

The Adventure Zone: Balance – The Stolen Century: Chapter Three

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[theme music plays]

Griffin: Hey, everybody. This is Griffin McElroy, your dungeon master, your best friend and your number one fan. It's such an honor to meet you! Thanks for listening to episode 62 of The Adventure Zone. It's the third episode in our Stolen Century arc. And this one's gonna be... I wanted to give you a heads up, here at the top of the episode. It's gonna be a bit short.

We kind of got together to record some stuff and when we were done recording this episode, we didn't know it was gonna be like a whole episode. But it just kind of felt like a... I don't know, a good sort of self-contained thing. And not only that, like it's gonna help us get back on track. Obviously, this is our second week in a row doing an episode and then we're... We're doing this to get back on the regular schedule.

So, the next episode is gonna be up on May the 18th. And then, Thursday's right again, and we did it. And this sort of shorter episode is our way of getting back on track. So, I'm just gonna do like the stuff I usually do in the middle of the episode now, since it's not gonna be a super long one.

[ad break]

Griffin: Got some Jumbotron messages too I'm gonna go through real quick. This one is for Noah. And it's from Jeremy Le Jeremy, Daemonic Gameshow Host and the rest of the Squishy Boys. I don't know if this is multiple— I'm gonna assume this is multiple people.

They say, "Noah, despite our best efforts, you've managed to keep our adventure rolling and we can't thank you enough for it. Especially when you let us keep the dog we found because he ended up being the best fighter in the party." Ain't that how it goes?

"Thanks for being the best DM we know. Here's to more horse meat sandwiches and never zooching—" or it's perhaps zucking—"another initiative roll." I don't know how to pronounce this. I don't know if you're rolling with Mark Zuckerberg as a member of your party. But that's an inspired D&D choice. Thanks for the good work, Noah. Hang in there!

Got another message here. This one's for Chris and it's from Leslie who says, "Happy birthday and anniversary to my boyfriend and DM. As Adventure Zone is our show while traveling, I know we're listening at our gate in the airport right now. Thanks for all the love, support and pictures of sloths over the last six years. I can't wait for many more adventures together, like wherever we're headed right now."

And that's... They wanted this late April, early May. So, hopefully they're on a trip right now, staying safe, seeing the sights, taking lots of pictures and bringing home a souvenir for me, 'cause I'll cry if you don't.

I wanna thank everybody who's been tweeting about the show using the #TheZoneCast hashtag. We've got just a couple more character names that I'm using. I'm starting to like finish outlining this arc and there's a couple spots. So, if you tweet about the show, you might end up as a character.

And otherwise, we just really appreciate it because we don't pay to advertise this show at all and word of mouth is the only way that we get new listeners. And it's grown into this really big, cool thing because of y'all and your enthusiasm. So, thank you all so very, very much. I think that's it. I'm gonna let you get into the episode.

Again, it's a bit of a shorter one. We appreciate you hanging in there as we sort of get the ship back on schedule. And like I said at the beginning of this break, the next one's gonna be up on May 18th. And then, oh shit, we're gonna see a lot of you for the Austin live show that next weekend. So, looking forward to that. And see y'all real soon, bye!

[theme music plays]

Griffin (intro): Who the heck was that nerd? The intro is my job! Just watch how it's done. It's The Adventure Zone!

[“The Unexplained” by Mort Garson plays]

Griffin: So, in the last episode of Stolen Century I think it’s safe to say things got maybe a little bleak, maybe a little bit dark. There was maybe... I may have ended Travis’ world that he made and worked really hard on.

Travis: No, it’s non-canonical, Griffin. You ended a version of that, in your universe. You know what I mean?

Griffin: Oh, okay. And things got—

Clint: Trav World— Trav World 2.

Griffin: Yeah?

Travis: Well, it’s not called that. But okay.

Griffin: Things got maybe a little fungal, a little gross. And maybe folks weren’t so into that. And so, I thought maybe for this episode, we could lighten things up a little bit. And I think the best way to do that is to have a good old fashioned beach episode.

Travis: Beach party!

Clint: [mouths main riff from “Wipe Out” by The Surfaris]

Justin: No more wasting time composing music for the show, you’ve got fucking Michael Winslow over here.

Clint: [chuckles]

Griffin: Yeah...

Travis: The guy from Family Matters?

