

The Adventure Zone Versus Dracula – Episode 21

Published June 6th, 2024

[Listen here on mcelroy.family](https://mcelroy.family)

[intro theme music plays]

Dracula: Dear Diary...

Today is my birthday!

"Happy Birthday, Dracula!"

"Thanks, Dracula. Looking pretty good for 690. What's your secret?"

"Oh, bat blood, dark magic, and some good, old-fashioned clean living."

"Any plans?"

"Well, I've ostracized the only dude who used to throw me parties, and Victor's having another one of his moody spells, so probably just gonna stay in tonight. Just chill and listen to Renfield's pained screams reverberate down the halls while my mind is ever tortured by the ghost of my Aria taunting me from beyond the threshold of my memory!"

690 years without losing my mind. That's a pretty good run.

[*Versus Dracula* theme music plays]

Griffin: The three of you have made camp for the evening, after an outrageously long day, during which you've obviously levelled up to level six, 'cause you defeated a god. That's the system we're using.

Travis: Yup.

Griffin: To track XP.

Travis: Defeat one god, get one level.

[light rain ambience plays]

Griffin: One level, cash it in.

Justin: So I'm G6 now.

Griffin: You're G— You are definitely G6. Hyde has helped you all sort of find shelter under a cliffside outcropping where you've set up camp, which is granting you protection from the torrential rainstorm that has sort of been pounding down since you reached the surface with Dracula's castle in sight. And as you all sort of gather around this fire, Hyde says—

Hyde: So let me get this straight. You're the King of England now.

Muttner: Yip. Yip.

Hyde: And you're the new Turbo Cardinal.

Phileaux: Uh, yes.

Muttner: Interim.

Phileaux: Yes, interim.

Hyde: What about you, Godwin? Did you get any kinda promotion down there?

Lady Godwin: I became an uber driver.

Hyde: Wow. That's— Do you own an automobile?

Lady Godwin: A carriage, yes.

Hyde: Oh, okay.

Lady Godwin: Oh, several.

Hyde: Have you ever seen a— Have you seen these new cars though? They're so fuckin' sick.

Muttner: Do you want— I could give you like a baronet, or you could be like... You're already Lady Godwin, so I don't think I can knight you.

Lady Godwin: Hmm. No, you know what? I'll just— I have enjoyed the freedom, not having to keep up the appearances of a station. I enjoy the freedom it's leant me.

Muttner: Okay.

Lady Godwin: If I wish to spend an afternoon ordering people about in the gardens, I can do that. If I wish to shout at the servants for not keeping the shelves clean, I can do that. I can spend my time however I like.

Muttner: Okay.

Phileaux: So when bachelorette parties puke in your carriage, you have your servants clean it?

Lady Godwin: Of course.

Phileaux: Yes, of course.

Lady Godwin: They're doing the driving.

Phileaux: No. [chuckles]

Hyde: Then wait, why— What are you licensed to—

Lady Godwin: I'm the Uber Driver, I'm the greatest one.

Hyde: Oh, okay.

Lady Godwin: I just don't do it, but I was recognized for my abilities.

Muttner: Yes.

Lady Godwin: As the Uber Driver.

Hyde: Congratu—

Muttner: Hey Hyde, can I ask you an important question that I probably should've thought about before this moment?

Hyde: Yeah, go ahead.

Muttner: Are we in England?

Hyde: Nah, man.

Lady Godwin: Ooo, isn't that interesting.

Muttner: Hmm.

Hyde: What a crazy question. No, we're not in England.

Muttner: It's just hard sometimes, you know you get all mixed up.

Hyde: No.

Muttner: I'm not really a geography guy.

Lady Godwin: How far is Lumineaux from England?

Muttner: Good question.

Hyde: Uhh...

Lady Godwin: Fantastic question.

Hyde: Well. [sighs] About— On horseback, or...?

Muttner: Yeah.

Lady Godwin: Ah, well.

Hyde: Carr— Yeah, on horseback, I don't know.

Lady Godwin: I don't think it differs with speed.

Hyde: I would say... a week to four months.

Phileaux: Mm.

Muttner: Okay, so like 20 miles?

Hyde: Depends on the horse, yeah.

Griffin: [giggles]

Justin: [snorts]

Muttner: Okay.

Hyde: Yeah, thereabouts.

Griffin: Mutt, as you're speaking to Hyde, you see the figure of Merlin appear at the far edge of the—

Muttner: Oh shit.

Griffin: — of this outcropping, and he's gesturing you to emphatically come and join him.

Muttner: Hold on guys, I gotta go talk to my old man.

Lady Godwin: Ah, oh, alright.

Griffin: You scurry off. On the other end of the outcropping, some distance away Phileaux, you see Van Helsing, just standing stock still, looking up at Dracula's castle, just sort of lost in thought.

Travis: Does Justin also get an old man friend?

Griffin: Well, it doesn't look like it.

Travis: Aw man.

Justin: That's alright.

Travis: We'll look for one for you.

Justin: It's fine. I don't—

Travis: We'll keep an eye out, buddy.

Justin: I got Dad.

Travis: That's nice. I wish Dad was my old man friend.

Clint: Who?

Phileaux: Who?

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: Oh no, he's gone too deep!

Griffin: Do you go to check on him?

Phileaux: Oh, absolutely, yes.

Griffin: Okay, so Godwin you are left alone here at the fire with... with Hyde. And...

[somber piano music plays]

Griffin: As your teammates scurry off, Hyde says—

Hyde: So, what's the plan for like after? Like after you kick Dracula's ass and your friend takes his teeth?

Lady Godwin: Oh. That's so interesting. I hadn't really thought beyond revenge. Part of the freedom, I suppose.

Hyde: Mm. Yeah, I'm just— I don't know about you, I'm just kinda realizing that, you know, you and I, we've literally got a second lease on life.

Lady Godwin: Mm.

Griffin: And he points up at his neck bolts. He says—

Hyde: So far I've spent it getting sucked into a cult and working for a grade-A asshole.

Lady Godwin: Have you received any transmissions? Out of curiosity.

Hyde: Oh, you mean like the signal?

Lady Godwin: Yes, yes, yes.

Hyde: I mean nothin' particularly, you know, divined. I know obviously if I got the procedure, got the side bolts put in, I'd be able to pick up the wavelength everyone else is grabbin'. But honestly, I'm not a big music guy.

Lady Godwin: Oh.

Hyde: And also that stuff kind of— kinda weirds me out.

Lady Godwin: It is rather odd, isn't it.

Hyde: Hey, can I ask you a personal question?

Lady Godwin: Of course, Mr. Hyde.

Hyde: How much do you remember... about... being dead?

Lady Godwin: Mmm... I— Huh. I hadn't thought about it. I— Hmm. For me, it seemed very quick. Well, from my perspective, I was walking and then I wasn't. you know the worst part? Now that I think back, he didn't honk.

Hyde: No.

Lady Godwin: It's rude, no?

Hyde: Yeah no, it's totally rude. You should at least honk, just so the person knows to...

Lady Godwin: Well.

Hyde: You know, flash their life before their eyes and stuff, you know?

Lady Godwin: What do you remember, Hyde?

Hyde: Nah, I mean the same. That fuckin' sucks. Um... You know I wasn't—

Lady Godwin: Well, there was the one... I mean... You saw him, right?

Hyde: Who's— Who?

Lady Godwin: C— The judge?

Hyde: Woah, no. I didn't get a judge. Holy shit.

Lady Godwin: Grezzle.

Hyde: What?

Lady Godwin: Grezzle the judge. Grezzle the judge?

Hyde: You learned his name?!

Lady Godwin: Grezzle, yes, Grezzle the judge. You didn't go before Grezzle?

Hyde: I wasn't dead that long, I don't think.

Lady Godwin: You know, I always thought the Grezzalians had a— blowing smoke out of their rear ends, but I'll be damned. There's a right religion—

Hyde: Wow.

Lady Godwin: — and it was the Grezzalians the entire time.

Griffin: [claps]

Hyde: You should keep that to— That might be—

Lady Godwin: To myself, yes of course.

Hyde: Yeah.

Lady Godwin: I was sharing it with you in strictest confidence, but yes.

Hyde: Oh yes.

Lady Godwin: For the record.

Hyde: Yeah.

Lady Godwin: There is a right religion.

Hyde: No, this is fi— this is a secret between Frankenstein friends, for sure.

Lady Godwin: Hail Grizzell.

Justin: [wheezes]

Hyde: Hail Grizzell, I guess.

Lady Godwin: No! No! You don't have to guess, it's the glorious part!

Hyde: Oh, cool.

Lady Godwin: It's just a direct one to one.

