

The Adventure Zone: Abnimals Ep. 2: Museum Showdown!

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[theme music plays]

Travis: As the commercials for toys and cereal fade, we're back into Abnimals. And we see Ax-o-Lyle and Roger Moore and Navy Seal preparing to square off against one of the four greatest Abnimals heroes River City has ever known. He was attempting to steal back his own signature weapon, Slugger, when y'all decided that would not fly with you. Crime is crime, I guess, as far as you're concerned. And so Lyle, grabbing, I believe Loveless' chain, threw it to hook said baseball bat. And now you guys are prepared to engage in some good old-fashioned fisticuffs.

But before doing so, Carver did remove his jacket, revealing that he is heavily armored. And not just in a tortoise kind of way, with shell and plating on his chest, but with like a hexagonal mesh armor down his arms and down his legs. And he is pumped and ready to go! I'm gonna say, because you instigated, Ax-o-Lyle, you are up. I'm also gonna say, just for fair play so no one's like, "Wait a minute." He is... you know, there's not really levels in Abnimals, but this would be like a level one squaring off against like a level 18 person.

Griffin: [chuckles] It's such a bad idea. I do not remember signing off on the 'let's fight the legendary hero' plan.

Travis: So he has four armor. So unless I'm mistaken, the only way you guys are gonna be able to get hits on him is with eights, which cannot be blocked.

Griffin: Got you.

Justin: Got it.

Travis: So you are up, Lyle.

Justin: Yeah, man! I've been waiting for this moment all week long. I have exactly the move that's gonna bring his downfall.

Travis: I can't wait.

Justin: So, are there any guns near me?

Griffin: [chuckles]

Travis: No.

Justin: Okay. Nowhere to—

Griffin: Was the move grab a gun?

Justin: The gun's far away.

Clint: Shoot him? [chuckles]

Griffin: [titters] Shoot the turtle with a gun?

Justin: I didn't remember asking if there were guns nearby that I can shoot him with. [chuckles]

Travis: Do you mean like in the world? In like a global sense, are there guns nearby? Because—

Justin: I mean, I know there's like a gun store that I can try to—

Travis: Yes, probably somewhere. But no, there—

Griffin: Ask him to wait.

Travis: River City hasn't sunk so low that there's just like guns mixed in with like old like rappers. You know.

Justin: I couldn't get one like, Instacarted to me?

Travis: No, you don't see like a tumbleweed made of pistols rolling down the aisle. You know? Like no.

Clint: [snickers]

Justin: I remember the last thing I was gonna do was push the light pole over. Did that—what happened with that?

Travis: No, that happened. Right now, you're holding the end of a chain. And the other end of that chain is attached to a hook, which is on the baseball bat, Slugger. So he's holding Slugger at the base—you know, he's kind of holding it horizontally in front of his body.

Justin: Yeah, I'm just gonna jerk the bat out of his hand and pull it into my other hand.

Travis: Okay! Give me, we're gonna do like a contested kind of strength—

Justin: I imagine this will be a challenging roll for myself?

Griffin: That depends on which way the dice go, man.

Travis: Yeah. He's gonna roll four D8s. Because this is his signature weapon and he's quite strong.

Griffin: He might beef fit. Oh, no, that's four successes.

Travis: Yeah, he rolled four successes. So now it's your turn.

Justin: So what do I roll, Trav?

Travis: I'm going to say that because you have Anything's a Drum, you can roll three D8s with your improvised chain.

Justin: Okay.

Griffin: So the best you can do is kind of mess up.

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Okay. So it's gonna be tough to pull this off?

Travis: Yeah...

Justin: But not impossible.

Griffin: You could always cowabunga?

[sound of dice thrown]

Justin: Okay, so I got a one and an eight, good. And a four, bad.

Griffin: Bad.

Travis: Tell me, is Ax-o-Lyle wearing gloves?

Justin: Is Ax-o-Lyle wearing gloves? Well, hold on, let me refer to the character documents.

Griffin: Check your gloves stat block.

Justin: Check my gloves...

Travis: See. I was just kind of opening that up to you for flavor.

Justin: Yeah, but like he either does or doesn't. I'm looking at him, he's a man, he has gloves. He's not a man. [titters] He's an axolotl. But yeah, he's got gloves.

Travis: Okay, excellent. Just roll me a D20. Just like kind of as a luck check. And if it's below 10, that's bad luck. 10 or below.

[sound of dice thrown]

Justin: 17.

Travis: Okay, excellent. So with 17, in pulling that, it activates within the chain the copper wire that's woven around the chain as it goes. So an electrical charge goes through it like a taser. But luckily, your gloves are

insulated enough. I mean, you're out there working in fires and swinging your axe around and stuff. So luckily, there's enough insulation that it does not tase you.

Justin: Great!

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Sounds like a win to me! Now he knows who he's messing with, though, you can't say that's not true.

Travis: And Carver says:

Carver: Oh, excellent use of the charge in the Taser Chain. Didn't think you knew about that. Okay, who's next?

Lyle: I just... man, I just had to make sure you were the real guy!

Carver: Ah, no, we're in it now. Who's up next?

Lyle: No, you've proved, you've—I'm convinced, man, you've proven it to me. You're the dude!

Carver: Okay, now you convince me.

Lyle: Okay!

Travis: So, who's up next? He's kind of like looking around, waiting for the next attack. Who's going next?

Navy: Is this like a test? Are you testing us? Are you reforming the crew, and you're testing—

Justin: I chop my left arm off.

Navy: Holy shoot.

Justin: [titters]

Travis: What?

Justin: Yeah, you heard me, Trav. He said, "Now you convince me." So what I did there was, I chopped my left arm off with my axe.

Travis: Okay... um...

Griffin: It's like not a big deal for him.

Carver: What are you doing?

Lyle: Hey, man, you said you wanted to us to convince you. Well, here we go! Here's my skill set.

Carver: What are you trying to convince me of?

Lyle: Hook chains, now watch this. [grunts] Herrrr...

Justin: [titters]

Lyle: Herrrr...

Carver: Are you okay?

Navy: It takes him a minute. It's worth it, though.

Lyle: Errrr...

Carver: Oh, no, it's like a little baby hand coming—what the—oh, no! Oh, boise. I'm not wild about that. I mean, I kind of am, I'm not gonna lie, that's wildly impressive.

Lyle: Look at it wiggling around. Look at that, it's gonna be—that's gonna be full strength, given 12 hours. I'll be back ready to use both these babies.

Justin: [chuckles]

Carver: How often can you do that? Is that like a 'great trick, but I can only do it once,' kind of thing?

Lyle: Well, here's the thing. I'm in pretty good shape if I only lose one at a time. That's an easy fix. I lose more than that. I can come back from it, but the noise it makes... it's tough to come back from, honestly.

Carver: Let me ask you something. If you were to be split perfectly down the center, like to the atom, which half regrows?

Lyle: So, right, so this is interesting, right. Because that's my brain. And my brain controls all of it, this whole centerpiece. You lop that bad boy in half and we gotta roll up shop. There's no—

Carver: Oh, okay?

Lyle: Yeah, that's the last show.

Navy: Are you sure we wouldn't get two Ax-o-Lyles? One of which would be good at math, and one of which would be good at spelling?

Lyle: Let's just, let's just—hey! Let's just say there used to be an Ax-o-Greg.

