

The Adventure Zone: Live in Seattle!

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[The Adventure Zone: Balance theme music plays]

Justin: Hello and welcome to the adventure— sorry...

Travis: I think I can— Hello and welcome—

Justin: No, wait—

Griffin: No, no, no! No, no, no! Justin— No, Justin was first to go. Yeah, let her rip.

Justin: I'm starting it—

Griffin: No, I like this! Please.

Clint: Hello! And welcome to The Adventure Zone!

Travis: Dad, you're not—

[crowd cheers]

Griffin: Hey, welcome to The Adventure Zone. Thank you so much for being here.

[crowd cheers]

Griffin: Today, we'll be doing an extended universe adventure of The Adventure Zone: Balance, our first—

[crowd cheers]

Travis: The rough draft of our podcast, as everyone calls it. We started, we didn't know what we were doing.

Griffin: The first pass! [chuckles] Yeah.

Travis: And it just kept getting better. [chuckles] Don't laugh.

Griffin: So, I'm really just realizing, gosh, I hope everybody has heard that. Or else this particular one might be a little bit hard to follow. Nah, you'll have a great time. Who here has never listened to The Adventure Zone before?

[a couple of audience members exclaim]

Travis: More than I would have thought.

Griffin: More than I expected.

Justin: More than I would have liked. [chuckles]

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: And how many of those people, if you are one of those people, is here on a date?

[a couple of audience members cheer]

Justin: What is that? That's so weird.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: It's so weird to do that.

Travis: I just wanted to put even more pressure on us.

Griffin: Yeah, no kidding.

Justin: So weird. [chuckles]

Griffin: Hey, do you all want to get started and then we'll introduce our characters in media res.

Justin: Sure.

Griffin: Fantastic. In a cosmos far beyond the stars, the 12 planes of existence that make up our reality move along their preordained paths. Elemental realms shaped into perfect discs revolve around a center point, the Prime Material Plane. Where most of our story has taken place. These planes feed it with the energies that sustain it in a perfect practice dance. Or at least it was, until one of the planes has begun to misbehave. It goes by many names, the Plane of Thought, of Ingenuity, of Cunning. Regardless of titles right now, it is a plane out of step with the rest.

Dark emerald clouds drift across its surface, illuminated by flashes of brilliant yellow light. And all of a sudden, one flash disrupts the silence of the scene. A bolt arcs across the expanse connecting the Prime Material Plane and the Plane of Thought with explosive momentary force. And in that exact moment, in the sky far above a city much larger and technologically advanced than any of our heroes have seen before, the clouds part. And Taako, Merle and Magnus plummet, dressed in their nightwear, torn from their beds in one world and tossed screaming toward their doom in another. What do you do? Also, who are you?

Travis: I land on my juicy butt for padding.

Griffin: Okay, I'm about to roll a lot of dice!

[crowd chuckles]

Travis: No. What do I do? I'm falling— I don't have magic, why am I talking?

Griffin: I was gonna say; bold for you to go first.

Justin: Yeah, I mean...

Griffin: Who are you?

Justin: Me?

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Well, I'm Taako.

[crowd cheers]

Justin: From TV.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: And I have a... oh, wait... I was pulled out of my bed at night. I don't have any of my—

Griffin: None of you have any of your gear.

Justin: My gear.

Griffin: Yeah. In fact, while you introduce yourselves, I would love to know what you have on you, based on your bedtime sort of routine.

Justin: Well, I'm a sheddy.

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: Yeah.

Clint: I've got my mini auto gyrocopter that I always sleep with.

Griffin: [chuckles]

Justin: Yeah. Dad kept his penguin umbrella. [chuckles] It's a sleep aid.

Travis: I have my life-sized body pillow of my way-fu. [chuckles]

Griffin: That's I don't think how you pronounce that. [chuckles]

Travis: No, I don't think it is either.

Justin: Do you all know that these jokers— and by these jokers, I mean everyone that works at our company other than me, shot down life-sized body pillows of us as a merchandise item?

[crowd chuckles]

Griffin: What a bad—

Clint: I didn't?

Travis: Not of our characters, mind you!

Justin: No, just of—

Travis: Of Justin, Griffin and Travis.

Justin: Just us.

[crowd chuckles]

Clint: So I voted against it because I was not included in the merchandising idea.

Griffin: [laughs] Okay, Clint, why don't you introduce your character? Justin didn't tell us what he does, maybe he's thinking about it.

Justin: I'm thinking about it.

Griffin: Yeah, yeah.

Clint: Standing before you is—

Griffin: Falling, plummeting towards the surface of a city far more technologically advanced than—

Clint: Falling past your vision very rapidly is Merle Highchurch.

[crowd cheers]

Clint: Perhaps not the same Merle Highchurch that you all remember. This is a Merle Highchurch who's had a change in his life. He has adopted a more... reflective, contemplative stance.

Griffin: Yeah, cool. Yeah, this sort of born-again Christian vibe that you're going to be bringing is definitely—

Travis: Yeah, I think my big complaint about Merle up to this point was too active!

Griffin: Yeah. [laughs]

Travis: Did too much stuff!

Clint: The old girl would have gotten quite angry at remarks like that.

Griffin: Yeah, sure.

Clint: But the new Merle just lets it run like water off his back.

Griffin: Travis?

Travis: I'm Magnus Burnsides.

Griffin: Yes.

[crowd cheers]

Travis: Thank you. I aim for an awning. Anything big, a net? A big thing?

Griffin: Oh, okay?

Travis: Anything I see that might break my fall?

Griffin: Okay, Magnus— we'll say, Magnus, you were teleported in, into this city, a little bit sooner than the others. You're falling—

Travis: In my jammy armor.

Griffin: In your jammy armor. I'm gonna say that it doesn't provide much in the way of AC.

Travis: No, it's still flannel. It's just exactly the same—

Griffin: Oh, okay, cool, cool, cool!

Justin: That's got lots of AC. Aw, cute.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Aw, cute.

Griffin: All right, fun. Yeah, sure, I got you. Make...

Travis: And my teddy bear, Magnus Junior.

Justin: Sorry, I don't want to— I don't feel like I should be confusing Dad about the rules of 5E. Dad, AC is still armor class. I don't want you to think—

Clint: Oh.

Griffin: [laughs] There's no way dad knew what AC stands for—

Travis: Dad's armor class is 18!

Griffin: Yeah, it's pretty good.

Travis: How is Merle's armor class 18?!

Griffin: Okay, why don't you make, I'm going to say, a pretty high dexterity saving throw. As you aim to land on an awning. Unless, why don't you actually give me an investigation check of the city you're falling towards below to try— or perception check to try to find a nice, soft surface.

Travis: What's better? None of them. Oh, boy... Oh, boy. Okay.

[sound of dice thrown]

Travis: That is a 13 investigation. Doesn't matter, they're both plus zero.

Griffin: No, okay— no, you all are falling towards a pretty open city street with not a lot of awnings. There's a hot dog cart with an umbrella that is pretty big. And so that seems to be the best sort of case scenario for you.

Justin: I cast Enlarge on the buns.

[crowd chuckles]

Griffin: Now hold on, no one else— no one else talk. No one else talk but Justin.

[crowd chuckles]

Justin: Yes. [chuckles] Yes.

Griffin: Say that sentence again with maybe a little bit more specificity.

Clint: As Taako.

Griffin: As to the buns.

Justin: I cast Enlarge. [chuckles]

Griffin: On?

Justin: The hot dog buns.

Griffin: Okay.

Clint: Oh! Damn, I thought we were looking at a bounce thing there.

Travis: I thought I was looking at getting out of leg day for a while.

[group chuckle]

Griffin: I just— I have the rules open to try and find the descriptions of these spells and I, in my excitement, just typed 'D&D 5E buns.'

[crowd chuckles]

Justin: [chuckles] I have it here in front of me, if you'd like? I'm a professional now.

Griffin: Yes, please.

Justin: And I've played enough Baldur's Gate to finally understand the rules of rules of D&D.

Griffin: The rules of rules of D&D, yeah. [chuckles]

[crowd laughs]

Griffin: Okay— now, okay—

Justin: Are you hung up on the part where it says the target size doubles in all dimensions?

Griffin: [laughs] Now I will say this; if you cast it on all the buns—

Justin: That's what I was saying. The pile of buns as a singular object.

Griffin: Okay, cool, cool, cool. All right. Yeah. Okay.

Justin: Yeah!

Griffin: Justin has done you a favor here, Travis. I'm going to say instead of being a very, very high dexterity saving throw with disadvantage, it's just a regular dexterity saving throw.

Justin: Wait, is he going for my buns?

Griffin: The big pile of buns, yeah.

Justin: That's my—

Travis: If it works, I'll catch you.

Justin: No! It's my big pile of buns!

Griffin: Well, it's—

Travis: Hey!

Griffin: Magnus was lowest.

Travis: As friends, can't it be our big pile of buns?

Justin: I need—

Travis: That's a 15 dexterity saving throw.

Griffin: Yes?

Travis: Plus 3, 18.

Griffin: Okay, yeah, on an 18, you smash down into a giant pile of hot dog buns that were sitting on a picnic table that you—

Travis: I'm sorry, say picnic again?

Griffin: Pic-a-nic table that you do shatter underneath the weight of your body. You also, there's a hot dog vendor standing at the table going, "What's happening with my buns?!" And then a man falls through them and he's like, "Whoa." He just takes off running. He's very scared. That's a scary thing to have happened. So Magnus, you don't take any damage. These are big, pillowy buns. Taako however, I will say that your gambit for landing safely has been thoroughly destroyed by Magnus.

Justin: That was— I had made it so clear to you, to everyone, that it was my pile of buns.

Griffin: Yeah, better think of another plan, and fast.

Justin: I just used a second level spell slot—

Travis: Can I catch him?

Justin: Yeah, catch me. Like in Princess Bride.

Clint: Wait, you may not have to.

Griffin: Okay?

Justin: Okay?

Travis: Okay, I let him fall.

Clint: Merle looks down and sees a store on the street near the hotdog vendor.

Griffin: Yeah?

Clint: And it has a leafy green plant on the front of it, like a green sign. And it looks very interesting, so he figures—

Griffin: Are you telling me that Merle would not recognize a marijuana leaf on sight?

[crowd chuckles]

Clint: This is not his plane!

Griffin: Oh, okay, I—

Travis: Marijuana is marijuana everywhere you go, Clinton!

Griffin: [chuckles]

Clint: So Merle casts Plant Growth.

Griffin: Okay? [chuckles]

Clint: Hoping that a nice big cushion of—

Griffin: Yeah, sure?

Justin: Kush.

Travis: A nice kush'n?

Justin: Kush'n?

Clint: Kush'n!

[crowd chuckles]

Clint: He said, acting like he meant to do that.

Griffin: [chuckles] Yeah, right.

[crowd chuckles]

Griffin: Okay, so with this you can... "They become thick and overgrown, a creature moving through the area must spend four feet of movement for every one foot it moves." Okay.

Travis: We have been playing for about 15 minutes and we've already had juicy buns and overgrown bush.

Griffin: [chuckles] Yeah, sure.

[crowd chuckles]

Griffin: Okay, so are both of you aiming at— Merle, let's say this; Merle, if this is the direction you want to go on your journey, I am going to make you make a dexterity saving throw too. But this is a relatively soft place that you've created for yourself.

Clint: Okay.

Griffin: To go into.

Clint: And as he falls, he points to Taako and says:

Merle: Cushion!

Griffin: [laughs] Oh...

Clint: That is a... 6!

Griffin: [chuckles] Oh, no. What's your dexterity save though?

Clint: Plus zero!

[crowd chuckles]

Griffin: Okay, so you are going to take, wow, some falling damage. I haven't rolled actual dice in a while. This is fun. I just rolled an 8 three times in a row. After a 7, so that's... 31 points of bludgeoning damage you take. You say: "Taako, cushion!" It stops you a little bit but then you hit sidewalk. You hit asphalt.

Clint: Well, this is as Pan wished.

Griffin: [chuckles] Okay! Pretty fucked up, Pan. Taako, what do you do?

Justin: Fall on Merle.

Griffin: Okay, great. [chuckles]

[crowd laughs]

Justin: I assume what he said 'cushion,' I just thought—

Griffin: He was talking about himself.

Justin: Himself.

Clint: Oh!

Griffin: Okay. Make a dexterity saving throw with advantage. If you get over a 20, neither of you will be hurt.

Clint: Wait, over a 20?

Travis: Can I try and catch Taako?

Griffin: I'm gonna say you landed elsewhere. You did not land directly—

Justin: Yeah, right the fuck where—

Griffin: Go ahead.

[crowd chuckles]

Justin: Yeah, that's a 17.

Griffin: Plus dex save?

Justin: Wait, with advantage. Or a— oh, 18 plus 3, 21.

Griffin: All right!

[crowd cheers]

Griffin: With a 21, you are— the plants seem to come to life around you for some reason, not Merle. Just grabbing you tenderly. And you just very gently set down right on top of Merle's man bun. And it's so soft and nice for you. Merle, you don't take any damage. Maybe psychic damage of a sort? And all

three of you have landed on the street. You are now standing in this massive, massive city. It is a city that would put Gold Cliff to shame, massive skyline of skyscrapers. The tallest buildings you've ever seen. There's a monorail zipping through the city of—

Justin: How's the weather?

Griffin: How's the weather? It's right now pretty nice and chill, about a nice 61. I mean, do you want me to open up—

Travis: Is it kind of always raining a little bit? [chuckles]

[crowd chuckles]

Griffin: It's always kind of raining a little bit. There's a beautiful spire stretching towards the clouds.

[crowd cheers]

Justin: Montreal, baby! Here we come!

[crowd laughs]

Griffin: [laughs] A spire stretching towards the clouds that looks as if someone put a jaunty hat on top of the Eiffel Tower. Your senses are—

Travis: Oh! Like some kind of sky syringe.

Griffin: Your senses are overwhelmed, the smell of fish and other marine commerce. You see giant red letters reading 'Pubic Market Center.' No...

[crowd chuckles]

Griffin: Not quite that. You misread it.

Clint: That was Merle.

Griffin: Not me. You all are taking in all these senses, you're overwhelmed. And then you see perhaps even the strangest thing of all. All around you are people that are dressed exactly like you. Not in the you all are fashion trendsetters way. You see without a doubt people dressed as Merle, Magnus and Taako. And Lucretius and Lups, and Barrys and Davenports and—

Travis: I'm gonna guess, Griffin, from my personal experience that it's not an equal amount of each.

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: That maybe, just maybe there's some more maybe Taako and Lups than everyone else.

[crowd cheers]

Travis: It's fine.

Griffin: That is a fair assessment.