Griffin: [chuckles]

Lady Godwin: Yes, it's— Everyone pays off.

Hyde: I just— I don't know. I've been feelin'... I've been feelin' kinda weird lately, like the whole natural order of things... And I'm not like a nature guy, but like it's, you know, living and dying so something else can kinda have its turn. And I don't think all of this—

Griffin: And he gestures to just like Ahngrave and his neck bolts and the puppet man scurrying along with you. He says—

Hyde: I just— It doesn't feel like it can keep goin' on forever without some kind of consequences.

Lady Godwin: Yes. You're probably right about that, Hyde. But... We all find a way to live, no? We all find a way to keep going. It's natural, I think, as unnatural as it may seem, that we would want to continue on in whatever form. Because we really aren't bound to them. You know, it's interesting, I've felt more myself now than I ever did previously.

Hyde: Hm. I... I do too. Just so you know... I'm probably gonna run away in the middle of the night, just a heads up. I don't really care about killing Dracula, and I'm pretty scared of him, so.

Lady Godwin: I admit, I'm both flummoxed and flattered by your honesty.

Hyde: Yeah. I might just go find like the nearest sort of Grizzalian enclave, and just like find out.

Lady Godwin: If— Honestly, I'm having trouble not bailing myself.

Hyde: Yeah.

Lady Godwin: Because I have not thrown up any good vibes to the big judge above.

Griffin: [chuckles]

Hyde: Yeah, but I don't even know like what to give him, so I'm gonna— I guess I'll go study up.

Lady Godwin: No, it's— You don't have to. \$eight. He told me, \$eight a week.

Griffin: [chuckles]

Hyde: A week?

Lady Godwin: \$eight a week.

Hyde: Is there work up there?

Lady Godwin: Sorry?

Hyde: Do you have to work?

Lady Godwin: No, all— Here on this plane.

Hyde: Oh.

Lady Godwin: Before you enter the Grizzalian Infinitum.

Hyde: Oh.

Lady Godwin: Before the Grizzalian Infinitum.

Hyde: Okay.

Lady Godwin: On this plane, he demands \$eight a week.

Hyde: I guess I can—

Lady Godwin: Irregardless of payment! Irregardless of your economic situation, it's \$eight or bust, he says.

Hyde: Wow. I guess I'll cancel my Tubi subscription.

Justin: [wheezes]

Travis: [laughs]

Hyde: So I can go to Heaven?

Clint: [chuckles]

Justin: [laughs]

Lady Godwin: Well! Well, I don't want you to miss *Skateballs*.

Clint: [laughs]

Lady Godwin: Some things—

Justin: [wheezes]

Travis: Are worth eternal damnation.

Lady Godwin: Some things are worth eternal damnation.

Clint: [chuckles]

Griffin: Mutt. Mutt, you make your way over to Merlin. As you get within ear shot, you see him repeat, pretty exasperated this time, like—

Merlin: Congratulations.

Muttner: Yeah, man. Yeah.

Merlin: You've drawn Xcalibur and proven yourself worthy of... You know it kind of loses its impact when you put it back in, and take it back out a bunch of times.

Muttner: Oh my god! I thought you were a recording!

Merlin: What?

Muttner: I'm so sorry man, I thought you were like a thing that would pop up and give me like a rundown. It was like when someone's like, "Hey read through all of this and then click the box."

Merlin: Just kidding, I am a recording.

Muttner: Aww.

Merlin: I assume you're at— No, just playin' again.

Justin: I love that bit.

Muttner: Oh my god.

Merlin: Wizard's trickery.

Justin: Double reverse.

Merlin: I'm an illusory form of the great wizard Merlin.

Justin: [mutters] Will he try for one more?

Muttner: Are you?

Justin: [mutters] Maybe at the end.

Travis: I try to poke him.

Griffin: Your hand phases straight through him.

Muttner: Oh!

Merlin: Hee hee, just kidding. Didn't feel that.

Muttner: Okay.

Merlin: Sorry, my liege.

Muttner: Well good talk.

Merlin: No, I do wanna— I mean... You did— You gotta— Next time— I mean hopefully there's not a next time, but just pull it out and keep it out, 'cause every time you— someone draws the sword from the stone, we have to stitch their name into this big tapestry.

Justin: [giggles]

Merlin: And now we have to do that for you like a half-dozen times.

Muttner: Mm.

Merlin: And it's so—

Muttner: Talkin' a lot of shit to your king, huh?

Merlin: Well, I— Certainly, my liege.

Muttner: Mm.

Merlin: I'm just trying to provide council.

Muttner: No, I'm just kiddin' man. No, I'm just kiddin', please.

Merlin: Okay.

Muttner: It's my first day as a king. I'm open to any ideas.

Merlin: Scared the shit out of me, dude. I thought you were gonna be one of those asshole kings.

Muttner: Nah nah, man. Very laissez-faire, is kind my deal.

Merlin: Yeah. So do you need help like chartering a ship to England?

Muttner: Aw man.

Merlin: `Cause you're king of it now.

Muttner: Well, who's been runnin' it til somebody drew the sword? It's been like hundreds of years man.

Merlin: Yeah, we've been kingless, it sucks.

Muttner: It— Oh, it was bad?

Merlin: Yeah.

Muttner: Shit man.

Merlin: I got this thing, demo-cracy, and I think it's so boring!

Justin: [snorts]

Muttner: Yeah, man.

Merlin: It's like just get one guy to make all the choices!

Muttner: That seems so much simpler.

Merlin: Too many cooks in the kitchen, if you ask old Merlin.

Muttner: As long as that one guy isn't a piece of shit, right?

Merlin: Yeah.

Muttner: It seems like it would work really well.

Merlin: And you're, just checking, not one of— not that. You're a cool dude.

Muttner: I don't think I'm a piece of shit.

Merlin: Alright, so—

Muttner: Wait, hold on.

Merlin: When could you—

Muttner: Godwin? Phileaux?

Phileaux: Mm?

Lady Godwin: Yes?

Muttner: Am I piece of shit?

Lady Godwin: Hm. How long do we have?

Muttner: Oh man.

Phileaux: Yeah, you have your days.

Muttner: I thought there'd be a faster answer.

Phileaux: Uh, no.

Lady Godwin: You can be a bit brusque.

Phileaux: Yes.

Muttner: Okay.

Lady Godwin: You can be a bit brusque, I said!

Muttner: Oh okay, cool. But not a piece of shit?

Lady Godwin: No, you're an alright sort. For a commoner.

Muttner: Okay cool man. Good.

Merlin: I have, my liege—

Lady Godwin: Your manners are wretched!

Muttner: Well, that's fair.

Lady Godwin: You haven't asked, but they're quite bad.

Muttner: Yeah, okay.

Lady Godwin: Room to grow!

Merlin: Um, my—

Muttner: Thank you!

Merlin: My liege, I—

Muttner: I appreciate the feedback!

Merlin: My—

Lady Godwin: Rock on!

Merlin: My liege, I—

Muttner: You too, bud.

Merlin: My liege, I have gone ahead and scheduled their executions for—

Muttner: No. Nah, nah, man. They're cool, they're cool. One of 'em's interim Turbo Cardinal.

Lady Godwin: What are you two talking about?

Justin: [wheezes]

Muttner: Nothin'! Just appointments for you two in the royal court.

Lady Godwin: Oh!

Muttner: It's cool.

Phileaux: I don't like the look on his face, Mutt. Merlin is—

Muttner: I think he just has resting angry old man face.

Phileaux: Oh.

Muttner: Yeah, just—

Merlin: It's part of the magic. I'm always concentrating.

Muttner: It's part of the magic.

Phileaux: Oh okay.

Lady Godwin: Okay.

Phileaux: Thank you!

Merlin: Did you say you named a Turbo Cardinal?

Muttner: Interim.

Merlin: Without—

Lady Godwin: [laughs]

Merlin: Without the small Holy Council? Without the—

Muttner: That's why it's interim, man. They gotta go through all the processes.

Merlin: Oh, they're gonna be so pissed off, dude.

Lady Godwin: [wheezes]

Muttner: Yeah, but we had to kill the old Turbo Cardinal, 'cause he'd been turned into an evil vampire.

Merlin: Okay.

Muttner: And we were like, “Man, if we don’t— We need some kind of overlap here, we don’t wanna have a gap.”

Merlin: Alright, well there’s a— I’ve chartered a boat out of west Ahngrave port. It leaves in an hour.

Muttner: Ooooo.

Merlin: Could you get there?

Muttner: Ooo.

Merlin: ‘Cause you’re the King of England! So.

Muttner: Yeah, can we do like a remote setup, man, where I work from home?