Griffin: [chuckles]

Travis: So in you chopping off this thing, the chain has gone—

Justin: My arm! "This thing." It's my arm!

Travis: This thing, your arm. Justin, can I tell you, I think my brain rebelled against the visual. It's now just an item on the ground, Justin. When you chop an arm off, can we just say like it immediately withers to dust? [titters]

Justin: Nope.

Lyle: That's yours, by the way. You keep that.

Carver: I'm good!

Lyle: I'd love for you to have this, Carver.

Justin: [titters]

Travis: He's gonna then step to take a swing at Roger. Roger, what do you do?

Justin: What? That didn't work to diffuse at all?

Travis: He stepped away from you? So, Roger, he is—

Justin: I'll pick my arm up oof the ground! [laughs] Because I'm not a heathen. You know what I mean? I'm gonna find a trash can nearby.

Travis: Yeah, yeah, yeah, this is important. Maybe you see like they have a trash can, a recycling can, and like 'body debris from fights' can.

Justin: Yeah, I've seen people that don't pick up their dog doo-doo. This seems worse than that, right?

Travis: Yeah, man, I agree. Compost.

Justin: [laughs] Plus, if I leave it lying around, it increases the chances that I'll be cloned.

Travis: Yeah, what you've got to be careful of with Barker Innovations. So, he's telegraphing this swing at you, Roger.

Clint: Mm-hm.

Travis: So, what do you do? He's giving you like reaction time to see what you can do.

Roger: Navy?

Navy: Yeah?

Roger: Could you possibly give me a techno beat of some kind?

Navy: Absolutely not.

Justin: [laughs]

Navy: Hold on.

Griffin: I reach into my pocket, I pull out my phone. And I put on—I'm like:

Navy: Hold on. Spotify is being weird today.

Justin: 'No, but.' Griffin's pulled a 'no, but.' No, but I have Spotify.

Navy: Okay. Here we go!

Griffin: I turn on Sandstorm. By Darude.

Clint: [spoofs sings Sandstorm by Darude] Roger does Night Foxtrot. When he hears a techno beat, he can do a fluid, acrobatic, tumbling dance. Like the French dude in Ocean's 12.

Travis: Oh, yeah, exactly.

Griffin: The best like description of any sort of action.

Justin: Because it's immediately evocative to anybody who remembers the—

Griffin: Ocean's 12, the French dude, yeah.

Clint: But I need to hear some more of that beat.

Justin: [spoofs sings Sandstorm by Darude] Dad, did you know this song actually has a name? And there's an artist that did it? I learned this recently, it's Darude. And the song is called Sandstorm. And it's by Darude.

Travis: Darude Sandstorm it's called, yes! It's a classic!

Justin: Yeah, yeah. We recently learned this.

Griffin: You might know Darude's other works, Maelstrom...

Travis: Yeah. Cyclone.

Griffin: Cyclone.

Justin: Maelstrom, Frozen Ever After, pretty much anything that's ever been on the Norway pavilion is by Darude.

Travis: Viking's Fury.

Justin: Viking's Fury is Darude.

Clint: Roger's very inspired, then. Very inspired!

Travis: Roll four D8s for me.

[sound of dice thrown]

Clint: But I can't see—

Travis: Okay, great!

Clint: What I rolled.

Travis: You rolled, you got two successes there. He got three successes. So he steps—your acrobatics are amazing. He gently like taps your tummy with the bat as he steps past. And he's like:

Carver: Oh, that was good! That was close, man. That was nice. Okay, what about you?

Travis: And he just comes charging at you, Navy, with his shoulder down. And he's about to gut check you.

Griffin: Carver is the Raphael sort of—

Travis: I'm sorry, I'm not familiar.

Griffin: Okay, he is—

Travis: He's a hotheaded Abnimal, loose cannon.

Griffin: I mean, that's what—

Travis: And he wears kind of a burgundy mask, I would say.

Griffin: Yes. When Navy was on the Royal Seals, I think he fancied himself that role. He's a big, burly dude. I think he's just gonna try and stand firm, and try to go toe to toe. And just try to like hold him sort of Sumo style, against this guy. I'm gonna use Bulky Boy.

Travis: Yeah, you are.

Griffin: To use my enormous frame, which makes me hard to knock down. So I believe that's three D8?

Travis: That is three D8.

[sound of dice thrown]

Griffin: Two successes. Six, four, eight.

Travis: He got two successes as well! So this is unstoppable force, immovable object kind of thing.

Griffin: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Travis: Right? So he—this is The Rock and Vin Diesel both punching each other. Right?

Griffin: Yeah, a shockwave comes out.

Travis: Yeah, so you take one step back, and he is stuck in his—but like you're—you know, your like, maybe left foot shifts back like six inches.

Griffin: [exclaims] Huah! I try, I like grab his bicep as this happens like:

Navy: Oh my gosh. Yes, bro!

Carver: Okay, yeah.

Navy: This is what I'm talking about!

Carver: Sorry, what are you talking about?

Navy: Dreams. Coming true!

Carver: Okay. You have a dream to grab my arm while I slam my shoulder in your gut?

Navy: I wanna be you!

Carver: Oh, boy... okay...

Lyle: That's actually kind of nice, man.

Navy: It is nice!

Lyle: Nobody's ever said that to me...

Travis: Okay, and we're back up to the top! And he's gonna step up to you, Ax-o-Lyle. But before he starts charging again—

Justin: So he forgot we were cool?

Travis: You hear a, "Ahem... Carver?" And he turns, and there standing in one of the street lights that is still operating is renowned River City reporter, JJ August.

Justin: Ah, nice!

Navy: Are you get—

Griffin: I point at me holding the bicep and standing firm.

Navy: Are you getting this?

JJ: No, I'm not getting this. Carver, you're supposed to be like retired, right? Disappeared? What are you doing out here?

Carver: Oh, I... hey, JJ. My bat was here, so I...

JJ: You came to steal your bat?

Carver: It's *mine*.

Travis: And JJ turns to you three.

JJ: Listen, I'm sorry about him. You guys can't tell anybody that Carver is still like operating. You know that, right?

Lyle: It's lucky for you—it's lucky for him you showed up when you did, man. He was on the ropes.

Roger: I believe we did have the upper hand. Except for Lyle, who only has one now. [chuckles]

Lyle: No, look? Right here, man. I've got a little nub going.

Roger: Oh, you—ooh, yes. Right, forgot. Ooh, yes. Mm-hm... Uh-huh, yes, sorry—

Navy: Wait, why are we—this is a—this is the most exciting day in Animal Hero recent history. Why would we not want everyone to know that Carver, the legendary beefcake, is back?

Carver: Because I promised the other ones that I wouldn't keep doing it. And I'm not—

Navy: [gasps] They're here? They're still alive?

Carver: Well... I've already—ah! Okay... All—I promised them I wouldn't, okay? So let's leave it at that. But this was a good training sesh, guys. Like I like mixing it up, you know what I mean?

Lyle: That was my whole goal, man. I knew you could use a little... freshen up.

Carver: Okay, let's go with that. That sounds good. I do need to go before like cops show up. But here.

Travis: And he hands you a card with an address written on it.

Navy: [gasps]

Carver: Why don't we keep like, you know, keep like sparring. That felt like a good warm up. You know, it was nice. I'm gonna go before word gets out. Mum's the word. Uh... bye!

Travis: And he takes his bat and he drops down into manhole west, and disappears. So you're standing there with JJ.

