeah. As a mnemonic, it's basically useless. Um, so do we recognize the robot inside the stalactite?

**Griffin:** Um, no. You've never seen this robot before.

**Clint:** So we can make it out that much to know we don't know 'em?

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Clint:** [sighs]

**Justin:** I've seen a lot of robots. Are you sure I haven't seen this one?

**Travis:** [laughs] He's a bit of a connoisseur.

**Clint:** Does he talk like Paul Bettany? Oh, it's a girl. I'm sorry. A woman.

**Justin:** It's stuck in a stalactite. It's probably not talking at all, right?

**Clint:** Okay. I have one quick question for you, Griffin.

**Griffin:** Yo.

**Justin:** It's on the ceiling. They're on the ceiling.

**Clint:** On the pedestal that is facing where this robot is holding out that circular...

**Griffin:** Disc.

**Clint:** Right?

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Clint:** Is there anything on that pedestal that looks roughly the same shape as the thing the form is holding?

**Griffin:** Um... no. I mean, the mirror is a circle, and this disc is a circle. But they don't seem to— they don't seem to...

**Travis:** Correspond.

**Griffin:** It's not like they're holding a miniature mirror or anything.

**Clint:** Okay.

**Travis:** Alright. I hop down, fuck it.

**Griffin:** Okay. Yeah, you hop down. You kind of, uh, do a maneuver to avoid falling down, 'cause there's, like, a big old pile of robots underneath you.

**Travis:** Can I say? It's super sweet.

**Griffin:** Okay.

**Travis:** Like, everyone kind of gasps a little bit.

**Griffin:** Okay.

**Travis:** And they're like, "Damn."

**Griffin:** Carey and Noelle move in after you. Um, Taako and Merle, are you hopping into this room, too?

**Clint:** Oh, we're hopping.

**Griffin:** Okay.

**Clint:** We're hopping— and I would also suggest that maybe Noelle is now, since she's a big badass now, that we call her No-L. Like N-O-dash—

**Travis:** Now we'll call her Yes-L.

**Griffin:** [laughs]

**Justin:** No-Hell. No-Hell.

**Travis:** Aww, there it is! Yeah.

**Griffin:** Um, Lucas is kind of, like— he's scrambling backwards away from you guys.

**Travis:** I'm walking right at him. I did not stop moving when I landed. I'm gonna fuckin' squeeze the life out of that little weasel.

**Griffin:** Okay. He's saying...

**Lucas:** I'm sorry, I'm sorry, I'm sorry, I'm sorry, I'm sorry!

**Magnus:** I'm gonna fuckin' kick your ass, little man!

**Lucas:** I'm sorry!

**Justin:** I fire Magic Missile at that little turd monster.

**Griffin:** Okay.

**Justin:** I don't give a shit.

**Travis:** Yeah!

**Justin:** I'm so done with this dude.

**Travis:** Fuck him. In fact, Griffin, what do I have to roll to do, like, a Batman, like—

**Griffin:** Well, hold on! Justin, are you really casting Ma— don't say— are you really Magic Missiling him?

**Justin:** No, that's probably not Taako's style.

**Travis:** Alright. A lesser man would've Magic Missiled the shit out of him.

**Justin:** Yeah, or a lesser elf. And there are few lesser elves than Taako, so that should tell you how badly he wanted to do it.

**Travis:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** [laughs]

**Justin:** I've just been in this crystal kingdom since December 19th, and I would really little to— if killing him is the way out—

**Clint:** Shit! Have we been in here that long?

**Justin:** That's right, my man.

**Travis:** We've been in here so long. Luckily we brought all this gorp.

**Clint:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** Yeah, you guys have been staying hydrated, right?



**Travis:** Griffin, I would like to do, like, a—

**Justin:** When we get back it's gonna be Garfield Jr. "[in Garfield's voice] This is my son! I'm Garfield the Deals Warlock Jr. My Daddy— you knew my— you knew my Peepaw?"

**Travis:** "I wanted to be a musician, but Dad insisted I do this."

**Justin:** The Fantasy Gashapon is gonna take credit cards. It's gonna be terrible.

**Travis:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** [laughs] It's gonna take Apple Pay.

**Travis:** Griffin, what do I have to roll to do, like, a Batman, like, Arkham, like, I pick him up and I'm like, "Tell me about the Riddler!" kind of move?

**Griffin:** You can do an intimidation check.

**Travis:** I want to do that, please.

**Griffin:** Okay.

**Travis:** Oh, I almost never get to do those, and I'm trained in that! Yeah, boy! That's a 16—

**Griffin:** You guys can do—

**Travis:** 16 plus 4.

**Griffin:** There's all kinds— okay.

**Travis:** 20.

**Griffin:** Yeah. He is intimidated. Are you getting physical at all?

**Travis:** Oh yeah. I'm picking him up by the scruff of his neck.

**Griffin:** Okay. You pick him up. He's smaller than you, so that's a pretty easy thing. He goes...

**Lucas:** I'm sorry! Okay, stop, please! Please don't hurt me, okay?

**Magnus:** Tell me what I want to know!

**Lucas:** J—Jesus.

**Magnus:** I am done fucking around. You left us up there in a room paralyzed, attacked by some kind of crystal golem. Fucking talk now!

**Lucas:** Okay, okay.

**Clint:** Okay, and I give a very subtle wink to Taako, who doesn't see it 'cause he's not paying attention, and I walk over and I say...

**Merle:** Listen, Lucas. You know, I'm your pal, but look, you know, he, Magnus— Magnus is really pissed. I'd tell him what he wants to hear if you were you, buddy.

**Taako:** Oh hell yeah, good cop bad cop! I love this stuff.

**Merle:** Shh! Not out loud!

**Taako:** Oh, right, right, right.

**Griffin:** It's good cop, bad cop, aloof cop.

**Travis:** [laughs]

**Clint:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** Um, Lucas goes...

**Lucas:** Okay, okay. What—

**Justin:** Good cop, good cop, guy who's there to pay a parking ticket.

**Clint:** [laughs]

**Travis:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** [laughs] He says, uh...

**Lucas:** Okay. Stop. Okay. I'll explain everything. I... [sighs] when I contacted the Director earlier today, I told her that I found the Philosopher's Stone a couple weeks ago. That was a lie.

**Magnus:** Yeah!

**Lucas:** I... I actually found it... I've had it for four months now. I found it— I found it from my mother, Maurine. She... she spent her whole life studying the planes, and the realities that lie beyond our own. The cosmoscope, which I showed you earlier, that was her life's work. It's not just some room with some mirrors that let you look at the different planes when you arrange those mirrors in a certain way. You're able to see into alternate realities, into parallel worlds. But she wasn't able to complete it because we didn't have the Philosopher's Stone. With the stone, I was able to create the mirrors that she needed, and my mother was able to complete her life's work, but it was...

**Magnus:** Lucas?

**Lucas:** Yeah.

**Magnus:** Is your mother the robot?

[pause]

**Lucas:** Something went wrong.

**Magnus:** Yeah, okay.

**Lucas:** She insisted that she test out the cosmoscope. She wouldn't let me go in with her. And when she used it the way it was intended, her mind was destroyed. Literally. I lost her, and I... I became obsessed with saving her. With my background in robotics, and my studies in planar energies that I learned under my mother, I devised a plan. I invented the conduit, a device capable of storing a living spirit and giving it agency over a robotic body. I created that to give her a new body that she could live in. And I created the siphon, which I could use to find her in the astral plane and fish her out of there, and put her in her new body.

When I invented those, I... [sighs] I tested them out on you, Noelle. You were the first one I found. I found you in the astral plane mirror, and I pulled you out, and I put you in that body, and I'm so sorry for dragging you into this. It was so selfish of me. But I looked for weeks, and then this morning I found my mother in there.

**Griffin:** He points at the, um— he points at the mirror, at that prison you can see inside of it. Um, and he says...

**Lucas:** I extracted her into this custom conduit. It was my masterpiece. And I had hoped that she would be this— the brilliant, caring woman that she was in life, but her mind is just gone! She— she attacked me, and I escaped, and I went to the med bay to regroup and patch myself up, and here we are. She— she's got the Philosopher's Stone. She crystallized herself in that stalactite. She took the siphon in with her. She nearly killed me, and I just— I have no idea why.