Griffin: Oh, no...

Justin: No?

Griffin: Yeah?

Clint: What?

Travis: Well...

Justin: Is it Eddie? You're thinking of Eddie Winslow.

Griffin: Sorry, Justin, were you just trying to figure out if Michael Winslow was the name of one of the characters on Family Matters, real quick?
[chuckles]

Justin: Yeah, their last name was Winslow so it's not like it's gonna be a wild stretch.

Griffin: No, I mean, it's fair.

Travis: How could— How was that never... Well, we've talked enough about it. But how was that never a cameo appearance?

Justin: How was that not like a, "Hey, it's me. Your cousin, Michael." [silly noises]

Clint: [silly noises]

Justin: Fuck'n topical Michael Winslow references for everybody to enjoy.

Griffin: Yeah, that we just spent a minute and a half on. So, in this cycle, the seven of you come down on the Starblaster. And that name... It's like a rich—

Travis: It gets better with age.

Clint: [chuckles]

Griffin: It's like a rich honey. Every time I say it, it's just— Also, I apologize, I'm very croaky because I started Couch to 5K today, and I almost died. And my—

Justin: Ugh...

Griffin: I think I've pooped some of my lung matter out. And so, I'm a little grumbly. So, in this cycle, the seven of you come down into what is essentially a completely uninhabited world. Most of it is under a huge ocean. Only like 5% of this world is landmass.

And you're not really sure what the deal is after your sort of fly over reconnaissance. Whether civilizations used to exist here and collapsed and drowned, or if they never existed, or what. But in a rare stroke of luck, when the Hunger first scopes you out and the Light of Creation falls, it falls just like a day's ride away from where you all are.

And so, you find it and recover it, like within the day, with little issue. And so, the seven of you have a year in this pretty nice, tropical world. And at sort of Davenport's behest, you all decide to sort of take a break and have sort of a mental health year.

And so, you all work together and you build this large, sort of comfortable shelter on a pleasant beach, right next to where the Starblaster is parked. And you spend a relatively peaceful year together. Just sort of, you know, fishing and cooking for one another. And just sort of genuinely enjoying the break from this otherwise really, really difficult journey. So, with that in mind, how do you all spend your year?

Clint: Hmm...

Griffin: I'm giving you all sort of more freedom to do whatever this time. There's no immediate— You've got the Light of Creation and— I want to make it clear, this is not me trying to pull some sort of twist on you. I wanted to give you an opportunity to sort of, you know, have a cycle to yourselves. To do whatever, without the apocalypse looming over you.

Clint: Yeah, I think I'd like to be a... a beachcomber. And take all the shells and shark's teeth and drift wood and what have you, and make things for my crewmates.

Griffin: Okay.

Clint: Make things like you would find at Wings or one of those, you know, trinket stores. I wanna make some cheap crap for my friends.

Travis: Well, it's not cheap if you picked— I guess it's the cheapest because you literally picked it up off the ground.

Justin: Detritus.

Clint: [chuckles] I didn't spend a damn dime on it.

Griffin: Okay. Well, give me an example of some of the stuff that you make and let's play this out a little bit.

Clint: Well, I'll start with the primo stuff, the shark's teeth necklaces. You know, where you take the shark's tooth and drill a little, tiny hole in it. And you know, spend a lot of time looking for the shark's teeth, which enables you to get really bad sunburn. So, that's kind of the downside. That's what I'm sacrificing.

Griffin: Roll... Do me a favor, roll, plus mind. And let's figure out how successful you are at sort of digging stuff up.

Clint: Sure, yeah.

[sound of dice thrown]

Clint: Wow, 6 and a 1. That's 7. And then an 8, is mind.

Griffin: Okay, mixed success. Yeah, I think you find like shark's teeth and wood. I think if you had rolled like a 10 plus or something, you'd be pulling out like fucking pearls and all kinds of fancy stuff. But yeah, you have the

basics that you need to make stuff. So, you make some shark's tooth— You make a shark's tooth necklace.

Clint: Yeah.

Griffin: Who's that for?

Clint: And then, I'm gonna take the little shells I find and glue googly eyes on 'em. 'Cause that's always funny. And then, make little bodies out of like pipe cleaner. Or whatever pipe cleaner will be in this world.

Travis: I'm sorry, Dad. You're gonna have to roll for googly eyes. You can't just...