Navy: See you-bye, dad! I mean Carver.

Travis: He pops back up.

Carver: What did you say?

Navy: I said bye Carver in a normal way.

Carver: Ah, cool, dude.

Lyle: I gotta say, man... I feel like that guy really enjoyed violence in a way that I didn't love. He seemed to be getting really worked up.

Roger: It's kind of an anathema. Wouldn't you say?

Navy: I don't know what that is.

Lyle: Big word.

Navy: JJ—

Lyle: Speak American, brother.

Griffin: [chuckles] Whoa, hold on. Is that what you want to—you want to own that, Ax-o-Lyle?

Justin: I mean, versus British.

Griffin: Oh, I get you.

Justin: Is what I'm saying. He's speaking—

Travis: I think that's still okay.

Griffin: Yeah, as long as you're saying it to a British person, "Speak American," then it's fine.

Justin: Remember all the... they stole a lot of stuff.

Griffin: That's true.

Navy: Sorry, JJ?

JJ: Yeah?

Navy: So, you know about the Greenback Guardians?

JJ: Yes, but I... Hm, okay, listen. We're gonna say like journalist/interviewee confidentiality, so I can't really go into it. And neither should you guys. If you want, I could do like an exclusive thing about you guys that's like—

Navy: Yes!

JJ: "This is the museum," you know? In exchange for keeping your mouths shut about Carver being here.

Navy: I mean, that sounds like a totally fair and ethical trade.

Roger: I would just as soon not be included in that... I do a lot of undercover stuff, so maybe if you want to make it look like these two were the big heroes, that's fine. I'm in it for king and count-ry.

Navy: Yikes.

JJ: Nice.

Travis: She says:

JJ: Nice.

Clint: You know how happy I am to be playing a character where he's supposed to make bad puns? It's great!

Travis: Dad, I thought that was excellent.

Griffin: Yeah, that was a good one.

Travis: What about you? What was your name?

Lyle: Yeah, Ax-o-Lyle.

JJ: Oh, from Amphibiforce?

Lyle: Yeah, I didn't—I've been talking a little bit, but I didn't realize I was muted, because I had to do a big burp.

Griffin: [laughs]

Lyle: I thought you were kind of giving me the cold shoulder, man. I wasn't loving it.

JJ: Nope! Just couldn't hear you because you muted yourself in real life, which this is.

Navy: So, just a suggestion—

Lyle: Wait, I gotta ask, man! My question, is it—it seems like a cover up. I didn't think you journalists were... I didn't think that was your fave.

JJ: Oh! So you're like a child? Or a like, I—sorry, I just, I don't know—

Lyle: I'm just saying that profession has been... unfairly sort of harangued for quite some time about ethics. You know what I mean? It didn't seem like you guys were the bad guys?

JJ: This isn't about—what are you talking—like Carver is an absolute hero.

Lyle: Yeah.

JJ: Right?

Lyle: Well, why the cover up, man?

JJ: Well, you know how your friend over here just asked me not to mention that he was here because he's like undercover?

Lyle: Yeah?

JJ: Maybe you could like extrapolate out that to Carver's situation, don't you think? Like Carver's supposed to be undercover, in that no one's supposed to know he's still operating in River City. And if he was, maybe like there would be a big like, "We've got to find him, he's a hero!" Kind of deal. And that might make it, you know, a lot of pressure on the other three. Yeah?

Navy: So, just a suggestion on the headline. Something like, "New, exciting hero team saves day at museum."

Lyle: "Keeps mouths shut about you know."

JJ: No.

Navy: No, not that part. Heroes, right? Like, "Hero, strongs—"

Lyle: "Heroes keep great secret."

Navy: "Strong seal—"

Lyle: "Trusted by all."

Navy: "Strong seal doing just fine on his new team does not need or miss former colleagues."

Roger: "Even though there's only two of them."

Lyle: "Hero axolotl loses arm. Normal noises ensue."

Clint: [chuckles]

JJ: Wait, sorry, is this all still the headline?

Lyle: Yeah. Well, this would probably be a deck or a subhead.

JJ: Okay. So this is gonna, the headline is gonna take up about half the page. And then you get a subheading.

Lyle: Right.

JJ: Okay.

Lyle: Listen, I'm not a cork user myself. You're gonna have to figure out the layout on your own.

JJ: Oh, hey! Thank you for acknowledging that I'm a professional journalist who's been working for 25 years and I might be able to do it on my own. I appreciate that immensely. Thank you very much.

Navy: It's just a suggestion.

Roger: A lot of attitude there. A lot of attitude...

JJ: Sorry, that's kind of my thing. I'm, you know, a sassy—

Roger: Oh!

JJ: Kind of, yeah, hardworking reporter type. You know what I mean?

Roger: Mm-hm. Mm-hm.

JJ: And what is the name of your team here? I don't recognize you guys.

Roger: The Titanic two. [whispers] I'm not involved.

Lyle: Oh, you're undercover. Yeah, we're just friends. We're just... so, do we not tell her we're—do you want us to hide—how deep does this go, man?

Travis: I believe he's asking you, dad. [titters]

Justin: Yeah, I am. I am, man. [chuckles]

Roger: I would suggest that all three of us should stay away from publicity. It would make—

Navy: What are you talking about?

Lyle: Right, but I think—I don't think she's gonna put her name in the papes, man. Like she seems to be not wanting to talk about any of this, I wouldn't think. I don't think this is gonna make the front page.

Roger: Hm... all right, fine.

Navy: Why don't—

Roger: We are the Thrilling Three.

Navy: Nope. We're working on it. We don't have a name yet.

JJ: Okay.

Navy: We'll get back to you. Do you have a business card?

JJ: Yeah...

Travis: And she hands you her business card.

Navy: Do you not want to give us a business card?

JJ: No, it's just... eh, you know, here in River City, there's so many Abnimal teams kind of competing for the headlines. I try to be—limit the access, right? So that it's a little more organic. Or else I'm getting calls like, "Hey, we're thinking about trying to do like a charity bike ride. Front page news, right?" That kind of thing. And—

Navy: Oh, how boring. [titters]

Griffin: I quickly sort of mentally shelf the charity bike ride idea that I had to like get some publicity going for our new outfit.

Navy: Yeah, who would do a charity bike ride? Stupid.

Lyle: I've been thinking about a name I want to run past you. And you're in the media, so maybe you could help me out. What do you think of The Beatles? But we spell it with an A, because we beat people up.

Navy: That's pretty good.

Roger: Oh-ho-ho-ho!

Lyle: Thanks. I've been working on it for a while. I've actually been sitting on it since the '80s.

JJ: And what, how does that apply—are you guys—oh, wait. Is an axolotl a bug? Are you a bug? Is that the thing?

Navy: No one's quite sure.

Lyle: No, but beetle... we beat people up, man. What's not registering?

JJ: I'm just, sorry, I'm not getting the like underlying—right? Because there's like Monkey Mayhem and the Simian Six.

Navy: Right.

JJ: Right? And then there's the Royal Seals, right? And the Dragon Riders. So all of these are like, they're animals, and so it's like a—you know.

Navy: But we're a bunch of different types of animals.

JJ: Oh, that's wild.

Lyle: We're the—we're like... the other ones.

Justin: [titters]

Navy: Oh, what about the Zoo Crew?

Lyle: The Zoo Crew is so good.