Clint: [laughs]

Merlin: I don’t understand.

Justin: Rule from home. [chuckles]

Muttner: Yeah, well you would kinda—

Clint: I’ll rule!

Muttner: — be the conduit, and you come to me and you’re like, “Hey King. Taxes, what are we doin’ about that?” or whatever.

Merlin: Okay.

Muttner: And I would make the decision and then you would go back and tell everybody, but I don’t have to leave here.

Merlin: What? My liege.

Muttner: Yeah?

Merlin: I— Please forgive my impertinence, but what could you possibly be doing that's more important than being the King of England?

Muttner: Oh. Well, so the Invisible Man killed my brother, Rusty, so I have to find Dracula, kill him, and take his teeth.

Merlin: So you're— Okay.

Justin: [giggles]

Merlin: Why not the Invisible Man then? Why aren't you hunting him?

Muttner: That's a great question, man. Rusty didn't ask me to do that.

Merlin: It's weird.

Muttner: I know, well, I think the Invisible Man thing, I'm putting together that maybe he was just beefing with us 'cause we had to put down the chupacabra, 'cause he was injured and dying, but in the process doing a lot of harm to other people.

Merlin: Okay.

Muttner: And so I think that that's more of like a vengeance thing.

Merlin: Right.

Muttner: And we don't wanna get mixed up in that too much.

Merlin: Yes. No, dig two graves, for sure.

Muttner: Yeah.

Merlin: You are wise and just, King.

Muttner: Hey thanks, man. But Dracula, I do need to take his teeth.

Merlin: Yeah.

Muttner: And make 'em into earrings. But I might actually turn one of 'em into a ring, for this woman that I've kinda been courtin' and... So I can continue the line—

Merlin: Oh, you're already— You're— Sorry. You're legally married now?

Muttner: Oh, naw. To who?

Merlin: Yeah, when you— The Queen.

Justin: [wheezes]

Muttner: Wait, so there was a queen but no king?

Merlin: Yeah.

Muttner: You guys are crazy over there, man.

Justin: [wheezes]

Merlin: Yeah, we're still figurin' it out, I'm tellin' you.

Muttner: Yeah, England sounds like a wild country.

Merlin: She's chi— She's like pretty chill, so.

Muttner: How old is she? This is an important question, 'cause I know that—

Merlin: How old are you?

Muttner: I'm like 32.

Merlin: Yeah, that exact age.

Justin: [chuckles]

Muttner: Hmm, okay.

Justin: [snorts]

Merlin: Cool. Anyway.

Muttner: Cool...

Merlin: I guess I'll... let all the guys know there's a new king.

Muttner: What guys?

Merlin: You know.

Justin: [wheezes]

Merlin: The court, the jester, the—

Muttner: Yeah.

Justin: [chuckles]

Muttner: What's his name?

Merlin: The jester's name?

Muttner: Yeah man.

Justin: Jesper.

Merlin: Who said that?

Muttner: Oh, that was—

Merlin: His name—

Muttner: — my parrot.

Merlin: His name—

Justin: I'm the wind. [wheezes]

Merlin: Okay. His name is also Merlin.

Muttner: That must get confusin'.

Justin: Hey.

Merlin: `Cause he's got—

Justin: Hey, it's me, the wind.

Merlin: I hate his—

Justin: I think it's "Jesper," I'm whispering it in your ear, I think it's "Jesper the Jester." [wheezes]

Merlin: That would be fucking crazy, no.

Justin: Oh. [chuckles]

Merlin: It's Merlin.

Justin: Don't argue with the wind, I'm infinite. [chuckles]

Merlin: So I'll just let the guys know you'll be a bit!

Muttner: As your king, I command that you don't argue with the wind.

Merlin: Okay. Cool.

Justin: Whoosh. [chuckles]

Muttner: Oh, wind's gone.

Merlin: Oh good.

Muttner: Okay, we can stick with what you said, "other Merlin," that's fine.

Justin: I'm gonna fill your sails something proper.

Merlin: Oh yes.

Muttner: I'm not goin' back right now, man, I'm doin' it.

Justin: No problem, me— Next time you're sailing, you shout out for me, the wind. You've done me a good turn this day, good sir.

Muttner: Thank you, the Wind.

Justin: I won't forget it.

Griffin: [chuckles]

Justin: Can you— Listen.

Muttner: Yeah?

Justin: Call upon me in your greatest— [wheezes] Call upon me in your moment of greatest need, and I'll be there for you.

Travis: Okay, I'm gonna write that down on my character sheet.

Justin: You can summon— Write it down, you can summon all the powers of the wind. [chuckles]

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: Got it, man.

Justin: At your command.

Travis: I can be an airbender, hell yeah.

Justin: Ha— I have to go fill the sails of some merchant vessels now.

Travis: I understand.

Justin: For some people require [wheezes] more supplies.

Travis: Thank you.

Griffin: Okay.

Clint: Mutt.

Muttner: Oh?

Clint: Mutt, it is I, humidity.

Justin: Come with me, humidity.

Clint: I am humidity.

Justin & Griffin: [chuckle]

Muttner: Can I say this—

Clint: I can make it really dank here.

Justin: There's a barbecue for you to ruin.

Griffin: [chuckles]

Justin: Come on, humidity, let's go.

Griffin: [laughs]

Muttner: Yeah man. Get out of here, my hair's all frizzy. Come on, man.

Justin: Lady Godwin, you have my powers too.

Lady Godwin: Thank you.

Travis: Whoaaa. Cool.

Griffin: This is so cool.

Justin: I don't know why I never thought to do that before.

Travis: Yeah, I know. DMed by committee, I love it.

Justin: [chuckles]

Merlin: So I'll let the guys know.

Muttner: 'Kay, cool man.

Merlin: That you'll be a bit. Once you're done with your... your blood pilgrimage then—

Justin: [wheezes]

Muttner: Ah, that's weird. Okay.

Merlin: I wish you the best of luck, my liege. Don't die, 'cause then some other guy's gonna get the sword, and then we'll have to put their name up on the tapestry, and it's so—

Muttner: Okay, well if I die, I'll try to take the sword with me, how about that?

Merlin: Like eat it? What do you mean?

Muttner: No, like if I fall into a volcano or somethin', I'll take it with me.

Merlin: They'll get it. It's such a good, strong sword.

Muttner: Okay.

Merlin: Hey, do you— would you like to see some pornographic moving pictures?

Justin: [wheezes]

Muttner: No, I'm all set man, thank you very much.

Justin: [laughs]

Merlin: You sure, my liege?

Clint: [laughs]

Muttner: I'm more of a pornography in like written word kinda dude.

Merlin: My liege, they are incredibly... erotic and lifelike.

Justin: [chuckles]

Muttner: Can you describe `em to me?

Clint: [laughs]

Merlin: Oh sure.

Muttner: In great detail?

Merlin: Yeah.

Lady Godwin: How tasteful are they?

Muttner: How tasteful?

Merlin: One of `em— So there's one that— with— that's just a huge... ass.

Muttner: Mm.

Justin: [snorts]

[harpsichord music plays]

Griffin: We're gonna jump over to Phileaux.

Clint & Justin: [laugh]

Griffin: And Van Helsing. He sees you approach, as he's staring up at the castle, and then he looks down at the big fuckin' crater in the ground that you blasted downward with holy power, and he says—

Van Helsing: In all my years of vampire hunting, I never thought to root out the source of Dracula's power. Of course, I probably wouldn't have assumed I could defeat a god, so my streak of underestimating you continues, it would seem.

Phileaux: Well, stupidity often aids in luck, so yeah. That— It was kinda cool, and oh! Hey, I'm the Turbo Cardinal now.

Muttner: Interim!

Phileaux: Interim Turbo Cardinal now.

Van Helsing: Yes, that is a tremendous responsibility. I'm not particularly well-versed in the church, but I've— You know, I've been looking into the Grizzerian sect, it seems like they've got a lot goin' on.

Phileaux: Mm-hmm.

Van Helsing: Um... But I am so— I am so sorry, Phileaux. I lived my life pursuing any opportunity I could find to gain an advantage over Dracula, and when one presented itself to me, down in that cave, the thought of turning away from it was unthinkable.

Phileaux: Abe, listen. I understand where you're coming from. I try to be... very... empathic. I'm trying to feel what you feel. As the interim Turbo Cardinal, I feel it's very important that I develop my sense of empathy, and I knew you weren't being you. That wasn't— That wasn't the Abe that I met—

Van Helsing: No, you're not—

Phileaux: — like four days ago.

Van Helsing: You misunderstand. That was [chuckles] me.

Phileaux: Oh.

