

RQG – 20 – I'm Byron!

Content Warnings

- Alcohol consumption & drunkenness
- Intimidation
- Injury
- Police
- Discussions of: food
- Mentions of: death, fire & immolation, drugs, vehicular collisions
- SFX: background chatter, ticking, hooves, smashing, loud vocalisations

[Show Theme - Intro]

ALEX

Hello and welcome to episode 20 of the Rusty Quill Gaming podcast.

BRYN

20! Also known as the roleplayer's dozen.

(Group laughter)

ALEX

We're sad, yeah. I'm your and GM and the guy who's piping up is:

BRYN

Bryn Monroe

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JAMES

James Ross

BEN

Ben Meredith

LYDIA

Lydia Nicholas

JAMES?

Hey, it's Bryn Monroe's full name!

(Group laughter)

ALEX

And who do you play?

JAMES

I play Sir Bertrand MacGuffingham, a magnificent knight wearing a dinner service.

(Group laughter)

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BRYN

I play Hamid the halfling sorcerer.

BEN

Zolf the cleric

LYDIA

I play Sasha Racket who moves like ball-bearings that have erupted from a track that crashed on a slight slope.

?

Call-backs!

ALEX

So, picking up where we left off last time, the party have been investigating a scrapbook that was found after the Eddison heist and you guys hit up...

LYDIA

My buddy Gusset

ALEX

And got a bit more info about some rings that are flying around and a little bit about Will..

BEN?

Found out about the mysterious pieces of metal...

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ALEX

Yeah, and the true adamantine, and then from there you headed on to the

?

The British Museum.

ALEX

The British Museum, yeah!

JAMES?

Where we did slightly less damage than government cuts might.

(Group "oooh!")

LYDIA?

Topical

JAMES?

So going to be topical when this episode gets broadcast!

ALL

Yeah!

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LYDIA

That's what you come to this...

(Group laughter and talking)

LYDIA

Actual [unclear 0:01:33]

?

Can we just one day just release an episode of you doing [the doctorate?
unclear 0:01:42] and just not...

(Group laughter)

Just there.

ALEX

So moving on... We visited the MacGuffingham Wing.

Yeah, we visited the MacGuffingham Wing and exposed basically the...

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Just saying, when we finally see the al-Tahan Wing, it's going to be way more impressive.

(Group laughter)

ALEX

And moving on, yeah, you guys accidentally – I say you guys – Brutor managed to accidentally release an evil, forgotten for centuries, which you guys swiftly...

The curator knew all about the evil. He was like, ooh, be careful, there's some evil in there – ah! You've smashed it, the evil's out.

There's evil on the mantelpiece! I hope it doesn't fall off!

It was classic Scooby Doo, basically, we had to be the Scooby Gang.

LYDIA

Chekov's bandits.

(Group laughter)

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ALEX

So anyway, you guys managed to – oh, with a run-in with some, let's call them lawyers, why not, from Bertie's "past", you guys made it and were out after being given a capsule to deliver to Paris – gay Paris!

LYDIA

Oui!

ALEX

So. You currently are on the steps of the British Museum where the curator's politely yet firmly closed the door.

We've just been pressed, digitised to not be stinky.

ALEX

Yes.

LYDIA

I know a really good, like, tavern, where they do like grey soup. Really good...

(Group laughter)

Well, I mean, there's a...

LYDIA

It tastes like, not as strong as black soup and not as weak as white soup.

There's a really nice restaurant just round the corner. My shout, don't worry.

LYDIA

I mean, the grey soup has meat in it.

Is that the place that does the mildew shakes?

ALEX

And that's where we'll jump ahead, we'll say that you guys have, for the first time in the entire campaign, an uneventful time.

?

What?

ALEX

You made it through a meal.

?

For once we're not eating eels

?

What?

ALEX

Although there's...

?

So no-one attacked?

?

I start a food fight. I start food fight!

ALEX

Brutor was not allowed in the restaurant.

?

Ahh.

LYDIA

Oh no!

?

What, so they're going to make us tie an injured dog up in front of the restaurant?

ALEX

Er...

JAMES

That's what rich people do for fun!

(Group laughter)

LYDIA

Again, James, that's our target audience that you've confused and alienated with that...

(Group laughter)

LYDIA

Political commentary!

ALEX

Anyway, so you guys finish your meal and you head on, presumably to the Tahan? Keep things simple, do you head to the one that you went to before to make your deposits, or a different one?

?

Yeah, the same one, I mean the big one, we'll go to the biggest one.

ALEX

Yeah. Yeah, yeah.

?

The local headquarters.

ALEX

Sure. That's fine. And you head into the bank. It is quiet, there are a few people talking to clerks behind sheets of glass and so on, and there's someone else sort of having a conversation off to the side, it's all very civil.

BEN?

Someone's going to try and rob it while we're here, aren't they? That's the kind of thing that's been happening for us today.

LYDIA

Well, yeah, I mean that is kind of our luck, yeah.

BEN?

Right, so everyone be on guard for a robbery?

(Group laughter)

JAMES

Bertie strides up to the counter and knocks on the counter.

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Hello. I would like to make some very risky and ill-advised investments, please. Do you have anything extremely precarious?

ALEX

I'm afraid, sir, that you'd need a stockbroker. You see, we're a bank. What we do is we store your money and transfer it between different locations.

JAMES

Oh, this is a *retail* bank. Well, I would like to speak to a private banker in a small booth.

ALEX

Right-ho. If you just wait there, we'll arrange for someone.

BRYN?

Bertie, do you really need to do that now?

JAMES

Not really, just doing it for show. And you feel like you lose the knack, you know? Of making large gambles with silly amounts of money.

?

Isn't that why you have two very sinister lawyers on your back-up?

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BRYN

I need to speak to the manager, please? Or the head of deposits maybe?

ALEX

Oh, they're quite busy, can I ask who's asking?

BRYN

Hamid al-Tahan.

ALEX

Hm, yeah, no, that's fine. He looks up and then goes:

Oh, oh! Yes, right away, hello sir. Would you like a drink?

BRYN

No, that's fine, don't worry.

JAMES

I would!

ALEX

Er...

BRYN?

Water, please, just some water.

ALEX

Yes! Great.

JAMES

With a whisky in it!