Roger: Zoo Crew...

JJ: I kind of like the other ones. Maybe Et Cetera?

Navy: Okay, well, do you want to join the team? And then you can have a vote on the name.

JJ: Oh, no. Sorry, I have a full-time job already and no animal skills whatsoever. But thank you very much, I appreciate the offer. I'm gonna go

back to the office and get this all typed up. Get this to the front page. Should I do a photo? Do you—

Lyle: I would love—

JJ: I see the cow man is inching away.

Lyle: Okay, but if we could get one, just want to have. Just a pro shot, you know, for marketing stuff, would be huge for us, if you could send a copy our way.

JJ: Okay, cool. So you guys get in the light and cow man, if you can kind of stand in the shadow, I guess if you want? Does that make you more comfortable?

Roger: Oh, you can still see me? Oh...

Justin: [titters]

Roger: I am a master of disguise.

Travis: Wait, hold on, dad, roll your Master of Disguise. Depending on how it goes, tell me what your disguise does.

Clint: Okay...

Travis: Now, I'm looking here. I don't see Master of Disguise as a skill. So give me two... you're gonna be rolling abs, give me a two D8 roll.

[sound of dice thrown]

Clint: An eight and a four!

Travis: A mixed success. What is Roger disguised as?

Clint: Roger places—he has a white domino mask, that when he puts over his eyes, he can blend in with anything white. And there just happens to be the truck which is white.

Griffin: Amazing.

Clint: Just next to them.

Griffin: This picture is gonna look so cool.

Clint: So he's just kind of... just kind of presses himself up against the white truck and blends into the background. Never to be seen until he reappears.

Travis: Okay. So since it is a mixed success, I'm gonna say it's a white truck, but very dirty, right? And you are very clean. So what you get is, yes, you definitely blend into the trunk. But like, there's going to be conspiracy theorists who are looking at this for years like, "There's a ghost. I swear to god, you guys, there's a ghost in this photo. If you look really close, there's a ghost.

Clint: That just adds to our mystique.

Travis: She snaps that picture and she's like—

Griffin: Wait, I wanna get wet! I get in the fountain and I get a little bit wet, because it looks better.

Travis: Okay.

Roger: Lyle, can you make that arm grow out just a little bit?

Lyle: I'm gonna turn myself.

Justin: [chuckles]

Roger: Oh, good, yeah.

Lyle: Yeah, so I'll have the good one, you know, downstage.

JJ: Are you ready now? Or...

Navy: Are we smiling? Hold on. Are we smiling or like flip—like looking tough?

Lyle: I don't have much choice, man, look at my face.

Navy: All right, I'll—

Lyle: I've just got the one setting.

Navy: I'll do a big smile.

JJ: Okay, the—oh, no, I can't tell if you're smiling or not.

Navy: Yeah.

JJ: Okay.

Travis: And she snaps the picture.

JJ: Should I like email it to—text it to you?

Navy: We'll catch it on the front page of the Sunday edition.

Lyle: I've been meaning to do our email.

Roger: Tremendoustrio@gmail.com.

Justin: Get out. [titters] Of the front page.

Travis: You hear some sirens in the background. You know, there's been a lot of noise in this kerfuffle. And it seems like it's time for you guys and JJ to part.

Justin: I'm gonna use manhole east.

Griffin: Yeah, I don't want to go down the same manhole as a Carver. What if we run into him? It would be so—

Travis: Oh, yeah, that's gonna feel—

Griffin: Awkward.

Travis: Oh, god, that would be so weird.

[theme music plays]

[ad reads]

Travis: So, now, where do you guys like reconvene? Like, where's—where do the three of you... like what's your base of operations?

Griffin: It's a great question I've been thinking about. Because our biomes—

Travis: It also has occurred to me that you guys took the manhole and left your sensible car there. [chuckles]

Griffin: Oh, yeah, we'll pick it up tomorrow. I don't want to mess with the cops. So, I'll pick—I'll come around grab it tomorrow.

Justin: That job is hard enough, you know?

Griffin: Yeah. We respect the badge too much to make them mess around with us. Us beasts. [chuckles]

Travis: There actually is no police presence here in River City. When Mayor Killdeath took over his first term, he just completely defunded it. And that was when the River City First security forces, all part of the River City First business family was brought in. And then, surprisingly, Killdeath also invested a lot into community programs. And spent a lot, you know, in community upkeep and things like that. So, at this point—

Griffin: Wow.

Justin: We should have let him take control a long time ago. All those times he used to try to take control, we should just been like, go for it. Go nuts, you know what I mean? But go through the process.

Travis: Well, he's retired now. He was—

Justin: Oh, okay, he got out of it.

Travis: He was like the main foil to the Greenback Guardians.

Justin: But this was not like the conclusion of a long-term plan that finally came to fruition, right? [chuckles] This is not like the lifelong—his like super villain goal the whole time was to take control of the city.

Travis: Well, I'm going to say that you, Navy, since you were so closely following Carver's career and a big fan, you know that it—basically, he started as a city councilman and worked his way up to mayor. And eventually even became governor for a short term. And basically, once he entered, faced a lot of like bureaucracy and saw the corruption. And he was like, "This is real villainy." And ended up just like working really hard to undo a lot of like the red tape and bureaucracy and whatnot in the government.

Griffin: Yeah, cool. Small government.

Justin: Cool dude.

Griffin: [laughs] I love it, man. What is our headquarters? Because we all are animals that live in pretty wildly different spots.

Clint: Well, you said you had an idea?

Justin: Do you have an idea, Griff?

Griffin: You know, I like a sunken situation, as a coastal city. You know, a bodega or a, you know, some sort of restaurant that just sort of sank into the sea, that has some sort of tunnel access, a sunken subway station, maybe. I like a sunken thing. That's as far as I've gotten. It can have wet stuff for the wet boys, but it can also have dry stuff for the dry boy.

Clint: How about an abandoned sea lab, just off the coast.

Travis: So we're not going to go that deep. Here's what we're looking at. So basically, there was a pier. Think like the Santa Monica Pier. That had a pretty popular diner at one end of the pier. So popular, in fact, that it did eventually crack the supports. So now, that diner is about half in and half out of the water. So if you're walking around eating at this diner, the water comes up to about like your waist.

Griffin: It's still a business that's in operation, even though it's half submerged.

Travis: It's so popular. They make the best melts.

Griffin: Okay?

Travis: And for any wet boys, you can get that melt sloppy. You know what I mean?

Griffin: I think, you know what I like, guys? I like if we aspire to having our own headquarters at some point.

Clint: Right.

Griffin: But right now, we just have a diner that we like to go to. [chuckles]

Travis: Yeah, there's, you have a favorite booth.

Griffin: There's definitely other people there.

Justin: Oh, a booth is good! What about a janitor's closet, like in *The Jerk*?

Griffin: Yes, fantastic. I think we just—

Justin: A little mattress on the ground. [titters]

Griffin: Yes. Whether or not it is our booth at the diner is up for debate with the staff.

Justin: I got—wait, now hold on. When we were doing Steeplechase, I feel like we had like a back room in a functioning business. Maybe a booth is even better, because it's like not ours, and we have to order something.
[titters]

Travis: Yes.

Griffin: We do have to. We cannot just get water.

Justin: We have to constantly order stuff.

Griffin: Yeah.