Van Helsing: That is why I am... the vampire hunter of legend that I am, is for that demeanor, but it is not—

Phileaux: Yes, but now you've evolved.

Van Helsing: Yes.

Phileaux: And now you've become a better Abe.

Van Helsing: I appreciate your concern for me, but I— Phileaux, are you okay? I saw what the Turbo Cardinal said, your order has been destroyed.

Phileaux: Well.

Van Helsing: I— You seem to be taking this especially well.

Phileaux: Well, here's the thing. I've come across, as a... as a much-improved person. I will be honest with you, Abe, and I can be honest with you. I lie to those two, but I'm really diggin' being a puppet. I— [chuckles] I can't explain it. I— I like this form. I— My mind is so much more focused, like a lasar.

Van Helsing: Mm.

Phileaux: I... Which is a medieval laser, of course.

Van Helsing: Sure, yes, I— Of course I'm familiar.

Phileaux: And I'm very, very, very excited. It— It seems like— Here's the way I like to think of it. You took my power that I had before and condensed it down into this smaller form. You know like Ant-Man when he punches somebody, it knocks them down as if he's hitting them with the force of a full-sized Paul Rudd?

Van Helsing: Yes.

Phileaux: That's what I feel like in this compressed body, and I'm really enjoying it. I'm liking it quite a bit.

Van Helsing: Well, that's, I suppose, good. But will you continue on? Now that the Turbo Cardinal is gone.

Phileaux: Well.

Van Helsing: So there is no need to pursue a cure.

Phileaux: Well I feel like I did cure him. I accomplished my mission already. My mission was to find what had caused him to become a vampyr, and I feel like I did that, by uncovering the— the impact that Ahn had on him. I feel like I cured the Turbo Cardinal, which he asked me to do, he asked me to cure him.

Van Helsing: You cured the hell out of him.

Phileaux: I cured it. Yes!

Van Helsing: Yes.

Justin: [scoffs]

Phileaux: I cured him to death, [chuckles] is what I did. And I feel like it's mission accomplished!

Griffin: Give me an Insight check, Phileaux.

Clint: Insight...

[sound of die rolling]

Clint: That would be a four.

Griffin: Okay. He's lookin' at you a little funny, but you can't quite discern why.

Justin: [snorts]

Griffin: He says...

Van Helsing: So, you'll go on to kill Count Dracula?

Phileaux: Oh yes. Oh yes, yes. Listen, I didn't have that commitment before, but Lady Godwin and Mutt have saved my wooden bacon many, many times. And I feel an obligation to see this through to the end, and I also told you that if I accomplished my task, I would kill Dracula. And so—

Van Helsing: That is true.

Phileaux: So I'm a big believer in commitment. Commitment, Abe, commitment. There are only two creatures worth anything in the world; those that make a commitment, and those that require the commitment of others. I'd know other dialogue from *1776* too, if you want me to.

Griffin: [laughs]

Phileaux: Want me to recite it.

Van Helsing: No, that's quite okay.

Travis: I feel like Justin and I have really turned over a new leaf that we let Dad go so far with quoting from *1776*.

Clint: Yeah.

Travis: Even though it's really—

Griffin: That's true.

Travis: I would've let you go as long as you wanted, Dad. I want you to know that.

Justin: Yeah. But my secret, Trav, meditation.

Travis: Ahhh, that's lovely.

Justin: I feel like if you just—

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: If you just step away from the podcast for a bit [chuckles] you know.

Travis: Okay, I like—

Clint: If you two will—

Travis: I try to—

Clint: If you two will sing out real loud "Sit down, John," then I'll do more.

Travis: No.

Griffin: No.

Travis: Well, I—

Griffin: That's not— This isn't—

Travis: My secret, Justin, is it's like neurodivergent meditation, which I call "zoning out."

Justin: Oh!

Griffin: Yeah, it's the same.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Okay, interesting.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: He... He grins at you, and he nods his head. He says—

Van Helsing: I admire you, Phileaux. I do. You are... You are surprisingly selfless. The reason I hunt Count Dracula is not for some vengeful impulse, but for what he represents.

Everything he does he does for himself, with no regard for what he takes from anybody else. And it is his selfishness, that same selfishness that erodes the heart of this world, and in Dracula I see that selfishness has been given a form that can be slain.

And I... I do think you are up to the task, Phileaux. I will stop... trying to wrest control of this body for my own ends. In doing so, I am no better than Dracula. I swear to you Phileaux, it will not happen. It will not happen again.

Phileaux: Wait, but— but can I still all on you for advice?

Van Helsing: Of course, yes.

Phileaux: Oh.

Van Helsing: I will make myself available to you, as— as much as you might need. You have not pulled the trigger on that too many times at this point. Started to worry maybe you forgot I was knockin' around in here.

Phileaux: Well, last time we spoke, you were a bit—

Van Helsing: It was feisty, yes.

Phileaux: Feisty, yes. Harsh even, I would say.

Van Helsing: Oh.

Phileaux: So I didn't necessarily feel comfortable asking you favors when I...

Van Helsing: Yes. Understood.

Phileaux: Feel...

Van Helsing: Well. Cool, man. I guess it's nap time.

Phileaux: We're good?

Van Helsing: Yes, we're good.

Phileaux: We're good.

Van Helsing: We're good. Super, super good. Let's go kill Dracula tomorrow.

Phileaux: Come on, fist bump. Little fist bump.

Van Helsing: I don't— Um... Okay.

Griffin: He goes to punch you.

Van Helsing: Is it like this?

Phileaux: Oh no, nah. Never mind. Never mind.

Van Helsing: Okay.

Phileaux: Can you do the gun thing with your fingers? [imitates gunfire sound effects]

Van Helsing: Uh, yes.

Phileaux: Can you do that?

Van Helsing: [imitates quieter gunfire sound effects]

Phileaux: Oh! [chuckles] Right on.

Van Helsing: Can't make the sound— I can't make the sound with my—
[sputters]

Travis: Can we get back to Merlin's description of pornography or what, Griffin?

Clint: [laughs]

Travis: I'm blue ballin' over here.

Griffin & Justin: [chuckle]

Travis: You left me on big ass, man, I can't stop thinkin' about it!

Justin: [wheezes]

Griffin & Justin: [laugh]

Clint: Well, what's even worse, he said, "Big ass. Now let's go to Phileaux."

Griffin: Yeah, sure.

Clint: As if that jogged his memory.

Griffin: Yeah, absolutely.

[transition harpsichord music plays]

[ad break]

Griffin: The three of you awaken after a full night's rest, and... first you discover—

Justin: Thank God.

Griffin: — that— [chuckles] Yeah.

Justin: [wheezes]

Griffin: You all died peacefully in the—

Travis: Yeah. Welp!

Justin: A twist.

Griffin: — in the night. Go ahead and take a long rest. You will probably need it. You notice that true to his word, Hyde has snuck off in the middle of the night.

Justin: Dang, I meant to try to stop that, but I completely forgot about it.

Travis: Yeah, yeah yeah yeah yeah.

Justin: And dang if I didn't go to sleep. [chuckles]

Griffin: You all— I mean the sun doesn't rise, 'cause that doesn't happen here in Ahngrave.

[piano music plays]

Griffin: But you feel like you've gotten your full 40 winks. And... you can see sort of the approach, down through the woods to Dracula's castle. It appears to be like— You'd guess maybe a half hour hike from this cliff where you have taken shelter.

Muttner: Hey guys, I know that this is out of nowhere and we've never really talked about it before.

Lady Godwin: Sure.

Muttner: But you know now that we're starin' down the barrel of facin' off against Dracula, I find myself contemplating religion.

Lady Godwin: Yeah.

Muttner: And I think I'm really— I think I'm ready to buy into the buy into the Church of Pyroche, whose fire burns away all weakness and evil in the world.

Phileaux: Mm-hmm.

Lady Godwin: Oh, inter— Isn't that an interesting choice, how bold!

Phileaux: Mm, yes.

Muttner: Yeah.

Phileaux: I'm not sure I agree with their doctrine, but I mean listen, it's all about choice, baby.

Muttner: Yeah.

Phileaux: It's all about choice.

Muttner: What do you think, Godwin?

Phileaux: They have— They have different opinions than we Methodists.

Lady Godwin: I believe that the sun... is sentient.

Muttner: Okay.

Lady Godwin: And it speaks to us every day, only at seven:15 and nine:15pm. The shows are the same, that's true. I believe I have to give \$eight a week.

Muttner: Ohhhh.

Lady Godwin: To—

Muttner: You're Grizzellian.

Lady Godwin: — Grizzel the j— Ye— Well, yes. Grizzle the Judge, that's just my thing.