[crowd chuckles]

Clint: The bitterness in that last part—

Travis: Even though they might be, let's say, the most expensive ones to cosplay.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: It's fine.

Justin: Here's the problem though with Comic Cons in Seattle, if I may; it's really hard if you're—

Travis: Wait, it's in Seattle?!

Justin: Now, please. The Comic Cons in Seattle, it's really hard to be me there because you can never tell if an elf with the umbrella is Taako or just a prepared regular elf.

[group chuckle]

Justin: Prepared for a day in Seattle. It's tough to tell.

Griffin: You see all of these people congregating around and filing into a large building sporting signs that read 'Tusk Corp presents Story Con 2023.'

Magnus: Ah, so it's some kind of heist!

Taako: Did you guys see the—

Magnus: It's a con!

Taako: Did you guys see the food when we landed? 'Hot dog' it was called.

Magnus: Gross!

Taako: You know who would get a kick out of that is my friend, Hot Dog the Warlock. We've always teased him about his name for all this time, but they have food here named hot dog. Isn't that weird?

Griffin: [laughs] What is this joke? A guy on the street says, "What is this joke?"

[crowd chuckles]

Taako: Okay, so—

Magnus: I don't think that's a reference.

Taako: So my name is Taako.

Griffin: "Hi, Taako. Yeah, sure."

Taako: And I didn't know it was— okay, what's your name, sport?

Griffin: He says, "I'm Merle Highchurch, bro. Clearly."

Taako: Okay.

Magnus: It's like looking in a mirror!

Griffin: This dude is huge. He is just—

Justin: Is he bigger?

Griffin: Way bigger! Pecks blasted, just shredded head to toe—

Travis: And you couldn't do Magnus?!

Clint: So an exact duplicate of Merle?

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: This guy, his cosplay is actually I would say a step above most of the folks you see here. He is— it looks like a lot of people here, not to be judgey, but a lot of the folks that you see looking around, it looks like they're wearing the like Magnus, Taako and Merle costumes from Spirit Halloween. This guy..

Justin: He really went for it.

Travis: To be fair, that would just be like large, stupid fighter man.

Griffin: This guy looks like spitting image if Merle— again, something about the triglycerides that I don't know what that— if Merle was huge and jacked and buff.

Travis: Hey, have you ever tried glycerides?

[group chuckle]

Taako: So you know— you know about... me? Us?

Griffin: “Yeah, bro. We all do? You don't know who brought you here? Are you here on a date or something, bro?”

[crowd chuckles]

Taako: Yeah, my boyfriend's got a weird taste. Me, I'm more of a sports guy.

Griffin: “Hell yeah, man. Go Hucks.”

[crowd cheers]

Justin: [chuckles] Okay.

Travis: That is a deep cut reference to a thing none of you were there for earlier today. Where Justin referred to the Seahawks as the Hucks.

Justin: No—

Travis: I don't know why Griffin did a callback to a thing none of you were present for.

Griffin: I actually got confused about what the actual real name of the thing was.

[crowd chuckles]

Justin: I saw a stadium, I pointed to it and I had no idea. And I said that's where the Hucks play.

[crowd chuckles]

Justin: And Griffin said, "Do you mean the Seahawks?" And it was so close to it, I was like wow, I guess I knew that on some level. Amazing.

[crowd chuckles]

Clint: I am so proud.

Justin: And I guess the Huskies play near there. So maybe I just confabulated the two.

Griffin: Yeah, perhaps. He says, "Listen, my grandpa gets like super confused sometimes and I see that same look on your guys' faces right now. And so, do you all need some help or something? Because you seem awfully discombobulated. And if I'm being totally honest, a little half dressed. You're doing a sort of deconstruction of these beloved characters if they were in their sleepy-time-wear and it's confusing to me. "

Taako: We're balance bounding.

Griffin: "Okay?"

Taako: It's more about the spirit of the characters than getting it exactly perfect, you know?

Griffin: "Okay."

Travis: I want to look around and find the best Magnus.

Griffin: Okay. Make an investigation check.

Travis: I'm not good at that. 14.

Justin: See, because my name was Taako...

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Yeah, so it's hot dog.

Justin: The idea that there will be other food wizards—

Griffin: Oh, I get it now.

Justin: That didn't know about the food in this reality.

Griffin: Okay, yeah, yeah.

Travis: I got a 14.

Griffin: "I get it now, man. That's good shit." A 14?

Clint: And his friend, Poke, over there.

Griffin: Yeah, you see... you see a young man, probably about 15 years old you would say, having— he's wearing Magnus cosplay. It is impressive in the sort of armor department, maybe not as impressive in the bulk department.

Travis: Okay.

Griffin: And he is also walking into this building, towards Story Con—

Travis: Does he have a Railsplitter?

Griffin: He does, yes.

Magnus: Hey, give me that!

[crowd chuckles]

Griffin: "What did you say to me?"

Magnus: Give me the axe, nerd!

[crowd chuckles]

Travis: Magnus is a huge bully because he's never had a chance.

Griffin: Wow! [chuckles] Make an intimidation check.

Travis: Okay.

Griffin: A weird heel turn here for Magnus.

Travis: That's a 9 plus 8, 17.

Magnus: Sorry about the nerd thing! I'm just on edge. I was in the middle of a really cool dream.

Griffin: This kid is like, "Nah, it's too late to dial it back, man. Own it."

Magnus: Okay. Can I have the axe, please?

Griffin: He hands—

Magnus: Or else.

Griffin: He hands it to you. "This is... I mean, it's toilet paper roll, largely comprised of it. But like a lot of work went into it and..."

Travis: I sign it and hand it back.

Clint: Aw...

Griffin: "Okay, it was—"

Magnus: What's your name, son?

Griffin: "Magnus Burnsides."

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: "Why did you just sign my thing?"

Magnus: No, I actually am—

Griffin: "Do you want me to sign one of your things?"

[group chuckle]

Magnus: Yeah!

Griffin: "Okay..."

Merle: We don't have any things.

Griffin: "What do you have?"

Magnus: Sign my pec.

Griffin: He signs your pec 'Magnus Burnsides.'

Magnus: Cool, man.

Griffin: "Cool, what are we doing?"

Magnus: Now that we're best friends—

Griffin: "It's fucking stupid, man!"

Magnus: Not very Magnus of you?

Griffin: "Neither is— I'm going in this building to have the time in my fuckin' life at Story Con. Get out of my way."

Taako: Hey, can you tell us a bit about Story Con? What's the deal here?

Griffin: Brody stands there like:

Brody: I'm a way nicer NPC. Are you sure you don't—

[crowd chuckles]

Justin: No, that was to Brody.

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: I don't want to talk to that kid anymore.

Travis: I do you memorize his face for later, though.

Griffin: Yeah, he memorizes your face too.

Justin: [laughs]

Clint: It's the same face!

Travis: It's not the same face, Clint!

Clint: That's what they said.

Travis: He's dressed as me! He doesn't—[chuckles]

Clint: You don't know how far he went with his cosplay.

Griffin: This kid rolled an intimidation check against you. He got a 15.

Travis: I got a 17.

Griffin: Okay, he's still kind of intimidating though.

Travis: It's binary.

Griffin: [chuckles] Okay, I guess so. He files into the building. Brody says:

Brody: You're kidding, right? It's story— you know, Story and Song. The big wave thing that came over when the Hunger attacked?

Magnus: Yeah.

Brody: You all were alive for— you're not like— this was like a few years ago. So like—

Travis: Yeah, we were there.

Brody: Okay. Cool.

Taako: So this is like a... festival for... them? *Them?*

Brody: Again, my grandpa, again, talks like this a lot of the time.

[crowd chuckles]

Taako: I gotta go to the bathroom.

Brody: Okay. It used to—

Griffin: He says:

Brody: It used to be about more sort of pop culture stuff.

Justin: I'm gone.

Brody: Okay, I'll do a little bit more sort of plot development with the other two.

[crowd chuckles]

Brody: It used to be about more sort of pop culture stuff until Tusk Corp took it over. That dude's just fucking crazy about the—

Magnus: Tusk Corp?

Brody: Yeah, Tusk Corp? Elon Tusk? You guys know.

[crowd chuckles]

Magnus: Doesn't ring any bells. Is he important?

Brody: I mean, he's like the richest dude ever—

Magnus: Not what I asked.

[crowd chuckles]

Brody: Okay.

[crowd cheers]

Brody: No, I mean, he's... he's kind of a— he is kind of a tool. But yeah, I mean, he really runs a lot of the city now. If you look around—

Griffin: You see these— just a fleet of lawnmower sized hovering drones.

Travis: Robot?

Griffin: Robots floating around, yeah. And they all have emblems on their hull in bright yellow and black that reads 'Tusk Forcers.' They're all floating around, keeping the peace, just sort of shepherding folks around. Taako?

Justin: I'm back from the bathroom, having cast Disguise Self on myself.

Griffin: Okay, what do you look like?

Justin: I'm now in the like full Petals to the Metal era Taako, with the racing garb and stuff.

[crowd cheers]

Justin: Note perfect. Hair, makeup, all on point.

Griffin: He says:

Brody: Whoa, you look way better, dude.

Taako: Yeah, it hadn't changed yet, but you know, I gotta show up.

Brody: You're like the spitting image, like I would swear you're the real Taako.

Taako: No, thanks, that's— yeah, I get that a lot.

[crowd chuckles]

Griffin: As you come back from the bathroom, you notice that there is something kind of weird happening.

Justin: Whoa! Damn, look out Brennan Lee Mulligan!

Griffin: [laughs]

[crowd chuckles]

Justin: Things are getting stranger and stranger.

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: That same emerald storm that was in the sky that you fell from moments ago takes shape again. A bolt of light arcs down, touching down just a few yards in front of you. And a fissure in the fabric of space opens up.

Travis: Oh, not like— okay.

Griffin: A fissure. A fissure opens up. Travis, roll a D10 for me.

Justin: Can a Fisher be walk— like a Fisher cosplayer be walking past at that moment?

Griffin: Yeah, absolutely.

Justin: A little fun gag.

Travis: An 8.

Justin: More of a visual gag.

Griffin: 8... Okay, a solid, crooked wall of blistering white light shoots from this hole. And then suddenly you just start hearing choral chanting in like 100 voices. There's lots of Latin. There's lots of—

Travis: Say it!

Griffin: There's lots of like, "Spiritus! Dominus!" Like a lot of, "In excelsis Deo!"

Travis: [chuckles]

Justin: So, but it's layered, right? So it will be all four of us trying to do Latin together—

Griffin: Yeah, so it would be—

Justin: So it would be more like, [sings] "Excelsior! Excelsior!"

Griffin: [sings] Dominus! Dominus!

Travis: Boondock Saints!

Griffin: There is—

Clint: [sings] Day-o!

Travis: [sings] Mi-say day-o!

Griffin: [laughs] There's one voice—

Clint: [sings] Day-o!

Travis: [sings] Jesus come!

Clint: [sings] Day-o!

Griffin: [laughs] From the fissure there comes a bell, what looks like a giant bell, 15 feet high, made of human faces. All singing.

Justin: What the hell?

Griffin: This bell sports one giant, vertical eye and more wings than you could count, all pointing in different directions. It's a—

Justin: It's got a lot of wings.

Griffin: It's a biblically accurate angel.

Travis: Yes!

Griffin: And it is not here to help you play baseball. It looks like it's here to destroy Seattle.

Travis: It can do two things.

Griffin: It might, if it has time, help you play baseball later.

Justin: [chuckles]

Magnus: It would be nice if I had one figure in my life who would teach me baseball...

Merle: Some people just can't be taught.

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: New Merle's funny.

Griffin: I like new Merle a lot!

Merle: Fellows, I think this is my wheelhouse.

Magnus: Okay!

Merle: That's another sports term. I'll explain it to you after.

Magnus: Wheelhouse?!

Griffin: Wheelhouse?

Taako: Hold on, I'm gonna read a book to see what the farthest plane away is, because if this guy's about to try to barter with an actual angel—

Griffin: Make an arcana check. I guess all of you could if you want to.

Justin: Don't waste your time.

Travis: I don't, yup.

Griffin: Merle, I would also allow a religion check.

Justin: 14 plus 11, 25.

Griffin: Oh, yeah. This is a biblically accurate angel, this—

Justin: No, wait, was it a religion or an arcana?

Griffin: Either one I would allow.

Justin: Let's go with arcana. [chuckles]

Griffin: Yeah. This is from the Plane of Light, one of the planes of existence in your planar-verse. This is not one that I think a lot of people spend a lot of time on, mostly because what you're seeing is kind of upsetting, if I'm being honest. It's a bell made of human faces, with a lot of wings.

Travis: It's not the weirdest thing we've seen though.

Griffin: It's fuckin' up there, man.

Justin: How big is it?

Griffin: How big? About 15 feet.

Justin: You said that.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Hm, so it's a small one.

Griffin: Maybe, I don't know.

Justin: Does it seem to be stopped? Is it just kind of chilling? Or is it— does it seem to be going somewhere?

Griffin: It's coming out of this chasm. You see—

Justin: At us?

Griffin: Okay, it shoots a beam of light out of one of its many mouths and it hits a Prius which explodes.

[crowd chuckles]

Griffin: [sings] "Dominus!"

[crowd chuckles]

Justin: [chuckles]

Griffin: [sings] "Prius!"

Travis: I pick up the door. I pick up the door of the Prius as a shield.

Griffin: Okay... yeah, I'll allow it.

Travis: And...

Griffin: That's all you fucking had, man! Don't act like you had another step in that plan.

Travis: And I slam into it.

Griffin: You're doing a shield slam into—

Travis: Into the eye.

Griffin: Make an attack roll with an improvised weapon here. Let's roll a D20, let's see. Let's see how you do.

Travis: A 19.

Griffin: Oh, wow.

Travis: And I crit on a 19.

Griffin: Holy shit.

[crowd cheers]

Travis: So improvised... yeah, it's like probably one D8. That's what I do for my damage?

Griffin: Yes, roll one D8 plus your strength modifier.

Travis: 4 plus 5, 9.

Griffin: Okay?

Travis: And then it's twice, right?

Griffin: Yup!

Travis: Yup. So it will be 8... 13.

Griffin: Okay. 13 total?

Travis: Yes.

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: You don't double the—

Griffin: Yes, yes, on a 13 total damage, you bash in the face that shot the beam out that exploded the Prius. And it says—

Magnus: That's for planet Earth!

Travis: [chuckles] No, I don't know that.

Griffin: Make a dexterity saving throw.

Travis: Okay.

[sound of dice thrown]

Travis: 15 total.

Griffin: 15 total, okay.

Travis: Pretty good.