ALEX

Right.

(Group laughter)

ALEX

The clerk moves off. Someone, shaking a little bit, hands everyone a single whisky with a water in it because they just assumed everyone wanted the same thing! And then eventually someone steps out, a very well-dressed halfling who sort of ushers them (makes shhhing sounds) to the people who are behind him and closes the door, and then suddenly he's all smiles.

Hello, Mr Tahan, how are you, sir?

BRYN

I'm very well, thank you. How are you doing?

ALEX

I'm very well. I doubt you'll know me, I'm **Adsun Noob**.

BRYN

Pleasure.

?

Adsun Noob. Yes, I'm sorry, I had forgotten your name, I'm so...

ALEX

That's quite all right, sir.

?

You know how it is. I mean, I didn't mean...

ALEX

We met once. You were two.

?

Yes, obviously. A while ago.

BRYN

How's things?

ALEX

Oh, excellent, excellent, sir. Is this just a... wonderful shape everything's in, it's looking very...

BRYN

Oh...

ALEX

Shipshape, sir.

BRYN

Very impressed by the job you're doing. Well done.

ALEX

Thank you very much sir.

BRYN

We just need some advice, to be honest.

ALEX

Oh? Oh, please, come to my office, sir, I'm so sorry, I'm sorry.

BRYN

It's quite a delicate matter, if you don't mind, you know, just, being discrete.

ALEX

That's fine. We'll take to you the private, that's fine sir, if you'll just give me a moment.

Rusty Quill Gaming – Episode 20 – I'm Byron!

He goes off (whispering sounds) and when he... ducks. You guys can hear ducks. The door opens, he leads you down a very plush corridor into a room. Stepping inside, it's sort of, mahogany desk but it's circular, there's no sort of like, this is the bank's side and this is your side, lots of big comfy chairs. There's a bookcase in the corner, and it's got a window that's just overlooking the street outside, and it's also very quiet and calm and decorated in gentle hues.

Sorry about that, sir. Yes, here we go, it's a bit better. So, what can I do for you and of course your guests?

BRYN

Well, it's a bit of a delicate matter. A friend recently left with me with a safety deposit key.

ALEX

Ah well, yes.

BRYN

But the circumstances were less than ideal and well, you know, it was sort of a parting gift.

ALEX

Oh, I'm so sorry.

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BRYN

Yes, it was...

ALEX

Oh goodness me, I'm so sorry.

BRYN

Unfortunately, the circumstances...

ALEX

Before you go any further, roll me a bluff check.

BRYN

I only rolled a six, but I do have +8 so 14.

ALEX

OK, carry on.

BRYN

And so, unfortunately, you know, with everything else that was happening, they didn't get a chance to tell me the details and I know they wanted me to have it, but they weren't able to actual point me in the right direction, so all I have is the key, unfortunately.

ALEX

Mr Tahan, I mean, far be it from me to tell you how to do... whatever it is we do, but I mean, you are aware that without a proof of identification of the keyholder that's not entirely a...

BRYN

I know, I mean, the thing is, what I need to know really is, is just where the, which bank the key is linked to. I don't even know if it's one of ours or someone else's, I mean that's all I need to know and that will help me get hold of the identification I need.

ALEX

I'm not entirely sure how ethical that is, sir. I mean, you're putting me in an awkward position, sir, if I'm honest. I do want to help but I mean, the rules set down by your own family actually kind of step in the way here...

BRYN

No, of course, I wouldn't you put you in a difficult position. I wouldn't want to have to get anyone else in the family involved.

ALEX

No! No. Er, um, would you happen to have anything, er, anything you could use an identification to prove that they gave it to you in good faith? That would work. Like a, like a token! If you had a token from them, that would do it, or anything really?

BRYN

Yes, of course!

I lie. Um...

JAMES

Perhaps this note on this origami swan?

ALEX

Oh right, OK.

JAMES

As you can see...

At this point I leap into pomp and pageantry mode.

(Group laughter)

JAMES

As you can see, it is written in Japanese. Now, this was bequeathed by the Japanese ambassador, obviously, a very good friend, Ms al-Tahan, I'm sure you're familiar with the long association of the Japanese empire with the al-Tahan family. Close personal friends, you know. We all went to university together, you know, very young chap, the junior ambassador but a very sound fellow, you know. You might think that being in such elevated circles might make a man difficult, might make him reputable, but no, a very generous man.

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We were there when the ceiling fell in and crushed him to bits, like, all over the place. Now, I can paint you a picture with my words that would make your stomach turn, and it would turn into a scene of mild peril.

ALEX

Yes, right.

JAMES

Would be sick.

ALEX

So Japanese ambassador, you're saying?

JAMES

Japanese ambassador.

ALEX

Right, the one...

JAMES

The junior attaché.

BRYN

I told you the circumstances were difficult. It was, you heard about the incident at...?

ALEX

I did, I did.

JAMES

Now, of course you couldn't have it publicised any wider because it would cause a difficult diplomatic matter...

BRYN

Well, we were in the papers for saving all those other people.

ALEX

Say no more, say no more, I'll make some enquiries. Do give me a moment.

He steps out.

BEN?

So that went well.

BRYN

Well, sort of. I mean, I wish it had been simpler.

BEN?

Could you have just said, my dad owns the bank, give me the details or I'll fire you?

BRYN

No! I mean, that wouldn't work.

BEN

Right, fair enough. Your bank, not mine!

BRYN

You know, he has to be, you know, he's right that he's just following the procedures, I mean, you know, I was hoping that, you know, he knew who I was and maybe that would make things simpler, but he, I mean he's good at his job and so he was just doing what he should do, I suppose. But I'm sure they'll tell us, I mean all we need to know is where the bank is, I'm not asking him to do, to open anything, or to, without proper paperwork.

ALEX

He returns, with a safety deposit box in hand, and a sheaf of papers on top and he puts the safety deposit box down the desk and goes:

I'm so sorry, we're having a, we've been having an ongoing problem with our systems recently, I'm not entirely sure what it is. I'm sure it's nothing, I'm sure it's nothing. If you just give me a few more moments, I really, I wish I could be more helpful, just give me a moment, please sir.

BRYN

Of course.

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ALEX

Please, please.

He heads off.

BRYN

There's no rush at all.