**Merle:** And what have we learned from this?

**Magnus:** I defended you up there.

**Lucas:** Yeah.

**Magnus:** And you've hidden all of this from us. We could've helped. You could've worked with the Director to figure all of this out. You— like, as a scientist, you have disappointed— you have let down the concept of experimentation and science. You're a coward and I hate you.

[pause]

**Griffin:** Um, he starts a-snifflin'.

**Travis:** Yeah, good.

**Griffin:** He's got— he's got tears wellin' up.

**Travis:** Good. I drop him in a heap on the ground.

**Griffin:** He says...

**Lucas:** I'm sorry. I just... I thought I could still save her. I thought I could still defuse this situation myself. I thought I... I worried that you guys would do— you would hurt her. You'd make me... you'd— you'd put her back in the— you'd put her back in the astral plane, and then I'd lose her again!

**Magnus:** She's gone, Lucas. Would your mother have struck you?

**Lucas:** No...

**Magnus:** Your mother is gone. Help us fix this.

[pause]

**Lucas:** Okay. I'll— I'll do—

**Merle:** And you peed a little. You peed your pants a little bit.

**Magnus:** You did pee a little, he's right.

**Lucas:** I did. I don't know how you ca tell that, that it's—

**Travis:** He rolled a really high perception check. [laughs quietly]

**Clint:** [snorts]

**Taako:** Okay, listen. Let's start from page one, okay? Who is in the stalactite?

**Travis:** [laughs loudly]

**Griffin:** Um, you hear a voice come out of the mirror. And this voice says, uh...

**Kravitz:** You guys really aren't that sharp, are you? You're still having some trouble figuring this— still crackin' this nut, huh?

**Magnus:** Well, hold on! Don't— like, there's three of us. We work individually. We're not a hive mind. Maybe one of us, but, like, I would say at least one of us has a solid grasp, one of us is halfway, and probably one of us just started paying attention.

**Merle:** And I've got to ask a question, mirror. Who's the fairest of them all?

**Magnus:** Oh, God.

**Kravitz:** Uh, it's certainly not you, my man.

**Magnus:** Oh, mean!

**Griffin:** You're not just addressing a mirror. You can actually see a figure inside of the mirror.

**Travis:** To Dad's credit though, Griffin, in the Snow White story there's a figure in the mirror then, too. Like...

**Griffin:** That is fair. That is fair.

**Justin:** Boom.

**Griffin:** You see a strikingly handsome dark-haired man. He's wearing a fancy suit that is covered by a long, black, flowing, cowled robe.

**Travis:** Oh, it's death!

**Griffin:** Uh, and he says...

**Kravitz:** Let me break this down for you. Um, that nerd is a necromancer. And necromancy is real bad stuff.

**Magnus:** Yes?

**Kravitz:** We're not fans of that over here, where I come from.

**Magnus:** And where is that?

**Kravitz:** You really are— you really don't know—

**Magnus:** No, I mean, that was— that was, uhh... a rhetorical question.

**Justin:** It was leading.

**Merle:** [gasps loudly] Guys! It's the phantom zone!

**Magnus:** So, you're Death, or Hades, or something.

**Kravitz:** Listen. You're not too far off. My— I'm Kravitz. Charmed.

**Magnus:** Lenny?

**Kravitz:** Still not good.

**Justin:** [snorts]

**Kravitz:** Still not a good goof, but we'll roll with it.

**Clint:** [bad Lenny Kravitz impression] American woman!

**Justin:** Wow, it's like he's in the room with me.

**Clint:** [laughs]

**Kravitz:** We'll have time to workshop it later.

**Magnus:** Okay, great.

**Kravitz:** I— some people call me Death, sure. That's—

**Magnus:** Some people call you a space cowboy.

**Kravitz:** Boy, you're not intimidated by me at all, are you?

**Magnus:** [laughs] No.

**Kravitz:** Okay. Some people call me Death, sure. Some people call me the— oh, in some societies I'm called the Grim Reaper. I like that one.

**Magnus:** Oh, I saw you in a movie with *Bill and Ted!*

**Kravitz:** My— I prefer to go by Kravitz. And I am a bounty hunter for the Raven Queen. The goddess of the natural order of life and death. Uh, I hunt down wayward souls that escape from the astral plane, or those who escape from the eternal stockade.

**Griffin:** He motions to the prison behind him.

**Kravitz:** Where souls who've passed on to the astral plane who conspire the escape the astral plane— that's where we lock them up. Uh, I dole out punishment for anybody who breaks the natural laws of life and death. And I've gotta tell you, this laboratory is a veritable pinata of punishment.

**Magnus:** A real abomination. Very much— it sounds like we're on the same side here, Kravitz. We want—

**Kravitz:** Ohhhh... that's— let's not get ahead of ourselves.

**Justin:** [snorts]

**Griffin:** He motions, and that book appears that he consulted with earlier. And he says...

**Kravitz:** Lucas Miller. You've been found guilty of aiding in the escape of your deceased mother, Maurine, from the eternal stockade, where she was imprisoned for conspiring to escape back to the mortal world. Your mother was imprisoned, Lucas, and you can't break people out of prison.

**Magnus:** It's bad.

**Kravitz:** I was assigned your family's bounty, Lucas. But when I got here, and I met *you* three, that's when I found an even bigger trophy.

**Magnus:** Wait! Now, hold on.

**Taako:** Wait a minute.

**Merle:** Yeah!

**Magnus:** What have I done? What did Magnus do?

**Kravitz:** Magnus...

**Clint:** Good— good teamwork, Trav.



**Travis:** Hey! I mean, I want to make it clear, here.

**Griffin:** He flips through a few pages of this book that's floating in front of him. He goes...

**Kravitz:** Let's see, let's see. Uhh... Taako! We'll start with you.

**Magnus:** Wha— okay.

**Taako:** Yeah, hello.

**Kravitz:** Taako.

**Taako:** Hello. [snorts]

**Kravitz:** You've died eight times.

**Taako:** [quietly] One, two, three, four, five... [unintelligible mumbling]... that tracks.

**Merle:** Wasn't one a— one it was a coma. Right?

**Magnus:** Well... I mean, it was debatable. We got a second opinion. One guy said coma, one guy said death.

**Kravitz:** Cut— cut the— cut the goofs!

**Griffin:** He says.

**Kravitz:** You've died eight times and checked into the astral plane exactly zero times.

**Justin:** Is that actually true? [wheezes] I feel like I've ducked my head in the astral plane, right?

**Griffin:** Uh...

**Clint:** You've dipped your toes in.

**Travis:** Well, you did the spa, and you did the hole thing, and you climbed up a rope.

**Griffin:** So, those are, like— those are, like, little discrete extra planes that you can sort of create.

**Justin:** Okay, okay.

**Griffin:** With your magic, you pop into the, um... shit. What's it called? Not the astral plane.

**Travis:** Ethereal?

**Griffin:** The astral plane is like— the astral plane is basically— yeah, the ethereal plane. The astral plane is like the afterlife.

**Travis:** And has Taako actually [wheezes]— I'm sorry. I haven't paid any attention to any of the episodes we've done.

**Clint:** Gosh, none of us have!

**Travis:** Has he actually died in game, and we brought him back? Eight times? That seems like a lot.

**Griffin:** Um, I mean, you've gotten— been knocked unconscious, but nobody's died.

**Travis:** Oh, okay.

**Griffin:** If you did, then I would have different hosts on this podcast right now.

**Travis:** Oh. We wouldn't just get new characters?

**Griffin:** Those are the rules. Well, maybe. Um... no, of course you would. He flips through the book again and he goes...