Griffin: Eight more faces on this bell fire beams of light in your direction. You jump out of the way of the sort of main blast of the beam. But you are thrown backwards into a second Prius by the force of the explosion and—

Travis: I look down the line, how many more Pruises are there?

Griffin: A lot.

Travis: Oh no!

Griffin: As many as I need, there's— and you take nine points of bludgeoning damages as you're thrown backwards against this car. As that happens, a handful, like a half dozen, of these Tusk Forcer drones zip down and launch a salvo of very small rockets at this biblically accurate angel, and it explodes. And one of them floats over to you and says:

Drone: Thank you for your assistance, citizen. We will take it from here.

Magnus: It was kind of 50/50!

Drone: No, I...

[crowd chuckles]

Magnus: I had it! You saw that, right?

Drone: It was not even—

Travis: Oh, no, wait, I have a ton of hit points. I had it, you saw that, right?

Griffin: Are you asking me, Griffin, or the Tusk Forcer?

Travis: The Tusk Forcer.

Griffin: The unfeeling artificial intelligence robot that's not going to remember this.

Travis: Hey, Griffin?

Griffin: Yeah?

Travis: Magnus up 'til now, what's has his experience with robots been like?

Griffin: Fine.

Travis: One of them was Noelle, you piece of shit.

Griffin: Make a performance check. Make a performance check against this robot. Just to see how impressed it is with you.

Travis: It was a crit one, Griffin. [chuckles]

[crowd chuckles]

Clint: Asked and answered!

Justin: Yeah, there you go.

Griffin: Okay, on a crit one, here's what I'm gonna do; this thing, you see a red light lights up on it. A horizontal beam of light scans you up and down, zips down and says— you hear it say: "Error. Error." And then it flies up into the sky and flies away. Away from the other droids.

Magnus: We should go.

Griffin: Brody says:

Brody: Look, you guys look like maybe you've had some issues with your cosplay. I have a supplier that would be—

Magnus: Like drugs?

Brody: No, not drugs. My supplier for drugs is that weed store right there.

Griffin: And he points over—

Magnus: What?!

Griffin: He points over to this weed store and the weed has fucking exploded through the roof and the windows. And the guy outside is like:

Guy: This is great and awful! Like my building's all fucked up, but this is great! I have so much of it now! Woo-hoo!

Merle: You're welcome, Seattle!

Griffin: He said, "You—"

[crowd chuckles]

Griffin: He says:

Guy: What do you mean you're welcome?

Merle: Well, they're welcome to all the... I grew it!

Guy: What are you talking about? I grew it. But I fed it hotdogs last night and it grew 100 sizes. This was clearly me. How could a person make plants grow super-fast? That's the craziest thing I've ever heard!

Taako: If it starts asking to eat your dentist, you gotta promise to run, okay? Not your friend.

Magnus: Fame isn't worth it!

Merle: I forgive you for your doubting me.

Magnus: No, he can do magic. I don't know why he's being weird. Are you cool?

Taako: Have you not gotten it yet?

Griffin: Brody says:

Brody: Who cares, man? Lots of people can do magic now.

Magnus: Show me.

Taako: Wait, what?

Brody: I can't, my cousin can do magic. I can't do magic.

Magnus: What kind of magic can your cousin do?

Brody: I don't know, fireball?

Taako: Wait, wait, wait—

Merle: Is it mathemagic?

Taako: Wait.

Brody: It's not math. I mean lots of people—

Magnus: Wait, no, stop—

Brody: But listen, lots of shit has gotten weird since the Hunger attacked. Some people can do magic now, it's not a big deal.

Justin: What would be— what would be Taako's understanding of this plane right now? He's connected with it before—

Griffin: Okay, yeah, I won't make you roll for this. I will say this—

Justin: I need to know— he should know that things— like it would be— he knows that there wasn't magic then, but he would know that Joaquin developed some sort of abilities.

Griffin: That's true. There is an Earthling, there is precedent for that, so—

Justin: Right, but have I made— he has made— I need to know that he has made the connection between like Joaquin's reality and this reality he currently finds himself in.

Griffin: Make a—

Travis: Justin— wait, are you asking Griffin if your character made the connection?

Griffin: Make a— yeah, this happens in D&D sometimes, Travis. The people ask the DM if the character can do something. Make a history check, Justin. Please.

Justin: You realize how thin the rails are, right?

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: If we start digging too deep in that hole, eventually we'll just walk out.

Griffin: Please.

Justin: Okay. 11 plus— that was my Wendy's D20. Ah, man... It has bad vibes. 11 plus— what is it, history? 5. So 16.

Griffin: Okay, yeah, on a 16 you would know that after the Hunger attacked, a lot of the sort of barriers separating the planes of existence became a lot sort of thinner. Both sort of metaphysically and you know, mentally. Like the people here on Earth did not know about all this shit until the Hunger attacked, now they do. So yeah, some people can do magic now. People are still kind of getting their footing, this is a world that is in a state of change right now.

Magnus: Hey, Brody, was it?

Brody: Yeah.

Magnus: Are there weapons and armor inside?

Brody: Yeah, bro. It's Story Con. I mean, okay, look, they say not to bring real weapons in. *Wink*. [chuckles]

Travis: Magnus rushes in.

Griffin: Okay, great.

[crowd cheers]

Griffin: Merle and Taako?

Justin: I follow along.

Griffin: Okay. Merle?

Clint: Yes, of course. I must protect my friends.

Griffin: Okay. He leads you—

Travis: Is this like a peyote thing? Or..

Griffin: [chuckles] He leads you into the convention center, but he breaks from the crowd as it goes up a row of escalators. Instead, he takes you through a Sbarro in the grand foyer. Nods at the cashier, who nods back. And he leads the three of you into the backroom of the Sbarro, down a set of stairs, into a swampy, garlicky room where reams of fabric dangle from the ceiling, down to the floor where they pool together to form just a large, untidy pile. And sort of nestled in this pile of fabrics is a woman who is sitting. And she is inexplicably wearing a large, orange cat suit. And she's smoking a long, long cigarette thing on one of those cigarette wands.

Travis: Ah, so cool.

Justin: Oh, yeah.

Griffin: She says:

Woman: Who have you brought me, Brody? More amateurs, by the look of them.

Taako: No, we're the genuine article.

Woman: The genuine article. Let me take a look at you...

Griffin: She takes a look at you.

Woman: I am unconvinced. You look like three old men wearing pajamas.

[crowd chuckles]

Travis: Wait, I flex harder.

Griffin: Make a performance check.

Travis: Okay. Wouldn't it be strength check? I'm not acting. I'm flexing.

Griffin: I'll allow a strength check on this.

Travis: Thank you.

Griffin: Yes. Or athletics! Athletics.

Travis: Yeah, even better. That is a critical 20.

Griffin: No way!

Travis: Yes it is.

[crowd cheers]

Griffin: She goes:

Woman: [gasps] Ah... Magnus... Magnus Burnsides?

Magnus: Yup!

Woman: Then these two, they're the real Merle Highchurch and Taako?

Magnus: Taako, yes! Merle? Still figuring that one out!

Travis: [chuckles]

Magnus: It might be shrooms—

Woman: It does like he is incorporating a sort of wildly different energy from—

Magnus: It's almost like he couldn't remember his character from previous—

Woman: It does seem exactly like—

Magnus: Yes, it's—

Taako: And who are you, might I ask?

Woman: Me? Who am I?

Taako: Yeah.

Woman: I am Garfield.

[crowd cheers]

Taako: Nice, okay.

Garfield: I am Garfield the cat, from Jim Davis cartoon.

[crowd cheers]

Magnus: Yeah.

Taako: Is that allowed at Story Con? Is there a lot of Garfield—

Garfield: Well, you think it's peculiar to find cartoon cat Garfield from Jim Davis at Story Con? Before Elon Tusk and Tusk Corp purchased it up, snatched it up, Story Con used to be about much more than this Story and Song. [blows raspberry]

[crowd chuckles]

Garfield: [sarcastically] Story and Song, I saw a bunch of birds, ooh!

Merle: That's fair.

Garfield: [sarcastically] Yeah, I'll go get the relics! Get all the relics! Don't forget the relics! I'll have an Egg MacGuffin, please. Am I right?

[crowd chuckles]

Justin: Hey, so Griffin, I'm relieved to know that you hear this voice in your head too 24 hours a day. [chuckles]

Clint: [chuckles]

Justin: Whenever you're running the game.

Garfield: What are you doing here? You need cosplay?

Magnus: No, I need armor and weapons.

Garfield: Oh...

Magnus: A big, giant, real biblically accurate angel just showed up.

Travis: [chuckles]

Garfield: Not the strangest thing to have popped up in the streets—

Magnus: Yeah, not the weirdest thing we've seen either. But I would like to kill the next one without robot interference. AI is stealing our jobs and—

Garfield: Oh, for sure. I mean not my job. My job is inscrutable and wild.

Magnus: True. Yeah! It's like garlic-infused costumes, I guess?

Garfield: Well, I deal in all of the, you know, the big... the big pop cultural properties. A lot of the actual will play sort of shows. People are crazy about the cosplay for them.

Magnus: Wait, there's... what is this? Actual play shows?

Garfield: Yes, you know. Like Mazes and Mummies. You know?

[crowd chuckles]

Magnus: Never heard of it.

Garfield: Vital Character?

Magnus: Don't know it.

[crowd chuckles]

Justin: [laughs]

Garfield: Buddies at the counter, no?

Justin: [laughs]

Magnus: No.

Garfield: Exploration LLC?

Magnus: No...

Garfield: Another D&D podcast? [chuckles]

Magnus: Oh, I know that one!

Garfield: The Escapade Area hosted by the Macklemores, you know them?

[crowd chuckles]

Justin: Okay, you're gonna need to take me a few levels deep on how that occurred, Griffin, I don't—[chuckles]

Garfield: The Escapade Area hosted by the Macklemores? Clunt and—

Griffin: [chuckles]

Merle: Yeah, thanks a lot.

Magnus: Keep going! Who are the other three?!

Garfield: Justin and... Barf-jigger?

Griffin: [chuckles]

Garfield: And Greg, the sexy one.

Justin: [laughs]

Clint: [laughs]

Taako: Okay, listen...

Garfield: I can get you armor and weapons. Obviously, if you three are the genuine article, you will help greatly to face the existential threat we face here in this plane. How much money do you have?

Magnus: Oh, we're in jammies.

Garfield: So you do not have a lot of money, is what you're saying?

Taako: No, none right now.

Garfield: Oh, gosh.

Magnus: I got a lot of cryptocurrency.

Travis: [chuckles]

Magnus: No, that's the money I keep in my grave.

Garfield: That's where it belongs! Yes.

Magnus: It's safe there.

Garfield: Great!

Taako: Crypto— ah, that's pretty good.

[crowd chuckles]

Merle: I can offer sweat equity?

Garfield: Sweat equity?

Merle: Yes.

Garfield: Do you have much in the way of the sartorial arts?

Merle: No, but as heavy as you're smoking, you're going to need a healer real soon.

Garfield: This is a fake.

Merle: I know, so am I.

Griffin: [laughs]

Clint: [chuckles]

Griffin: At this rate— sorry, if we did want to pursue that route, Clint, it would reach a really wild territory. The fact that you three are doing any— the fact that you, Merle Highchurch, are doing anything other than going on a whistlestop tour of the hospitals of the world is hugely, unethically problematic.

Travis: He could cure like five people and then have to sleep so long and then cure five more. Even then it's like, "Oh, you have cancer, right, so what's that, 40 hit points? I can cure 7 of that."

Griffin: [laughs]

Garfield: Listen, I will— I have a place to be in like an hour. If you can bring me money here within the hour—

Magnus: How much money?

Garfield: As much as you can get your hands on. However much you bring to me, I will give you gear commensurate to the funds I collect.

Magnus: Okay.

Garfield: Go. Go get money. I don't know what you— do you need me to tell you how to get—

Magnus: It seemed like there was more, sorry.

Garfield: I mean, go get a job at the fuckin' the pack place market, go throw a fish, I don't know? Go work for—

Magnus: I can make money doing that?!

Garfield: Go get a job with Billy Gates at Microsoft. I don't know, go get a job. God damn!

Magnus: You're so cool.

Garfield: Thank you. I'm Garfield cat from Jim Davis cartoon.

Griffin: What do you all do?

Clint: Okay...

Griffin: Go ahead, Merle.

Clint: Merle goes out.

Griffin: Yup?

Clint: On the way out through the Sbarros, he grabs a salad bowl.

Griffin: Okay.

Clint: And—

Griffin: "That'll be \$6," the Sbarro employee says. "Do you want salad?"

Merle: No, I just want the bowl.

Employee: I still have to charge you \$6 for the bowl.

Merle: The big, beefy guy behind me?

Employee: Yeah?

Merle: He'll pay.

Employee: Okay.

Merle: Thanks.

Clint: And he runs out in the street.

Justin: [chuckles]

Employee: Hey, that guy said you'd give me \$6 for the bowl.

Magnus: Yup!

Employee: Okay.

Magnus: Bye.

Employee: Wait!

[crowd chuckles]

Employee: I need \$6 for the bowl.

Magnus: Yup.

Employee: Please.

Magnus: Nope.

Justin: [chuckles] I'm gonna...

Griffin: A Tusk Forcer bot floats into the Sbarro.

Bot: Is there a problem here?

Employee: Yeah, this guy won't give me \$6.

Travis: I smash the bot.

Justin: Oh, no! Travis, come on!

Griffin: Make an attack roll.

Travis: I didn't do it! Magnus did it!

Griffin: [chuckles] Make an attack roll against the Task Forcer bot?

Travis: That's an 11 plus 11, 22.

Griffin: 11 plus 11? You're unarmed.

Travis: Yeah, my unarmed strike is plus 11.

Griffin: Okay. Yeah, I mean, that is a hit. Roll damage against the Tusk Forcer bot.

Travis: 2 plus 5, 7 damage.

Griffin: Okay, that's actually— it's halved against this construct.

Taako: Why are you doing this?

Magnus: I don't know, man. Why is this robot giving me lip?

Taako: How this this gonna get us money?

Magnus: Sell the robot?

Griffin: Make a constitution saving throw, Magnus. This thing, a little nozzle comes out of its hole right at the front of it. And it sprays a sort of white mist in your face.

Travis: 19.

Griffin: 19, okay, you are not instantly knocked unconscious by this funky gas that the bot sprays in your face. And it says:

Bot: Wow, that usually works.

Griffin: The Sbarro employee goes down.

Magnus: Okay, listen, one hit usually also destroys— hey, how about this; we both walk away?

Bot: Are you going to tell anyone about the Sbarro employee that I incapacitated?

Magnus: Nah, man.

Bot: It's my first day.

[crowd chuckles]

Magnus: Hey, I'm new here too. I punched out of anger, that's on me. You sprayed, you knocked him out.