Griffin: Yeah. There is a special googly eye roll. I think that's plus body, 'cause you've gotta really maneuver those little bad boys.

[sound if dice thrown]

Clint: Plus body... Nah, I didn't find any googly eyes, apparently. [chuckles]

Travis: [chuckles] Okay, good.

Justin: I was gonna say...

Clint: That's a 2, and a minus 1. That's a crit 1.

Griffin: And actually, just based on the rules of the game, dad, you die.

Travis: [chuckles] You die—[laughs]

Griffin: You tried to put some googly eyes on a shell and the shell broke and it cut you to ribbons. And you died.

Travis: [laughs]

Clint: Ah, god!

Griffin: I'm sorry. I thought this was just gonna be a fun—

Clint: No, no, it's... it's all right. I went doing what I loved. And that was making—

Justin: Making trash.

Clint: Making trash.

Travis: [laughs]

Clint: [laughs]

Griffin: So, help me— help me match some gifts up to some people. Like, what did you get for Magnus?

Clint: Oh, for Magnus, I made a fake arm. Like, for your upper arm. You know, instead of getting like a tribal tattoo, I got a bunch of driftwood and I strung it together to make like a... a forearm— an upper arm.

Griffin: [laughing] I'm sorry. You made a... You made a—[laughing] You made a tattoo. It's just, you drew it on a big piece of wood—

Clint: Yeah!

Griffin: ... That you then tied on to him.

Clint: Yeah!

Griffin: This is— You invented the temporary tattoo.

Travis: It's almost like Dad doesn't know the word jewelry.

Griffin: No, this is good.

Clint: Well, no. This is more than jewelry. This is from the heart.

Griffin: This is a piece of wood that you tie onto your arm, so it's like—

Travis: I'm sorry. Jane Seymore's heart collection, dad?

Justin: Ooh...

Travis: That's from the heart.

Clint: Oh... Yeah, that is true.

Griffin: What'd you get Taako?

Clint: For Taako, I made him a pair of slippers out of... out of kelp. I found a bunch of kelp and I wove them together. And made him—

Griffin: [laughing] These gifts suck! You got him slimy shoes!

Justin: Can we just do these as scenes, for better presentation?

Griffin: Yeah, do the scene of you giving these slime shoes to Taako.

Justin: Yeah, please.

Clint: Yeah...

Merle: Well, I wasn't sure of your size. So... There's a lot of give in kelp. And if they're too small, get `em wet and they'll get bigger. And these, these are for you.

Taako: Oh. Well, thank you, my man. These are just beautiful!

Merle: And the thing is, if you don't like wearing `em, you can roll up raw seafood in `em and make sushi!

Taako: Perfect! I'll be sure to put these to good use.

Justin: Let me know when his back is turned.

Merle: So, anyway, Magnus—

Clint: I turn.

Justin: I cast levitate on them.

Taako: Oh no! Look at `em! Look at `em! Oh no! Oh no, my beautiful shoes!

Travis: So, wait. You waited `til his back was turned, so you could draw his attention back to them?

Justin: Well, so he wouldn't see me cast levitate on them.

Travis: Ah, I see.

Griffin: What are you doing by levitating— Are you just like throwing them up into the sky?

Justin: Right, they're just levitating away.

Taako: Oh no, my beautiful shoes! [laughs]

Travis: And when he turns back to look at the shoes, I cough and throw the arm bracelet into the ocean. [chuckles]

Magnus: [coughs]

Merle: And so... And then... And for you, Lup, I found a gigantic Portuguese man o' war. And I ripped its guts out and I made a shower cap for you.

Lup: Oh, I don't—

Merle: And you know, the tentacles kind of hang down and it looks like pink hair. So, I thought... you know, you would like that. With your fashion sense, you'd like that.

Lup: Cool! I don't... I don't want that.

Merle: No, you will! You'll love it. `Cause next time you shower...

Lup: It's a dead fish. I don't want that on my head. Merle, you get that I don't want that on my head, right?

Merle: [chuckles] I think you're playing coy with me. I think this is probably something you've thought about for a long time.

Griffin: Okay. She takes it and throws it to the ground. And it just kind of splatters as it hits the ground. And she's like:

Lup: Oh no! A demon... While you were— Look, an invisible demon that only I can see threw it to the ground. Ah, dern...