**Kravitz:** Magnus.

**Magnus:** Yeah?

**Kravitz:** Let's do you next. Magnus... what's your— what's your family name?

**Magnus:** Burnsides.

**Kravitz:** Oh yeah, that's right. Magnus Burnsides. You've died... 19 times!

**Magnus:** That doesn't sound right!

**Kravitz:** And you've made zero trips to the astral plane.

**Magnus:** Now, hold on, hold on, hold on. I think I'd remember.

**Kravitz:** Uh, Merle—

**Merle:** Let him finish. Let him finish.

**Kravitz:** Merle... Highchurch. Merle...

**Merle:** That's my name, don't wear it out!

**Kravitz:** Merle... fuckin' Highchurch. You, my dear friend— care to take a guess? Care to wager a guess?

**Magnus:** Closest without going over. Taako, go!

**Merle:** Uhh... I'm just surprised my middle name is Fuckin'! [through laughter] I had no idea!

**Kravitz:** Are you?

**Merle:** No...

**Taako:** I'm gonna go with one, in case we're doing *Price is Right* rules.

**Magnus:** You know what? I'm gonna go the other way and say 1999.

**Kravitz:** Somewhere in between there. Merle Highchurch. The richest bounty I've ever hunted. You, my dear man, have died 57 times.

**Merle:** [wheezy laughter]

**Kravitz:** 57 times. Fifty-seve-e-en times!

**Taako:** That's despicable.

**Magnus:** Oh, wait, shit. Is this alternate dimension stuff?

**Kravitz:** And you've never come to visit. You've never come to visit me, Merle.

**Merle:** I never call.

**Kravitz:** After 57 deaths. That's just rude!

**Magnus:** When you say "died... "

**Kravitz:** Died! Deceased! Lost your hit points, and more!

**Merle:** Are you spelling it D-Y-E-D?

**Taako:** What— what— what— in what reality have we died? Because we— we're still here.

**Kravitz:** Yeah. That's— yeah. Great question. I've been wrestling with that one myself.

**Griffin:** He's getting angrier as he is, like, counting up your tally. And as he gets angrier, his form is starting to change. His black robe is growing longer, and it's fraying and billowing out behind him. His face is turning gaunt, until it simply becomes a red-eyed skull. And he's got his hand outstretched, and a scythe forms in it from nowhere.

**Travis:** Cool

**Taako:** Aww...

**Magnus:** Hey, Lucas! Psst!

**Griffin:** He looks—

**Magnus:** Can he get here without that sapphire mirror thing?

**Lucas:** I...

**Griffin:** Lucas is just, like, trembling on the floor. He's just a puddle.

**Travis:** I kick him.

**Griffin:** Okay. Uh, the— Kravitz is starting to look, like, really terrifying. But you see something else in the mirror, something kind of unsettling in the background. That stone prison, the eternal stockade behind him, you see a swarm of those shimmering grey lights start to pour out of its few narrow barred windows and doors. And they are sort of gelling and morphing together to form a massive spectral hand, which is slowly sneaking up on Kravitz, who continues his spiel. He says, uh...

**Kravitz:** I can't allow you to stay out there. You have to know that. But there's no reason for you to die violently. Just come— just come with me. Come in easy. Please.

**Magnus:** Um... Kravitz? No. You know what? Nothing. Never mind.

**Merle:** [laughs]

**Taako:** You know, I will say, if you wanted to lure me in there, you should've stayed handsome, my fella.

**Magnus:** Yep, that is an excellent point. You're gettin' it spooky scary.

**Kravitz:** Listen. It's—

**Taako:** Yeah. People were all ready to write slash fiction between and you me, and then you turned all skeletal!

**Merle:** [laughs]

**Magnus:** A whole bunch of artists just had to, like, erase half of the portrait they had done. What?

**Justin:** Right. Piggy back rides.

**Merle:** Taakitz! Would call it Taakitz. That would be the shipper name. Taakitz.

**Taako:** That's good, Taakitz.

**Kravitz:** That's enough! I—

**Magnus:** Taakitz. That is good.

**Kravitz:** I want to know your answer. Are you coming with me or not?

**Griffin:** This hand is, like, right behind him now.

**Magnus:** [slowly] The answer or whether we're going to come with you or not... is...

**Griffin:** Okay. This hand, this massive silvery hand, grabs him suddenly. And you hear the wind just sort of get knocked out of him. And it grabs him and just slams him into the ground over and over and over and over again. Uh, and you hear him wailing as this hand just, like—

**Clint:** As the ha—[laughs] as the hand's whaling on him.

**Griffin:** Just completely demolishes him. And, uh, lightning-quick, pulls him back into the stockade behind him. Um, and after it dispatches—

**Magnus:** We did it!

**Griffin:** After it dispatches—

**Merle:** We solved the— the Kravitz puzzle!

**Griffin:** After it dispatches Kravitz, the stalactite begins to hum.

**Travis:** Oh, pooppy.

[hum plays in the background]

**Griffin:** And you can feel a vibration in the air around you. It's like someone just hit, like, a gigantic tuning fork.

[chime]

**Griffin:** And these vibrations, they're not dying down. They're actually intensifying, until the amethyst around the ceiling begins to emit those crinkle tinkles.

**Magnus:** Lucas. Lucas.

**Lucas:** Yeah?

**Magnus:** What the fuck is this?

**Lucas:** I don't know. I don't know!

**Magnus:** You don't know?!

**Lucas:** No, I don't know, I don't know anything! I'm sorry!

**Magnus:** Can you turn off the sapphire portal?

**Lucas:** I can't, I don't know how!

**Griffin:** You hear those crinkle tinkles coming from the ceiling, and another verse of the song plays out. But it's different this time. You are right next to this stalactite with the robot inside of it, and you actually hear multiple voices coming from the robot, and you hear a chorus, also sort of singing in unison, from the mirror. And together they sing the following.

**Multiple Voices:** [singing] Kept from our children, lovers, friends, subject to laws we did not make. This is where separation ends, and souls of the lost will come awake. Enter this crystal kingdom.

**Griffin:** Uh, the voices just sang, in case you couldn't understand it, or in case you're the three people on this call who didn't hear the song, um...

"Kept from our children, lovers, friends, subject to laws we did not make. This is where separation ends, and souls of the lost will come awake. Enter this crystal kingdom."

**Magnus:** Oh, fuck.

**Taako:** Son of a bitch.

**Magnus:** Dammit.

**Griffin:** A lot of things happen at once. The disc that Maurine's robot form inside the stalactite is holding, a brilliant white beam of light shoots out and pierces into the mirror. Um, and you see a swarm of these souls fly at light speed— well not at light speed. You wouldn't be able to see it. Um, but—

**Travis:** I don't know. I got pretty good perception.

**Griffin:** That's fair. And they, uh, bash against their side of the mirror and start to burrow through. And as they breach into your side of the mirror, they seem to again sort of organically meld together into a kind of, like, silvery goo that encases this floating mirror entirely. And from that goo, a humongous skeletal form appears. It has two massive, bony arms, a rib cage torso that's sort of sticking out of the mirror. It's just, like, everything from the waist up is coming out of this mirror. And a large shrouded skull. And this silvery substance seems to make up its form. Inside of it, you can make out these faint faces, most of which seemed to be locked in a grimace. And from this skeletal being that's about, uh... it's about ten feet tall. You hear a cacophony of voices that all say, simultaneously...

**Multiple Voices:** Thank you, Maurine. Your job is done.

**Travis:** Dammit.

**Griffin:** This big skeleton turns towards the three of you— or I should say the five of you— well, the six of you. I'm not counting Lucas. And it says, uh...

**Multiple Voices:** Living ones. Permit us entry into this world so that we may tear down the barrier between life and death. Join us in our cause.

[pause]

**Magnus:** No...?

**Travis:** I'm looking at Taako and Merle here.



**Magnus:** No— no? No?

**Merle:** Okay. Huddle. Huddle!

**Justin:** Griff—

**Magnus:** One second!

**Multiple Voices:** No, take your time.

**Magnus:** Okay, cool.

**Merle:** Alright, now listen.

**Magnus:** Yeah?

**Merle:** Listen. You know, we've probably put a whole bunch of those people in there.

**Magnus:** Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm.

**Merle:** Like, townloads—

**Magnus:** Phandalin at least, yeah.

**Merle:** Phandalin. [wheezes] We're not gonna get—

**Travis:** Tom Bodett.

**Merle:** —good treatment at the hands of a bunch of dead people that we offed.

**Justin:** Griffin, do I recognize any of the faces in the mass?

**Griffin:** Um, roll an investigation check.

**Justin:** That would be 15.

**Travis:** I rolled a 14.

**Griffin:** You actually see the faces of, uh, Magic Brian, Jenkins, and Maarvey in there, who you apparently did not obliterate as much as you just sort of banished them back to the astral plane, but they don't seem to have any kind of, like... they don't seem to have any kind of character or agency about them right now. You just sort of see their floating, miserable faces inside of this giant form.