Bot: Yes.

Magnus: But not me.

Bot: Okay.

Magnus: We'll keep it between us.

Bot: Okay, cool.

Magnus: Deal?

Bot: Yeah, I guess so. You're cool, aren't you?

Magnus: Yeah, I'm cool. Are you cool?!

Bot: Yeah.

[crowd chuckles]

Magnus: Okay.

Bot: For sure.

Magnus: Both walk away, same time.

Bot: Okay.

Griffin: It floats away. You are now alone in this Sbarro. I will say this, Magnus, there's like 50 bucks in the Sbarro tip jar.

Travis: Hey, listen I'm a level 15 fighter, level 2 rogue. I'm gonna rob that cash register! [laughs]

Griffin: [chuckles]

[crowd cheers]

Justin: Now wait, now hold on. I need to know— I need to know that Magnus Burnside, defender of the weak, is at a— and is now going to rip off the till at a Sbarro.

Griffin: Justin, Sbarro's a giant corporation.

Travis: It's a huge corporation!

Justin: Whose ass are they gonna take it out on? You know who it is, it's the employee. They're gonna make him pay it back.

Griffin: He might be dead. [laughs]

[crowd chuckles]

Griffin: Magnus, roll a dexterity check. You're gonna add your— as you pick the lock to the cash register, you're going to add your proficiency bonus and your dex modifier to this.

Travis: Okay.

Griffin: Let's see what you do.

Travis: 13 plus 6, plus 3.

Griffin: Yes, absolutely.

Travis: 22!

Griffin: Easy. Easily this thing pops open with the slightest graze of your finger. You find inside of it, there's \$250 in this till.

Travis: Just paper?

Griffin: Yeah, paper money.

Travis: Just money?

Griffin: Brody is— Brody— at that exact moment, Brody walks out from the backroom and he's like:

Brody: What did you— what the fuck happened in here, bro?!

[crowd chuckles]

Magnus: No, no, no, no, no. Is this money?

Brody: Yeah, that's money! Did you kill this guy?!

Magnus: No! I punched a robot, the robot sprayed some white shit.

Griffin: The robot immediately zips back into the room.

Bot: You said you were cool!

[crowd chuckles]

Griffin: Make a constitution saving throw!

Travis: I was just—

Griffin: Make a constitution— you said you'd never tell!

Justin: [chuckles]

[crowd chuckles]

Griffin: You said you'd never tell and then you told right away! You fuckin' narced out on the robot! Roll a constitution saving throw!

Justin: I'm trying to drink my Claw.

Travis: I was an 18 total, 9 plus 9.

Griffin: 18 total, yes, that is fine. Brody rolled a 4, Brody goes:

Brody: What did you—

[crowd chuckles]

Justin: [chuckles]

Griffin: Lands right on top of the Sbarro employee—

Magnus: Robot?! I was gonna say it was a different robot than you!

Brody: Oh, for real?

Magnus: Yeah, man!

Griffin: Give me a deception check.

Travis: I was going to! It's not a lie!

Griffin: No you fuckin' weren't, roll a deception check!

[crowd chuckles]

Justin: I need to— wait, does this robot have a sense of himself outside the other robots?

Griffin: Yeah, this one does.

[crowd chuckles]

Justin: [chuckles] You pick the wrong guy to fuck with.

Travis: 18 plus 2.

Griffin: A 20.

Travis: Dirty 20.

Bot: Oh, okay, bro. Sorry.

Magnus: No, I'm sorry, man.

Griffin: A little arm runs out to like, give you like a high five.

Travis: I dab it, yeah.

Griffin: Okay, you dab? Okay.

Clint: And do you rip it off?

Griffin: I was gonna say—

Travis: No.

Griffin: Okay, cool. Yeah, it floats away. And Magnus, you're \$250—

Justin: [in a robot voice] Why are you shaking it so hard? You can let my hand go now.

Travis: I pick Brody's pocket.

[crowd chuckles]

Griffin: Who pick whose, Brody's pocket?

Travis: Brody.

Justin: What the hell?!

[crowd chuckles]

Travis: I have to, it's for the greater good!

Griffin: Make a sleight of hand check.

Justin: The robots clearly have it under control. I don't even know what the stress is?

Travis: 13 plus 3, 16.

Griffin: Okay, well, I'm going to make a perception check.

Travis: With disadvantage. He's knocked out.

Griffin: Oh, you're right. No, I'm not gonna make any fuckin' checks at all.

Travis: Yeah.

[crowd chuckles]

Griffin: Okay, yeah, I mean, he has— let's see... He's got like 30 bucks. He's got a bus pass on him.

Travis: I actually feel bad. I slip an extra 10 into his pocket.

Griffin: Okay, so you're down to \$240 now.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Are you going to buy the salad bowl that Merle—

Travis: Not now!

Griffin: Okay, cool.

Travis: In fact, I just go back down and chill with Garfield. [chuckles]

Griffin: Sure. Yeah, Magnus is done with the adventure. Magnus made \$240. Merle, you now have a salad bowl. What do you do?

Clint: Merle sets the bowl down in the middle of the crowded street. There are people filing by, walking by. A lot of tourists, a lot of people taking pictures. A lot of people going after fish.

Griffin: Yeah. I'm so confused, wait. You can't just say all this stuff is happening, like...

Travis: Especially the phrase going after fish.

Griffin: What's that mean? Like fisher—

Travis: Like bounty hunting?

Clint: In Seattle, everybody loves fish?

Griffin: Yeah, no, but—

Travis: But they're not *going after* them?

Clint: All right! Okay!

Griffin: All right, so what are you doing, though?

Clint: Putting the bowl down on the street and saying to everyone:

Merle: Will heal for cash.

Griffin: [chuckles] Okay?

Merle: Anybody need healing?

Griffin: Yeah, for sure!

Merle: Anybody at all? I don't care what it is!

Griffin: And where do you do this? Where do you set up when you are doing this?

Clint: I'm standing on a street corner.

Griffin: Okay, like near the convention center? Are you—

Clint: Yeah! Right near the—

Griffin: Right in front of the convention center, great.

Merle: I don't care how minor the ailment, if it's a rash, broken bone, whatever it is you got.

Travis: So this whole time the problem has been Taako and Magnus have not been paying Merle.

Griffin: [laughs]

[crowd chuckles]

Clint: Oh... so delightful.

Griffin: It is indescribable the kind of berth that people are giving you on this street corner as they walk— no, make a... God, what is... I don't— charisma? Make a—

Justin: Charisma.

Griffin: Make a—

Clint: Performance?

Griffin: Performance check.

Clint: How about this; how about if I mask your wound?

Griffin: That's cool. Sure. Yeah.

Clint: I'm gonna just do a mask your wounds and then leave it up to the generosity of all of these fine conventioners.

Justin: [chuckles] When Merle casts a healing spell, does like actual dust shoot out his hands? Just, creak!

Clint: Oh, that is so—

Griffin: Okay, you choose up to six creatures in a 30 foot radius. We'll say there's about six people walking by you as you cast this spell. And they immediately gain hit points equal to three D8, plus your spell casting ability modifier. I'll say that the size of the number you roll is going to affect the effectiveness of this spell.

Travis: It will be fun to hear Griffin describe how hit points manifest.

Justin: I was gonna say, it's weird to think about you're walking around right now, where's your hit points at?

[crowd chuckles]

Justin: [chuckles] Like I haven't done any battles, but I don't know if I'm at a 42 necessarily.

Travis: Are we talking physical or mental hit points?

Griffin: Roll it, Merle.

Justin: Yeah, we were stalling for you.

Clint: That's a 6.

Justin: Wait, no, wait, wait, what was he supposed to roll?

Griffin: Three eight-sided dice.

Clint: Isn't that an eight-sided dice?

Griffin: Yeah, but you need to do it—

Travis: That's a ten-sided dice.

Justin: No, there's ten sides.

Clint: Oh...

Justin: The 9 is a dead giveaway, for future reference.

Griffin: [laughs]

Clint: Okay, how many? Six?

Griffin: Three.

Clint: Okay, there's a 3... there's an 8.

Griffin: Okay?

Clint: And there's a 2.

Travis: 13.

Griffin: So 13 plus your spellcasting ability modifier, we'll say that's like a 6 or 7 at this point. Yeah, I mean, there are six people on the street who immediately just go, "Ah!"

[crowd chuckles]

Griffin: There was one guy—

Travis: "I'm not hungover anymore!"

Griffin: Yeah, you see one dude who is just kind of scruffy looking, wearing a big sort of white T-shirt. And he's clearly had a rough night. He goes, "Whoa, man. Thanks, bro. That feels great."

Clint: And he holds out the bowl and says:

Merle: You're welcome, my friend.

Griffin: "Cool, free bowl," he says. And he reaches over and takes the bowl from you. "Wow, healing and a bowl. This is the coolest day in my whole life."

Merle: Well, why don't you demonstrate to me how cool it is by giving me some cool, hard cash? Except its cold, hard cash.

Griffin: [laughs] "Yeah, that's not what they say. So wait, this whole thing was a heal for money situation?"

Merle: No, it was— you don't have to pay if you don't... have a soul.

[crowd chuckles]

Travis: Okay, hey, Dad?

Merle: If you're a selfish, self-centered—

Travis: Hey, can I— Hey, Clint? Hey, Clint? Can I talk to you for a second?

Clint: Yeah.

Travis: You're hitting on some televangelist stuff right now.

Clint: Oh, should I lean into it?

Travis: Yeah, man.

Griffin: Give me a persuasion check.

Merle: Friend! Let me tell you...

[crowd chuckles]

Griffin: Give me a persuasion check, Merle.

Merle: I will persuade the hell and demons out of you! Whoop!

Clint: Is that right?

Griffin: Yeah, that's great.

Clint: That's a 9 plus something else.

Griffin: Persuasion.

Travis: Plus 1.

Griffin: 10!

Clint: That's a 10!

Griffin: All right. On a 10, he says, "Here's um... here's five bucks. Here's an Arby's gift card that may or may not have anything left on it."

Merle: Do you have a monorail pass?

Griffin: "Yeah, I do."

Merle: Thanks.

Griffin: "Okay. Yeah, I guess I can walk home," he says. And he puts that in the bowl too.

Merle: Nice. And I need the bowl back too.

Griffin: "Yeah, of course. Yeah. It would be wild if I held on to the bowl."

Merle: All right, what about you other five people I healed? Let's hear it, come on!

Griffin: They fuckin' left, man. They do not—

Merle: Hey!

Griffin: They do not— as soon as they saw the grift you were running on this other dude with a 10 persuasion roll they're like, "Let's get out of here while he seems to be distracted with this one dude."

Merle: I knew I should have had Chick tracts. I should have handed those out.

Griffin: Yeah, so you've made \$5, a monorail pass and an Arby's gift card that may or may not still have any credit left on it.

Merle: Okay, Taako?

Griffin: [laughs]

[crowd chuckles]

Justin: Uh... I'm going to— well, I was gonna— thinking I was gonna do some signings.

Griffin: Oh, yeah.

Justin: But I don't know how I could convince people that I'm the genuine article.

Griffin: Well, we would figure it out by—

Travis: You gotta find an empty table, bud.

Griffin: We would figure it out by telling a story together, through the lens of Dungeons and Dragons.

Justin: No...

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: Okay, yeah, let's try that. I'm gonna go in and say—

Griffin: [chuckles] First time.

Justin: Yeah, we'll take it from the top.

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: I'm gonna head in and try to get a... do some tabling, you know?

Griffin: Yeah, sure.

Justin: Do some signatures. I'll put up a sign on the table that says like, "Signatures and magic lessons at Taako's School of Witchcraft and Wizardry."

Griffin: Okay, as you're doing that someone with a clipboard—

Justin: Virtual—[chuckles]

Griffin: And a headset walks up to you and says, "Excuse me. What do you— what do you do— what are you doing? What's your name?"

Justin: I cast Gift of Gab.

Griffin: Gift of Gab?

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: What's that?

Justin: "You skillfully reshape the memories of listeners in your immediate area so that each creature of your choice within five feet of you forgets everything you said within the last six seconds." So I just wanna prepare that. [chuckles]

Griffin: [laughs]

[crowd chuckles]

Travis: It's the save scumming of Dungeons and Dragons. [chuckles]

Griffin: [chuckles] Right, yeah. Okay, "What are you doing here? What's your— what are you doing?"

Taako: Yeah, I'm Taako. And I know it's a big get to have me. Don't—

Griffin: "Are you like a Taako cosplayer?"

Taako: No, I'm the actual Taako. Don't piss your pants. And I'm just gonna do some— I'm in for the night and then I gotta fly out to Omaha for another show. But I thought I'd stop in and do some signatures for you. For a reasonable fee.

Griffin: "Okay—"

Taako: You can form the line to the left or the right. I am ambidextrous.

Griffin: Make a persuasion check, please.

Justin: That's a 16 plus— nothing, actually.

Griffin: Wow, really?

Justin: Yeah. Weird, right?

Griffin: Oh, okay. They say, "Okay, so you're the real Taako. That's fun."

Taako: Yes!

Griffin: "That's fun. So, and you want— I mean, I guess no one has the table booked from 1 to 2... Okay, I guess if you want to do some signings here— and magic lessons, you said? Can you handle sort of sales and merch and stuff on your own? Do you need to help from the con on that? Or..."

Taako: No, it'll— no, I— actually, do you have anybody?

[crowd chuckles]

Travis: Right next to that table is Travis McElroy signing stuff, but there's no one in his line. So he's like, "I can help if you need someone. I'm pretty—"

Griffin: Torgis Macklemore from the—

Travis: Tarvis Macklemore.

Griffin: Tarvis Macklemore from the... [chuckles] the endangerment area. I forget what I said.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: I thought it was the expedition area?

Griffin: No, something along those lines. Yeah, he says:

Tarvis: Yeah, I can help you!

[crowd chuckles]

Travis: Dead on!

Taako: Targis, was it?

Travis: It's like listening in a mirror!

Griffin: I will say; on the opposite side of you, Taako, there is a decent-sized line. Kevin Sorbo is doing signings right next door. [chuckles] And it says, "From Hercules and God's Not Dead, Kevin Sorbo."

[crowd chuckles]

Griffin: "And tragically, the fourth season of The OC, Kevin Sorbo."

Travis: God damn it...

Justin: Ah, that one still hurts.

Griffin: That one sucks.

Travis: Yeah, it sucks. God damn it.

Justin: What's he dressed like?

Griffin: Fuckin' Kevin Sorbo, man.

Justin: Leather jacket? Feels like a leather jacket moment, doesn't it?

Griffin: He's wearing a leather jacket, yeah. He is wearing a polo shirt with too many buttons unbuttoned and he looks leathery. He is...