Merle: And Lucretia, I made this. It's... I took three sand dollars and made a Mickey Mouse head out of it.

Clint: That's M-I-K-K-E-E M-A-U-S, Mikkee Maus. Another trademarked creature.

Lucretia: Just sort of another dead fish hat?

Merle: But the thing is, if you're ever drinking three glasses of beverage at the same time, it's a triple coaster.

Lucretia: Excellent. Great.

Merle: Yeah! Consume that.

Griffin: Barry is slowly backing out of the room that you're standing in as you do this award presentation.

Merle: It's okay, Barry. Because... I'll have to wait and make yours later. I'm not feeling real good from that cut I got from the shell. I'm gonna go lay down for a couple minutes.

Griffin: You're not actually gonna die from the shell. I want to make that clear.

Clint: No, I like it! I like it. I wanna die from the shell.

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: You're not gonna die from the shell during a beach episode.

Travis: That would make us all feel really bad about throwing your gifts away!

Griffin: Nobody dies during the beach episode. I forbid it.

Merle: Well... I still don't feel good. I'm gonna go lay down.

Travis: He ate some bad man o' war.

Griffin: While you go lay down, I think Lucretia, who's the only person that kept your gift maybe, comes to check on you and make sure you're good. And she's talking to you and she says:

Lucretia: Merle, it seems like your gift giving didn't go maybe as well as you wanted and... I just wanted to apologize for the rest of the crew. They told me to— They definitely told me to come in here and apologize for how rude they were.

But I gotta say, I was... I'm impressed at sort of how well you've taken to this... this #beachlife. It seems like you've really kind of, you know... It seems like you're really comfortable here. It seems like you're really... I don't know, happy here?

Merle: I like it here. I could see myself settling down here. Except, you know, for the toxic, exploding shells, it's not bad. Thank you, but did you say they didn't like my gifts?

Lucretia: I... No. What did you— What did you say? I got confused by...

Merle: Oh, I thought you were saying that they didn't like 'em and you—

Lucretia: No, I thought you said that— I thought that you said— I thought you said that?

Merle: No! Oh, no, they loved them! Did you not see their faces?

Lucretia: They were... filled with childlike glee. Anyway, you lay down—

Merle: It was, yeah.

Lucretia: You lay down and rest up.

Griffin: And she leaves.

Clint: Yeah, I'm gonna dig a little hole in the sand to puke in.

Griffin: Justin and Travis, what do you think I should give— [chuckles] What do you think I should give dad for this scene? I don't know if— Merle, did you make anything for—

Travis: An asset.

Griffin: Merle, did you make anything for yourself that we could count as an asset? Or is this a bond... I think an asset, just because like you made some shit. What did you make— I want you to have made something for yourself, to sort of remind you of this beach world. What was it?

Clint: Yes, of course! I took a piece of driftwood and I embedded shark's teeth in it. And now, it's a wicked club.

Griffin: [chuckles] Okay. Yeah, sure. Fuck it. Yeah, that's cool. Like a little... warrior's style, improvised beach weapon.

Clint: Like something that The Rock would use.

Griffin: Okay. Yeah, okay. Take one asset for your—

Clint: And I'm gonna call it The Rock.

Griffin: I think this also isn't the only— since it's a year, this is probably not the only gifts you made for folks. But with that roll, I think they were of equivalent value. But go ahead and take an asset for this thing that you've made for yourself. Taako and Magnus?

Travis: So, I... Here's what I'm picturing. Magnus sees a piece of driftwood. Picks it up. Stares deeply into it. Sees the grain, is looking at the different shape of the wood. Like you know, getting it real close to his eye. And then he yells:

Magnus: Lup, pull!

Travis: And throws it up as high as he can.

Griffin: Okay. And sure enough, Lup just like magic missiles it the fuck out of the sky. She actually like Devil May Cry style combos, air juggles it up in the air. And she was just like standing on the ship. She was very far away from you when this happened. So, from like 100 meters away, you just hear her shout:

Lup: Rad!

Clint: [laughs]

Griffin: And she gives you a thumbs up. So, what is this sort of like— What are you envisioning here?

Travis: I'm envisioning it being kind of like a training year for Magnus. But also, like keeping everyone on their toes, kind of thing.

Griffin: Oh, okay?