**Travis:** And all of these spirits came out of the Prison Greyskull, right?

**Griffin:** Yeah, yeah, yeah.

**Travis:** So they're probably the bad ones.

**Griffin:** They say, um...

**Multiple Voices:** Will you join us in our cause to merge our worlds? We can find a way to be alive again.

**Magnus:** I'm— I'm gonna have to go with no, right?

**Merle:** Yeah.

**Taako:** Yeah. Uh, seems no.

**Merle:** No.

**Travis:** Yeah, you know, we're gonna have to say no. But tha— if you have any pamphlets you want to leave, or...

**Merle:** And we really appreciate you asking first. You know, that shows—

**Magnus:** Yes, that was very nice of you.

**Merle:** That shows really good manners on your part. You were very sweet to ask, but we're gonna say no.

**Justin:** Character voices. Character voices. Character voices.

**Clint:** Oh yeah.

**Merle:** [old man voice] Listen, we really appreciate you asking nicely. And, you know, asking permission.

**Justin:** Wait, not— not—

**Travis:** How long have been in here? Dad aged 50 years.

**Merle:** Oh, listen. We really appreciate it. Appreciate you asking first. It was really considerate, guys. Am I right?

**Magnus:** Oh, yeah.

**Justin:** Totally, yeah.

**Merle:** It was thoughtful.

**Magnus:** It was very, very nice, I'd say.

**Merle:** It's good etiquette. And, you know, so many people these days don't— they don't do the etiquette.

**Travis:** While Merle is talking, I want to kind of start creeping around towards the sapphire thing.

**Merle:** So, kudos to you! Uh...

**Griffin:** The mirror?

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Merle:** It's great. It's wonderful. It's beautiful. But listen. We're gonna take a no. But thank you so much, and listen.

**Travis:** I got a 15 stealth check.

**Justin:** [laughs]

**Merle:** And now, on your way out— look, if you'll just make sure—

[dice roll]

**Merle:** —because the trash can guys, they left 'em in the street. If you'd just move 'em back, thanks. God bless. [kiss noise] See you.

**Travis:** And I want to smash the mirror.

**Griffin:** Okay. You contested their perception check, and they got a 19.

**Travis:** Dammit! [laughs]

**Clint:** [laughs]

**Travis:** Poopy. Poopy, poopy, poopy.

**Griffin:** Uh, and it slams its two fists into the ground very, very close to you, Magnus. And this giant being shouts, uh...

**Multiple Voices:** You will join us one way or another.

**Justin:** So this isn't the robot in the stalactite, right?

**Griffin:** This is, from what you can tell, a legion of ghosts.

**Justin:** Perfect.

**Travis:** Cool.

**Griffin:** And as it says that and slams its fist into the ground, from behind it, let's say you see 16 of these grey balls of light come out of that prison, and bust through the mirror into the room that you all are in.

[tense music plays in the background]

**Griffin:** And super quickly zip into that giant pile of deactivated robots. And 16 robots shuffle their way out of the pile and encircle you. Let's roll some initiative.

[tense music plays]

**Griffin:** Hey, everybody! This is Griffin McElroy, your dungeon master, your best friend, your... personal trainer. I wanna see you squat 300 pounds tonight... with

your glutes. I don't think— I don't know if that's what you use to squat. Um, thanks for listening to episode 38 of *The Adventure Zone*, the penultimate chapter in the Crystal Kingdom arc. We'll have one more episode in this arc, and then we're probably gonna do a lunar interlude. Maybe not. Maybe we just hop right into the next thing. I'm excited to get to the next thing. I know this one's been going on for a while, but you can't put a time table on adventure. The thing just does itself.

I want to thank everybody who's been listening to this show, who's been telling their friends about the show. We do not pay for any kind of advertisement, so you telling your friends who you think would be into is the only way that we have to grow, so we appreciate that. And in a similar way, we appreciate you tweeting about the show using the hashtag #thezonecast. If you tweet about the show using the hashtag #thezonecast, you might end up as a character in the next arc, which like I said is probably gonna start in the next couple episodes, so tweet early, tweet often. Well, don't tweet often. You know, don't— don't lose your mind over it. Just, you know, tweet about the show, and if I see your name and I think it matches up good with a character that I've designed, then you'll end up as a character in the show.

[ad break]

**Griffin:** Got a few personal messages here. If you want to get a personal message on the show, shoutout to a loved one, a friend, or a small business. Uh, just go to [Maximumfun.org/jumbotron](http://Maximumfun.org/jumbotron), and they're gonna get you all set up.

Here's a message for Sarah Bay, and it's from Cody Singleterry. Cody says to Sarah:

"Happy birthday to my wonderful wife. I hope hearing our favorite DM... " Aww. "... read this message is almost as good of a present as finishing up your Ph.D. Thanks for getting me obsessed with podcasts by introducing me to TAZ. It got a little out of control after that, and still is. I love you and can't wait to finally live in the same place this summer."

Sounds like a sweet reunion's in the books, a sweet podcast reunion. Very excited about that, and thank you for listening and saying nice things. Also, I just realized that your birthday is April 23rd, and this is maybe the closest that we've ever come on any McElroy show to doing a message on a birthday, so this is a special moment for me, too.

Got another personal message here for CJ. This one's for Patrick, who says:

"Wishing the best boyfriend ever good luck matching a residency program. Wherever you end up, you'll do great. I still love how when I played you episode 1.5 to suck you into *The Adventure Zone*, you played dumb and pretended you weren't already secretly caught up." [laughs] I can't tell if that's love or gaslighting, or maybe it's both? "Thanks for being the Sloan to my Hurley. I love you so much, and I'm so lucky that I met you."

I... ship it. I don't— well, I don't need to ship it. It's a thing. But congratulations.

One last message here. This one's for Coleslaw, it's from Biori's Bounty Incorporated. I'm gonna go ahead and guess that maybe this is another one of those in-fiction D&D messages. Let's find out together.

"Happy birthday to the best DM we know. It's been just about a year since you had this crazy D&D idea, and every week since has been a magical adventure full of smashed doors, spider buddies, and arrows through the cocc— coccyx." [laughs quietly] "Coccyx. Coccyx. We hope your constitution saving throw against birthday hangovers was a success. Love Dinwin, Milo, Veneran, and Nila."

I love that this podcast and the jumbotron in this podcast is like a secret, like, Illuminati DM messaging tool. Keep it up, and keep that— that weird but wonderful-sounding game going.

Uh, if you like this show and want to hear more from us, go to [mcelroyshows.com](http://mcelroyshows.com). We got a ton of shows that we're all doing, like *My Brother, My Brother, and Me*. Justin does a show with his wife, *Sydnee*, called *Sawbones*, a medical history show. Travis does a show with his wife, *Teresa*, called *Shmanners*, which is a manners-based podcast. I do a podcast with my wife called *Rosebuddies* where we talk about *The Bachelor*, or we were, when *The Bachelor* was on, and now we're talking about a bunch of reality dating show trash. There's tons of shows that we do, and there's a bunch of shows on the Max Fun Network, which we are a proud member of. Just go to [Maximumfun.org](http://Maximumfun.org) and you can find shows like *Getting Curious*, and *Throwing Shade*, and *Bullseye*, and *Judge John Hodgman*, and *The Flop House*. Tons of great programs there for you to listen to. But I'm gonna let you get back to this podcast, because that's all of the commercials that I have. Thank you all so much for listening. The next episode will be up on... holy shit, May 5th! 2016, man! You blink and you miss it. May 5th, we'll see you back

then for another heapin' helpin' of... intrigue, and adventure, and danger. I love you.

[Crystal Kingdom theme plays]

**Griffin:** So you've got 16 robots. Uh, you've got this big giant— let's just call it Legion, 'cause that's what I have it listed as in my notes. This giant being made out of many, many ghosts. Uh, that is coming out of the mirror into the astral plane. It has encased the entire mirror in its silvery goo. And, uh, first in the order is Carey. Um, who turns to Noelle and says, uh...