ALEX

And closes the door to again.

?

So he leaves the deposit box?

ALEX

He leaves the deposit box on the desk.

LYDIA

I look at Hamid, like, I can give this a, you're going to give this a shock.

BRYN

Well, um...

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LYDIA

See if the key works but, like, otherwise...

BRYN

Yeah, let's just check the key. I mean, I thought it wouldn't be for this bank but we'll just check this key quickly.

ALEX

The key doesn't work.

LYDIA

I...

JAMES?

Why would he leave the deposit box?

BRYN

I don't...

LYDIA

Get in there with my master [wizards? unclear 0:12:23] thief's tools?

ALEX

You can try. Go for it!

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JAMES?

I will start reading the paperwork that he left.

ALEX

Sure.

JAMES?

I want to know what this deposit box is.

ALEX

Go for it.

LYDIA

Yeah, I don't well. 15.

ALEX

15, you don't manage. Reading through the paperwork that's on his desk, sort of leaning over and reading it upside down, it appears that a time-release deposit was left in your name and it was due to release a while ago on your birthday but was retained for some reason. Anyway, he comes back in.

Yeah, sorry about that, sir, sorry about the delay, it sometimes happens. Now you were saying it was for the Japanese attaché?

JAMES

The Japanese attaché.

ALEX

I'm very sorry to tell you, sir, that I believe there's been some kind of mistake. I understand, given the nature of the accident...

JAMES

Well, in the confusion, yes, maybe we ended up with the

ALEX

Naturally, naturally. Yes, I mean that would make sense because the Japanese attaché, he wouldn't have this key, this key is actually tied to Cairo. So there's no way that he'd be using that.

JAMES

No, of course, that's...

ALEX

So I'm afraid that it may have actually been mixed up in the confusion and would you...?

BRYN

Oh no, we'll have to go back and find...

ALEX

Well, I mean, normally in this kind of procedure we'd actually take the key back and hold it, to return it to the original...

BRYN

I'll have to hold onto it, I might need to go back and see one of the other ambassadors from Eddison's and find out how the mix up happened.

ALEX

Oh no, I'm afraid, sir, I really, I really, really can't do that sir. I mean...

BRYN

I'm afraid I'm going to have to insist. I'm really sorry but it's very important, I can't possibly risk offending one of the ambassadors. I understand that you have to follow the procedure, but you must understand that sometimes the good relations of the family with important personages...

?

Can I ask...?

BRYN

All over Europe have to take precedence...

JAMES

Bertie moves in.

ALEX

He's sweating so much!

JAMES

Bertie moves in and closes the doors quietly to the room.

(Group laughter)

JAMES

A very sensitive, diplomatic matter.

LYDIA

Were there any keys in the pile of stuff that he left?

ALEX

No, he brought in just the deposit box and some papers related to that deposit box.

BRYN

While he's talking, I'm just going to very, very quietly cast enhanced diplomacy on myself. Which does give me a bonus to diplomacy or intimidate.

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ALEX

Sure, go for it. I'll say that he was too occupied with, you know, sheer terror at the thought of basically defying the CEO of the company, effectively.

JAMES

Yeah! I'd also like to have a go at seeing if...

ALEX

It's more like, you know what I mean?

JAMES

I would also like to have a go at intimidate, which is what I was leading to there.

ALEX

Sure.

JAMES

I think I'll lead, because I've got a +6 to intimidate.

BRYN

OK, I've just given myself a +2 intimidate, I'll see what I've got, if I've got a better one. I don't think I do. No, I've got a -1!

(Group laughter)

LYDIA

Even with the +2...

BRYN

So actually, can I shuffle over to Bertie and just be like, you're doing it as well?

There you go!

ALEX

Sure, go for it, go for it, give me the roll?

JAMES

Um, can I, can I pomp and pageantry this?

ALEX

Um, I will allow you to, yes.

JAMES

Cool. Do you want that add that out?

ALEX

So add that 1 to your normal modifier and then roll it.

JAMES

Cool. 1 +...

BRYN?

And you get +2 from enhanced diplomacy.

JAMES

OK, so it's this roll plus 9.

ALEX

Yep.

JAMES

And that is a 9... 18.

ALEX

18, OK. OK, carry on.

JAMES

A very sensitive diplomatic matter indeed. Do you know how important the game of diplomacy is? Do you have any idea of the ramifications for the rest of the world if this matter were ever to become public, if we were not able to handle it discretely? Have you ever seen a city aflame?

ALEX

No, no, I, I understand.

JAMES

Have you ever imagined your loved ones trapped in a burning building and Europe is that building.

?

Bertie, I think you're...

JAMES

Your family is on fire. (screaming in agony) it smells like barbeque!

(everyone talking loudly at once)

ALEX

I'm so sorry, I think you've made your point. I'm so sorry, Mr Tahan. All I need is a missive, that was all I was leading to, if you could just write me a disclaimer then I could tie it to your name and then no-one would know and it'd be OK!

BRYN

Yes of course, of course. I just want to you know that I, you know, I don't hold any ill-will for the job you've done today. You've followed procedure absolutely as best you can and I'm going to make sure I mention just how well you're running this, this branch for my...

ALEX

As you're saying this, he's quietly like, hands shaking, he's dealing with some documentation.

BRYN

Can I make a diplomacy roll to make him feel better?

ALEX

Go for it.

JAMES?

And I'm going to make another cringe check.

(Group laughter)

JAMES?

Oooh!

(Group laughter)

?

I notice you make that Ooh sound no matter what you roll.

JAMES?

The roll isn't important, it's the cringing.

BRYN

22 on the diplomacy.

ALEX

OK, as you sooth him with your words...

BRYN

Yes.

ALEX

He slowly, you know, stops shaking and passes over a documentation that basically just says that you are accepting responsibility for waiving certain procedures, blah blah blah, blah blah blah, it's all very straightforward stuff...

BRYN

Yep.

ALEX

Which is fine, and it will allow you to take the key under condition that you are liable for the misplacement or anything that's in the box, blah blah blah.

BRYN

Yeah.

ALEX

And he just hands it over to you. He's not shaking any more, but he's just, yes, that's fine.

BRYN

Of course.

JAMES

Thank you, young man, have this whisky.

(Group laughter)

BRYN

I'm...