Travis: So you're at your booth here in the, well, Submariner's Diner. It originally was the Mariner's Diner, and now you can see that they've added the sub to it.

Clint: And they sell sub sandwiches? Gotcha.

Travis: Yeah. But they were doing that before. Now it's just a fun—it's just a fun tie in. And all the food is sub-quality. That's like one of their jokes that they use, but it's also kind of true.

Griffin: Yeah, because it's disgusting.

Travis: But it's so popular.

Griffin: Yeah, but it's so wet and salty and not hygienic. You're not supposed to have just a bunch of sea water everywhere.

Travis: But so popular! Your server, Amanda T, comes over. And she says:

Amanda: Yeah, what do you guys want to have?

Navy: I would like the Submariner Marinara Sub, please.

Amanda: Okay. What am I—you guys gotta order. You gotta order something?

Roger: I'd like a Mootini. Shaken, not stirred.

Amanda: Is that just milk?

Roger: Yes.

Amanda: Okay.

Griffin: [chuckles]

Amanda: And you, Lyle?

Travis: And you see she kind of like bats her long manatee eyelashes at you.

Justin: Nice. I love that.

Lyle: Hey, you got any worms back there? Any crustations, boss?

Amanda: You want some? I'll find it just for you, Lyle. Anything, I'll find you some worms.

Lyle: Great! If you could dig them up, I'd be happy to suck 'em up here.

Amanda: Okay! Heh...

Lyle: Oh, one other little favor, if you don't mind. If you wouldn't mind bringing out some gravel? I do have to eat that with the food to help me digest it.

Amanda: Yeah, of course. So just your regular?

Lyle: Yeah, that's my classic.

Amanda: Yeah, okay.

Navy: If he—if we—

Lyle: On the rocks. I order all my food on the rocks!

Griffin: [guffaws]

Navy: If we do any action or adventure after eating, it's like working with a little maraca over here.

Clint: [chuckles]

Amanda: And you guys are gonna pay this time, right? No 'put it on my tab' stuff, right?

Roger: Well, I'm sure in the future there will be some need for our services here? I thought we had kind of... an agreement? A special agreement that we would provide you protection. I mean, you are in kind of a—

Justin: What the—why the—dad, you cannot just decide we're in the mafia. You can't just unilaterally—

Griffin: Yeah, or create your own mafia.

Justin: [chuckles]

Clint: Well, I wasn't meaning that.

Navy: We would hate for something to happen.

[group chuckle]

Justin: I'm a big guy in a suit telling you this is a real nice place you got here, and I don't want to pay for my food.

Griffin: [guffaws]

Travis: It's also hard to be like, "It's a shame if something happened," when it's half sunk in the ocean.

Griffin: Yeah, terrible. Yeah, we're—

Travis: Like something did happen.

Clint: Things break.

Justin: Hey, listen.

Clint: Diners burn?

Justin: There's a whole other half that could sink. That's all I'm saying.
[chuckles]

Travis: Yeah.

Amanda: No, we've already got an arrangement with Amphiboforce, because we're half in and half out. You know, so...

Navy: Well, we just finished a big job today, so—and I don't know how money is gonna get to us for that. I was not the money guy on the Royal Seals. But I assume at some point we will receive money for the heroic museum defense we executed.

Lyle: Here, here. I have something that I think will set us square.

Justin: And I hand her my arm that I have signed. [titters]

Amanda: Oh, man...

Lyle: Oh, anything for a fan.

Amanda: Yeah, this is gonna sell really well. Okay, thank you. Okay.

Lyle: What else it's gonna do is smell really bad, so you're gonna want to get that into a vase.

Amanda: Okay.

Clint: [chuckles]

Lyle: You're gonna want to get that into a vase, asapi. You know what I'm saying?

Clint: [chuckles]

Amanda: Okay. I'm sure your food will be out soon. Sorry, did you guys want the food sloppy or where do you want it?

Navy: I mean, I think I just ordered a submarine sandwich with only marinara sauce on it. So I don't know what other mode that could possibly take.

Lyle: Is 'asapi' how you say that? I've never said it out loud. It sounded off.

Travis: Okay. She heads back into the kitchen.

Griffin: Yeah.

Navy: Okay, so, let's—I always enjoyed in my previous group doing a sort of debrief at the end of the mission, just to give notes. One, the hand signals, I do... it is important that you all learn that stuff. When you execute those properly, I tell you, it feels good. You feel like a cool guy working with a super special team of like good friends who don't—it's like beyond words. More than words. As Extreme might say. Axe-o-Lyle, you chopped off your body part once and sort of allowed other chops to happen. And I'm just curious sort of what the reasoning behind those—

Lyle: Right. I was trying to show off my special skill set. And I thought Carver might be impressed. Of course... there's a great deal of pain that I was also—didn't react at all. So I thought that might kind of wow him too, man. But I could see in hindsight, it was a little impetuous.

Navy: And Roger, just in the future, maybe you carry your own music playing device on you? So that in the middle of combat, you don't have to stop to ask someone else.

Roger: Doesn't really work that way. I have to have the techno beat and it has to come from another source... I have—I don't have—I'm not really good with technology.

Navy: Okay. And then—

Roger: I have an old Walkman.

Justin: Can we have a—can we—next time, not this time. But next time, I want to make dad play a character that's actually very good with technology.

Travis: Yeah. A hacker!

Justin: Now that you bring it up, I'm actually very good at—[chuckles]

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: "This is actually my thing, is technology."

Travis: "That's kind of my area of expertise."

Justin: "Yeah, it's my big thing!"

Travis: Amanda T has returned with your meals. As she sets it down, she opts for like actual table level. So all of them are slightly submerged in water. No special race plates here. So, that doesn't really affect the Mootini or the worms. But damn, that Submariner Marinara Sub... is soaked.

Griffin: Can we make it canon that anytime we eat, it is offensive to god at every—just like literally just face smash into table. Just [spoofs aggressive eating sounds].

Justin: I know my thing is rough.

Travis: Yeah! But as you're all eating some pretty radical food, you can heal up some. I'm gonna say, let's see, what is each of you having?

Griffin: I have no damage.

Travis: So, Lyle, you're gonna pick up two. And Roger, you can pick up two as well. It's not the most radical food, but you like it. Okay, which one of you is most observant?

Griffin: I have bug eyes that allow me to be observant. So...

Travis: Okay, yeah, give me a three D8 roll.

[sound of dice thrown]

Griffin: One success.

Travis: Okay, with a mixed success, while you guys are committing these culinary atrocities as you consume your food, you catch out of the corner of your eye somebody very quickly like get up from a table and leave. You didn't quite clock it, but it very much gives you the feeling of waiting for you to start eating. And then they slipped out while you weren't looking.

Griffin: Okay. So someone just got up from their table at this restaurant and left?

Travis: Correct.

Justin: And he noticed that.

Griffin: And I notice it.

Navy: Someone just left, guys.

Justin: [chuckles]

Lyle: Wait, come again?

Travis: The way they left though was not in a chill manner.

Navy: Someone left in a deeply un-chill manner.

Lyle: Let's go get 'em!

Justin: [titters]

Navy: Get them—

Griffin: [chuckles]

Justin: [laughs] Bring 'em in for questioning.

Griffin: Can I look and see if they have like a plate with food? Like, did they just leave their—did they just pay the check?

Justin: Did they order? Yeah, yeah, yeah, what did they—what's like remaining? What did they... what's left on the table?