**Carey:** Let's take care of the robots! Let's take care of the robots! You get the robots. You're a robot, you should know how to fuck up robots! You boys, you take care of that big— what is— the big— I don't even know what that thing—

**Magnus:** Yeah, no, I got— yeah.

**Carey:** Okay, cool!

**Magnus:** I got— I had you at big!

**Griffin:** Uh, Carey does, like, a—

**Travis:** Let's not fight, Carey. Carey. I'm sorry I yelled.

**Griffin:** Carey does a, uh... a, like, badass roll over Noelle's giant, hulking robotic shoulders, and...

[dice roll]

**Griffin:** Uh... stabs a dagger into two robots, right in the core, deactivating them. And then...

[dice roll]

**Griffin:** Throws her dagger into a third, taking it out of commission, too. So she—

**Travis:** Man, I wish I was a rogue.

**Griffin:** Singlehandedly— uh, the— I've got some weird mechanics for this fight, but, um... those two are going to act differently than you guys are, and actually next in the order actually is Noelle, who cocks her gun arm and points it—

[dice roll]

**Griffin:** —at a row of... robots. And she takes three of them out of commission. So two of them go back to back, and take out six robots, leaving ten robots in the circle around you.

**Magnus:** Hey, guys. Here in a second we're totally gonna fight this big skeleton thing. But let's just, like, comment on the fact that they're way more capable than we are. [laughs quietly]

**Taako:** Yeah, that's not new information.

**Merle:** And that it looks really kind of cool.

**Taako:** It's super cool.

**Magnus:** Oh, it's so cool!

**Merle:** Yeah, this is awesome.

**Magnus:** I'm so glad we're all here to see this.

**Griffin:** No, they're flipping the fuck around the room and, like, doing all kinds of ballet shit.

**Magnus:** I don't pity anyone who's not actually here seeing this.

**Griffin:** Um...

**Magnus:** Wait. Or I *do* pity? Whate— whatever.

**Griffin:** Next in the order is... Legion. Who is going to rear back its massive skeletal right arm, and it's going to take a swipe at you, Magnus, since you tried to rush it.

**Travis:** Uh-huh?



**Griffin:** Um... and it's gonna try and grab you.

**Travis:** Okay.

[dice roll]

**Griffin:** Ho. Uh, that is a 26.

**Travis:** Versus... [laughs]

**Griffin:** [laughs] Any— any number but your health, I think that's gonna hit.

**Travis:** Yep, it super does. I don't know, versus my speed I probably would've beat it, too.

**Griffin:** Uh, Legion grabs you with its right arm. It brings you right up to its face and roars right in your face.

**Travis:** Uh-huh. I roar back.

**Griffin:** Okay. Uh, it does not seem to care.

**Travis:** Neither do I.

**Griffin:** Because it gives you the old four-seam. Uh, right at the wall. You hit the wall, uh, and you take only 11 points of damage, but make a dexterity saving throw to see if you can avoid landing prone.

**Travis:** That would be 17.

**Griffin:** Okay, yeah. You slam up against the wall, and in an unlikely feat, you land on your feet. Uh, got thrown basically right backwards, past the stalactite, and basically near the hatch, near this big ol' robot pile. But you have landed on your feet. Uh, next in the order is— oh, I'm sorry. Legion gets two moves.

**Travis:** What?!

**Griffin:** Uh, for its second move, it is going to point its other hand at you, Taako.

**Taako:** Aw, man.

**Griffin:** And over your head, a small silver flame appears, and just kind of floats there over your head.

[pause]

**Travis:** Wait, I've seen this. He's the ghost of Christmas past.

**Clint:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** Uh, that's it for Legion's turn. Next in the order is Merle.

**Clint:** Okay.

**Merle:** Uhh...

**Griffin:** You got ten robots. You got Carey and Noelle sort of addressing them, and you got Legion.

**Clint:** I want to cast Guardian of Faith.

**Griffin:** Okay.

**Clint:** I want Della Reese. My giant Della Reese.

**Griffin:** Wait. Can you determine the size of Della Reese?

**Travis:** Can any of us?

**Griffin:** [wheezes] That is fair.

**Travis:** Now Griffin, do you think my rustic hospitality trait helps at all here?  
[laughs quietly]

**Griffin:** If it wasn't for that rustic hospitality, you would not have landed on your feet just then. In fact, you probably would've exploded as soon as you hit the wall. Like, I always factor that—

**Travis:** [laughs quietly] Man, I'm so glad I'm so hospitable.

**Griffin:** I always factor that in too.

**Travis:** Thank you.

**Griffin:** Uh, hey Dad, can you remind me how Guardian of Faith works?

**Clint:** A large spectral guardian appears, hovers for the duration— *the duration* in a spot where I put it. Uh, it's got a gleaming sword and shield. And any creature hostile to you that moves to a space within ten feet of that guardian for the first time in a turn has to succeed on a dexterity saving throw. The creature takes 20 radiant damage on a failed save, or half as much on a successful one.

**Griffin:** Okay. And you're just gonna plop this thing down... where are you plopping it?

**Clint:** I'm gonna put her right amidst— hovering majestically like, you know, like six feet above our clustered group.

**Griffin:** Okay.

**Clint:** [timidly] Should I do my battle cry now? Taako, do I—

**Griffin:** Uh, yeah, man.

**Travis:** You've teased it so much at this point, Dad. Just do it!

**Merle:** Light 'em up, Egon!

**Clint:** Thank you.

**Griffin:** Okay. [laughs quietly]

**Travis:** That's pretty good.

**Griffin:** That's intellectual property theft. Um, next in the order are the robots. Taako, make a dexterity saving throw for me.

[dice roll]

**Justin:** Uh, 12... plus... [pause] 3.

**Griffin:** Uh, that is not gonna do it. This, um... this circle of robots— there are ten robots right now— uh, all turn towards you. And you see that each of them has much smaller but still dangerous-looking blasters on their arms, kind of like the ones that Magic Brian had, and I should say that Noelle currently has. And fiery beams emerge from them, and like a firing line, all come towards you, and you are gonna take..

[multiple dice rolls]

**Griffin:** Ah. Uh, 19 points of damage.

**Justin:** Alright.

**Clint:** Now, is that something that just moved close to him?

**Griffin:** No. These guys are all sort of outside of the... of the— they're all sort of standing in a circle all around the room. None of them moved, they just turned and fired.

**Clint:** Alright.

**Griffin:** I can't factor in the movement of a bunch of different robots. I'd lose my mind. As they do that Taako, that white light that was over your head disappears.

**Justin:** Great.

**Travis:** Oh, that— okay.

**Justin:** That's good.

**Griffin:** Next in the order is Magnus.

**Justin:** [gasps] It's targeting.

**Travis:** Ohh.

**Taako:** It's targeting us!

**Justin:** There. Now everybody knows.

**Clint:** [laughs]

**Travis:** Alright. So... I'm gonna charge right back up there.

**Griffin:** Okay.

**Travis:** I'm still on my feet.

**Griffin:** Yeah, you have a move.

**Justin:** How close together are the ten robots? Are they just in—

**Travis:** Wait, before I run.

**Magnus:** Lucas!

**Lucas:** [gasping] What, what?

**Magnus:** If I smash the mirror thing, will it go away?

**Lucas:** It sh— I mean, it— the mirror has to be perfect in order for it to maintain a connection with our—

**Magnus:** Got it!

**Lucas:** Okay.

**Travis:** [laughs quietly] I run up. Griffin, I charge at the mirror, double handed axe.

**Griffin:** Okay.

**Travis:** I guess I attack the mirror.

[dice roll]

**Travis:** That's... 18 plus 7, 25?

**Griffin:** Uh, that is a hit. But as you bring your axe down on the mirror, you don't seem to penetrate this layer of silver goo that the Legion has encased this mirror in, so the damage goes to Legion. Um, you don't even seem to, like, part it or move the goo at all, but you hear Legion recoil in pain.