ALEX

He actually does start to drink it!

BRYN

Yes. I sign it and then pocket it.

ALEX

No sir, I...

BRYN

It's fine, I'm actually going to travel to Cairo in the near future so I'll take it back to head office and file it there myself, don't worry about it.

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JAMES

Here, have this whisky!

And Bertie passes him Hamid's whisky.

ALEX

Just stood there holding the whisky, just looking between the two of you, he eventually sort of...

JAMES

I just give him my winningest smile.

ALEX

I... I don't...

BRYN?

But now we've got the matter of *that* deposit box.

ALEX

As he's talking, there's a knock at the door and he goes:

(whispers) Oh, for Christ's sake, I'm so sorry (pants).

He goes to the door. (whispering sounds) And then you just hear...

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?

They're talking halfling.

(Group laughter)

ALEX

You just hear (whispering sounds). What do you mean he's here now?
(whispering sounds).

He closes the door.

I'm very sorry, sir. If you could all just give me a moment, there's, there just happens to be another personage of notoriety – er, notoriety, heh. There's another VIP client...

BRYN

Of course, of course.

ALEX

That I have to go and see. Um, I...

BRYN

We're very happy to wait, we've got no, nothing to rush on to.

ALEX

That's fine. He may actually be able to shed some light on the situation.

Rusty Quill Gaming – Episode 20 – I'm Byron!

He opens the door and heads out into the corridor and disappears.

?

Why on earth would whoever's turned up be able to shed some light on the situation?

BRYN?

Oh dear, maybe it's one of the ambassadors?

JAMES

Oh, that's going to make things complicated!

LYDIA

Can we sneak out of here?

?

Yeah, shall we just take the deposit box and...

BRYN

Well, we don't know.

JAMES

It is your deposit box.

Rusty Quill Gaming – Episode 20 – I'm Byron!

BRYN

I think we should wait. I don't want to – we've already given this poor, poor man...

ALEX

You hear from the distance:

(shouted) Don't you know who I am?

JAMES

Do we know who that is?

ALEX

Not really! It's...

JAMES

OK, can we attempt to work it out?

ALEX

You could give me a knowledge and ability?

JAMES

14 + 7 is 21.

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ALEX

He sounds like a bad impression of Byron.

JAMES

A bad impression of Byron?

ALEX

A bad impression of Byron.

I'm Byron, I don't have time for this! Just give me a, for goodness sake, this is ridiculous!

JAMES

Last time we saw Byron he was in bits. There's no way that he would sound like that, in such hale and hearty health, given the massive amount of opium he'd have consumed to get over it!

(Group laughter)

BRYN

I go to the door and open it.

ALEX

You see the manager is desperately trying to calm down someone who vaguely has Byron's build – tall, very, very like portly, you can't really make out the details of the face just because of the lighting but he's just making a big scene.

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I don't have time for this! I'm far too busy!

BRYN

Please, won't you come in? I'm sure we can do something to help you. What seems to be the problem?

ALEX

The face turns, looks, sees you.

Oh!

And then he turns and just dashes out of the bank.

JAMES

Bertie just charges after him and attempts to pin him to the wall.

ALEX

OK, everyone give me initiative order.

BEN

No. Because this is a chase, I'm not even going to bother!

(Group laughter)

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JAMES

Oh, so my initiative totals 1, but I've just got an 18.

ALEX

Yeah, so that is 19.

BRYN

That's your bonus, like your attack.

JAMES

Oh right, OK.

LYDIA

This is going to be interesting, because I got 7 so...

BRYN

That's impressive. You're really quick off the mark!

LYDIA

Yeah!

ALEX

Anyone impersonating Byron!

(Group laughter)

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BRYN

I got 6 so...

LYDIA

Right.

ALEX

Bertie gets the jump on everyone.

LYDIA

I'd leaned back into one of the incredibly comfortable, [unclear 0:20:12] chairs.

BEN

Wait, just to see... I rolled a critical 1.

(Group laughter)

LYDIA

Yeah! See, the dice, they know.

BEN?

So that, actually, it does know that I don't want you to roll.

ALEX

The dice, they know. Bertie's never noticed anything before, but if someone's impersonating Byron...

BEN

Yes!

ALEX

Oh, I'm on him like a shot! It's very satirical on this one, and it's a different demographic today. Right! OK. So, pseudo-Byron dashes out.

LYDIA

Or PB!

ALEX

Bertie. You're up. What do you do?

JAMES

Right. So, I'm going to charge after Byron. What I'm attempting to do is knock him down so that we can like hold him down and question him about his impersonating Byron.

ALEX

OK. You dash out to the doorway and you turn and you see that he's making a beeline for a carriage.

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JAMES

I charge at the carriage – is he in the carriage yet?

ALEX

Not yet.

JAMES

OK. I charge after him.

ALEX

OK. Sasha. Bertie's dashed off after Byron.

LYDIA

I put my whisky down, which is why I scored so low.

(Group laughter)

It was very good whisky, and then I run after him.

ALEX

Even with the delay, you are now pretty much overtaking Bertie.

LYDIA

Am I at the carriage, how far do you want to go?

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ALEX

Not yet.

LYDIA

OK.

ALEX

You are at least one turn away.

LYDIA

I was running!

ALEX

OK. Hamid?

BRYN

I also rush out of the door but I don't do like a full run action. Because the second I step out the door and see he's heading to a carriage I cast acid splash.

ALEX

Ooh!

BRYN

Targeting one of the carriage's wheels.

Rusty Quill Gaming – Episode 20 – I'm Byron!

ALEX

Nice!

LYDIA

Yeah, nice!

ALEX

OK. Um...

BRYN

It's a ranged touch attack.

ALEX

On a carriage, so it's not exactly a small target.

BRYN

Well, I'm aiming specifically for the wheel. 18, 20.

ALEX

That's a hit on the wheel.

BRYN

I don't do very much damage, but it is obviously acid-based.

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ALEX

Mm-hm?

BRYN

1. I did 1 damage.

(sound of tyre going down)

ALEX

OK. Pseudo-Byron.

BEN

It's my go!

ALEX

Oh, I'm sorry, I thought you weren't partaking!

BEN

Well, not in the chase!

ALEX

Oh, OK.