Muttner: So, you're sayin' I shouldn't worship Pyroche? I should worship Grazell?

Lady Godwin: Let's see how your manners do.

Muttner: Okay.

Lady Godwin: Eternity's an awful long time to spend with someone with such horrid manners.

Muttner: That's a weird way to respond, but okay.

Griffin: When you say that, your campfire ignites back to life.

[campfire crackling sound effect plays]

Griffin: In an angry roar.

Muttner: All bless Pyroche.

Justin: [chuckles]

Griffin: It goes back down.

Justin: [laughs]

Griffin: It— The fire kind of nods at you, like, "Yeah, I'm fuckin' watchin' you, man."

Muttner: Alright, Pyroche.

Griffin: Cool.

Muttner: I got you, boy.

Justin: Alright guys, my plan to narratively establish more gods that we can kill to increase our level is working perfectly.

Travis: Yeeeeeah.

Clint: [laughs]

Justin: So far—

Griffin: Oh shit, I didn't even think about that.

Justin: — Griffin has granted me Grizell and Pyroche.

Travis: And the Wind, if we so choose, I mean.

Justin: And the Wind, if you so choose.

Clint: And Humidity!

Travis: Oh yeah.

Justin: Good luck with those two. I know they have a cool battle.

Travis: And the Methodist God is already established, so.

Justin: It's like— Who are the two knight, Griffin, from...

Griffin: Ornstein and Smog?

Justin: Yes. Yeah, it's Ornstein and Smog battle. You gotta take on Humidity and Wind.

Travis: Mm. And who do the Methodists worship?

Griffin: And—

Travis: We should take him out too.

Justin: Humid— You have to take on Humidity, Wind, and John Cena.

Griffin: [laughs]

Travis: Oh no. All three of 'em?

Justin: You can't see— It's a themed battle, because you can't see any of 'em.

Travis: Ohhh.

Griffin: Any other business before you all make your way?

Clint: Yes, I'm gonna roll up my mystery elixir.

Justin: Mmm!

Griffin: Yes.

Clint: And that would be...

Justin: Garlic juice?!

Griffin: Woah, holy shit.

Travis: Oh, it's liquid sunshine.

[sound of die rolling]

Justin: What? [chuckles]

Clint: Five. Oh, it's another flight. Good, I needed that.

Griffin: Fantastic.

Travis: Griffin, when we exit the outcropping, you said it's been raining a lot, right?

Griffin: Yeah, it is still— It is still raining, it has lightened up then— from where it was.

Travis: Okay.

Griffin: When you guys came out of the hole.

Travis: I'm gonna scope the mud for any footprints that may be... related to the Invisible Man.

Griffin: Okay, so are you just— I think that this is a fairly— You know, you are beyond the Stranglemire at this point, like people don't come out here, right? This area doesn't get a lot of foot traffic.

Travis: I know man, but this guy's been followin' me.

Griffin: Yeah, give me a—

Travis: Followin' so closely.

Griffin: Give me a Survival check, please.

[sound of die rolling]

Travis: That's an 11. Total.

Griffin: No, you don't see any signs of— I mean you see one pair of footprints where— [chuckles] where Pyroche carried you.

Travis: Yup.

Griffin: No, you see one pair of footprints, you identify them as Hyde's because they're gigantic, stomping back towards the hole that you— the holy light sort of blasted in the landscape.

Travis: Okay.

Griffin: You do not see any other footprints out round these parts.

Clint: I have one more thing to do.

Griffin: Yeah, absolutely.

Clint: I am going to... use an infusion, I have a brand-new infusion I can use.

Griffin: Okay.

Justin: Mm.

Clint: And I'm gonna cast it, if it's alright with Lady Godwin, on Jennifer Meyers.

Justin: Ooo, okay great. Yeah.

Clint: And—

Justin: I'll take any magic you got, pal.

Clint: It's Radiant Weapon.

Travis: Aw, hell yeah.

Clint: Radiant Weapon grants a +one bonus to attack and damage rolls made with it, and while holding it, the wielder can take a bonus action to cause it to shed bright light in a 30-foot radius, and dim light for another 30 feet.

Justin: Cool.

Griffin: That's sick.

Clint: You have four charges on this.

Justin: Of the light— bright light effect?

Clint: Yes.

Justin: Or on the usage of it? Is that how this works?

Clint: On—

Justin: Like each time I attack someone with it.

Clint: You— It— On the light.

Justin: Oh, on the blast of light.

Clint: But the—

Justin: Okay, cool.

Clint: But the +one bonus to attack and damage rolls made with it is permanent. Now, as a reaction, immediately after being hit by an attack, the wielder can expend one charge and cause the attacker to be blinded.

Justin: Woah.

Clint: Until the end of the attacker's next turn.

Justin: Okay, cool.

Clint: Unless the attacker succeeds on a Constitution saving roll against your spell save DC.

Justin: Thank you. Let me—

Clint: You're welcome.

Justin: I'll add that to the Jennifer Meyers character sheet.

Griffin: Cool.

[pause]

Griffin: So, you all begin your descent down towards the castle, I'm assuming?

Travis: Yes.

Clint: Absolutely.

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: On our cool motorcycles that I just found.

Griffin: Woah, holy shit.

Travis: Yeah man.

Griffin: Okay... So.

Travis: We run out of gas once we reach the castle though.

Griffin: Aw, that's a bummer.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: You all make your way down this descent, through—

Travis: [imitates a motorcycle revving]

Griffin: — [chuckles] this small patch of woods on foot.

[harpichord music plays]

Griffin: And as you make your way down, it's a bit treacherous, with the rain and the mud. But you all reach a sort of clearing, just beyond the border of the land around the castle. And Van Helsing appears and Phileaux you hear him say—

Van Helsing: So not to micromanage, but what's the game plan?

Phileaux: Um...

Van Helsing: Do you mind if I use the puppet mouth to talk also?

Phileaux: Oh no, go ahead. Here. [clears his throat]

Van Helsing: Okay. Hey guys. Hey guys, it's me, Van Helsing,

Muttner: Whoaaa!

Van Helsing: Yeah.

Muttner: He took over Phileaux's body, I need to cast a spell!

Van Helsing: No no no, he's— it's chill. What's the game plan?

Muttner: Oh, we're gonna kill Dracula and I'm gonna take his teeth.

Lady Godwin: That's right.

Van Helsing: That's the whole game plan?

Lady Godwin: Well, of course I will hit him with the axe, and then do you have Xcalibur?

Travis: I do have Xcalibur, man, yeah I was gonna—

Lady Godwin: Oh, well hit him with that! That will kill him for sure!

Griffin: Give me... Give me an Arcana check please Mutt.

Travis: Oh, okay. Are you sure?

Griffin: Yeah.

[sound of die rolling]

Travis: That's an 18 plus one, a 19.

Griffin: You notice that the glow of Excalibur has faded somewhat.

Travis: Of what?

Griffin: Of Xcalibur has faded somewhat. And—

Muttner: Hey man, I just noticed that the glow of Xcalibur has faded somewhat.

Phileaux: Mm.

Griffin: As it does, you can make out runes that are etched on it.

Muttner: I can make out runes now.

Griffin: Now as the King of England, you can read these runes.

Muttner: [gasps] I got king vision.

Griffin: And it says... "Return to throne" on it. And you detect that the power of Xcalibur is perhaps linked to the duty that it also bestows upon you.

Travis: Ohhh.

Griffin: And so it has... it has waned a bit in power being away from the throne of England.

Travis: Okay, so is this like the more I use it, or the longer I wait?

Griffin: I'm sending you a new magic item on D&D Beyond.

Travis: Aw hell yeah.

Griffin: For Xcalibur. It's still going to be a strong +one longsword, that deals radiant damage, but it is not the god slaying needle that it was.

Travis: Aw.

Griffin: But maybe if you go sit on the throne of England.

Travis: Can I go do that real quick and come back?

Justin: [chuckles]

Griffin: No, it's— I mean it would take like two weeks to four months to get there, so I mean it would be a significant.

Travis: Aw, right right right right.

Griffin: Like you don't know what this situation's gonna— Van Helsing says—

Van Helsing: If I may, I do know a way in that is not the front door, although it seems like perhaps shock and awe is your party's strong suit. There is a sewer outflow behind the castle, overlooking the cliff facing the sea below. It is precarious, and it is yucky, but if you were wanting to take the stealthy approach, that would likely be your best option.

Muttner: I mean it seems rude to enter without an invitation.

Van Helsing: It's— Dracula is not going to invite basically anyone. That would be—

Muttner: Yeah, but he can't enter my house with an invitation.

Van Helsing: Yes.