Travis: As you go over there, let's see what you can put together. So, some like investigation, right? So, rather than perception, think of this as like you're trying to piece together what has happened here.

Griffin: Okay.

Clint: Okay.

[sound of dice thrown]

Clint: Are we all rolling?

Griffin: I got two successes.

Travis: Yeah, we'll go with that. With two successes, you can see that the table that they were sitting at is well positioned to observe you guys. They were very close to hear conversation. There's no food on the plates. It doesn't seem like anything was ordered. But what you do see is a lot of like twisted up straws kind of thing. And like a lot of fidgeting occurred at this table.

Griffin: Wait! Plastic straws?

Justin: What?

Travis: No, these are all biodegradable.

Lyle: All right, let's get this—let's get this dude!

Griffin: [laughs] I—

Travis: And everybody all around, as they're using the straws, they're all coughing and choking a bunch. Like, "Sorry, too far! Swallowed it—swallowed the straw. It's bad for me. Gotta remember."

Griffin: "It's stuck in my nose again! Why?! Why do we keep using these things?"

Navy: Hey, I'm gonna... I think this is a weird night we're having, and we saw something we weren't supposed to see. Someone's... my seal senses are tingling. We need to—we need to figure out who that was.

Lyle: Really? All right. Well, hm... let me duck my head out. See what I see. Take a peek-a-roosky.

Justin: Is it, wait, is it dark outside?

Travis: So, this is the early morning. Like the crime is happening around like three o'clock in the morning. So at this point, it's like 5:30AM, right? This is like breakfast at the diner kind of deal. So, it is not full—it's not full. I would say it's, you know, early morning. You're on the seaside, right? So the sunrise is going to start a little bit earlier, there's no buildings blocking the way. So, there's some light. But also, where are you looking when you go out the door?

Justin: Well, did he see what direction they went?

Travis: No. I mean, he just clocked enough to know that they were like heading out, like bee-lining out.

Justin: All around?

Travis: Well, so, if you remember, half of the restaurant is underwater and half is above.

Justin: Oh, okay. Well, were they sitting in water, or were they sitting in dryness?

Travis: Oh, they were sitting in water.

Justin: Okay. Well, I will swim into the water to follow them.

Travis: Okay, so this is gonna be a pretty difficult kind of check. So, what skills do you have that are going to help you here?

Justin: Well, if I'm going into the water, that's a darkened environment. So I'll be able to utilize my Nocturno Sense.

Travis: Okay, excellent.

Justin: When not an active peril, I can use sound and chemical detection to understand more about my environment, enemies, et cetera. So hopefully, in there, once in the darkened environment, I'll be able to pick up some clues.

Travis: Okay, great, yeah. Give me... hm, it's not completely dark, so I'm gonna say three D8 on this one.

[sound of dice thrown]

Justin: Five, three, seven.

Griffin: That's the exact roll Travis got.

Travis: We rolled exactly the same.

Griffin: That's crazy.

Travis: So, with that, you detect like heightened adrenaline, you know, excreted chemicals from someone that you would associate with like fear and nervousness. You can see like disturbed like seaweed, you know, that kind of thing. The mud in this area, with your like tracking senses, you get the feeling that this was like a smaller person. But the water is kind of obscuring any kind of scent that would let you on to a particular like animal, or if it was fully human, or anything like that. But this was like a little nervous person.

Justin: Is there a trail I can follow? Do I have that level of clarity?

Travis: Since we matched on our roll, I think you get the sense that they got some distance away from the diner and then turned back to land, trying to cover their tracks. But past there, you lose them.

Navy: Well, that was weird. [spoofs aggressive eating sounds]

Lyle: Could you tell what kind of animal it was or anything?

Navy: Little.

Clint: I think Roger wants to look down at the table that had been left by the person, and see if they signed their check.

Justin: Ooh!

Travis: Hm... Okay, yeah, give me, we're just gonna do a D20 luck check to see if they left something behind. Because they didn't order. But we're gonna see if they left a clue to their identity behind.

Griffin: They spelled their name in twisted straws.

Travis: So roll a D20, and if it's 10 or below, that's bad.

[sound of dice thrown]

Travis: Another 17, excellent.

Clint: How about 17?

Travis: Excellent.

Justin: Wow.

Travis: Okay, so, they did not order, but maybe from nervousness or just extreme deference, they did leave a tip. Maybe they felt bad for holding the table. So you see like a couple \$5 bills left in a River City First banking withdrawal envelope. I will also say, as far as leads go, I'm gonna say Navy, that the address that Carver gave you is kind of burning a hole in your pocket.

Griffin: Yeah.

Navy: Listen, that was weird. I think we're not gonna catch up with whoever that was. I will be honest with y'all, I am trembling with excitement to get another primo hang sesh going with Carver. And maybe even the other ones. And I know we could all probably use a little bit of rest before another night of crime busting, but do you mind if we swing by?

Griffin: And I hold up the card.

Navy: The address?

Lyle: Man, is this just for you to have like another fan moment?

Navy: Yes, absolutely.

Lyle: Or are you really looking to work with this dude?

Navy: Oh, I mean, I don't think I'm even remotely on the same level. [chuckles] But you know, it would be—you're not a fan—you aren't a fan?

Lyle: You know, I liked him when I was a kid growing up, same as everybody. But like, I don't know, man, he seems like kind of a... seems like kind of a bully, man. Not like a great teammate.

Navy: I mean, when you're sort of the brute of the team, sometimes you get a bad rap.

Roger: That's for sure.

Lyle: Yeah, it's tough being the strong one. I agree.

Roger: Yes, it is.

Lyle: I've struggled with that a long time.

Roger: Ah, so have I.

Lyle: Ah, yes. In another life, perhaps.

Navy: You all were the brutes of your team—of the Amphibiforce?

Lyle: No, but I'm the brute of this group.

Roger: I'm the brute.

Lyle: Oh?

Roger: I thought I—

Lyle: Well, I figure—

Roger: Et tu, Brute?

Lyle: I have the muscles. I could make more? Okay, well, so you thought—huh.

Roger: Yeah, so I—but I mean, we've only done the one—

Lyle: Hey! I gotta tell you, man, I'm not the brains.

Navy: Hm. I thought that Roger was the brains, and I was sort of the brute, and you were kind of the—

Lyle: I could be the face, but I don't have a nose?

Navy: Well, I thought you were sort of the party dude...

Justin: [titters] We don't have one. That's the problem with us.

Navy: Every team has a leader, a brute, a party dude, and the smart one. And obviously, we're—

Roger: Who's our leader?

Lyle: Who's the leader?

Navy: I like to think of myself as a sort of rolled-up leader brute type.

Lyle: That's fine, because I hate making schedules.

Navy: Okay, well—

Lyle: So that's actually good.

Navy: As the leader brute, I think we should go to this address and check it out.

Lyle: You know what?

Roger: But let's take bagels. Let's take bagels.

Lyle: For sure, you don't want to show up empty handed.

Travis: You guys wave down Amanda T to order some bagels. She brings you out a sloppy bag, dripping wet, of bagels.

Navy: Extra wet, just how they like it. Put it on our tab.

Roger: Mm-hm.

Amanda: Yeah, you always do. I'll put it on the tab.

Lyle: So how you do y'all want to get there? Because we left our car back at the fountain.

Justin: [chuckles]

Navy: Oh, that was so foolish. Let's go get the car.