**Travis:** Um, I'm gonna do a goading attack on Legion, then.

**Griffin:** Okay.

**Travis:** Cool. So the damage was 15.

**Griffin:** Okay.

**Travis:** And you need to roll better than a 14 to avoid it.

[dice roll]

**Griffin:** Uh, I did not. I got a 9. I am goaded.

**Travis:** Cool. I'm gonna use my second attack.

**Griffin:** Okay.

**Travis:** To swing again!

**Griffin:** Okay, go for it.

[dice roll]

**Travis:** That's probably not gonna do it. Um... 16 plus 7, 23?

**Griffin:** Yeah, that's gonna do it!

**Travis:** Oh. Well, I didn't know. And this time it is— I hit for only 8 points of damage.

**Griffin:** Okay.

**Travis:** And you know what? I'm gonna use my action surge and hit again.

**Griffin:** Okay.

**Travis:** It's all I can do. 14 plus 7, 21.

**Griffin:** That's a hit.

**Travis:** Yay!

[dice roll]

**Travis:** 7 plus— so, 13 points of damage.

**Griffin:** Okay. Yeah, that's a lot of damage.

**Travis:** And then— and then I pull out my squeeze bottle, maybe towel off some sweat, sit down on a stool nearby and think about how good I did hitting three times in a row. [laughs quietly]

**Griffin:** Okay. Um, Taako, you're up.

**Justin:** Um... how closely grouped are the ten robots?

**Griffin:** Um— so they are standing in a circle around this room. We'll say they are each about... [clicks tongue] about three feet apart.

**Justin:** Can I delay my turn?

**Griffin:** Yeah? Do you just—

**Justin:** No, no, not for—

**Griffin:** [simultaneously] Are you having trouble think of something to do?

**Justin:** No, no, no. I know what I want to do. But yeah, I want to delay my turn.

**Griffin:** Okay. Next in the order— just let me know when you want to pop in.

**Justin:** Yeah, you know it.

**Griffin:** Um, next up is Carey and Noelle. Let's just make them do, like, a joint attack. Maybe Noelle throws Carey, who spins with her knives through—

**Travis:** And it's super cool, you guys.

**Clint:** Like a speedball special.

[dice roll]

**Griffin:** Holy shit. Uh, this joint attack takes out, uh, seven bots, leaving just a paltry three robots.

**Justin:** That is why cha boy delayed his turn. [wheezes]

**Clint:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** Uh... next in the order is Legion.

**Travis:** Well, hold on, Justin. Did you want to you go now?

**Justin:** No, no, no, no, no. I want Legion to go now.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Griffin:** Uh, next in the order is Legion. Um, who... is going to, um... use its first action to conjure up some spirits from the prison behind him. And these spirits, you see it fly into the room with you, and they just sort of meld in with Legion's skeletal form, healing him.

**Travis:** Well, poop!

[multiple dice rolls]

**Travis:** That's not fair.

**Griffin:** For...

[dice roll]

**Griffin:** 19 points of damage.



[pause]

**Griffin:** And with the second action, Legion is going to summon more spirits from the prison.

[dice roll]

**Griffin:** Oh man. Summons 14 spirits from the prison, which fly out of the mirror and into the big pile of bots, and 14 new, fresh, hot bots pop out of the pile. You've got 17 robots in the room with you now. That is all Legion's gonna do for their turn, though. Um, Merle is next in the order.

**Magnus:** Merle! Do you have anything that would, like, banish shit?

**Clint:** That's what I'm gonna do. I'm gonna cast... I'm gonna Channel Divinity. I am going to Turn Undead. I hold up— I hold up my symbol, my holy, holy symbol.

**Griffin:** Your *Extreme Teen Bible*.

**Clint:** My *Extreme Teen Bible*. They gotta make a wisdom saving throw.

**Travis:** And it affects anyone that can see you.

**Clint:** I say "they" because... isn't... I mean, there's a whole mess of 'em.

**Griffin:** No, it's a plural. It's a plural form.

**Clint:** Okay.

[dice roll]

**Griffin:** Oh shit. Uh, no.

**Travis:** But it affects all the robots, too.

**Griffin:** Yes, I would affect every robot in the room. I'm going to roll a joint saving throw for the robots so we don't have to do it, uh, whatever, 15 times.

[dice roll]

**Griffin:** Uh, the robots save. Legion does not.

[pause]

**Clint:** Alright.

**Griffin:** Um... Legion kind of, uh, scatter— you don't destroy Legion. It's more, uh... it's a bit too powerful for that. But you do turn Legion. And basically what that's going to amount to is Legion kind of splats a little bit, for lack of a better term, and you send some goo of Legion sort of scattering throughout the room. And it immediately starts to self-form again, but you have scattered it all around the place, exposing the mirror to the astral plane.

**Travis:** Yes, yes, yes, yes!

**Clint:** Okay.

**Griffin:** Oh, by the way, when you splat it you do send it flying into the danger zone. Um, so it's gonna have to roll a dexterity saving throw to avoid being pierced by Della Reese.

[dice roll]

**Griffin:** Uh, it does not save on a dexterity saving throw.

**Clint:** Way to go, Della!

**Griffin:** Uh, Della— as this thing kind of pops off towards it, you see your angelic Della Reese form just kind of fruit ninja this guy as he goes flying all around the room. Uh, cutting him up with a golden radiant sword. How much damage does it do?

**Clint:** It does 20 radiant damage.

**Griffin:** Uh, it actually does 40... to Legion, who you hear scream out in pain, uh, as pieces of it go flying all around the room.

**Merle:** I'm sorry. I'm sorry! Oh, I hate that.

**Griffin:** But immediately that silver goo starts to creep back together, starting to approach the middle of the room again. Uh... next in the order is the robots, who are going to attack... let's see. Let's roll a random dice for it.

[dice roll]

**Griffin:** Uh, actually the robots are gonna attack Lucas.

**Travis:** Good.

**Griffin:** The robots line up a salvo of shots— ooh, no way. Uh, and you see them, all 15 of them? Or 17 of them, shit.

**Travis:** Uh, Griffin?

**Griffin:** Yeah.

**Travis:** [sighs] I almost hate to do it, but can I use Protection to make it disadvantage against an attack on Lucas?

**Griffin:** Is it— does that work on melee attacks or ranged attacks or both?

**Travis:** It says when attacked with a weapon.

**Griffin:** Or no, no, I'm sorry, Trav. That's not— it wasn't an attack. It was a dexterity saving throw.

**Travis:** Oh, okay, great. Phew!

**Griffin:** [laughs] Then he is gonna get attacked. That was gonna be a really sweet moment, but instead, uh, Lucas gets—

**Justin:** Wait.

**Travis:** I want him to know that I tried.

**Justin:** Wait. Before... how big's the biggest chunk of, um... how big's the biggest chunk— so Lucas has, like, the targeting reticle, right? Like, I know Lucas is being targeted?

**Griffin:** Uh, he doesn't have that little fire thing above him. It's just you see all robots point their weapons at him. It seems like without direction they just target whoever they want.

**Justin:** Okay. Would I have time to slip in my turn here, or are they gonna hit him no matter what?

**Griffin:** Um...

**Justin:** Would I have enough time?

**Griffin:** Yeah, you would've had to have told me that you wanted to take your turn before they did.

**Justin:** Okay, got it.

**Griffin:** Lucas, uh... gets blasted by 17 different lasers. Um, and he slumps to the ground. And you see some— you see some vapor coming off of him.

**Travis:** Cotton.

**Griffin:** And he ain't movin'. Cotton. Thick— thick— thick—[laughs]

**Travis:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** He's vaping right now inside of his— no, he's— he's just been blasted to shit.

**Travis:** I mean, okay. Listeners, we did try. Both Justin and I. It's just... he was meant to die now.

**Griffin:** You can take your turn now, Taako, if you want.

**Justin:** Well, yeah. Um...

**Griffin:** We're almost back to where you were in the order to begin with.

**Justin:** Yeah, I guess I should go ahead and, um... I tell you what I'm gonna try. I'm gonna cast, um... [pause] I'm gonna cast Shatter on the stalactite.