Muttner: So it seems like I shouldn't take advantage of that.

Van Helsing: You must—

Muttner: You know, that I can come and go as I please, right?

Van Helsing: Sorry, your name is Mutt?

Muttner: King Mutt.

Van Helsing: King Mutt. Cool. You must take every advantage you can possible find against Dracula.

Muttner: That sounded weird, you can just say, "my liege."

Van Helsing: My liege. I don't like— Okay. My liege. We're not in England, so I'm not—

Travis: Your Majesty?

Van Helsing: You're not my majesty though.

Muttner: Well, don't—

Van Helsing: Anyway—

Muttner: I'm not saying "My Majesty," you say, "Your Majesty," 'cause I'm still my own majesty.

Van Helsing: Okay. I'm not going to tell you all your business. If you want to take the front door, you may fair very well doing that, but any approach you do take into this castle will not remain unnoticed for long. Dracula has eyes all around his estate. You may be able to get in without drawing his attention, but you will gain that attention before to long.

Muttner: Okay. Can you switch back to Phileaux and we can talk to him?

Van Helsing: Yeah sure.

Griffin: [makes a dramatic switching sound]

Justin: [chuckles]

Phileaux: [coughs] Hm. So, did that help?

Muttner: Yeah man, he said we could sneak in the sewer and we'd be less likely to die, but it would be icky.

Phileaux: Well, I don't mind icky.

Lady Godwin: [clicks tongue in thought]

Phileaux: I mean we've been covered in demon god blood.

Lady Godwin: Yes.

Phileaux: I think, you know, I don't think a little poopy's gonna hurt us.

Muttner: Wait. Wait, does Dracula shit?

Lady Godwin: Oh, isn't that interesting.

Phileaux: Hmm.

Muttner: He's on an all-liquid diet.

Lady Godwin: Mm.

Phileaux: Wait, hold on a second. Abe? Does Dracula shit?

Griffin: [makes a dramatic switching sound]

Justin: [chuckles]

Van Helsing: Yes. Yes, he shits. That's— Why? Have you found a weakness?

Justin: [wheezes]

Muttner: Well, if it shits it dies, that's what my dad always said.

Van Helsing: That's crazy.

Muttner: Yeah, he was a weird guy.

Van Helsing: It's crazy your dad said—

Justin: [wheezes]

Van Helsing: It's crazy your dad said that.

Muttner: Yeah, he's— I think it was a joke. I think—

Van Helsing: Okay.

Muttner: Actually, he was laughin' when he said it. I don't think it was like a thing.

Van Helsing: Okay, because a—

Muttner: We just talked about when we go through the sewer, why it would be icky.

Van Helsing: Yes, oh because of the shit.

Muttner: And then Phileaux said like, "poopy."

Van Helsing: Yes.

Muttner: And I was like, "Oh, what? Dracula shits?"

Van Helsing: I mean, oth— there are oth— likely other people inside the castle too.

Muttner: Right.

Van Helsing: Who I assume also have regular bowel movements.

Muttner: Right right right.

Van Helsing: But I have never—

Muttner: They're keepin' up on fiber in there.

Lady Godwin: Does he have a bidet?

Muttner: Do you know that, Abe?

Van Helsing: I don't think it— I don't think anyone has a bidet.

Muttner: It would be a binight, right?

Van Helsing: That's very funny and good.

Justin: [wheezes]

Van Helsing: I like you, Mutt.

Muttner: Thank you.

Phileaux: Or a bloo-det?

Justin: Oh my god.

Phileaux: Maybe bloodet?

Travis: Hey Dad? Hey Dad? Can I talk to you over here for a second?

Griffin: [chuckles]

Clint: No, you can't talk to me, I'm inside the puppet,

Justin: [wheezes]

Griffin: [makes a dramatic switching sound]

Phileaux: Yes, what is it?

Muttner: Nothin' man, don't worry about it. What I remember about it—

Justin: He's just mad 'cause "bloodet" is so good. [chuckles]

Griffin: [makes a dramatic switching sound]

Travis: And Mutt writes down on a little sheet.

Van Helsing: Hey.

Travis: With Xs on it for interim Cardinal, he just writes an X in one of three boxes.

Van Helsing: Hey sorry, it's me again. Sorry that it makes that noise when we switch.

Justin: [wheezes]

Muttner: Yeah, and you also look like it hurts.

Van Helsing: It's— No, it's not so bad, but it— the noise makes it sound like some sort of cartoon whistle, and I do— I am sorry. It takes away from some of the seriousness of that— our important mission. Okay, anyway.

Muttner: Okay, so we're gonna sneak in the poop pipe.

Van Helsing: Hey, give it— Hey everybody, give it up for Phileaux!

Griffin: [makes a dramatic switching sound]

Phileaux: Oh, there. So did he answer the poopy question?

Muttner: Yeah. Apparently, Dracula does shit, and there's probably other people in there. So let's go through the poopy pipe.

Phileaux: Okay.

Muttner: And maybe we'll get lucky and we can stab Count Dracula in his butt.

Griffin: [chuckles]

Justin & Clint: [wheeze]

Muttner: 'Cause if he's using the potty when we come up through the potty, we can just stab him.

Griffin: [claps]

Justin: [chuckles]

Lady Godwin: Are we sure he doesn't have a bloodet?

Justin: 'Cause I had this idea, guys.

Travis: Oh my god.

Justin: I was gonna throw holy water in there. [wheezes] And he was gonna—

Travis: It would be a "bi-night," not a "bloodet."

Justin: We'll find the bloodet, and then we'd put it in.

Travis: Oh my god.

Justin: And then it's so funny.

Travis: Oh, blah dey.

Justin: Putting holy water in his bloodet.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: Give me a Perception check, everybody, please.

Travis: Okay.

[sounds of dice rolling]

Clint: 16.

Justin: Ooo.

Travis: 15 plus seven, 22.

Justin: 16 for me.

Griffin: Hell yeah. Yeah, you all get a quick lay of the land, as you peer towards Dracula's castle from this clearing. You see a pretty actually clear route, following the tree line here, that you can go sort of the long way, around the estate here.

This tree line terminates fairly close actually to the cliff's edge, which is where you would need to sort of make your way to reach the backside of this castle, where the outflow is.

With a... With a 22 Mutt, you in particular, you notice there are some lamps that are positioned by the front door, but then also at sort of like odd intervals across the outer wall of this castle. These lamps are— they have the same sort of amber glow.

Travis: Mmm.

Griffin: That the light of Lumineaux has. You also notice, you did not catch this at... at the Frankenstein lab that you all sort of went to very early in your adventure. You do clock it this time.

A squirrel darts by on the ground, and as it does, one of those lamps, you see with almost looks like a pupil form, and follow the rabbit, before the pupil vanishes as the rabbit sort of scurries off.

Muttner: Alright, so it looks like we got a security system.

Justin: Mm-hmm.

Travis: Hey Griffin, what— Is there security coverage on the pipe as well?

Griffin: Uh... With that 22 Perception check, I'll let it roll, there is one on the sort of wall facing the tree line that you guys are taking cover in. You think that, you know, with the distance to it and the rainfall and, you know, knowing kinda where to go, it would not be too hard to sneak by it.

Justin: Do you— Or does— Do they seem to be moving, like pivoting?

Griffin: I mean the eyeball—

Justin: Or anything?

Griffin: — was certainly. I mean the lamps themselves are not moving, but the—

Justin: Right, I mean the eyeball.

Griffin: — the pupil that kind of formed definitely did track this squirrel as it ran.

Justin: Okay.

Travis: I— So Mutt is gonna summon a bestial spirit.

Griffin: Very smart.

Travis: Summon Beast, to draw its attention.

Griffin: Fantastic.

Travis: He's gonna do... [sighs] I think a falcon, something flying, so that it'll draw their attention up as it moves around.

Griffin: That's great. I'm not even gonna make you roll for that, that definitely works, you summon a falcon.

[falcon screech sound effect plays]

Griffin: Send it flying towards this lamp closest to the cliff's edge, and you see that pupil form, and then your falcon sort of flies, you know, hovers, does some loop-de-loops on the other side, away from the cliff's edge, sort of drawing its attention away.

Travis: Mm. Oh, I got distracted. By how cool my falcon was.

Muttner: Oh, let's go. Come on. Move quick.

Griffin: Cool. I will need group— a Stealth check, with advantage because of this falcon deception that is taking place here, from everyone.

Justin: How does that work? Does everybody— You just take the average of the— everybody's best?

Griffin: Usually I just sorta take the middle.

Justin: So you take the best of two averages.

Griffin: Yes.

[sound of die rolling]

Justin: Okay man, I got a 21. Thank you.