Travis: So, it's like... You know, so just throughout the course of the year, kind of like a... You know, Magnus jumps out from behind a rock at Cap'n'Port. You know? Or like—

Griffin: Let's do that. Okay, Cap'n'Port's just sort of walking out on the beach. He's having some Cap'n'Port time, some alone time. He's got like a

bottle of... he's got a bottle of wine that he brought from a previous world. And he's just like, this is the place that he wants to drink it at.

And so, he like sits down, rolls out a blanket, sits down on the beach. It's sunset, as the tide is rolling out. And just is like really enjoying this glass of wine. And you— I guess this is when you pull your—[chuckles] Just make sure he's on his toes. You... What do you do? To like—

Travis: Just jump out from behind a rock and yell, "Magnus!"

Griffin: [laughs] Okay. I mean, he spills pretty much the entire— He throws the glass of— You know when you get like really scared and you're holding something, you will just like launch it? I think he just like throws the entire glass of wine he was holding and the glass into the ocean. And was like:

Davenport: What the... Why? That was... That was—

Magnus: You gotta be ready!

Travis: And then I run away. [laughs]

Griffin: Okay. So, you wanna do... Give me one more. Give me one more of your surprise training regimen.

Travis: Okay. I'm gonna go with... uh, Merle.

Griffin: [chuckles] Okay. What do you do to Merle?

Merle: [chunder sounds] What?

Travis: Merle—[laughs]

Merle: I'm still shell shocked.

Travis: While Merle's still lying sick in bed, I'm hiding underneath his bed.

Clint: [laughs]

Griffin: [chuckles] And how does this resolve?

Travis: As he's puking, I stand up silently beside the bed. So that when he comes back from puking into a bucket, there I am.

Magnus: [whispers] Magnus!

Merle: [puking sounds] Aah! Why would you do that?

Magnus: Merle. Attacks could come at any time, Merle. [whispers] You gotta be ready! Magnus!

Griffin: Magnus, go ahead and roll plus heart, I guess. To see if you just fuck'n annoy everybody maybe?

Travis: I thought this would be experience, but okay...

[sound of dice thrown]

Griffin: I don't think it's... Eh. I mean, everybody else is getting experience. How about this, based on your heart roll, let's see how you do.

Travis: I rolled a 7, plus 1. It's an 8.

Griffin: Okay. Here's— I'm gonna offer you a choice with that. Either you can take one bond, as represented by just like... I don't know, there's probably a couple of folks on the crew who like, enjoy this. Or you can let Merle and Taako take plus one experience, for your training them.

Travis: I will let them take plus one experience.

Griffin: All right. Merle and Taako, take plus one experience.

Clint: Thank you!

Justin: Oh yeah.

Travis: That was my goal. I'm just helping out my team.

Griffin: Yeah, I like the way— I like the way that resolved. Taako?

Taako: What's up?

Griffin: Do you have an idea for what you wanna do?

Justin: Guess what I'm gonna do this year.

Griffin: What's that?

Justin: I'm going to... learn to surf.

Clint: [chuckles]

Griffin: [laughs] Alright, um...

Justin: I'm gonna have— First, I'm gonna work with Magnus to find a nice, light wood that he can carve into a basic shape.

Griffin: Ooh... Okay, one thing here.

Justin: Yeah?

Griffin: I don't know if Magnus is a carpenter yet. Like, Magnus, are you a carpenter? I thought that might be something that happens eventually. But like— And obviously, Magnus becomes a carpenter after we arrive on the... on Podcast Planet.

But I don't... This is— I mean, we can talk— We can talk about this. Magnus, do you have an upbringing that would make you a good carpenter? Is this— I think— It kind of felt like something that you would pick up along the way.

Clint: Maybe this is where he picks it up? He's got a whole year.

Justin: Well, I mean... I don't. I need to start surfing.

Griffin: I'm not pooping on this idea, I'm just... yeah.

Travis: No, I will say that like—

Justin: Hey, beloved— Also, I should mention that like I'm... a magic boy. So like, I can make another surfboard.

Griffin: No, this is— This is not—

Justin: I was trying to be nice for your fantasy game.

Griffin: [laughs]

Clint: [laughs]

Justin: But like, I can get— I can like get a surfboard, okay?