Griffin: We go take a bus to the museum. [titters]

Justin: Yeah, let's take a bus to the museum and then we'll get our car [chortles] We'll pick up our car there.

Travis: Yeah, I mean, listen—

Clint: Nothing to look at.

Griffin: Are there other animal heroes on the bus?

Travis: It's full of people like getting ready to go to work. I mean, yeah, listen, there's plenty of you know, Abnimal people. Not every Abnimal is on a team, right, so there's plenty of like you know, a koala wearing a business suit. And you know, like there's a man you know, headed into his job at a restaurant. You know, early morning kind of stuff. But you guys are the only ones like sitting there like kitted out in like weaponry and like costumes.

Justin: Can we talk on the way?

Clint: Oh, yeah.

Lyle: So, I've been thinking, man. This really—this walk, it's hot. It's really hot out here, and we haven't slept. I really think we need to hire a... we need to hire somebody to help us out.

Navy: Hm... that's a great idea.

Lyle: We need an employee or something.

Roger: You mean like a personal assistant?

Lyle: Yeah! Don't you think we need to start building the organization?

Navy: Yes.

Lyle: I think if we had one other member that just sort of did this kind of stuff for us, you know? Like a junior member. They wouldn't have to know.

Navy: I love it. Business koala!

Koala: What could I—yeah, how could I help you?

Navy: We have an exciting business opportunity for you, business koala. We are in need of a smart one.

Lyle: Hold on, wait, let me video. Because this will be be—

Koala: Sorry, I don't—

Roger: Wait, wait, wait, wait! Wait, let me sit back—

Koala: I don't consent to me videoed. Is this a prank? Am I—are you—

Lyle: No, it's the best freakin' moment of your life, man!

Koala: Okay, did I win something? Or is—

Navy: What's your name, partner?

Koala: My name?

Navy: Yes.

Koala: Dean.

Navy: Dean? Strong.

Dean: Yeah. It has three E's in it.

Navy: Powerful. I'm Navy Seal.

Dean: Oh? Thank you for your service.

Navy: Oh, so actually, heh, funny story. I was never actually in the military. I was never—it's sort of just my name, my hero name.

Lyle: He's real particular about that, man.

Navy: Yes, it's a—you know, but don't feel embarrassed, Dean, I'm sure you're—

Dean: Oh?

Navy: So but—

Dean: No, I did—I did serve.

Griffin: [guffaws]

Dean: So, I'm not embarrassed. I'm, in fact, very angry.

Navy: Oh?

Lyle: That's a completely fair reaction, man. And you know, that sense of right and wrong is gonna serve you super well as the newest member of our team!

Dean: Excuse me, are you offering me... I'm an accountant.

Lyle: Dean, walk with—

Dean: Mm-hm.

Lyle: Dean, walk with me a minute.

Dean: We're on a bus

Griffin: [laughs]

Justin: [chuckles] To the back of the—

Lyle: Walk with me to the front of the bus, Dean.

Dean: Okay?

Lyle: Where are you headed, partner?

Dean: I'm headed to my job.

Lyle: I tried—what's your job?

Dean: I'm an accountant.

Lyle: [spoofs snoring sounds] Sorry, I got so bored. Listen—

Dean: Oh, I love it.

Lyle: What if I said—

Dean: Every number tells a story. And the spreadsheet is kind of the story of the business, when you think about it.

Lyle: What if the story you were telling could be, "Oof, those guys really kicked a lot of hiney today."

Dean: Sorry, would I be telling a story about you guys kicking hiney? Or am I—

Lyle: You'd be managing our books and our budgets and stuff, and kind of figuring out the whole money part.

Dean: Uh-huh?

Lyle: And then some other stuff like if we, I don't know, were to ever forget our car, you would kind of be our guy, Dean.

Dean: It sounds like an intern, kind of. Like a combination bookkeeper/intern.

Lyle: Actually, Dean, I'm gonna have to stop you there. I'm really against unpaid internships.

Dean: Nobody said unpaid. You said unpaid just now—

Lyle: This would be a volunteer position, Dean.

Justin: [laughs]

Lyle: Oh, I see.

Navy: Well, we do have an in—

Lyle: Strictly volunteer.

Navy: We do have an in at a restaurant where we can get very wet sandwiches, essentially gratis.

Lyle: You want a sniff? Here, check this out. [chuckles]

Dean: Are those—

Lyle: Brace yourself!

Dean: Are those sloppy Submariner bagels?

Navy: They are.

Dean: Oh, I love sloppy Submariner bagels. They're the best.

Lyle: Well, Dean, here's the deal. If you stay on this bus until it goes all the way back around to the restaurant where we got on it—

Dean: Okay?

Lyle: And then you go into our booth, our special booth, they're gonna set you up there permanently, all the bagels you can eat. It's on our tab. No problem.

Dean: Now, is there a chance—because I have a wife and five kids. So is there a chance for advancement? Because right now, I make about \$400,000 a year in my current job.

Navy: Good god!

Lyle: Wow! Wowzer, Dean!

Roger: Do they have any openings?

Lyle: I'm gonna need a second. All for you?

Dean: Well, for me and my wife and five kids.

Lyle: Whew! Dean...

Roger: Can I—fellas, quick discussion. Could we have a quick, just a real—

Lyle: Hey, Dean, is there a Mr. Dean?

Dean: No, there's a Mrs. Dean. I'm married and I have five kids.

Lyle: Ah, dang it. Yeah, it's not really my jam anyway, Dean. But I would love to get a slice of that pie.

Dean: There's pie too? Because I love sloppy Submariner pie.

Lyle: They got pie. There is a huge chance for advancement, Dean. We are currently at ground zero. We're currently at rock bottom. We have a table at a restaurant, so there's a huge opportunity for us to grow!

Dean: Okay? Well then, how about—

Lyle: Together!

Dean: I'll make you a deal. Because you seem like good fellows. I'm gonna keep my full-time job, but I'll be like a part-timer with you guys.

Travis: He hands you another business card. This is your third business card—

Griffin: I was just about to ask! I put it in my deck—

Clint: We're going to need a—

Griffin: My deck—

Clint: We're going to need a Rolodex!

Travis: You are networking your behinds off. You guys are doing an amazing job.

Lyle: Now, listen, Dean, you gotta promise me though that if we need you, man, you gotta promise you'll drop everything to come help us out.

Dean: Okay, I'm not gonna, I don't know if I can—

Lyle: If you're with your kids or something, I don't want to hear about it. I want to hear, "Yeah, Lyle, I'm on it, pal."

Dean: Okay, once you're paying me \$400,001, you got it?

Lyle: Wow! Wow, just hearing the number again, man, I wasn't ready.

Dean: Well, I mean, listen. I'm 57 years old and I've really put the work in to—

Navy: Wow, you look great.

Dean: To get to where I am, so—

Lyle: Dean, I gotta be honest with you, man. These streets would never see me again. 400 Gs and I'm gone.

Justin: [titters]

Navy: I would never take this job—

Dean: And cost of living being what it is, and I've got my five kids to support. Three of them in college. And, yeah, you know—

Lyle: Are any of 'em good at fighting?

Dean: No, they're all nerds like me. But they're nice. They're nice nerds. You'd like them.

Lyle: Well, Dean, this has been real. But if you would hop off at the next stop and grab our car, we actually are getting off here to talk to Carver.

Dean: Oh. Huh.