Travis: Thank God we have advantage, 'cause I got a one. And I got an 18.

[sound of die rolling]

Justin: Wow! I got two 21s in a row.

[sound of die rolling]

Griffin: Holy shit.

Justin: Stealthy today.

Clint: I got a three.

Justin: Thank you.

Travis: Please do better.

Justin: Thank you, Grizell.

Clint: And then... [chuckles]

Griffin: [chuckles]

Clint: I got a...

[sound of die rolling]

Clint: Tw— Dirty 20.

Griffin: Holy shit.

Travis: Ah, praise be Pyroche.

Griffin: That 20— The 20 is an average, is the average, so you all got a 20 on this Stealth check. It was not that high, you guys fucking crushed this. It's the most competent stealth maneuver I think the three of you have ever done in tandem.

Clint: [giggles]

Griffin: Just cartwheels.

Travis: Maybe ever on the history of episodes past.

Griffin: Maybe in the history of *The Adventure Zone*, yes.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: [chuckles]

Griffin: You all—

Travis: We're in that poopy pipe like the wind.

Justin: That's one good falcon, man.

Travis: Yeah, thank bud.

Griffin: So—

Travis: She's like a knife.

Griffin: You all run and sort of press up against the back wall of the castle. You are now overlooking the cliff's edge. You are up maybe a hundred feet above the sort of roiling ocean below.

You all can see, with that Stealth check, you have enough time to kinda get the lay of the land here on the back side of the castle. There are no lamps that you can see. Instead, the kind of danger here is the cliff. The castle is built right on the edge of it.

There is a ledge, kind of— that goes around the back of the castle, so it is very, very long, it runs the whole length of the castle. About 80 feet down this ledge, which is not like so precarious, it's not a balance beam, it's like, you know, a couple feet wide, you can see a sewer grate. Just a big old hole in the wall, quite large, tall enough. You will not have to duck to get in here, Lady Godwin.

There is a statue of a gargoyle that is posted up here at sort of the corner of the castle at one end of this ledge, and then alllll the way down on the other end of the ledge, you see a matching gargoyle statue. Both are just kind of like facing out at the sea, they've been sort— some of their features have been slightly eroded away by the salt air.

That is the situation. The ledge, it is a sheer drop off down a cliff, were you to have, you know, misstep back here.

Travis: And the pipe is—

Justin: So we're at the top—

Travis: Yes, sorry.

Justin: We're at the top of the cliff, and the gate is at the bottom?

Griffin: No, sorry. The top—

Travis: Yeah, trying to picture it.

Griffin: The top—

Travis: Sorry.

Justin: Yeah, me too.

Griffin: No, the gate is on the back wall of the castle, it is still— it is not down the cliff. The only thing down the cliff is sharp rocks and the ocean and death.

Travis: And we're—

Justin: In our orientation, what is between us and the gate?

Griffin: About 80 feet of ledge that you will have to sort of traverse.

Justin: Ledge.

Travis: And where are the gargoyles?

Griffin: On either end of the castle sort of ledge.

Travis: So we will have to pass them.

Griffin: Yes, I mean it's a little bit preca— You only have to pass one of them.

Travis: Yeah.

Griffin: 'Cause the other one is on the far end.

Travis: Okay.

Justin: Okay, I'm gonna tie a rope to my waist, and the other end to my hand. My disembodied hand.

Griffin: Oh, okay.

Travis: Oh, okay. I thought for a second you were anchoring yourself to yourself. Which is such bold move.

Justin: Fool— It's foolproof, Trav.

Travis: Yeah. [chuckles] "I'll never let me fall!"

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: "I'm always here."

Clint: Yeah.

Justin: "I'm the only one I can trust in this life."

Travis: I get it, man.

Justin: [laughs]

Travis: You know you're always gonna be there, and if you fall, you know you're right there.

Justin: I got no-one to blame but myself. [chuckles]

Griffin: For sure. Okay you—

Travis: But no-one to trust but yourself.

Griffin: You have built this grappling hook, which has worked for you, I believe, in the past.

Justin: I don't think I ha— Have I don't think I've used it in that fa— It is actually gonna be more of a security measure here.

Griffin: Okay.

Travis: You—

Justin: I'm not gonna grab on with it, I just wanna have it—

Travis: You did it when we were getting out of the hole.

Justin: Ohhhh, okay great. Perfect.

Griffin: What are you... so—

Justin: No listen, you know what? I remember that, and then I undo it, and put it back in my bag. [chuckles]

Griffin: You don't wanna be a one trick pony, is what you're saying.

Justin: Yeah, it's like—

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: I thought— I didn't realize I had done this before, I— Never mind.

Griffin: Yeah.

Justin: I'll just risk it.

Griffin: Cool, any other— any other maneuvers you all would like to... attempt?

Travis: I— Can I see the gargoyles clearly? They just seem like run of the mill gargoyles? They don't seem like animated is what I'm looking for.

Justin: Mm.

Griffin: Give—

Justin: Sexy or animated at all.

Travis: Sexy or animated?

Griffin: [laughs] If you wanna give me—

Travis: Like if they might be called "Bronx" or "Brooklyn" or even "Goliath"?

Griffin: [chuckles] You all, I would say, give me either— I mean if you're checking to see if there's some sort of animation magic that these things are imbued with, that would be an Arcana check. I think an Intimidation or Perception is just gonna— They're statues, like I don't know that there's anything—

Travis: What would you think about Survival to see if I've encountered gargoyles before?

Griffin: You have not. You have not encoun— I mean you've par— encountered gargoyle statues at— I mean this is the, I forget what year we said, but it's gothic as fuck in this zone.

[sound of die rolling]

Griffin: So there's plenty of—

Travis: Okay, I got a crit. On my Arcana check, so.

Griffin: Oh shit, man!

Justin: Sheesh.

Griffin: Yeah man, I mean... You get up on this statue to try and sort of like step away from it, and... [chuckles] You just— You feel a breath from inside of it. Just sort of like push up against your face, as you try to step by it. And then you hear a voice deep in the statue just go—

Gargoyle One: Shit.

Muttner: Mm-hmm.

Gargoyle One: Sh.

Muttner: Alright, man.

Gargoyle One: Sh. Sh sh.

Muttner: Alright. Hey.

Gargoyle One: Shshshsh.

Muttner: I know you're in there.

Gargoyle One: Mm-mm.

Muttner: Yuh-huh.

Justin: [wheezes]

Gargoyle One: [mutters] I'm not.

Muttner: As King of England, I command you to talk to me.

Clint: [laughs]

Justin: I clock what's goin' on and I throw a rock at one of 'em.

Griffin: The one the other end of the ledge is a very, very far distance away.

Justin: Yeah, you heard me.

Griffin: Well out of throwing distance.

Justin: You heard what I said.

Griffin: But if you wanna clunk this one.

Justin: You said— No, I want the far one, Griff.

Griffin: Oh. [chuckles]

Justin: You heard what I said.

Griffin: Okay, give me an attack roll with disadvantage.

Justin: Okay, perfect. This is no worse than I deserve.

[sound of die rolling]

Justin: It's a 15.

[sound of die rolling]

Justin: And a... 21.

Griffin: [chuckles] Okay.

Justin: You said it's really far. If you don't wanna give it to me at 15, I don't blame you, dang.

Griffin: No, I mean you throw this rock a good like 120 feet. [chuckles]
You are Tom Brady out here, just yeeting this stone.

Justin: I— Here's what I did, Griffin. I tied a rope to my Mage Hand, and then I put the rock in the Mage Hand, and then I swing the Mage Hand—

Travis: Oh!

Justin: — super-duper fast and then chuck it. [giggles]

Griffin: Okay, it takes a while. This rock is in the air for a long time. It—

Justin: [snorts]

Griffin: And then you hear it just sort of. [whistles in a descending tone]
And then it [imitates a clunk] collides with the head of this gargoyle, and you see its— a piece of its ear chip off. [chuckles] And you just see the gargoyle reach up and go—

Gargoyle Two: Ow, fuck!

Justin: [laughs] What a punk.

Muttner: Okay, so—

Gargoyle Two: Who did that?!

Muttner: It was the Wind. So what's up man? Like what— Are you guys like guards, or just hangin' out, or what are you doin'?

Gargoyle One: [mutters] I'm not— I'm a mouse. I'm a mouse in here. I'm a mouse in the statue.

Muttner: What?

Gargoyle One: I'm a mouse in the statue. I climbed inside and it's my home.

Muttner: That's not true.

Gargoyle One: Talking mouse.

Muttner: That's not true man, you're a living gargoyle. Hey, you can talk to me, I'm the king.