BEN

Picking up the remaining whiskies, I will enjoy them.

(Group laughter)

ALEX

Oh yes, very good, right, in which case, then...

BEN

Roll to enjoy...

LYDIA

That's a critical fail of enjoyment, you are cringing!

BEN

No, that's not actually – a 3, that's a 3!

LYDIA

Cringing at your...

ALEX

Yeah, you're dividing that 3 by 3 whiskies, it's not good.

BEN

Ah, no.

LYDIA

You're not enjoying those whiskies.

BEN

I just, I know it's good but I can't enjoy them, OK, I don't know enough about them, I'm a bit disappointed that I don't. Ruined the experience, really.

ALEX

And back to the, you know, chase that's literally happening.

JAMES

Yeah, the highly exciting high speed chase!

ALEX

So, yeah.

LYDIA

I like the smash, kind of like *Run, run, run, run!* first. I mean, someone sniffing a glass and we're like *Wheee!*

JAMES?

And then back to *Run, run, run, run!*

ALEX

Sorry James. Yep, so, let's just call him Byron for the sake of speed. Byron, he rushes up and there is actually someone on the carriage, it looks like it's actually just a cabbie, basically a hansom carriage. Without further ado, he reaches up, yanks the guy out of the seat, leaps up into the driver's seat, grabs the reins and (sound of reins cracking) starts pulling the horses away. Despite the acid in the wheels which he doesn't appear to have noticed, the carriage starts pulling away.

Bertie, you're up.

JAMES

How far away am I from the carriage?

ALEX

If you were to sprint, I could give you a chance to leap and grab hold of it.

JAMES

I am going to sprint and leap onto the carriage. The moving carriage. As part of this exciting, high-speed chase.

ALEX

Give me a reflex...

LYDIA

In full plate armour.

JAMES

In full plate armour! It says this + 1 – ah, 2. 3.

ALEX

So Bertie charges after (clank, clank, clank, clank, clank, clank, clank), jumps, misses it pretty significantly, you know, forgetting that you're jumping with full plate...

LYDIA

(clang.....)

ALEX

And just (scratching sounds)

JAMES

I suppose he can't really jump, it's more like a (thump).

ALL

Yeah.

JAMES

Like B—ah.

Rusty Quill Gaming – Episode 20 – I'm Byron!

ALEX

And immediately, like, you I'm afraid...

LYDIA

Hopping and falling through.

ALEX

Yeah, you're prone, face-down (crashing sound). Argh.

JAMES

Yeah.

ALEX

At which point...

LYDIA

Sasha...

ALEX

Sasha, you're up.

LYDIA

Runs along and, since Bertie's directly in the path...

Rusty Quill Gaming – Episode 20 – I'm Byron!

JAMES

Jumps off Bertie, yeah.

LYDIA

I'm going to jump off Bertie onto the carriage.

ALEX

Do it. Do it. Give me the roll.

LYDIA

15. What would it be plus?

ALEX

It would be reflex? It's just that I'm using reflex here.

LYDIA

+ 6.

ALEX

Yeah, that'll make it...

LYDIA

21.

Rusty Quill Gaming – Episode 20 – I'm Byron!

ALEX

So, yeah, running, you, with Bertie face down you jump, leap off, that's right...

LYDIA

I leap off the back of his helmet...

ALEX

And onto the back of the moving carriage.

LYDIA

Yeah.

ALEX

And that'll take that turn. OK. Hamid?

BRYN

I jump onto the closest vehicle...

ALEX

Mm-hm.

BRYN

Stuff a handful of gold coins into whoever is driving it's hands, and say:

Follow that carriage!

ALEX

I normally would have said that it'll take you longer, but I've never heard anyone manage to fit in *Follow that carriage!* before (group laughter) so I'm going to allow this. The hansom driver looks at it, goes *Pfft*, looks in the bag, drops the bag and (reins cracking sound), *Go, go, go, go, go go!* And he's urging them on.

OK, Zolf.

BEN?

You know, I've never really learned to appreciate this kind of whisky.

(Group laughter)

Ahhhh. And that was it.

ALEX

Smash cut back to Bertie. You're face-down currently and the carriage is pulling away from you.

JAMES

They're both just speeding away and there's no chance I can catch them because...

Rusty Quill Gaming – Episode 20 – I'm Byron!

ALEX

On foot, no.

JAMES

No.

ALEX

I would allow you to try and get up onto Hamid's carriage as it pulls past you, before it splashes dirt in your face.

JAMES

Fine, I will do that, I will leap for Hamid's carriage.

ALEX

Another reflex save, then.

JAMES

8 + 1

LYDIA

You were [unclear 0:24:58]!

ALEX?

I reached down and – to help...

Rusty Quill Gaming – Episode 20 – I'm Byron!

JAMES

That's not going to help at all.

ALEX

Even with an 8 it's not enough.

JAMES

[I have? unclear 0:25:02] four times more than you.

ALEX

So as the carriage speeds past you and Hamid leans out to grab you, you do another leap, and another face plant because...

(Group laughter)

ALEX

And you just see, you pull your face out of the mud and just see Hamid pulling away with his hand out going, *Ooh, sorry!*

(Group laughter)

LYDIA

Listeners, this is a fan art [episode? unclear 0:25:19]

(Group laughter)

LYDIA

She says, while riding a carriage off into the distance.

ALEX

OK, so the carriage is speeding along, it's careening left and right, whoever's driving desperate to get away. They're also really bad at driving, to the point where, you know, clipping lampposts and things like that, a bit of the carriage has already snapped off as he's clipped a lamppost, and then he makes his way across and he's heading to a very, very sharp corner, and then he gives it a big, huge go with the reins and... The carriage just falls short of tipping but nonetheless it's throwing Sasha out so you're...

LYDIA

Going to [unclear 0:25:53]

ALEX

You're due to hit a lamppost.

LYDIA

Right.

ALEX

At which point, I'm going to take a break there!

Rusty Quill Gaming – Episode 20 – I'm Byron!

EVERYONE

Ooooooh!

ALEX

And we'll get back to it in a couple of minutes.

And welcome back. So Sasha, you are due to hit a lamppost.

LYDIA

Right.

ALEX

Flung out, holding onto the carriage, you're powering towards the lamppost with your body almost horizontal because of the angle the carriage is going.