Justin: Okay. I mean, but he's not like threatening me physically?

Griffin: He is by default kind of physically threatening you, yeah.

Travis: And I'm gonna say mentally threatening.

Justin: Okay.

Taako: Hey, everybody! Don't waste your time with that bigot. It's the real Taako!

[crowd cheers]

Taako: From TV.

Griffin: He laughs and says:

Kevin: Oh, yeah, and I'm the real Hercules, Kevin Sorbo!

Griffin: And people cheer, which sucks.

[crowd chuckles]

Justin: [chuckles] Sucks to hear. I am...

Griffin: The person with the clipboard comes back over and is like, "Hey, actually, please don't do that. Usually, there's not sort of an ongoing competition between the people in the signing alley here."

Justin: I'm going to cast... I'm going to cast Modify Memory on Kevin Sorbo.

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: But I'm gonna cast it as an eighth level spell and make him—

[crowd chuckles]

Justin: And make him forget that Hercules existed.

[crowd laughs]

Clint: Gosh, he'll only have Andromeda to fall back on.

Griffin: [chuckles] Yeah!

Travis: And God's Not Dead.

Griffin: And God's Not Dead 1 and 2.

Travis: And I assume a lot of Citizens United movies.

Griffin: Certainly, there's got to be a roll that I make for that, yeah?

Justin: Yeah, I mean, there's the wisdom check.

Griffin: Okay, not his strong suit. [chuckles]

Travis: Yeah, I was gonna say, Griffin, negative 5!

Griffin: I'm gonna say this is a minus 5 to this roll!

Clint: Do you have a character sheet for Kevin Sorbo over there?

Travis: Yeah, it's just a piece of paper with a big zero on it!

[crowd chuckles]

Griffin: Okay, he rolled a 5, minus 5, which is a 0.

Justin: [chuckles] Okay. So I think that—

Griffin: So you see he is signing someone's just like, portrait of Hercules. And he's signing it and you see him mid stroke just stop—

Travis: And have a stroke.

Griffin: Just fall—

Justin: No.

Griffin: Just fall like...

Justin: [laughs]

Kevin: Who is this?

Griffin: He picks up the picture and shows it to the person.

Kevin: Who is this?

Justin: [chuckles]

Kevin: This looks like me, but it's not me. I don't dress like a... strong man. I dress like a space guy.

Justin: I want to— I want to make sure— I'm gonna do an arcana check. I want to make sure he's forgotten all of it. [chuckles]

Griffin: Yeah, rolling arcana check.

Justin: 19.

Griffin: His nose is bleeding.

[crowd chuckles]

Justin: [chuckles] Okay, good.

Griffin: You get the distinct impression that maybe he's forgotten a lot of stuff.

Justin: [laughs] Now I have spell shaping, I'm sure that—

Griffin: You do?

Travis: Take away his mouth!

Justin: No, no, this is good. Just him forgetting Hercules ever existed should be enough for me.

Travis: Including— wait, sorry, Justin, including like from mythology?

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Yeah. [chuckles]

[crowd chuckles]

Justin: Yeah. And that funny part from Nutty Professor. [laughs]

Griffin: Yeah, and the Disney animated—

Justin: Yeah, that fun part, he forgot that.

Griffin: And the Disney animated feature film, yeah. You see that by removing this brick from the Jenga tower that is Kevin Sorbo's psyche, other pieces begin to fall down. All of a sudden, Kevin Sorbo can't remember where he was from the years of like 1996 to 2000. And he immediately stands up and holds his head and starts screaming as loud as he possibly—

Travis: Does he feel disappointed? [chuckles]

Griffin: [laughs] No, because in order to do that joke, he would have to know about Hercules.

Travis: So he's forgotten— wait! He's forgotten how to feel disappointed. [chuckles]

Griffin: Yeah! He runs out of the booth absolutely screaming. And everyone else that was in his line goes: "Oh, I don't know, there's this other guy right here. We may as well."

Clint: I'm gonna assist.

Griffin: Okay.

Clint: Clunk Macklemore was in that line.

Griffin: [chuckles] That sucks for Clunt!

Travis: Your son is right next to you!

Clint: Exactly.

Travis: So wait—

Clint: So Clunt—

Travis: Dad, what you've decided to do, if I may, you took your in-fiction character Clunt Macklemore and said, "I'm gonna align him with Kevin Sorbo's belief system."

Griffin: You could have done anything!

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: And you said, "Oh, Clint McElroy not only agrees with Kevin Sorbo, but agrees to a point where he would pay for his signature in the sight of his own son, Tarvis Macklemore!"

Griffin: Yeah.

Clint: Clunt Macklemore was there ironically.

Travis: The money still spends, Clunt!

Griffin: Okay.

Clint: He gets out of the line and he says, "Hey, let's check out this Take-o guy and see what he's got!"

Griffin: "Do you mean Taako from the Story and Song?" Someone yells at you angry, Clunt.

Travis: Wait, a quick question! Why is Kevin Sorbo there? What's his association with Story and Song?

Griffin: He's just trying to draft off the sort of fantasy vibes that everybody was putting down.

Taako: Okay, everybody! Step right up. It's gotta be 20 for an autograph. 30 for a magic lesson. And 50 to get your picture taken on the binicorn!

Clint: Clunt gives him 50 bucks.

Justin: All right, good. Thank you.

Griffin: Okay. Yeah, I guess if we can do that. Yeah, sexy Greg from the endangerment— the imperilment area comes over and gives you 100 bucks. And says, "Love your stuff, man."

Taako: Thanks!

Travis: Tarvis McElroy embezzles.

Griffin: Tarvis McElroy embezzles. "The usual, then." You make—

Travis: It was one time!

Griffin: You make \$200, Taako.

Justin: I did a lot more than the other ones. I'd like more money, please.

[crowd chuckles]

Travis: I ruined a minimum wage employee's life?

Justin: I cleared 150 from my own family, like certainly more—

Griffin: Kevin Sorbo runs up to you and says:

Kevin: I don't know why, but I feel compelled to give you 100 more dollars.

[crowd chuckles]

Taako: It's a good start, Kevin.

Griffin: [laughs]

Taako: It's a good start. Let's leave it at that.

Griffin: You make \$300 total. You all—

Justin: \$300— okay—

Clint: Wait—

Justin: Travis gave me 50, dad gave me 100, Kevin Sorbo gave me 100, that's 250. No one else was interested?

Griffin: Fine, you— okay.

Justin: I just want more than they made!

Griffin: You made... sexy Greg Macklemore gives you \$300. You have \$600 total.

Justin: Okay.

Griffin: Is that enough for you to feel good tonight when you get in bed?

[crowd chuckles]

Justin: [chuckles] Okay, Taako's looking very cocksure and he casts Enlarge on the money like:

Taako: Now I have twice as much!

Justin: No—

Griffin: Okay, as a walk up—

Justin: I'm not a child!

Griffin: You see a person point at that and say, "That won't work anymore."

Justin: He didn't do that. He's not a child.

Griffin: Okay, fine. You all regroup.

Magnus: Hey, Taako, we can agree we're not gonna like, divvy this up, right? Each person earned their own amount.

Taako: I'll spot anybody that needs a few extra dollars with the Juice.

Griffin: You regroup outside with Brody and Garfield the cat from Jim Davis cartoon. And the scene out here is utter pandemonium, there are more tears in the fabric of reality that have opened. It's full sort of Ghostbusters chaos outside. You see floating Tusk Forcer drones just zooming around, frantically trying to neutralize the horrors coming out of these gaps in reality. Garfield has this enormous satchel. She collects your money and she opens it up. She says:

Garfield: Okay, so Magnus, I know you're probably hurting without your Flaming Sword of Burning... Poison Toxic—

Magnus: Nailed it.

Garfield: I do not have any of those, but I do have...

Griffin: And she reaches in and pulls out a chainsaw that is attached to just a large backpack container filled with brown liquid. And she pulls the cord of the chainsaw and flames shoot out of a nozzle underneath the chain.

Magnus: Hey, can I just say; fuckin' better. I'm loving this!

Griffin: She says:

Garfield: Don't point it at anyone you don't want to be killed instantly!

Griffin: She says:

Garfield: Taako... there is something you've been missing. Something you sacrificed in the final confrontation against the darkness. I was inspired to replace it while watching Fatboy Slim headline our local music festival. I present to you—

Griffin: She reaches into her bag and she says:

Garfield: The Bumbershoot.

Griffin: It is... it is an umbrella etched with arcane runes. Just like the kind you used to have before you snapped it over your knee to free your twin sister, Lup, at the end of Story and Song. She says:

Garfield: It doesn't eat the magic power of your fallen foes, but it'll get the job done.

Taako: Honestly, it made it hard to rest real easy around it, so that's actually kind of a plus for me.

Garfield: Okay.

Taako: I was afraid I'd squeeze it wrong and get sucked right the hell in.

Garfield: And Merle, how much did you bring?

Magnus: Well, there's a monorail pass...

Justin: I cast distort value on the monorail pass.

Griffin: Oh, okay?

Justin: To make it—

Travis: You do what?!

Justin: Yeah.

Magnus: I have this 500 year monorail pass. That's got to be worth something.

Garfield: 500 year monorail pass?

Magnus: Yeah!

Griffin: She takes it. She takes the \$5. She just kind of crumples it up and puts it in her pocket. She says:

Garfield: I was going to give you some garbage. But for a 500 year monorail pass...

Griffin: She reaches into her bag and she pulls out a conch shell that is etched in eldritch runes. And she hands it to you and she says:

Garfield: This is the Conch o' Conjuring.

Taako: One more time?

Garfield: The Conch of Conjuring.

Griffin: She says:

Garfield: Any sea creature who hears the sound of this conch being blown will come to the aid of the one who blew it.

Travis: Blew what? The sea creature comes to the aid of the one who blew it. [chuckles]

Clint: Well, wouldn't you?

[crowd chuckles]

Justin: That's how it worked in Shape of Water, remember?

[crowd laughs]

Griffin: She says:

Garfield: Enough. That's gross. That is beautiful film. That is beautiful film and you made it gross with your gross words and actions.

Griffin: She says:

Garfield: Listen to me.

Merle: Wait.

Garfield: Yes?

Merle: There is a bowl.

Justin: [guffaws]

Garfield: Thank you.

Merle: I mean...

Garfield: I'll put it in the trash can for you. You finish your Sbarro pasta and you want me to put it in the garbage, yes?

Merle: Yeah, all right—

Griffin: Okay! She puts it in the garbage.

Merle: I'll be happy with the conch.

Griffin: She says:

Garfield: Listen, the membrane between our worlds, it is weakening. It is as if someone has used powerful technology to pierce a hole in that barrier. Like some sort of pokey thing that pokes through space.

Magnus: Like a rocket?

Garfield: No, not like a—

Magnus: Like a syringe?

Garfield: Almost like a syringe, yes.

Magnus: Hm...

Garfield: Like a syringe for space!

Magnus: Huh, hm... what would you call that?

Merle: The cosmo shot.

Garfield: Like some sort of... needle for space.

Magnus: An ether stiletto!

Garfield: Like a sort of...

Taako: A space needle!

Garfield: Oh, shit! We have one of those!

Magnus: What?!

Griffin: She points to the Space Needle, which stands high above everything else on the horizon of the skyline of Seattle. And sure enough, this storm seems to be focused directly overhead. It's quite a distance away. And Brody says:

Brody: Oh, that's no problem, we'll just get my cousin to take us.

Griffin: And a truck pulls up to the curb in front of you. And a shutter on the side of the truck rolls open. And young man inside is wearing an apron that says South Beach Tacos. And he says—

[crowd cheers]

Griffin: He says, "Hey, Brody, did you say you needed a— holy fucking shit!

Taako: What the fuck?!

Griffin: We'll be right back!

[crowd cheers]

[theme music plays]

[ad break]

[theme music plays]

Griffin: Thank you all so much for coming. We're gonna do a couple of announcements before we get started with the second half. Just so we can you know, finish and then walk off the stage like a bunch of fuckin' rock stars. Seriously, thank you all so much for coming. Thank you to the WAMU Theater for having us. This is wild. Janelle Monáe was here yesterday and that feels—

[crowd cheers]

Travis: You don't think Janelle Monáe worried about the angle of the table?

Griffin: No, I don't think Janelle Monáe worried so much about the angle of the table. So thank you for having us. Thank you to Paul and Amanda and Rachel for all their help. Thank you to Karma the Night Owl who designed our poster, which you can still probably find out there.

Justin: It's so cute.

Travis: So cute.

Griffin: It's very cute.

Justin: Its AC is like 18, easily.

Griffin: Yes, it's—

Clint: Is that artists conception?

Justin: No, it's— ah, dang it!

Griffin: You all are in the food truck of South Beach Tacos, being driven by Joaquin Terrero, savior of humankind on the day of Story and Song. He is a few years older than when you last saw. It's been a few years since the day of Story and Song.

Travis: We all are.

Griffin: We all are. Time has been hard for all of us.

Clint: Tell me about it.

Taako: Okay, so, this one you said— this one's chorizo?

Joaquin: Yeah, that one's chorizo. We've been over this...

Taako: And this shrimp?

Joaquin: No, that's still chorizo. Why are you so bad— why are you struggling? [chuckles]

Magnus: Which one's shrimp?

Joaquin: We don't have shrimp.

Merle: You don't have boiled shrimp or baked shrimp or coconut shrimp?

Justin: Come on. Stop it.

Griffin: [laughs] That was him laughing at your incredible Forrest Gump joke. He says:

Joaquin: Listen, I'll be honest, Taako, cooking has been a— I put it kind of in the background a little bit. I've been you know— got a scholarship at the University of Washington. Go Hucks. And...

Clint: [laughs]

Joaquin: You know, tacos and magic used to be my life, but that's not me anymore. You know?

Taako: So... I guess I should have asked earlier, but how old is this chorizo?

Justin: [chuckles]

Griffin: [laughs]

Joaquin: Yeah, I mean, about a year old, but it's— we've kept it in the food safe zone.

Taako: Okay, good.

Joaquin: I have a magic... I have a magic refrigerator.

Taako: So there— and people here getting some— a little bit of magic I'm hearing?

Joaquin: Sorry?

Travis: No, that's the cousin. Joaquin is the cousin who could do fireballs.

Justin: Yes, I know. But people on Earth are developing magic powers and I was asking him about that.

Joaquin: Yeah, some people can do magic. I like to think I was sort of the original, but...

Travis: Yeah, for sure.

Joaquin: It's a little gauche to walk around—

Magnus: Can people swing axes and swords?

Joaquin: Yes. Anyone can swing an axe or a sword.

Magnus: Well, hold on. Anyone gonna *hold* an axe or a sword.