Griffin: Give me a Persuasion check.

Travis: Certainly with advantage. Since I know—

Griffin: No.

Justin: He's the king. [wheezes]

Travis: I'm like—

Griffin: No, you're not the king— You're not the king of gargoyles.

Travis: I'm the king— Now, hold on, I spotted that he was a living status, Griffin.

Justin: [chuckles] King of British gargoyles. [wheezes]

Travis: Yeah, is he British? How British?

Griffin: Doesn't sound— He doesn't sound British.

Justin: How British is he? [wheezes]

[sound of die rolling]

Griffin: [quietly] "How British am I?"

Travis: That's a seven.

Gargoyle One: Um—

Travis: That was on the low roll though, with advantage it's an eight.

Justin: Yeeeeeah.

Gargoyle One: So you guys—

Justin: You show `im.

Gargoyle One: Are you guys goin' on the— into the hole?

Muttner: No... Are you?

Gargoyle One: Shit man, it's— Nah man, I can't move, I'm a statue.

Muttner: You can't move a little bit?

Gargoyle One: No.

Muttner: I just saw that guy reach up and touch his ear.

Griffin: He's back standing still again.

Muttner: Alright.

Justin: [giggles]

Griffin: Like looking sideways at you.

Justin: Does he have like— Can you see a little lip quiver? [wheezes]

Clint: [laughs]

Griffin: Yeah, he's definitely trembling a little bit.

Gargoyle One: He's a mouse too. And—

Muttner: He's not a mouse!

Justin: [laughs]

Gargoyle One: We're both—

Muttner: I saw him move!

Gargoyle One: He's my brother. He's a mouse.

Muttner: What's his name?

Gargoyle One: [mutters] Chair.

Muttner: What?

Gargoyle One: Chair.

Muttner: Chair. He's a mouse named Chair.

Gargoyle One: Yeah, and he lives in that statue, and my name is Fred and I'm a—

Travis: I pull out the stick of dynamite.

Gargoyle One: What's that?

Muttner: Oh, this is dynamite, it's an explosive.

Gargoyle One: Food? Oh, not food.

Muttner: No, turn you to dust.

Gargoyle One: I thought it was like, yummy cheese for, um, me, squeak squeak.

Muttner: Oh my god.

Gargoyle One: So, um... You gonna go in that hole?

Muttner: Yeah, you know what? We are.

Gargoyle One: Alright, go for it, man.

Griffin: [chuckles]

Muttner: Mm-hmm. [grumbles]

Griffin: You see— [chuckles] Now you see the statue kinda—

Gargoyle One: [squeaks with barely contained laughter] Bust it up a little bit. Go for it.

Travis: I'm gonna try to push him off the ledge.

Griffin: Give me a Strength check.

Travis: Would you like to help me, Godwin?

Justin: [wheezes] I don't know why I would. Okay, I'm gonna watch you. I wanna see what happens with you first.

[sound of die rolling]

Travis: I got a five.

Justin: Okay.

Gargoyle One: Are you fucking kidding me dude? This sta— I'm— This statue—

Justin: I see him straining and I go over and give it a good shove too. [chuckles]

Gargoyle One: Okay, hold on, wait wait wait. 'Cause you're big. Um... Don't. Don't don't don't don't do it. I was—

Muttner: Oh, so you weren't gonna push us off the ledge when we tried to get past you?

Gargoyle One: Mm.

[sound of die rolling]

Justin: Uh, I got a 25. [chuckles] How's that do?

Griffin: Shit.

Justin: [wheezes]

Griffin: Okay, it— this statue begins scooting. [imitates grinding stone sounds] Crumbling. That statue on the other end looks over like, “Oh shit,” and—

Justin: It was a flying drop kick, that’s what I did, I ran up to it and just gave it a flying drop kick.

Griffin: Its wings, the one on the far end—

Travis: Uh-huh.

Griffin: — unfurl, and it begins flying towards you all. And you hear the mouse, or rather you hear the gargoyle say—

Gargoyle One: Yo, chill chill chill chill chill chill chill chill chill chill chill. I can’t fall. I don’t wanna fall.

Muttner: Why not?

Gargoyle One: I’ll have to find a new statue to live in.

Justin: [chuckles]

Muttner: Okay, man.

Gargoyle One: Listen— I was gonna push you off. But that’s like— it’s my job.

Muttner: Okay.

Gargoyle One: And I don’t— I’m not like a bad— Like, I’m a statue and I was brought to life by... You know, a— someone who lives in this— It’s Dracula.

Muttner: Yeah.

Gargoyle One: You know Dracula?

Muttner: Yeah, man.

Gargoyle One: Yeah, I figured. So yeah he's— We're like the sentries for the back. The other gargoyle is looking over at you, kind of confused like—

Gargoyle Two: [shouts] You need help, man? Let's fuck these guys up!

Justin: [laughs]

Gargoyle One: I don't really... No, I don't want to. Actually, could you do me a favor actually? And... If you could just actually sort of push me around the corner so I'm not facing the ocean— I just kinda would like just sort of a new... a new view or something.

Lady Godwin: Sure, I suppose, yes.

Gargoyle One: Yeah.

Muttner: If we do that, can we go past without you pushin' us?

Gargoyle One: I mean I'm— I'll— I don't know how I would do that, I'm just a little squeaky guy in here.

Muttner: Okay, swear on Pyroche.

Gargoyle One: Who's that?

Muttner: Oh, it's my god.

Gargoyle One: Is it food?

Muttner: No, it's a god, man.

Gargoyle One: It's not. Shit. Okay. Yeah, I swear on Pyroche so sure. And my friend Chair— I mean my brother Chair is gonna be super chill also.

Travis: I'm gonna roll Insight, Griffin.

Griffin: 'Kay.

[sound of die rolling]

Travis: That's an 11 total.

Griffin: This is an honest man.

Travis: Okay, I trust him.

Muttner: Let's turn this guy.

Griffin: Okay.

Muttner: This guy-goyle.

Griffin: I won't make you roll again, I think you've proven your strength is adequate to move this gargoye.

Justin: Thank you.

Griffin: You push him. What are you— Where are you movin' him? What kind of view do you wanna give this statue?

Justin: Just the ground, right?

Griffin: [chuckles] You're just knocking him over?

Justin: [chuckles] Just knock him over, like laying face down. That's what God— That's Godwin's opening offer.

Lady Godwin: I'll tell you what, you— If we get in there safe, we'll come back and fix you.

Gargoyle One: This sucks!

Lady Godwin: Yes?

Gargoyle One: This sucks down here, there's bugs!

Justin: [wheezes]

Muttner: Do you want us— We could aim you at the poop pipe?

Lady Godwin: This is— It's—

Gargoyle One: I don't wanna look at the poop pipe.

Lady Godwin: This feels cruel. How about the sun?

Gargoyle One: There is no sun.

Muttner: Oh.

Gargoyle One: It's Ahngrave, what are you talking about?

Muttner: Back towards the mountain and you can see like the Stranglemire and stuff.

Gargoyle One: Just fuckin forget it.

Griffin: You—

Lady Godwin: I have—

Muttner: Wait! No no no.

Lady Godwin: My friend, I have a feeling you could see sun sooner than you think.

Gargoyle One: What's that mean?

Lady Godwin: We're going to kill Dracula, and my secret hope is that it will make everything sunny again.

Gargoyle One: Why would that—

Muttner: You know what? I got a friend who could show you some pornography.

Gargoyle One: That sounds pretty good.

Lady Godwin: Who are you talking to? [wheezes]

Muttner: I'm talking to the gargoyle.

Lady Godwin: Oh! Well, it's too late.

Muttner: He might even have some gar— he might have some gargoyle pornography!

Lady Godwin: My papa always used to say, "Goyles love their smut."

Muttner: Yeah.

Gargoyle One: Yeah.

Muttner: A little goyle on goyle, huh?

Justin: [giggles]

Clint: [snorts]

Griffin: Jesus Christ.

Clint: [claps loudly]

Justin: [giggles] You have to— Fuck! That— And that's the end!

Travis: [laughs]

Griffin: I don't think it—

Justin: Like we can't!

Clint: [laughs]

Griffin: No.

Justin: I know, but like we can't— [wheezes]

[theme music fades in]

Clint: We hope you've enjoyed *TAZ Versus Dracula*.

Justin: No, we hope you've enjoyed *The Adventure Zone*, writ large.

Clint: [laughs]

Travis: We hope you've enjoyed Travis McElroy's career.

Griffin: [chuckles] Yeah.

Clint & Justin: [laugh]

[outro theme music plays]

Maximum Fun.

A worker-owned network...

Of artist-owned shows...

Supported directly by you.