LYDIA

Yeah. Well, I'm strong! I'm going to pull myself back in and back onto the top.
Do I need to roll a check?

ALEX

Give me a strength check.

Rusty Quill Gaming – Episode 20 – I'm Byron!

LYDIA

Gosh darn it.

ALEX

It's reflex to let go and strength to pull yourself back in.

LYDIA

Yeah. Grrr.

?

Acrobatics to flip.

LYDIA

Yeah – ooh, so if I'm horizontal, I think, I've just got to flip myself backwards so I'm not pulling straight out.

ALEX

I'd allow acrobatics instead.

?

Push off, push off the lamppost.

LYDIA

Push off the lamppost, back and [unclear 0:26:37] and...

Rusty Quill Gaming – Episode 20 – I'm Byron!

?

And bounce.

ALEX

Just give me the roll.

LYDIA

I want to describe the moving!

ALEX

Describe it after you've done the roll.

LYDIA

OK. Oh 4...

ALEX

You don't.

LYDIA

But + 8! So 12.

ALEX

You will not be succeeding in this. Tell me what you would intend to do.

LYDIA

OK, well, as Sasha is thrown, so there's the lamppost, she sort of brings her legs in a little bit and tries to sort of push as she goes right past, just try and push off it and pulls herself back in, but she misses by just a millimetre, like her feet sort of slide off and instead of pushing herself back in from the lamppost she actually sort of manages to force her legs a bit dangly further and her body is like a spinning top!

ALEX

And it clips you in one of your legs, dealing 1 **D3** damage.

LYDIA

Ooo!

ALEX

I can roll for you?

LYDIA

Yep.

ALEX

Oh, only dealing 1 damage as you just clip the lamppost, but the carriage does a flip at least. Hamid, you're up. You're currently, *Following that carriage!* It's still in sight. The driver that you have is significantly better because, you know, it's their job and they get good at it, so you are making up time and you've just seen it careening round the corner so you've just lost sight of it this second.

BRYN

I'll say, there's another 20 gold if you can catch it! If I get a chance, I'll take another acid splash attack on it.

ALEX

Sure.

BRYN

[unclear 0:27:47]

ALEX

It won't be this turn.

BRYN

Yeah.

ALEX

Because of the corner. But it would be next turn. Fair enough. Zolf. Come back to!

BEN

Having finished both his whiskies, he wanders off in search of more.

(Group laughter)

BEN

Excuse me! Any more of the free drinks?

ALEX

Come back to! So, Byron riding along, feels a clip, turns over and sees that Sasha is holding on for dear life.

LYDIA

Dangling.

ALEX

Dangling, as it were.

LYDIA

Probably noticed when I went, *OWWW!*

ALEX

(laughs) So, he's hurrying along, he's hurrying along, he looks left, he looks right, and then throws himself off the moving carriage into... a carriage that's beside it, which is carrying, basically, vegetables and stuff like that in the back, just a cart, and he throws himself onto it, they seem to break most of his fall, and that's what he's doing with his turn, and the carriage is now careening wildly and unmanned.

Bertie, you're up.

JAMES

So how far away are these guys, in walking distance?

ALEX

Let's put it this way, you're going to make it back to some commiseration drinks with Zolf faster than you can make it to the chase.

JAMES

OK, right. Can I see any just, like, horses that appear to be loosely tethered around anywhere?

ALEX

Not really in this part of town, you know it's mostly carriages. There is another hansom waiting and ready to go, like a bit further up the street, but that'll be the best you can do. There's no Wild Western, like, hitching posts.

JAMES

Right, and again, sort of technical question. How would a ride, my ride skill compare to that of a normal hansom cab driver?

ALEX

You would be probably better than the average cabbie.

Rusty Quill Gaming – Episode 20 – I'm Byron!

JAMES

OK, fair enough.

ALEX

Even with his own horse he had problems.

JAMES

Yep, and what a reasonable offer to a hansom cab driver be if I was to just...

ALEX

You tell me, James. You're asking out of character when you could be doing it in character! What are you doing?

JAMES

I genuinely have no idea what it would be, you know...

ALEX

Neither would Bertie!

JAMES

That's true.

LYDIA

He's just offered 20 gold to [somebody? unclear 0:29:31]

Rusty Quill Gaming – Episode 20 – I'm Byron!

ALEX

So, go. What do you do?

BRYN

Yeah, but I'm massively overpaying, yeah.

LYDIA

Yeah.

JAMES

Bertie runs up to the hansom cab.

ALEX

Clank, clank, clank, clank, clank, clank, clank.

JAMES

[unclear 0:29:37] clank, clank, clank, clank, clank. You there! You there!

Hansom cab cabbie! Cabbie! You there! How much for your cab, right now?

ALEX

What, it? The whole thing?

JAMES

The whole thing. Come on, time's a-wasting, we're losing daylight here.

Rusty Quill Gaming – Episode 20 – I'm Byron!

ALEX

100 gold. No – wait! 150.

JAMES

I'll give you 20.

ALEX

Er, er, 140.

JAMES

20.

ALEX

Er, 130.

JAMES

20.

ALEX

140.

JAMES

20.

ALEX

I'm going to leave this playing out...

(Group laughter)

ALEX

Jumping to... Sasha. You're up on a...

LYDIA

I'm jumping...

ALEX

You're still holding on but...

LYDIA

I'm jumping off the back, I think, because I'm guessing that vegetable truck is slow and I'm leading.

ALEX

You're on the opposite side to the vegetable truck, so the vegetable truck has been on the left hand side; you're currently hanging onto the right hand side. So you can't drop onto the same carriage.

LYDIA

I don't, yeah I just want to drop onto the ground. I miss the ground.

ALEX

Oh, sure. Give me an acrobatics check.

LYDIA

13 + 8.

ALEX

Yeah, basically the carriage starts tottering wildly. At the exact moment that it's at its most tilt, your feet just skim the ground. You let go and just run and start killing the momentum just by running, it's very graceful and just ahead of you the carriage tilts (crashing sound) onto its side (more crashing), scraping along the pavement and slams up against a lamppost (more crashing). The horses aren't hurt but they are sort of loose and take off together, still hitched.