Joaquin: Okay?

Merle: Does anyone love their fellow man and would do anything to advance them and make them happy and keep them safe—

Magnus: Wait, hold on, good question. Does anyone on Earth do that?

Travis: [chuckles]

Joaquin: There's like four or five of 'em, yeah.

Justin: Ah, yes, the Macklemores. I've heard such good things.

[group laugh]

Justin: I've never been sure if there's four or five of them either. Who could keep track?

Travis: They keep marrying and making children!

Griffin: He drives you all to the base of the Space Needle. And though hell has sort of broken loose all throughout Seattle, things are relatively calm here thanks to a sort of large fleet of Tusk Forcer mechs that are floating all around. As you all hop out, you look up at the Space Needle and you see past its peak, something quite peculiar in the sky. You see home. You see a

massive hole in the emerald storm above you. And through it you see a landscape inverted. You see, dangling upside down over Seattle, the city of Neverwinter above you, close enough to make out scrambling, panicked people on its streets, just looking upwards in Seattle's direction, all just obviously scared as hell. And you also see that there is an elevator in front of you, up to the peak of the Space Needle. That is— oh, yeah, sorry. We love elevators. Yeah, thank you. [chuckles]

[crowd chuckles]

Griffin: It's been a while since we've done Balance. I forgot that we're sort of elevator crazy over here.

Travis: Don't say we're!

Griffin: This elevator is guarded—

Travis: At no point in the show did me or Dad or Justin make an elevator appear in Balance.

Griffin: The elevator is guarded by a mech Forcer drone.

Travis: He's an elevator pervert.

Griffin: I love 'em. They're like rooms that go up and down!

[crowd chuckles]

Griffin: What do you do?

Justin: I put a trap for him in Steeplechase. There's a column in the middle of the whole park that's just full of elevators, and he'll never go over and look. [chuckles]

Griffin: Ah, man!

Justin: I put it there from the beginning—

Travis: Damn it!

Griffin: Damn it.

Justin: Once he sees how big and diverse these elevators are, this guy's gonna nut. And he's back there.

Travis: In graduation, the whole building moves up and down around one pillar.

Griffin: All right. What do you do?

Justin: Just to please you, you know? What wouldn't I do to make you happy, I think is the question, Griff.

Griffin: Make a move in the live show we're performing in front of—

Clint: We get into the elevator!

Travis: I give my brother Griffin a hug!

Justin: Yeah, I go in the elevator.

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: I don't.

Griffin: A drone—

Travis: Magnus is good outside.

Griffin: [chuckles] A drone is floating—

Travis: Which one?

Griffin: This is not actually a— this one looks different from the rest. This one actually is not floating, it is in a sort of large mech that is— it's like a

walking tank. And has its body positioned squarely in front of the doors into the elevator. And it says:

Mech: Please present identification, Tusk Corp employees.

Travis: I flex really hard.

Mech: That's nothing!

Travis: I do feel like I should roll to see if—

Griffin: Sure, it's a DC 30 performance check.

Justin: [laughs]

Mech: Go ahead.

Travis: That's a nat 20!

[crowd cheers]

Travis: Brennan could do it.

[crowd chuckles]

Griffin: [chuckles] Okay, you know what happens? That red light lights up on the face of this mech, and it scans you up and down and says:

Mech: Error, error. Go right ahead, Magnus Burnsides.

Magnus: [spoofing the Mech's robot voice] Thank you.

[crowd chuckles]

Griffin: It looks at the other people assembled here and says:

Mech: Identification, please.

Travis: And Magnus turns back and goes:

Magnus: Sorry, guys!

Merle: I am his spiritual adviser.

Magnus: No! Not true. Can I not—

Justin: I have pushed the highest button while these conversations are happening.

Griffin: You just walked onto the elevator and press the button on—

Justin: Yes.

Mech: Please wait. Stop. Hey, hold on. Wait, stop!

Justin: We were already— I thought we were in the elevator physically when they showed up.

Travis: He's with me, it's fine.

Justin: Okay.

Griffin: This giant mech is standing in front of the elevator doors. It has allowed Magnus on it.

Justin: I cast Reduce.

Griffin: Is this the only spell you've prepared, is—

Travis: No, he did Enlarge!

Justin: No, but I did prepare spells and I have a list, and I'd like the robot to be smaller, if I may.

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: Thank you.

Griffin: Okay, it is smaller and it says:

Mech: [in a baby voice] Identification, please. Please present identification.

[crowd chuckles]

Justin: I kick it out of the way.

Travis: I know one of them. One of them always tells the truth and one of them always lies.

Griffin: Make an unarmed attack roll against this small mech.

Justin: Okay, perfect. That's a 2.

Griffin: [chuckles]

[crowd chuckles]

Taako: Ow! Ah! Yowch!

Griffin: No, I think you... let me see here actually. No, yeah, you take four points of bludgeoning damage on your foot, as you go to kick this small but still heavy mechanical man. And it hurts your foot quite badly.

Mech: [in a baby voice] Please don't do that anymore. You've embarrassed yourself in front of your friends! Please present your identification.

Taako: I'm going—

Justin: Okay, I step over it into the elevator.

Mech: [in a baby voice] No, wait! Hold on!

Griffin: It shoots a little rocket at you that's just like pzshww-pst.

Mech: [in a baby voice] Ah, no, it's too small!

Justin: How heavy is he? I'd love to bring him along. [chuckles]

[crowd chuckles]

Griffin: He's too heavy to kick. You could probably pick him up with some effort.

Justin: Nah. [chuckles]

Mech: [in a baby voice] Please! Please, papa.

Clint: Aw!

Mech: [in a baby voice] Papa, please!

Clint: Merle picks him up and puts him on his shoulder.

Griffin: Make a strength check.

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: I press the door open—

Justin: His own body crumples!

Griffin: The fuckin' elevator at this point is just going [spoofs electric whirring] Mrr-rrr!

Travis: I'm holding the door open button with the attitude of, "Come on. Come on..."

Clint: That's a 6.

Griffin: [chuckles] Okay—

Travis: I let go of the door open button!

Griffin: Yeah, you see Merle go, "Come here, little guy... Ah!"

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: It falls down on top of Merle. Merle, you take six points of bludgeoning damage.

Travis: Close. Close. Close. Close. Close. Close.

Griffin: Magnus, the door closes. And Magnus is going up by himself.

Justin: I said that I jumped over it into the elevator.

Travis: No, Taako's in there.

Clint: And I fell into it.

Travis: No.

Griffin: Yeah, you fell into it with the robot on top of you. All of you have made it onto the elevator.

Travis: How much damage does Merle take?

Justin: Say it! Say it, Griffin.

Griffin: No, you didn't solve my elevator puzzle. You simply did not. I won't give you credit for that.

[crowd chuckles]

Clint: And yet, we're on it.

Griffin: The three of you, alongside Joaquin and Brody and Garfield go up the elevator.

Justin: This is so fun.

Griffin: Yeah, it takes a little too long. It's a little uncomfortable halfway up.

Baby Mech: I'm sorry I hurt you, papa.

Merle: It's all right, Tweaky.

Baby Mech: Not you! You're my uncle, at best!

Merle: Okay.

[crowd chuckles]

Taako: That's all right, little guy pie. What was your name?

Baby Mech: I don't have a name.

Taako: Little Guy Pie it is.

Little Guy Pie: Papa Tusk never gave me a name.

Taako: Oh, tell me more about him?

Baby Mech: Papa Tusk?

Taako: Yeah.

Little Guy Pie: Why?

Taako: Does he have any glowing weak spots or anything, just in case?

Justin: [chuckles]

[crowd chuckles]

Taako: Just out of curiosity.

Little Guy Pie: Papa Tusk is very smart! He knows a lot about the planes. And he's got some big stuff in the works that's gonna change everything!

[crowd chuckles]

Little Guy Pie: When he says it, it sounds kind of sinister, actually.

Taako: Hey...

Little Guy Pie: What's up?

Taako: Magnus, can you hack this thing?

Magnus: The robot?!

Taako: Yeah.

Magnus: Yeah!

Travis: I smash it!

[crowd chuckles]

Griffin: Make an attack roll. This thing has one hit point.

Travis: 23.

Griffin: Yeah.

[crowd chuckles]

Magnus: Hacked!

Merle: Oh...

Little Guy Pie: Okay, if you can turn off the restraints that keep me from helping you, that would be amazing. I'd love to contribute to—

Travis: Yeah, I fix it.

Taako: I meant to hack it!

Magnus: Yeah! Hacked it!

Griffin: You've killed the small robot, congratulations. You feeling good about your choices today, Magnus Burnside's?

Travis: Not me! Not me, Griffin! I wouldn't.

Justin: He starts to re-enlarge, but it starts with his heart. [chuckles]

[crowd chuckles]

Justin: And his big eyes. His eyes just kept getting more adorable. [chuckles]

Griffin: [laughs]

Clint: Merle casts Mend and heels him.

Little Guy Pie: This is a confusing journey that the three of you are taking me on.

Magnus: Little bit of good cop, bad cop!

Little Guy Pie: Yeah, for sure! But the cops keep changing also!

Magnus: Yeah, cops suck!

Little Guy Pie: Yeah, I guess so.

[crowd cheers]

Travis: Hey, that was cheap. Don't give that—

Clint: Oh, great! Kevin Sorbo, now the cops...

Griffin: As you reach—[laughs]

Justin: You know what I always say!

Travis: No, dad! Wait, are you Clunt?!

Griffin: This is Clunt!

Travis: You're being a real Clunt right now!

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: Hey, guys, you didn't even let me say 'ACAB-bradabra!' It was right there!

[crowd laughs]

Griffin: Ding! The door to the elevator opens.

Travis: Oh, I thought we won! [chuckles]

Griffin: The door to the elevator opens. You all see—

Travis: Kevin Sorbo.

Griffin: Kevin Sorbo.

Clint: Surrounded by cops.

[group chuckle]

Justin: "We're giving you a medal, Kevin! We're giving you a medal for best hero! We love you so much!" [chuckles]

Griffin: The top observation deck of the Space Needle has opened like a flower bud. You are all standing on a large, open disc, 500 feet off the ground. The Space Needle needle at the very center of this disc continues

upwards into the sky another 100 feet or so. And at the very base of it, you see a man. He is wearing a suit, some very expensive sneakers, and he is just kind of tapping at mechanisms on this needle. Greenlight is firing upwards in waves from the spire, up into the clouds, toward Neverwinter above, still dangling precariously upside down in the sky. Heading in your direction, getting larger and closer by the minute. There are dozens of Tusk Forcer drones floating all around, seemingly observing this process. And this man stands up and he turns around and looks and says, "Wow, it's actually you guys. I'm a huge fan. Taako, Merle, Magnus, it is an honor. Wow. Did you see the convention that I threw in your honor?"

Taako: Yeah, very flattering.

Griffin: "Thank you so much. I'm Keylon Tusk."

Magnus: Yeah. Now—

Taako: Figured, yeah.

Magnus: If you could just stop—

Taako: Actually really—

[crowd boos]

Magnus: Just stop everything you're doing.

Keylon: Sorry?

Griffin: When you all boo, it hurts us. Like...

[crowd chuckles]

Travis: Hey, can I just say, I didn't take it personally.

Griffin: [chuckles] I did! He says:

Keylon: What do you— what— stop what? Oh, this? With the needle?
[chuckles]

Magnus: You heard the laugh you did, right?

Taako: Yeah, you hear—

Magnus: That's not a cool guy, hero laugh?

Keylon: No, it was not a cool guy, hero laugh. No, I can't stop that. It's sort of doing itself at this point.

Justin: I want to run an arcana check on it and see what I can piece together.

Griffin: Sure, make a roll for me, please.

Justin: I'm really good at this, by the way.

Griffin: Okay, let's see what you can do.

Justin: Okay, I rolled a 5.

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: Plus 11. I'm really—

Griffin: Okay!

Justin: I'm really— I'm a level 17 wizard, I'm really good at knowing about magic. [chuckles]

Griffin: As Garfield the cat suggested, this space needle has been sort of retrofitted into a machine that has destroyed the barrier between the planes. Now when you look up, you see the Prime Material Plane above you. It is crashing towards the Plane of Thought where you all are standing, where the city of Seattle is based. They are flying towards each other and this machine is the machine that is allowing that to happen. He says:

Keylon: Pretty cool, huh? I've been working on this for a while, spent a few dozen billion dollars on it. Because that seemed like the best way to spend that...

Magnus: What's your goal?

Keylon: My goal?

Magnus: Yeah.

Keylon: I mean... to better the plight of mankind, for starters.

Merle: Yeah! That's good. That's very—

Keylon: This guy knows what I'm talking about.

Merle: And who do you follow? What God is yours?

Magnus: Good question!

Keylon: Well...

Merle: [buzzer sound] Eeh!

Magnus: Whoa?

Merle: Have you heard the word of Pan today?

Magnus: Whoa, hey, Merle? Can I talk to you for just a second?

Merle: Yeah, Oh, excuse us.

Magnus: A little aggressive—

Taako: Hey, when are you gonna fight Zuck?

Keylon: What's that?

Taako: When are you gonna fight Zuck?

[crowd chuckles]

Taako: When are you gonna fight Zuck?

Merle: You know, the Seattle Zucks.

Griffin: Make a—

[group laugh]

Griffin: Make an insight check, Taako—

Travis: With advantage!

Griffin: No. What?

Travis: Because of Dad's good joke.

Griffin: No.

Travis: Okay.

[crowd chuckles]

Justin: 14 plus 6, 20.

Griffin: He looks a little scared when you say that.

Magnus: Zuck sent me!

Keylon: He-he, good one.

Griffin: He says:

Keylon: Look—

Magnus: Zuck sent me, we'll fight.

Griffin: Zuck sent you, we'll fight, is what you're saying to him. Make a... make a fuckin' lying check, please. A deception—

Travis: He convinced him!

Griffin: It's not the truth! Fuckin' Mark Zuckerberg didn't— what the fuck are you talking about, Travis?! Roll the dice!

Travis: Deception, you say?

Griffin: Yeah!

Travis: 7.

Griffin: No.

[crowd chuckles]

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: He says:

Keylon: That's nothing. Listen... a few years ago, the Story and Song changed everything. You all changed our whole understanding of the cosmos. Namely that there's this whole other world of fantasy and wonder that our world was just a sort of battery for, and that seems shitty. So I built this machine to swap the places of our two planes, putting our world, and I guess by extension me, a little closer to the center of existence. So... we're almost done here, if you guys don't mind just hanging out for a minute.

Taako: Wait, what happens to our plane?

Keylon: It'll do a switcheroo, no big deal.

Magnus: You say no big deal. A lot of screaming.