**Griffin:** Okay?

**Justin:** Yeah. I'm gonna do that. Uh, it's gonna do— the stalactite's nonmagical, right? We've established that just 'cause it's weird—

**Griffin:** Oh, yeah, yeah, yeah.

**Justin:** —doesn't mean it's magical. Okay. It is going to do 3d8 thunder damage. 16.

**Griffin:** You cause this stalactite— you send a big crack up it—

**Justin:** Hee hee hee.

**Griffin:** —very slowly creeps towards the ceiling, and you send the stalactite plummeting down the to ground. And as it hits it, this stalactite just kind of continues to shatter, freeing up the robot inside of it. Um... there is an unintended— or perhaps intended consequence of this, is that as the crystal hits the ground, it begins to spread throughout the room, and it is moving— it's moving out relatively slowly, but it's creeping. It's corrupting this room.

**Justin:** Hell yeah.

**Griffin:** You see Noelle actually start to back up away from this spreading crystallization. She looks kind of worried about it, or she would if she had a face. Um... but this robot that was inside of the stalactite stands up, is still holding both the disc and the Philosopher's Stone. You see it stand up, and it's moving kind of erratically. It's moving— it's acting kind of strange. It starts to walk in on direction, but then it kind of jerks itself backwards towards another direction. And one of its arms is, like, pointing towards the mirror, and the other one is, like, grabbing that arm and pulling it down. It almost looks like this thing is having a fight with itself. Um, and you see it sort of bend over into the fetal position. And from its conduit in the middle of its body, you see, like, a dozen of these spirits just come flying out of it, as if they've just been, like, thrown out of it, DJ Jazzy Jeff style.

**Justin:** [laughs quietly]

**Griffin:** And the robot stands back up. It only has— it has a much fainter light in its fuse in the middle right now. Um, and... you hear this robot say, uh— point at Legion and say, uh...

**Maurine:** Get the hell away from my son!

**Clint:** [through laughter] Nice!

**Taako:** Yeah, that's about what I thought would happen.

**Griffin:** Uh, let me roll a quick initiative for...

[dice roll]

**Griffin:** Okay. She— after she points at Legion and shouts that, she looks around at the room and sees the growing crystallization, and then holds the stone that she was holding to her chest, and you see the crystallization just sort of get sucked back up into the stones that fell to the ground, and the spreading has stopped.

**Travis:** Cool.

**Griffin:** Magnus, it's your turn.

**Magnus:** Maurine, give me the stone!

**Maurine:** What? Who are you?

**Magnus:** I'm the guy who's trying to stop all of this. Trust me! Give me the stone!

**Merle:** Self-centered, much?

**Taako:** Yeah, we're a team.

**Merle:** I mean, we're helping, too.

**Griffin:** Um... roll a persuasion check.

**Travis:** Okay. That is a 19 plus 1, 20.

**Griffin:** Um...

**Justin:** She's like "Mmkay."

**Clint:** [laughs]

**Travis:** [laughs] "Cool, cool."

**Clint:** "Cool."

**Griffin:** She says, uh...

**Maurine:** I saw you attack my son!

**Magnus:** Oops.

**Maurine:** Why should I give it to you?

**Griffin:** Roll disadvantage, because you accosted Lucas earlier.

**Travis:** Fair enough. Ha! That's a 16 plus 1, 17.

**Clint:** So because he was a douche.

**Justin:** [snorts]

**Griffin:** She says, uh...

**Maurine:** Are you gonna help undo this?

**Magnus:** Yes.

**Maurine:** Catch.

**Griffin:** She chucks it your way. As you grab it, Magnus, you hear a voice in your head go, uh...

**Voice:** Yeahh, that's right! Use me! Use me! You can turn the world to gold! Don't you want that? A big ol' golden world!

**Taako:** Damn!

**Voice:** Think about it. Line your pockets! Line your pockets, kid! You can buy all the candies and sweets you want!

**Taako:** You're not a big enough boy to handle these kinds of objects, Magnus.

**Clint:** [laughs]

**Travis:** As that's happening I want to rip the glove so it folds around it. So I've got it in, like, a little sack. Think of it that way. Like, my null suit gloves.

**Griffin:** Okay, you've got a little sack. You hear it go—

**Clint:** You have a little— tiny little sack. We wanna make sure we've got this straightened out.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** You hear it go...

**Voice:** [muffled] You don't want the candies and sweets? Come on, think about it!

**Travis:** I tap it with the Glutton's Fork and I swallow it.

**Justin:** [wheezes]

**Griffin:** What the fuck!

**Justin:** [laughs loudly]

**Clint:** You have been holdin' on to that one!

**Travis:** Yes I have.

**Griffin:** I'm gonna have to— this is, like, the most magical object that there is.

**Travis:** Yep.



**Griffin:** No, I'm saying Glutton's Fork works on nonmagic— this is, like, the most magical—

**Travis:** I thought it was just it's gotta be small enough to eat it.

**Griffin:** No. Small nonmagical object.

**Travis:** But I'm doing it with the glove.

**Clint:** [breathless laughter]

**Griffin:** You can eat this thing, but it's gonna stay a stone.

**Travis:** That's fine. I'm not gonna digest it.

**Griffin:** You can wrap this thing in a fuckin'— you can wrap this thing in a fuckin' Hot Pocket, but it's still gonna be a— a— a magical-ass—

**Travis:** Yeah. It's in my tummy.

**Griffin:** Okay. Make a fucking constitution saving throw... to see if you can swallow this fucking rock that you're trying to eat with your mouth and put in your body.

**Travis:** [laughs] That's a 15 plus 3, 18.

**Griffin:** You have... [sighs] I guess you turned your glove into a delicious pastry crust that you have wrapped around the Philosopher's Stone, and then through some doing...

**Justin:** He turned it into the Falafelers Stone.

[all laugh loudly]

**Griffin:** Uh, you have swallowed this thing. And it's— it sucks, 'cause you can hear this fucking Joe Pesci-ass voice from inside your gullet now shouting up into your body.

**Travis:** Yep. And then I'm gonna smash the mirror.

**Justin:** Wait, Travis. Don't forget to get your two—

**Griffin:** Okay. What was the point of eating the rock?

**Justin:** Yeah, I don't know what you got out of that, but dude—

**Travis:** Well, I wanted to digest it, but then you said it was magical, but at that point I'd already committed to the idea of eating a rock.

**Clint:** [chanting] Poop it out. Poop it out.

**Travis:** And now I figure it's just safe in my tum-tum.

**Justin:** Don't forget to get your 2d6 points of health, Trav. [wheezes]

**Clint:** [laughs]

**Travis:** Oh yeah, thank you.

**Clint:** [laughs]

**Justin:** For eating whatever—

**Travis:** Uh-huh. 1...

[dice roll]

**Travis:** 1. That's 2 points!

**Justin:** For eating whatever detritus hoves into your field of vision.

**Griffin:** Yeah. You actually— you also take two points of damage for swallowing a motherfucking rock.

**Travis:** Balances out. So now it's safe in my tummy.

**Griffin:** And spoiler alert! You're gonna take a lot mo' damage than that when it comes time... to get it out!

**Travis:** That's fair. And then I'm gonna smash the mirror.

**Griffin:** Okay. Make a melee attack roll against that mirror.

**Travis:** Okay. It's 16 plus 7, 23!

**Griffin:** Uh, okay. Uh... yeah, roll damage.

**Clint:** This is gonna tear his butt up, isn't it. I know that's gonna happen.

**Travis:** Uh, 4 plus— so that's 10 damage.

**Griffin:** Okay. Yeah, I mean, that's not a lot, but with your two-handed battle axe swing, you send the— you put the smallest, smallest crack into this thing. And the picture behind it just vanishes, and the disc falls to the ground. Make a dexterity saving throw for me.

**Travis:** It's not gonna do it. 5 plus 2, 7.

**Griffin:** Oh my. [pause] Um... I'm gonna roll a 1d2, flip a coin, just see which way this thing falls.

[dice roll]

**Griffin:** Yeah, it's falling Magnus-ward.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Griffin:** This thing falls on you, Magnus.

[dice roll]

**Griffin:** And you take...

[dice roll]

**Griffin:** 14 points of damage.

**Travis:** Oh, that's not that bad.

**Griffin:** As it lands on top of you. And you are pinned underneath this—

**Travis:** Not that bad. Could be worse.

**Griffin:** —deactivated mirror.

**Clint:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** Um, and as you deactivate it you hear Legion just kind of scream in anger. Um, and that is... it.