Griffin: No, this is not me trying to shoot down your idea. This is me trying to come up with like... trying to figure out what the cool story is here. Like, is—

Travis: Yeah, I would say that at this point— At this point, Magnus is not yet a carpenter. But if you need me to hack apart a piece of wood to start with, I can do that.

Griffin: But, but, but, but we have a character who just spent a whole year sort of salvaging beach materials into like, cool shit. I think Merle maybe could make you surfboard pretty good, at this point.

Justin: Okay.

Clint: So, it was cool shit? I told ya!

Travis: Well...

Griffin: This surfboard's pretty cool. All right, you got a surfboard. What's it look like? 'Cause I imagine you can do some magic to make it look righteous?

Justin: It's a magic carpet design. It's a mellow cruiser, good for lazy days and lazy waves.

Clint: [chuckles]

Griffin: Did you just google that or..

Justin: Nah, just kind of off the top of my head stuff that I know about surfboards.

Clint: [laughs]

Justin: And of course, I use transmutation magic to glass the outside of it, because I don't have access to fiberglass sheeting. So, I'm gonna use the outside— to glass it.

Clint: Okay?

Justin: Just like a cool surfboard.

Travis: Now, Justin. On that board, will you be able to hang like 8 or 9?

Justin: Yeah, I'm probably gonna hang 10 on this bad boy.

Travis: Woah!

Justin: That's kind of my— I know, that's kind of my plan.

Clint: Oh, you know what? I'm gonna remember that, to use as like a magic spell, to make something fly.

Justin: Perfect. I'm laying the groundwork, laying the scenes.

Clint: By the way, the name of the surfboard is Woody.

Justin: No, it isn't.

Clint: It's Woody, yeah.

Justin: It isn't. No. It's called the Wave Carver.

Clint: [laughs]

Justin: Keeping in line with our perfect naming conventions. The Wave Carver is awesome and it's got, obviously, bitching flame decals on every inch.

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: Like anywhere you look at it, it looks like awesome flame decals. And I'm just gonna like—

Travis: How do you keep 'em from bleeding into each other?

Justin: Well, I glassed it after I put the design on there. So, I—

Travis: But wouldn't all the flames— Wouldn't it just look like one big flame?

Justin: Woah. Trav, you just described a pretty cool surfboard.

Clint: [laughs]

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: All right, what does this— I don't think there's anybody on the team who knows how to surf. So, is this just self taught? Just like you getting out on the waves? How does Taako know what surfing is?

Justin: I'm inventing surfing, Griffin.

Griffin: [laughs] Alright.

Justin: I'm inventing surfing. Let me tell you this, my original plan for this year was to just piss it off.

Griffin: All right.

Justin: Like my original plan for this year was just to not fuck'n do anything. That was my first instinct. And I feel like Taako, at some point, just got bored with that. Like, that was his first plan for the first two weeks.

Griffin: Mm-hmm?

Justin: Was not to do shit. Saving his energy for the challenges, in classic survivor tradition. And instead, he's gonna try to learn how to surf.

Griffin: So, you just get out there and just like start humping those waves? Or just working your way up to the big pipes?

Justin: I think it started with like floating—

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: ... On the board. Just to like, get away from everybody. And then eventually, got too far out and had to try to learn how to surf back in.

Clint: Didn't Magnus throw his wood arm bracelet I gave him into the ocean?

Justin: Yeah?

Clint: Maybe that was an inspiration? You saw it floating on the water?

Justin: Maybe—

Griffin: Oh, that's good! You saw it just like getting pushed around by the waves and you were like, "I'd love to be on that."

Justin: Yeah, or one of the chunks that Lup blew out of the sky was floating. Like, "That seems chill."

Griffin: Yeah, sure. So, roll, plus body.

Justin: Damn, didn't really think through that one.

Travis: [laughs]

Justin: It's really more about— It's really more about heart, if you think about it.

Travis: Yeah, if you think about it, Griffin. You've seen Johnny Tsunami?

[sound of dice thrown]

Justin: Hey, that's a 9. Minus 1. So, 8.

Griffin: Okay. I don't think— Take plus one experience.

Justin: Okay.

Griffin: I don't think you ever get— I don't think you ever.. Like, I don't think you ever like crush that big— those big pipes. I don't think—

Justin: Incorrect.

Griffin: Oh, you do—

Justin: I think I do once, right?