Griffin: Yeah, you look around. There's just like human bell faces and dinosaurs with like walrus heads. And like all kinds of just wild shit trampling around the streets of Seattle.

Keylon: Oh, yeah, that's weird.

Magnus: Keylon, was it?

Keylon: Yes.

Magnus: Could I have a moment in private with my friends?

Keylon: Sure. I mean this only needs another couple of minutes to wrap up, so...

Magnus: Can I kill him?

Taako: I don't think so. I think we should kill the machine first.

Merle: Yeah.

Magnus: Why not both?

Travis: [chuckles]

Keylon: Guys, I can hear all of this.

Travis: Okay, I punch him in the face.

Griffin: All right, roll for initiative, please.

[crowd cheers]

Justin: 4. Fuckin' Wendy's, man. I quit.

Travis: 19.

Griffin: 19...

Justin: Non-Wendy's, I had—

Clint: 17.

Griffin: 17! All right, we are in there. He looks at you as you approach him and he says:

Keylon: Oh, that's disappointing. Well, I guess it's true what they say; never meet your heroes.

Griffin: Before you reach him, a half dozen of these drones crash into Keylon and form around him a sort of armored suit, and their helicopter rotors are at his back, lifting him off the ground. And he takes aim at your party with a battery of cannons. First in the order is... Magnus Burnside. What do you do?

Magnus: Hey, cool one?! If you could like... whatever—

Griffin: Cool one being— what are you talking about?

Travis: The Tusk drone who—

Griffin: Who you convince not to narc you out? Okay.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Yeah, you see one drone in the swarm that is like not in alignment with the other ones. That looks really nervous like, "He-he, I don't know what this guy is talking about!"

Justin: [laughs]

Magnus: Yeah, just hear me out, cool one.

Griffin: "That's not me, right, guys?"

Magnus: If you would move out of the way, I'll take you to my world where we can make you like a whole suit where you'll be like a majestic robot who fights evil.

Griffin: Make a persuasion check as you convince this robot to— by the way, this robot is looking at the one you just smashed into pieces on the elevator.

Justin: He got a 17, though.

Travis: That's a 17...

Clint: Plus?

Travis: Plus 2, a 19.

Griffin: Okay, on a 19, this one must-be-malfunctioning drone floats away from the others. And as he floats towards your party, Keylon points at him and several other drones get pulled away from the pack.

Travis: Yeah, and makes a big opening that I hit with my chainsaw.

Griffin: Towards— what are you hitting?

Travis: Wherever that opening happened where they flew away—

Griffin: Oh, I see, I got you, I got you, okay. Make an attack roll against armored Keylon Musk. Keylon Tusk. Keylon Tusk I mean! I don't know who the fuck the other guy is. What's that?

Travis: Do I have an advantage because—

Griffin: No!

Travis: Are you sure?

Griffin: Yeah!

Clint: Yeah.

Travis: Then it was a 1.

Griffin: Travis!

[crowd chuckles]

Travis: I mean, I asked.

Griffin: Okay, you fucking rev the flaming chainsaw—

Travis: And I piss my pants. [chuckles]

Griffin: [chuckles] And you piss your pants.

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: I'll say this; it's so fuckin'— like the sound a fire that comes out of it scares you super-bad. And instead of going in for an attack, you go, [spoofs chainsaw sounds] "Aah!"

Travis: [chuckles]

Griffin: You wave it around, the attack does not really happen. However, you do have—

Travis: I get a second attack.

Griffin: Okay, cool. Now you know what to expect.

Travis: Yeah. 17 plus 11, a 28.

Griffin: Okay, yeah. So you're going to roll a D12 for damage on this. And...

Travis: 7 plus 5, 12.

Griffin: 12. So it does 12 slashing damage—

Travis: Sorry, is it the same as the Flaming Raging Poisoning Sword of Doom?

Griffin: It doesn't do the bonus 50 fucking crazy damage that the other one—

Travis: It's plus 20.

Griffin: Plus 20, no, it doesn't do that.

Travis: Only plus 10?

Griffin: No, it does, 12 doubled. It does 12 slashing and 12 fire damage for 24 points of damage against Keylon Tusk. You get that right in the gap where these drones were pulled off to attack your new drone friend. You hear him yell and say, "Ow, that does hurt! That does hurt a lot though, okay."

Travis: Action surge.

Griffin: "Oh, you have more of those, then? Okay, ouch!"

Travis: 12 plus 11, 23.

Griffin: 23, yes.

Travis: That's a crit 20.

[crowd cheers]

Griffin: Okay, roll the... roll the D12 for the first attack.

Travis: 6 plus 5, yeah, so 11.

Griffin: So 11 slashing and 11 fuckin'— okay, wow, and 11 fire. And then for the crit, roll two D12.

Travis: Yeah.

Clint: Is it all coming back to you, Juice?

Justin: What?

Clint: You know, the way Travis and Griffin would play—

Travis: So a 9 there, plus 5, another 14.

Griffin: Another 14, so 28.

Clint: We were in the game at one point.

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: Okay—

Travis: I don't got magic, boys! I hit good!

Griffin: Yeah, with that, Keylon Tusk says:

Keylon: Oh, fuck. Ow. No, for real though, fuck. Like... Hold on, wait, wait, wait, stop! Stop! Stop! Stop! Stop! Stop. Fuck. That hurts. Like I know the story and stuff, but fuck, wow.

Taako: Shut it— shut it off!

Griffin: He says:

Keylon: No. Don't do that again though. Ouch. Fuck. Wow.

Griffin: Next in the order is Merle Highchurch.

Clint: Merle is gonna call lightning down.

Griffin: Uh-oh? Okay? Describe what is the spell you're doing, Call Lightning? Yeah, that's a spell, cool.

Clint: Yeah!

Griffin: Where are you aiming this at?

Clint: The controls of the machine.

Griffin: Okay. "A bolt of lightning flashes down from a cloud to that point. Each creature within five feet of that point must make a dexterity saving throw." You'll probably get quite a few drones in this as well. So I'm going to make a dex save for the machine. Not going to be its strong suit!

Justin: [chuckles]

Griffin: Okay, no, I'm gonna— no, there's no fucking way. From the cloud of drones, that is a 3. You're gonna get quite a few drones on this. So that's three D10 lightning damage.

Travis: What do you say when it happened?

Clint: Eh...

Travis: Keep rolling.

Clint: Oh, okay.

Travis: Why are you using a percentage dice?!

Clint: It's the same thing?

Griffin: That can be a 10. There are 10 numbers on a percentage dice.

Travis: So 70?

Griffin: 7.

Clint: 7, 5 and 8.

Griffin: Okay, so that's 20... 7... sorry, do that math again real quick?

Travis: 20.

Griffin: 7, 5, and 8 is 20. Yes, you're right. 7, 5, and 8 is 20. On—

Travis: I was a national merit scholar.

Griffin: Oh, fuck off!

[crowd chuckles]

Griffin: Okay, you take out about a third of the drone swarm that have not formed into the armor with that attack. They just fall to the ground, sizzling. The mechanism attached to the spire goes dark. The spire does not. I need a straight luck check from you. Roll a D20 for me. You're looking for a higher than 10. This is for dad.

Justin: Oh, good.

Griffin: We want an 11 or higher. What did you get?

Travis: Yeah, say it.

Clint: 1.

[crowd chuckles]

Griffin: Okay, on a 1, the spire grows much brighter. And you watch—

Travis: Ah, damn it!

Griffin: You watch as Neverwinter above goes [spoofs action sound] bvff-ff! And comes down much, much, much closer to you. Some of the tallest buildings, the Neverwinter Keep at the top of Neverwinter City, some of those spires at the top of that castle are now pretty close to the top of the Space Needle. And things are getting kind of weird on the ground of both areas. Gravity is starting to get very confused right now. You see so many

Priuses and hot dog carts floating off the ground on your side. And you see, I don't know, fantasy Priuses floating off the ground in Neverwinter.

Travis: But wait, Griffin, Hucks gameplay hasn't been interrupted, has it?

Griffin: No, the Hucks down below are still playing a great game of football. They can't be stopped once the bloodlust has set in. They will never stop playing football until their enemies are—

Travis: Wassal Rilson is doing a great job! [chuckles]

Griffin: Right.

Clint: In Denver.

Travis: He's not there anymore. Yeah, I know.

Griffin: Next in the order is... Keylon Tusk. Keylon Tusk looks down at you, Magnus, and says:

Keylon: Hey...

Magnus: Yeah?

Keylon: I'm really, really sorry about this.

Magnus: Okay?

Griffin: Six cannons come out of his chest and point in your direction. Make a dexterity saving throw for me.

Travis: Okay. 9.

Griffin: No.

Travis: Plus... 9— no, 3.

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: 12.

Griffin: 9 plus 3?

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Okay, that is—

Justin: 12!

Griffin: That is unsuccessful.

Travis: Thank you, Justin.

Griffin: Six searing hot, scorching rays come firing in your direction. They blast you backwards. You're going to take... 33 points of fire damage and you are blasted backwards. You slide to a stop just at the edge of the disk that you all are standing on, 500 feet above the ground. Next in the order is the drone swarm. I'm going to say everyone here is going to make a dexterity saving throw.

[sound of dice thrown]

Travis: There we go.

Justin: Yeah, hey, all right, 19 plus—

Travis: 16— 19.

Justin: 3— 12— 22.

Griffin: 22. Merle?

Clint: 17.

Griffin: 17? Wow. Good rolls from everyone. Except from Garfield. Garfield rolled a 10. Garfield is blasted by another one of these scorching rays. You

see that the orange cat suit that she is wearing must be embedded with some sort of powerful warding magic because the ray doesn't seem to destroy her. But she is also knocked backwards, towards the edge of the disk. And next in the order is Taako. Taako, what do you do?

Justin: All of a sudden... Keylon is what we're going with?

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: Okay.

Griffin: I'll be honest with you, it was going to be Keyvon, but then I said Keylon the first time and then I felt too weird to change it.

Justin: He, in front of him, sees the purple glowing visage of a seven foot tall Mark Zuckerberg dressed as the Karate Kid.

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: And I've cast—

Travis: Wait, sorry, dressed as the Karate Kid?

Justin: Yeah, I cast Phantasmal Killer on him. And he's seeing his worst fear—

Travis: Hey, thanks, Baldur's Gate!

Justin: Yeah, he's seeing his worst fear; an oiled up Zucker nerd, ready to just pound him into dust. [chuckles]

Travis: But not in a romantic way!

Justin: Not in a romantic way, at all!

Griffin: All right, a wisdom saving throw.

Travis: For you?

Griffin: Yeah, for Keylon Tusk. Musk— Tusk, yes. 7? 7 is the number I rolled.

Justin: That's not gonna do much for you, friend.

Griffin: Okay, he is frightened.

Travis: Yeah!

Justin: Yeah.

Griffin: Good work, man. [chuckles]

Justin: He's also gonna need to take four D10 psychic damage.

Griffin: Oh, shit. Okay! Roll that four D10 psychic damage, please.

Justin: 5, 6, 3, 6.

Clint: 20!

Travis: All right?

Griffin: All right.

Travis: I didn't know we're having a competing ADHD-off.

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: Okay, 20 points of psychic damage.

Griffin: Yeah, you see... you see a phantasmal— you create a phantasmal, seven foot high, purple Zuckerberg who pops down in front of him. And Keylon says:

Keylon: Not like this...

[crowd chuckles]

Griffin: And Mark Zuckerberg punches the drones, it doesn't affect them at all. But Keylon inside of this drone suit, you see him just:

Keylon: [grunts] Uh-uh-uh-uh-uh-uh!

Griffin: As he takes 20 points of psychic damage. Next in the order is Joaquin. Joaquin is going to take a deep breath. He says:

Joaquin: Ah, let's see if I still got it.

Griffin: And he puts out the finger guns and also shoots out some scorching rays at a few of the drones. And...

Travis: He doesn't still have it. Taako's come out—

Griffin: No, he rolled a— I rolled a 1. And so he does shoot out rays, but the only one that he hits is the one that you hacked.

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: No!

Griffin: And he says:

Joaquin: Yes! I got one! Oh, no!

[crowd chuckles]

Joaquin: Hackey! I'm so sorry!

Griffin: He says:

Joaquin: I messed it up. I can't do this.

Magnus: It's cool, Joaquin.

Griffin: He starts to trudge back to the elevator.

Magnus: You were great in The Lobster.

Joaquin: No, it's fine. That was a Joaquin Phoenix joke that was in poor taste.

[crowd chuckles]

Taako: Hey, you shouldn't be so hard yourself. There's probably not a lot of cause for magical destruction over here in this realm.

Joaquin: That's a good point.

Magnus: Everything must be going great without like evil kings and dragons and shit?

Joaquin: No, not really. You know... we have a hard time over here sometimes.

Merle: Joaquin?

Joaquin: Yeah?

Merle: I want you to look up.

Joaquin: Oh, this isn't—

Merle: Just, just, just please...

Joaquin: But it's not gonna be like a—

Merle: Look up. See where my fingers pointing? One way—

Travis: He's gonna point to something on your shirt.

Griffin: He looks up. He sees the citizens of Neverwinter City like, "Aah!"

Joaquin: That sucks. I don't want to look at that?

Merle: I know, I know, but you would fit right in with those magical users. Well, maybe not the scream—

Magnus: Hey, Merle?

Merle: Maybe not the screaming people.

Joaquin: I have a family here, I...

Merle: Well...

Taako: Will you indulge me, though?

Joaquin: Yeah, sure.

Taako: Will you just try it?

Justin: And then he hands Joaquin the Umbra Staff.

Griffin: The Bumbershoot?

Justin: Bumbershoot. Thank you.

Griffin: Okay. He says:

Joaquin: All right, I'll try it again.

Griffin: And he takes aim. He is going to try and shoot scorching rays again at the drones with the Bumbershoot. This time he rolls in 19 on the dice.

Travis: Yes!

[crowd cheers]

Clint: All he needed was somebody to believe in him.

Griffin: He fires a just thick, pulsating beam of fire—

Travis: Go on?! Wait, hold on! Say it slower.

Griffin: He carves a—

Travis: Say it slower, Griffin!

Griffin: Through the drone swarm—

Travis: Thick! Pulsating!

Griffin: A thick, pulsating! [chuckles]

Clint: Turgid!

Griffin: Ropey fuckin'...

[crowd laughs]

Taako: And it's— you know, it's a different— it's a different Bumbershoot!

Travis: A throbbing ray! [chuckles]

Griffin: [chuckles] A throbbing, red fuckin' pole of fire!

[crowd chuckles]

Griffin: You see drones explode left and right, bff-bff-bff-bff-bff! The drone, however, that he did hit the first time floats over to you, Magnuson, and says, "Did I... was I a good drone?"