Lyle: Thank you so much. If you could just drop it at the house so it's waiting outside for us, that would be primo, man. Thank you so much. Well, come on, guys!

Travis: He's hopped off and like you were kind of guiding him near the—

Dean: What? How?

Travis: And the door closes.

Justin: I grab the emergency brake. [chuckles]

Griffin: [laughs]

Dean: Yeah, no. Yeah, sorry, what—I need the keys. If I could just—

Lyle: We're getting off here brother, have a good one!

Griffin: I throw him the key. No, I throw him the keys out the window.

Navy: Keep it hot for us.

Lyle: Do you have a cell number? Here, take my burner.

Roger: It's on the card.

Travis: Yeah, he have you a business card.

Russ: He's got a beeper number on his card.

Travis: He does not! Dean is way cooler than that. He doesn't have a beeper, he has a cool cell phone in a holster on his hip. Okay, so you head on to the address that Carver has given you. You find like a... like set of warehouses. This is like a warehouse district. And the directions he's given you leads you to a specific row of warehouses, and then to a specific warehouse door. And you see like a kind of like hastily written note taped up there that just says, you know, "If you're the three guys that I fought with earlier, come on in."

Griffin: [chuckles] Cool.

Clint: [snickers]

Griffin: I splash myself in some sea water real quick, just to get it—just to get it glistening.

Navy: All right. This could be a big moment for us.

Lyle: Now, let's work really hard to not embarrass Navy in there. All right? This is a big—just because we think the guy's kind of a jerk, let's try to make a good impression. I know I got off on the wrong foot trying to impress him with my moves and my chain and my arm. But let's try to start fresh, all right?

Roger: Excellent.

Navy: I appreciate that.

Roger: Should we reconnoiter before we go in?

Navy: What on earth could that mean?

Russ: Check out the situation. Get a sitrep.

Lyle: Oh, yeah. I love that, actually. Yeah, let's do a little bit of recon on this facility before we head in.

Travis: That's what reconnoiter shortens to; to recon!

Justin: What?

Griffin: I don't think so.

Travis: Reconnoiter is recon.

Justin: No kidding?

Travis: Yeah.

Justin: Another little wrinkle for the old noggin.

Travis: [sings] Doo-doo-doo-doo!

Griffin: Yeah, can we—

Justin: Hey, that's one for the kids, man. That's good—kids, that one's—

Travis: Hey.

Justin: That was free, kids.

Clint: The more you know!

Justin: Gratis. Parents, feel good. [titters]

Griffin: Feel good, parents.

Justin: Feel good, parents! You all learned something.

Travis: You finally did it. Okay, what skills do you guys have that's going to assist you in your recon gathering?

Justin: Is it night time?

Travis: No.

Griffin: [chuckles]

Justin: Not yet, still no. Nothing for me, I'm just gonna take a poke around. You know?

Clint: Yes, I think that's the same thing for Roger. I mean, he has Counterfeit, where he can speak most animal languages and imitate them. But that doesn't really apply. We're just kind of looking around.

Travis: Okay, so you two roll two D8s. And with your bug eyes there, Navy, you're gonna roll three D8s.

[sound of dice thrown]

Griffin: Okay, two successes.

Clint: Seven and seven. Two successes.

Travis: Hm...

Griffin: I think that's actually a cowabunga?

Travis: Yeah.

[sound of dice thrown]

Griffin: A double success.

Justin: Seven and eight.

Griffin: Yeah, a lot of successes going around today.

Travis: Yeah, a lot of successes. And a cowabunga. So I'm going to say, with all those successes—and do make sure, from the fight with Carver, you mark down any failures you guys had.

Justin: I'm going through his—I'm going through his... his trash.

Travis: You're going through his trash?

Justin: Yeah, I'm going through the trash in the building.

Travis: There's a lot of calzone boxes. Like a lot of calzone boxes. And a lot of like paper airplanes and like he's made paper footballs. He's folded up papers to turn 'em into like claws he can put on his fingers. Then it's like—seems like he moved on to like some origami stuff.

Navy: Wow! You could really chart his whole artistic journey in the paper craft.

Lyle: Well, he's really grown a lot...

Clint: Roger's looking for a back entrance.

Travis: You are able to locate a back entrance, but it is like locked and chained from the inside. But there is a window in the door, fairly small, but you are able to see inside. It seems like a big warehouse, but all the lights are kind of turned off. Except like you see him sitting at a desk, and he's sitting there like munching on some like sunflower seeds or peanuts or something. You can't see from there. And he's like kicking little paper footballs, aiming for a trash can about six feet from the desk. And he lands one and you just see him like make it tiny like, "Yeah!" Like touchdown kind of arms. Mostly, he just seems bored.

Griffin: Okay. I'm gonna go on in.

Travis: Yeah? You boys too?

Justin: Yeah. I'm in.

Clint: I think Roger would try to sneak through the window.

Justin: Sure.

Travis: Well, the window, what I talk about is imagine like one of those small, rectangular windows with like the wires running through it.

Justin: Perfect.

Travis: Okay, so you, Lyle and Navy, you guys are just gonna walk in. And you're kind of slicing around, trying to get into the shadows there. As you guys enter, you can see like across, you know, this fairly large warehouse, Carver sitting at a desk. It's like one of those old style like metal kind of teacher's desk things with the lamp. And he clocks you and he's like:

Carver: Ah! Yeah! I knew you guys would take my invitation. This rules! Okay, man, are you guys ready? I knew it! I'm ready to train you. Are you ready to get trained?

Travis: And he flips on a switch, and you see lights come up, and there's all kinds of like fairly dangerous looking training equipment. And he's like

Carver: Welcome, my students, to the Carvery!

[Abminals theme music plays]

Travis: We enter what would seem to be a lavish office, except for one thing. The windows, rather than looking out onto a beautiful city skyline, look into what appears to be a giant saltwater fish tank. Or perhaps a view into the ocean itself. In the center of the room, we see a large desk. The scale of which would be twice that of a normal person. Sitting behind it is an

incredibly large man. Well, half man, half walrus. As he stares out of these aquarium-facing windows, a sniveling half shrimp, half man enters the office.

Man: Do pardon me, Mr. Walrus, sir?

Walrus: Yes, Krilliam?

Krilliam: Yes, hello. I have... well, news, in a way.

Walrus: Were those Bunny Brats able to secure the package?

Krilliam: Well... things started quite promisingly, actually. But that was until a team arrived and somewhat inconvenienced us.

Walrus: That's not possible, Krilliam. I had it arranged so that all the Abnimal teams would be busy tonight.

Krilliam: What an excellent strategic move that was, sir. But this would appear to be a new team.

Walrus: Hm... Well, plan B then. Have the package retrieved from storage at the enforcement HQ, before everything is returned to the museum.

Krilliam: Yes, well, I already thought of that, sir.

Walrus: Excellent work, Krilliam.

Krilliam: I'm afraid the tape was gone, sir.

Walrus: Gone?! I need that tape, Krilliam. Find these Abminals.

Krilliam: Oh, well, I have found them, sir! I was able to follow them to the Submariner, sir. They are working with Carver.

Walrus: Carver?! Carver is alive?

Krilliam: Yes, it would appear so.

Walrus: That is very interesting, Krilliam. Very interesting indeed...

Krilliam: I'm just gonna head off, if that's—if we're cool. We cool? I think we're cool.

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