**Travis:** We did it! [imitates Final Fantasy VII victory music]

**Griffin:** Uh, no, Legion is still definitely, definitely in this room.

**Justin:** Okay.

**Travis:** Oh.

**Griffin:** Um... Carey and Noelle do some dope shit, and they take out five robots.

**Clint:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** No, that's not gonna do it. Noelle, with two of her four arms, grabs a robot, tears it in half, and then throws the two chunks at two more robots, taking them out. Um, and Carey... slides underneath one's knees and grabs its feet and pulls it to the ground, and then chucks it at another one, taking out a fifth.

**Travis:** I just want to take a moment here to say that... I regret eating... the Philosopher's Stone.

**Clint:** [laughs loudly]

**Griffin:** Yeah, it seemed like kinda pointless.

**Travis:** It seemed like a great idea when I thought I could eat the stone itself, and then you were like "But it's magical," and I was like, "I'm still gonna do it!"

**Griffin:** You— you hear—

**Travis:** And I was like, "Oh... "

**Griffin:** You hear the Falafelers Stone inside you go, uh...

**Voice:** Hey, Magnus. Is it weird that I'm kinda into this?

**Travis:** Oh no, it's a vore thing! Oh God!

**Voice:** I'm learning all kinds of stuff about myself right now. I think we can still turn the world into, you know, gold or candy, sweets and—

**Travis:** I punch myself in the stomach.

**Voice:** Oh, okay, okay, okay.

**Griffin:** Um, Legion is next. This— all of the silver goo has sort of brought itself back to the, um, center of the room, and has sort of come back together on top of this pedestal, and reformed. Now it's just, like, half a skeleton, half a gigantic skeleton. But it no longer has access to the astral plane and all of the benefits therein. Um... so it is going to... just attack the prone Magnus, who is pinned under the mirror. Uh, twice. And you're gonna have disadvantage. Or I guess he's gonna have advantage, 'cause he's attacking a prone target.

**Travis:** Cool.

[dice roll]

**Griffin:** Uh, that is a 21 versus AC?

**Travis:** Uh, that is a hit, yes.

[dice roll]

**Griffin:** And a 19 versus AC?

**Travis:** I mean, both of those hit, yes.

**Griffin:** Okay.

**Travis:** I'm gonna use parry, though. Um...

**Griffin:** To reduce damage?

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Griffin:** Okay. We know what it does, just roll to do it.

**Travis:** Yeah.

[dice roll]

**Travis:** Okay, that's 10.

[dice roll]

**Travis:** 12. So it reduces it by 12.

**Griffin:** Uh, it was gonna be 43.

**Travis:** Oh my Jesus!

**Clint:** Sheesh!

**Griffin:** So 31 points of damage.

**Travis:** Whew boysie. Yeah, I'm still alive.

**Clint:** What— what are— what are you getting down to?

**Travis:** I'm down to 16, Dad. Thank you for asking.

**Griffin:** Um—

**Clint:** Well, I don't have a freaking tricorder on me! I can't keep up with it.

**Travis:** No, no, no. That was not sarcastic. Literally thank you for asking. I appreciate your concern.

**Clint:** Aww.

**Travis:** I have a real hard time sounding sincere. It's a real life problem I deal with.

**Clint:** I love you, son.

**Travis:** I love you too, Dad. [laughs quietly]

**Clint:** [laughs quietly]

**Griffin:** You... next in the order is Maurine. She runs over to Lucas, and she smashes her hands into the ground. And she just keeps doing that over and over and over again, um, just kind of mangling her hands, but exposing some active wires. Um, and she holds those up against her sort of ruined hands and puts them up against Lucas's chest—

**Clint:** Clear!

**Griffin:** —and is— yeah. Literally, like, yeah. Defibrillating him. Um, and, uh... let's do a First Aid check.

[dice roll]

**Griffin:** That's a crit. Um...

**Travis:** [laughs quietly] He jumps up and he's better than ever!

**Clint:** [laughs]

**Travis:** He's ten feet tall!

**Griffin:** He doesn't jump up, but after—

**Clint:** [simultaneously] Doggy!

**Griffin:** —after a few pumps, uh, you see him open his eyes and...

**Lucas:** [gasping loudly]

**Clint:** Of course all that would've taken about ten minutes, because that's what happens in the movies, and at some point somebody had to have yelled at him, "Don't you die on me!" Right?

**Griffin:** Uh, yeah. All of that happened in the span of this turn.

**Clint:** Good, good.

**Griffin:** Merle you are up.

**Merle:** I've been through a rough... a rough campaign here. [holding back tears] I've had my arm chopped off. I'm not sure how I feel about Pan. 'Cause God lied. We've been all through that. I'm— I'm having a moment. I need guidance. I'm gonna take just a second, just to do a quick— quick prayer.

**Griffin:** Okay.

**Merle:** I'm just gonna pray to Pan. And hope he—

**Travis:** Meanwhile, everyone just kind of, like, looks around awkwardly.

**Merle:** Hope he answers. I'll do it quick. [tearfully] Pan, if you're there! And if you're not a big fat liar... tell me what to do!

**Griffin:** Uh, okay. Hold on. Let me think about this.

[music plays in the background]

**Griffin:** Golden leaves very slowly start to bud and sprout from your Soulwood arm. Uh, sort of enshrouding it in a patchy bush of these golden leaves.

**Travis:** [giggles]

**Griffin:** And— gross. Um...

**Clint:** [muffled laughter]

**Griffin:** And your hand, the branches that have formed, your Soulwood hand, sort of mold your fingers into a finger gun, and points directly at the Legion.



**Merle:** [tearfully] Thank you...

**Clint:** I look at Legion and I cast Banishment. This is where I send the creature to another plane of existence. And they gotta make a charisma saving throw... or they're banished.

**Justin:** How charismatic are a pile of ghosts? [laughs quietly]

**Travis:** Good question.

**Clint:** Yeah, they can't be very charismatic, right?

**Travis:** No, especially if they're just, like, a weird skeleton thing.

**Justin:** No. The only charismatic ghost is Slimer.

**Clint:** Alright. Here I go. I'm gonna cast this. And I look at him and I say...

**Merle:** [emphatically] You shall no—

**Clint:** Oh no, I'm sending him somebody.

**Merle:** [emphatically] You had better pass!

**Griffin:** You shall p— you shall pass!

**Merle:** [emphatically] You shall pass! Get outta here!

**Travis:** And, ya banished.

**Griffin:** Alright. Uh, so this thing— normally, like, you can't banish something this big and bad, but you have weakened this thing to a pretty critical state.

**Travis:** And he's got Pan's help.

**Griffin:** And you've got the help of Pan. So I'll roll disadvantage on this roll.

[multiple dice rolls]

**Griffin:** Oh, the second one was an 11. Uh, those golden leaves that sprouted from your hand forced your thumb down, as if the finger gun has just fired.

**Clint:** [laughs]

**Griffin:** And the leaves blow, as if with the breeze that is coming in through the windows, encircling the giant skeleton, who you hear shout, uh...

**Legion:** Noooo!

**Griffin:** As it is— it sort of implodes in on itself, creating, like, a small— not a black hole as much as a very small silvery hole that seems to suck in the remaining 23 robots, all around the room. The spirits blast out of the conduits inside of them, get pulled into this silvery hole, and then in an explosion of golden leaves, they disappear.

**Travis:** Della Reese looks on.

**Griffin:** Della Reese smiles.

**Travis:** You've done it.

**Clint:** [laughs]

[theme music plays]

[chord]

Maximumfun.org.

Comedy and Culture.

Artist Owned.

Listener Supported.

[cow moos]

[music plays]

**Speaker One:** New to Maximum Fun, the Beef and Dairy Network Podcast: the number one podcast for those involved or just interested in the production of beef

animals and dairy herds. All sponsored by Grazex: the latest grass replacement pellet from Mitchell's! If it's not Mitchell's, get back in the truck.

Find us at [Maximumfun.org](http://Maximumfun.org), or on iTunes, or wherever you get your podcasts from. And if it's not clear, this is a comedy podcast. Beef out!

[cow moos]

[music and ad end]