Clint: [laughs]

Griffin: Okay, here's what you—

Justin: I probably do one like—

Griffin: Here's what you do.

Justin: Okay?

Griffin: You are a competent surfer. And you pick it up pretty quickly and you're surfing pretty good. And in doing so, I think you just like... Maybe this is when you become a little bit more dexterous, right? Like, maybe this is

where sweet flips starts going? Because you need some of that stuff to be like, good at surfing.

Justin: Okay.

Griffin: And you... I think Lup watches you surf sometimes when you go out for your lessons. But then, she gets bored because she's not the one surfing. And so, she goes back to doing what she does.

Justin: Sounds about right.

Griffin: But Barry Bluejeans is like a big fan. Barry Bluejeans loves watching you do it. He's like kind of hypnotized. So, you spend a lot of the year like practicing surfing, in addition to all the other hanging out that you do with everybody. And after like one session of coming in, Barry Bluejeans is like:

Barry: Wow, good day today, Taako. You—

Griffin: This is what Barry sounds like, right?

Travis: Sure.

Clint: Who remembers?

Justin: Yeah, I don't... I don't.

Barry: Boy, that was a good day out there today, Taako. You were really eating that foam up. Just really carving that spray. Hey, can I ask you... Can I ask you a favor?

Taako: Sure. Yeah, of course.

Barry: I'm gonna make myself like pretty vulnerable here and I hope that you can appreciate that. And I know that we haven't— We've been traveling together for two decades, but we haven't really had much time to get to know each other. Will you— Ah, fuck... Will you teach me how to swim?

Taako: Yeah— Wait... Oh, you're kind of a barney, huh?

Barry: A what?

Taako: Barney. It's surfer slang. It's like an inexperienced surfer.

Clint: [laughs]

Taako: So, we call `em a barney.

Barry: I mean, I'll never get up on that graceful board and carve that spray the way you do. But just like, everybody else goes swimming all the time and I just don't know how to do it. And it's like... It's getting to the point where it's like, I'm a grown ass man and it's just kind of embarrassing and...

Taako: Sure.

Barry: I don't know... It's stupid. I can ask Magnus if you want. I just thought that maybe... You're just so good out there on the water that maybe you could—

Magnus: What did you say? What did you need?

Barry: Boy, this beach really— sound really carries across it, huh?

Clint: [laughs]

Magnus: Did you need something?

Griffin: [laughs]

Merle: [chundering sounds]

Magnus: I heard my name?

Barry: It's just, every time—

Merle: [chundering sounds]

Barry: Every time Merle barfs, I hear it, no matter where I am. It's just sort of in my head constantly. Taako, will you teach me how to fuck'n swim, please? I'm just getting... Now, I'm getting antsy.

Taako: Yeah, my man. Dawn patrol. We'll get out there first thing in the morning.

Griffin: Okay. You teach him how to swim and he's really bad at it. And he... I think you have to make him some sort of magic ear plugs in order for him to even do it. But...

Justin: Mm-hmm.

Griffin: It actually becomes like a... a thing. Like, every morning you go out and you get that— you get that good morning surf in. And then, Barry comes out to like root you on. And then, you give him some swimming lessons. And now people will stop tweeting about me that I said that one of Barry's favorite things is swimming in a cold lake on a hot day. And then, two episodes later said that he didn't know how to swim.

Clint: [laughs]

Travis: Yeah! So, take that!

Griffin: No, you all got me. You razzed me good. And in doing so, I think you and Barry become a bit closer together. And roll plus heart, for me real quick.

[sound of dice thrown]

Justin: That is... Oh... 11.

Griffin: All right... Hm... He says:

Barry: Boy, Taako, I sure—

Griffin: It's close to the end of the year now and you're both very good at what you do in that big, beautiful, blue ocean. And he says:

Barry: Boy, Taako, I appreciate it. I feel like I've... There have been times where I haven't been able to hang out with everybody 'cause y'all go swimming. And there are times where there's people I like, you know, wanna hang out with. And I just haven't been able to do it. And that's not a good look, and it makes me look like a big nerd. And I...

Taako: Mm-hmm?

Barry: It's just that— I just like, I don't know. It's... Never mind, it's stupid. Thanks for teaching me how to swim.

Taako: Well, what? I'm mean... You could have just come out with us? I mean, what are you... Who are you afraid of looking silly in front of?