Hamid? You are now back in sight of the carriage, which has now tipped over and you see a carriage coming towards you and in the back of it you see Byron, standing up, looking and just seeing your face.

BRYN

I yell to Byron, *Stop!!* Before we go careening past and I will point my finger at Byron and just say, *Surrender!*

(Group laughter)

Rusty Quill Gaming – Episode 20 – I'm Byron!

ALEX

It'll be a bluff check.

BRYN

It's not a bluff!

ALEX

He doesn't know that though.

BRYN

I'm going to shoot him in the face!

(Group laughter)

BRYN

If he does not!

?

I love that there is like, you can't do anything. [madam? unclear 0:31:25]

Aaaagh! Aaaagh!

BRYN

22 on the bluff check.

Rusty Quill Gaming – Episode 20 – I'm Byron!

ALEX

OK. The guy looks worried. I won't say what he does until his turn.

Zolf! You're back on.

BEN

I'm still looking for that booze.

(Group laughter)

ALEX

You encounter an underlying, who's holding a decanter and looking a bit concerned, because you're just wandering round the back of the bank.

BEN

Wonderful! Thank you very much. I will be taking this back to my meeting room.

(Group laughter)

And I will take the decanter and stomp back off.

ALEX

(laughing) You're going to be doing fort saves to see how drunk you are when everyone gets back!

BEN

Yes I am!

ALEX

(laughs) OK. So Byron, seeing the threat, drops down prone into the back of the cart and that's all you see. You just see the head go (makes scared sound) and duck down.

Sasha?

LYDIA

I run after the cart and try and jump on the back?

ALEX

Easily and it's moving so slow I won't even require the reflex save, it's just a slow cart.

LYDIA

Right, so...

ALEX

He didn't think this through.

(Group laughter)

LYDIA

He's sat in there, no, I've got a dagger. I climb onto the edge of the thing and I flick out my daggers and I'm like, *Surrender!!!!* (with falling/uncertain inflection)

(Group laughter)

ALEX

So when you hop up onto the carriage...

LYDIA

It's not confident [unclear 0:32:32]

ALEX

And yell that with your dual wielding daggers.

LYDIA

Yep. Daggers.

ALEX

You see Byron attempting to bury himself in potatoes. The second that he sees you he just, he's just hands up, dropping a potato from each hand, looking a bit dishevelled. His hair is completely skewiff, like falling off his head wig territory, and he's just there, holding up his hands.

Rusty Quill Gaming – Episode 20 – I'm Byron!

LYDIA

(uncertainly) Right, you, you! I've got you now! You'd better explain... Hamid?
Hamid, why are we chasing him?

(Group laughter)

ALEX

Sasha's usually on the other end of this conversation, like we've got you now!

LYDIA

Yeah! What're you... You'd better come with me to the bank – wait, we didn't want you at the bank. Hamid!

BRYN

No, we'll take him back to the bank for questioning.

LYDIA

All right!

BRYN

But tie his hands behind his back.

LYDIA

I can do that.

Rusty Quill Gaming – Episode 20 – I'm Byron!

(Group laughter)

I've got rope.

ALEX

You won't even need to do a check, yeah, you tie it behind his back, he just keeps going:

Don't you know who I am? I'm Byron! By-ron! I'm Byron!

BEN?

Will someone please ask him what his first name is?

ALEX

Neh, I'm pretty sure my first name was always Lord, wasn't it?

(Group laughter)

So...

JAMES

20 gold.

ALEX

You...

Rusty Quill Gaming – Episode 20 – I'm Byron!

JAMES

20 gold.

(Group laughter)

20 gold.

BEN?

In this episode, Bertie's [unclear 0:33:41]

ALEX

109. I can't go any lower.

JAMES

20 gold.

ALEX

Aaagh! At which point...

BRYN

Bertie! We've got him!

JAMES

Oh, lovely. All right, fine, sorry, deal's off.

Rusty Quill Gaming – Episode 20 – I'm Byron!

ALEX

I – but – er. And yeah, you just walk off...

JAMES

April fool.

ALEX

(laughs) Leaving the guy so nonplussed as to what has just happened.

BRYN

I gave my cabbie a total of 30 gold during that encounter.

LYDIA

Goodness me.

BRYN

It's fine. I've still got loads.

(Group laughter)

ALEX

OK, cool, yeah, you obviously reconvene with them, marching Byron in inverted commas ahead of them back towards the bank.

Rusty Quill Gaming – Episode 20 – I'm Byron!

JAMES

Ah, Byron in inverted commas...

ALEX

He looks at you with just daggers. Just daggers.

LYDIA

Wait, I've got all the daggers...

(Group moan)

ALEX

He looks at you with crockeries, just crockeries...

(Group laughter)

He seems to specifically hate Bertie.

LYDIA

Ooo!

BEN?

Ah. Someone who's met Bertie!

(Group laughter)

ALEX

Yeah, you guys head back into the bank and there's no Zolf but there is the person you were speaking to, the manager, just sort of co-ordinating, there seems to be a police officer there already and he's going:

(breathless) Yes, well, I don't really know what happened. So he was just here and then he ran off and I don't understand what's happening, but I'm sure – there they are, there they are, there they are! That's him!

BRYN

Good afternoon, officer, we've caught the impersonator.

ALEX

I'm By-ron!

BRYN

Shut up!

JAMES

What's your first name? And where are your swans?

(Group laughter)

ALEX

He kind of makes a go for Bertie, even with his hands tied up, he just kind of throws himself forward in a vague sense of...

JAMES

Aw, you missed me, aah, sucks to be you! Now...

ALEX

(laughs) As he's doing so, like, the wig on his head flops further forward, the moustache that he has is slipping...

BRYN?

We've undisguised him.

JAMES?

Yeah.

ALEX

Just a grab, yank, grab, yank.

?

It's just press the digitator.

?

Just wipe any make-up off his face.

ALEX?

Oh, so it's just, like, wig just (popping sound)

?

Yeah.

ALEX

Everything flops off and [unclear 0:35:35] and then...

BRYN

Thematically, was it Mr Willikers the janitor all along?

(Group laughter)

JAMES

You wish!

ALEX

Do you know who it is though?

BEN?

It's becoming more and more like Scooby Doo every episode!

ALEX

It's Figgis.

(Group laughter and aahs)

JAMES?