Magnus: You did great, son!

Griffin: "Thank you. I'm going to die now."

Justin: [chuckles] Magnus: That's how it works!

Clint: [sings] Daisy, Daisy.

Justin: [chuckles]

Travis: Is Magnus up next?

Griffin: Yes actually, next in the order is—

Travis: Magnus holds his hand out, summoning the Chance Lance from Neverwinter.

Griffin: Ooh!

[crowd cheers]

Griffin: Okay, okay...

Clint: Now wait a minute...

Griffin: No, yeah, yeah, okay—

Clint: Yeah!

Griffin: Yeah, no, I think that the two cities of Seattle and Neverwinter are close enough now that it takes a few seconds. But with— I think an arc of lightning follows it. So I'm going to say make a— I think it comes in pretty hot and heavy, because it's flying from one plane of existence—

Travis: As he's doing it, he's running at Keylon.

Griffin: Okay, make a— here's what I'm saying; you need to make an athletics check to catch this flying spear as it zooms from one plane of reality to the other.

Travis: That would be a 21 total.

Griffin: 21 total, yeah. On a 21, you catch it. You rear back a bit from just the force of the Chance Lance, but you catch it, but good.

Travis: As I'm jumping in the air to hit—

Griffin: Keylon Tusk? Okay, make an attack roll, please.

[sound of dice thrown]

Clint: Hm...

Travis: With advantage, right?

Griffin: No, stop!

Travis: No, I just got—

Griffin: Fuckin' stop it! With advantage. Did you play Baldur's Gate? They don't just let you do advantage all the fuckin' time.

Travis: Oh, it says right there I have inspiration?

Griffin: From what?!

Travis: Yeah, so it will be a 26.

Griffin: You get to attack two times. What did you roll on your first roll?

Travis: 1.

Griffin: Three times. You rolled a 1 on your first roll, your first attack failed.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Your second attack?

Travis: 26.

Griffin: Yes, that is going to hit. So, and this is your third attack?

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: 1.

Griffin: [chuckles]

[crowd laughs]

Clint: It's either feast or famine!

Griffin: The number of one 1s we have rolled between these two tables tonight is—

Travis: This is a a D&D official dice.

Griffin: Yeah, well, it currently stands for Dookie and... Dookie.

[crowd chuckles]

Griffin: Okay, so that's one hit. So I believe that's a D10. Plus the normal sort of bonus—

Travis: This is a D10, right?

Griffin: [chuckles] That's a D100. Travis... I know you know how to play Dungeons and Dragons.

Travis: It says 49.

Griffin: Okay, so a 4 is what we're going to round that down to.

Travis: No, it's a 5.

Griffin: Okay, we'll roll it to a 5—

Travis: Round up!

Griffin: Okay, now we're being serious. Okay, that is a—

Travis: You guys love Sully, right?

Griffin: Yeah.

[crowd chuckles]

Griffin: Okay, pretty cool, you have your Chance Lance now. You get one hit off on Keylon Tusk. It is a 5 plus— what is your usual modifier?

Travis: Oh, you know what, Griffin?

Griffin: Yeah? Are you gonna tell me what your usual modifier is on an attack so that we can—

Travis: Yeah, it's plus 5.

Griffin: Okay, so a 10 total, okay.

Travis: But...

Griffin: But?

Travis: It's going to be still attached to a line. Can I do a luck roll?

Griffin: That the Chance Lance is attached to a line?

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Why would it be attached to a line?

Travis: Because I last used it to spear a fish. When I was back in Neverwinter.

Griffin: If you roll a 20 on the dice, I will give you this. A 5% chance.

Travis: Oh, no!

[crowd exclaims]

Travis: Dad, sorry about your wet dick. [laughs]

[group chuckle]

Travis: No.

Griffin: No, it's not attached to a line. Can we get a rag for our wet father?

Travis: But now I'm especially— yeah, I'm especially—

Griffin: For our moistened Dad, please.

[crowd cheers]

Griffin: Wet Dad, it's your turn.

Clint: I'm sorry, I was preparing a spell—

Travis: I gave you so much time!

Clint: He's gonna summon up... Della Reese.

Griffin: Della Reese, the guardian of faith?

Clint: Yes!

Griffin: Okay.

[crowd cheers]

Griffin: Guardian of Faith is a spell that happens in Dungeons and Dragons sometimes. I'm looking up the rules because my dad's not going to tell them to me apparently.

Clint: Nope!

[crowd chuckles]

Griffin: "A large spectral guardian appears and hovers in the duration, in an unoccupied space of your choice you can see within range." Okay, great. Are you plopping this Guardian of Faith down near Keylon Tusk? Or near the sort of drone swarm that is sort of floating around the disk?

Clint: I'm going to... cast her on top of the machine.

Griffin: On top of the machine, okay, interesting. Well, then this machine automatically fails its dexterity saving throw. It takes another 20 radiant damage from this automatic failed save. And... yeah, you see actually the tip of this machine is sheared off and falls down onto the disk. Make another luck check for me.

[sound of dice thrown]

Justin: 17.

Griffin: Okay, yeah. On a 17, you see that this green glow that has sort of filled this spire has started to fade somewhat. And the momentum of Neverwinter above you has begun to slow. And now there's just like weird debris stuck in the gravitational pull between the two worlds. But it's not sort of shrieking towards Seattle in a death spiral anymore. Next in the order is... it is Keylon Tusk. Keylon Tusk is going to look at, we're gonna say... you, Merle. And is— he says— actually, he's gonna look at all of you. I'm looking at his hit points. They are not doing great. He says:

Keylon: Okay, listen, clearly we got off on the wrong foot here. If you all will just be cool and let me walk away and do this cool plan I'm doing, I will give each of you one billion dollars.

Magnus: Is that that weird paper?

Keylon: Well... in my case it's all sort of digital. Some of it is going to be in the like—

Magnus: Di-gi-tal?

Griffin: [laughs]

[crowd chuckles]

Keylon: Some of it has pictures of monkeys, some of it...

[crowd chuckles]

Keylon: I have just sort— I have—

Magnus: We could just see monkeys?

Keylon: These are—

Magnus: Taako can make monkeys?

Keylon: No, these are very valuable monkey pictures and I have—

Magnus: How so?

Keylon: It would take too long to explain to you—

Magnus: No, explain it!

[crowd chuckles]

Clint: Please let Justin play.

Magnus: What makes it valuable?

Keylon: Some of it is emeralds. I have lots of emeralds.

Magnus: From your dad?

Keylon: From my dad. I have dad emeralds and monkey pictures worth a billion dollars.

Merle: Mm-hm...

Keylon: Stop! Think about this for real.

Magnus: Uh-huh?

Keylon: A billion dollars.

Magnus: In dadmeralds.

Travis: [chuckles]

Taako: Okay, you know what? I'd love to be in business with you, if I'm being honest.

Keylon: For real?

Taako: Yeah. First—

Keylon: This is so huge for me, Taako.

Taako: First, I think we gotta think about a rebrand.

Justin: And then I cast Blade of Disaster which cuts a big X in the machine.

[crowd cheers]

Justin: That's two melee spell attacks, it'd have to be—

Griffin: Shit, man! You create a blade shaped planar rift about three feet long in an unoccupied space. Okay... All right, you make two melee spell attacks with the blade. Each one against a creature, loose object or structure. So make two spell attacks against the spire.

Clint: And I think you should have advantage—

Justin: No, you can't just do that.

Griffin: No, no, why? Why, Merle?

Clint: Because of the timeliness of his joke.

Griffin: This is not— you guys keep coming up with the most bullshit reasons for advantage to take place. Alright.

Justin: So first—

Travis: It's because he's bigger than you.

Justin: First is 7, plus 11, 18.

Griffin: Yes, that hit.

Justin: Next is 15 plus 11, 26.

Griffin: Both of those are going to hit for four D12 force damage each.

[crowd exclaims]

Justin: Okay, someone count for me. We got this—

Clint: I got you.

Justin: Thanks, Dad. No problem. You're ready, Dad? Here we go, pal. That's an 11. That's an 11. That's a 12.

Griffin: Jesus Christ!

Justin: Hey, but the last one's a 3.

Travis: 36.

Clint: 37.

Griffin: Okay, that's one. So that's— 37?

Travis: 11, 11, 11, 3.

Griffin: 11, 11, 12, 3.

Justin: 11! 11!

Clint: 11, 11, 12, 3.

Justin: Okay, hold on—

Travis: Fuck off.

Justin: Now, we're gonna go—

Travis: I'm gonna put you in a home.

Griffin: Travis!

Justin: Travis...

[crowd cheers]

Travis: My home!

Justin: Okay, now it's time for the next round of this. That's a 7. That's an 8. 7.

Griffin: Jesus Christ!

Justin: 4.

Griffin: [chuckles] Okay?

Justin and Clint: 26.

[crowd chuckles]

Griffin: Alright. Okay. Okay... [chuckles] With that, Keylon Tusk looks around. He is pretty fucked up at this point. His drone swarm has been depleted heavily.

Magnus: I am the eldest boy. If you don't let me do this— this is what is built in— this is all I know how to do. It's like from Succession.

[crowd chuckles]

Justin: Okay, go ahead, Griff. We'll edit that out, don't worry.

Griffin: [laughs] The Space Needle buckles.

Justin: Shit! I'm sorry, y'all.

[crowd laughs]

Justin: Still got Starbucks.

Griffin: [laughs] It buckles though in a fun way. Where all of you don't have that hard of a time sort of keeping your footing— Keylon, in his suit made out of drones that are struggling to stay attached to him— he has a really hard time keeping hold of the surface of the Space Needle as it tilts. And he slides and he's holding on to the edge now. Dangling over the city. And he says:

Keylon: Okay, I've upped my offer to two billion dollars each! That's so much Earth money, guys!

Taako: Can I get a quick wisdom check from you?

Griffin: That is a 14 total.

Justin: It's gonna be four D10 damage from the continuing projection of Mark Zuckerberg.

Griffin: [chuckles]

[crowd chuckles]

Justin: Sorry. I've been playing a lot of Baldur's Gate. [chuckles]

[crowd chuckles]

Griffin: [chuckles] Okay, the last thing—

Justin: 7, 5—

Griffin: Yeah?

Justin: 8. 3, 7, 5, 8; 23.

Griffin: 23, okay. [laughs] He makes this last-minute plea. The last thing he sees is a phantasmal, giant Mark Zuckerberg leans over him as he dangles off the edge of the crooked Space Needle. And he says:

Mark: You know what's cooler than two billion dollars? Two... trillion dollars.

Justin: [laughs]

[crowd chuckles]

Griffin: And he peels Keylon's fingers off the edge of the Space Needle and he falls, full on Hans Die Hard style, down to the ground.

[crowd cheers]

Travis: After that happens—

Griffin: Yes?

Travis: I say:

Magnus: Merle, Taako, grab on.

Travis: And I activate my Tarantula Gauntlet so I can spider climb.

Griffin: Okay?

Justin: Where did you get that from?

Clint: Yeah, where did that come from?

Travis: I forgot about it until now.

Griffin: Yeah, he— no, he wears his gauntlet when he goes to sleep at night. It's...

Travis: It's where I keep the key to my diary. [chuckles]

Griffin: [chuckles] Yeah. You start climbing up the spire, back up toward Neverwinter. And as you get close, the gravity from your home world pulls you upwards, back up toward Neverwinter. And Joaquin says:

Joaquin: You're just gonna leave without saying bye?

[crowd chuckles]

Clint: We shouldn't do that because he has to clean up.

Taako: Will you do me a favor and keep the Bumbershoot? And every once in a while, go out to the back yard and take a few shots. You know, just— you never know.

Joaquin: Yeah.

Griffin: He says:

Joaquin: I'll stay ready for the next time.

Clint: That'll give us something to write another graphic novel about.

Justin: Yeah.

Taako: And you know, don't beat yourself up. You did a good job today.

Griffin: He says:

Joaquin: Thanks. Yeah, you know, I did my best.

Taako: That's all any of us can do.

Griffin: The portal begins to close and—

Clint: Merle casts Planar Ally.

Justin: What? Why?

Travis: What the fuck is that?

Clint: Merle casts Planar Ally.

Justin: No.

Griffin: No, Merle casts Planar Ally.

Clint: Yes, back through the— back through the gap.

Griffin: You beseech an otherworldly entity for aid. A god, a primordial, a demon prince—

Travis: You reach out to Jesus Christ!

Griffin: Or some other being of cosmic power.

Justin: Son of David.

Griffin: The creature appears in an unoccupied space within range.

Clint: Yes, I—

Travis: "Hey, guys! I'm back! It's time!"

Clint: I summon Clint McElroy, interplanar janitor.

[crowd cheers]

Travis: Hold on—

Clint: To help with the cleanup.

Justin: To help clean up! [laughs]

[crowd cheers]

Griffin: Clint McElroy, interplanar janitor, appears at the top of the crooked Space Needle. He smiles in a kindly way and says:

Clint [Janitor]: Don't worry, everyone. I'll take it from here.

Griffin: And gets out his mop.

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: As he does that, the elevator doors slide open. And out steps Clunt Macklemore.

[crowd chuckles]

Justin: [chuckles]

Griffin: He steps out and says:

Clunt: Well, time to check out the Space Needle— Whoa!

Griffin: He slips and slides. You see him collide and touch Clint McElroy, interplanar janitor. A pitch black sphere of unreality begins to expand from where the two people touch.

Travis: Oh, no!

Griffin: It begins to swallow the city of—

Travis: But Griffin, we talked about this backstage!

Griffin: It begins to swallow the city of Seattle whole.

Clint: [chuckles] Oh...

Travis: You promised!

Griffin: It expands further and further outward.

Travis: No.

Griffin: Swallowing the Plane of Thought and Earth.

Travis: Dad, how could you?

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: Dad?! Your actions!

Clint: Oops...

[crowd chuckles]

Justin: [chuckles] The end of everything.

Griffin: Seattle and Washington and Earth... are destroyed in a moment.

Travis: Because of Dad's cameo!

Clint: And we all go to heaven.

Travis: No!

Griffin: No! You are every living person—

Travis: You, Clint McElroy and Kevin Sorbo go to hell!

[crowd chuckles]

Griffin: Join us next time—

Travis: I don't know about everyone else!

Griffin: Join us next time—

Travis: But I know that those two—

Griffin: Join us next time as The Adventure Zone crew saves Seattle and Earth and the whole Plane of Existence, and Clint McElroy and Kevin Sorbo from hell. In *The Adventure Zone: Balance*, season two. Thank you all so much for coming.

Justin: [chuckles] Bye.

Griffin: Goodbye!

[crowd cheers]

[The Adventure Zone: Balance theme music plays]

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