Barry: It's... Don't worry about it. It's nothing. I... I—

Taako: Barry?

Barry: We should get back to the ship—

Taako: Barry, I rolled an 11.

Griffin: [laughs]

Clint: [laughs]

Taako: You gotta tell me, Barry.

Griffin: He says:

Barry: I just think, you know, it's like all of you... I don't wanna be— I don't wanna embarrass myself in front of. And like for example, just like... For example, like... Lup. I look... I look up to—

Taako: Okay?

Barry: Yeah, I look up to Lup a lot. And you know, I don't wanna be out there, floundering around, splashing around like some sort of goobus. So... Just thank—

Taako: I see where you're going with this, Barry. You... Listen, this is not a surprise to me. You ever heard the term 'locked in'? It's when a wave crashes and the surfer is inside it.

Griffin: [laughs]

Clint: [chuckles] More surfer terminology!

Taako: It's kind of one of our surfer lingos. And that's when you're—

Griffin: Real quick, real quick. It's been a year, is your hair longer now? Is your hair like sort of a little bit surf crunchy?

Justin: Yeah, better than ever. And I have a puka shell necklace that I made. And the special thing about the enchantment that I made when I transmuted it, is that the moment we leave this reality, it disintegrates. Like, it can't exist outside of this. This is not my perma look. This is just—

Griffin: Sorry, I didn't mean to— I did not mean to interrupt your speech to Barry. I just needed to know if you were like full-blown bodie or not.

Emerich: Hey, do you want a seaweed leisure suit to go with your puka necklace?

Taako: Absolutely not. I'm worried that would mess up my lines.

Clint: [laughs]

Taako: So... Barry, you're locked in. This wave's crashing all around you, my man. And I don't begrudge you anything. You know, we've lost a lot. And there's a lot more we might lose. But the one thing we do have, is the thing that people in love rarely ever have enough of. And it's time.

Barry: Oh, I... I don't know about... You know, I don't know about in love. It's only been... 21 years...

Taako: Sure. Sure.

Barry: Shit...

Taako: Barry, you've got all the time in the world, my man.

Griffin: All right, let's call it there, that's good. That's a good cycle. I don't think— I don't think we need to like—

Travis: Do we escape?

Griffin: Yeah, you escape and it's just fine—

Travis: Oh, whew!

Griffin: I don't think we need to, like... I don't think we need to get into that. I don't think we need to... I would actually like to not maybe put as much an emphasis on the end of it. But you have the Light and you fly away. And this world is saved. Not that there was much here for them to attack. And maybe the last thing they see is like, as you...

Hm, you know what would be good here actually? Hmm... Is this the place to do it? I think this is the place to do it. Okay. About a week before the end of this cycle, Lucretia has been working on something this entire year, as like a gift for everybody, that is...

That she's really excited about, but she's been very reclusive about and hasn't let you all know. And when the year's almost up, you all are having just one more beach rager. Is there a word for dawn patrol but at like night, Taako? Surfer bodie Taako?

Justin: Regular surfing, I guess?

Travis: [laughs] Eve patrol.

Griffin: I think you guys just have like a nice little cook out. And you see Taako, just effortlessly sailing over the waves. And Merle, at this point, you're all—

Travis: I sneak up on Barry.

Griffin: Okay. And do what?

Travis: I jump out from behind a rock. But maybe, Griffin, I'm gonna need you to roll, to see if Barry anticipates it.

Griffin: No, I'm never gonna roll any dice while playing this game. You sneak up on him and he throws his head kind of forward, as you sort of grab him from behind. And his glasses go flying off his face. And right as they're about to be dashed on the rocks, Lup reaches down and catches them really quick and hands them back to Barry, who kind of blushes.

Travis: And I just whisper in his ear:

Magnus: [whispers] Magnus!

Clint: [chuckles]

Griffin: And Taako, you come back in. And you all have like one last sort of, great night here. And Lucretia—

Justin: You know I'm getting a low country boil going, by the way.

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: Yeah, for sure.

Justin: No question

Griffin: And Lucretia— As you all are about to go in to sleep, to leave the next morning, Lucretia unveils what she's been working on. And it's just a portrait of the seven of you, here in this world and you're all wearing your uniforms. And, for once, you all look just so happy.

[theme music plays]

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