I mean, I don't know what that is, I wasn't here.

LYDIA

It's the guy from...

BEN?

I know who it is and it's not...

?

Yeah.

ALEX

Yep, they're...

JAMES

But we know who he is.

ALEX

Yeah, you all recognise him as Figgis, wearing a fat suit and he, it's like, costume-wise he's made a decent attempt. And like he's fatted up his cheeks and stuff and you see like fake jowls drop off as you press the digitator off and stuff. And he's just there, glaring daggers at Bertie.

JAMES

Bertie picks up the false moustache from the floor, puts it on his hand, like that, so, you know who, he can do, this is going to be very difficult to describe for the listeners...

BEN?

The little curled fist thumb mouth thing.

JAMES

Curled fist thumb mouth thing.

LYDIA

Yeah.

JAMES

He does that, and Bertie goes:

Hi, I'm Mr Figgis, I'm going to impersonate Lord Byron and try and get loads of money out of the bank using the worst disguise I've ever seen. *Mur, mur, mur, mur, mur.*

LYDIA

I didn't [unclear 0:36:33]

Rusty Quill Gaming – Episode 20 – I'm Byron!

JAMES

Mur, mur, mur, mur, mur, mur, mur, mur.

LYDIA

That's a pretty good disguise, you know.

ALEX

I'm going to be honest, normally I'd shoot you down but we've established Bertie's *amazing* at disguises, all right?

(Group laughter)

Yeah, Figgis is just glaring.

I'll have you. I will one day. I don't know how but I'll have you. And then you'll be like, oh no, it's you! And I'll be like, yeeeah! And then I'll have you.

JAMES

Oh, I'm, Figgis, I'm really terrifying on the opposite day, and boo-hoo hoo hoo hoo.

BRYN

Officer, I suggest you charge this man with impersonation of a member of the nobility...

Rusty Quill Gaming – Episode 20 – I'm Byron!

JAMES

Very poor impersonation – *attempted* impersonation of the nobility.

BRYN

Attempted fraud, assault, breaking and entering from that previous time.

LYDIA

And all those potatoes that he's mused up.

(Group laughter)

BRYN

Potato assault, of course.

ALEX

So, yeah.

BEN?

Carousing with vegetables!

ALEX

The copper just gives him like, way over your, he just clamps him and then he just starts walking him off and he says:

Rusty Quill Gaming – Episode 20 – I'm Byron!

I'll be back later for any witness statements. I've got enough from the manger but if anyone wants to add anything...

And just marches him off, nice and quick. And the manager's now going:

Oh, goodness me. That was exciting, wasn't it? Oh, hum...

BRYN

All in a day's work!

ALEX

Oh, clearly. I had no idea that...

LYDIA

Do you know where our boss is?

BRYN?

Back in the meeting room, I guess?

ALEX

Oh, er, presumably!

LYDIA

Probably on his way here.

Rusty Quill Gaming – Episode 20 – I'm Byron!

ALEX

Give me three fort saves.

BEN

I shall.

ALEX

First one?

BEN

I shall do them all at once.

BEN

Shouldn't you get some sort of bonus for being a dwarf, because you're Elkie
or something?

BRYN?

That's racist.

(Group laughter)

BEN?

Can you get a bonus for being an ex-sailor?

Rusty Quill Gaming – Episode 20 – I'm Byron!

BRYN?

Er, that's careerist!

(Group laughter)

ALEX

Give me the rolls.

BEN

But it might also be true. (rolls) That's a critical success, a critical failure and an 18!

(Group laughter)

JAMES?

How are we dealing with this?!

BEN

Presumably the success and the failure just cancel each other out!

ALEX

A critical success and a critical fail means it, yeah.

LYDIA

No, no, we're rolling-playing drunkenness! And you can definitely have both within minutes.

ALEX?

OK.

(Group laughter)

JAMES?

Not that we'd know. Unless, unless...

BEN

I'll give these to you and can order them in any way you wish.

ALEX

So here's what happens. So, Zolf, the first one that Zolf drank – oh, that was not much to it, a lot of water in that one, you're like, *eh, it's probably weak*. So then you have the next one with the whisky and water, *oh yes, this is quite weak*. So you eventually with the decanter, you made it back and you were like, *there's nothing to it*, and have necked a bunch and gone (exploding sound) – *woah! Woah, woah!*

(Group laughter)

Rusty Quill Gaming – Episode 20 – I'm Byron!

You're going to be taking a minus... and there are rules for alcohol, I don't like them.

BEN

How many minuses are inherent in this face?

(Group laughter)

ALEX

You're going to be taking a - 3 to all charisma rolls but if you get a natural 1 you are in so much trouble.

BEN?

So that's a - 6?

(Group laughter)

ALEX

So you're on a - 3 for your charisma rolls, and everyone comes back in with the manager.

LYDIA

Well, how's his dex?

ALEX

Oh, to clarify, he'll be taking a - 3, let's say...

LYDIA

To everything?

ALEX

Yeah, go on!

BEN?

I would apply that to everything!

ALEX

Yeah, go on.

BEN?

Maybe a - 6 to wisdom.

ALEX

I realise there are rules for alcohol, but let's keep it moving, yeah you've got a - 3 to everything! So, the manager comes back in with you guys and finds Zolf there.

Oh, sorry, I didn't mean to leave you here on your own.

BEN

Don't worry about it! Having a great time.

ALEX

OK. Um, yes, well, that was something. That missive, yes, given the circumstances, yes, er...

BEN

Does anybody else, is the table a bit wobbly?

JAMES

Table?

(Group laughter)

BEN

[unclear 0:40:02] kind of wobbling it, going, *I'm pretty sure the table's a bit wobbly.*

LYDIA

Zolf, don't get bloody started on tables.

(General mumbling)

BEN?

Oh, what, table murder that he is, yes.

Rusty Quill Gaming – Episode 20 – I'm Byron!

ALEX

(as manager) So, I've totally lost my track. We were, er...

LYDIA

You'd just like given him the key and we'd all signed all the forms and everything was fine. You were just going to open this safety deposit box for...

BEN?

Yeah, the one for him...

ALEX

Give me a diplomacy check.

LYDIA

Sorry, yeah.

ALEX

To just bamboozle him to the point where he's that flustered that he's just going to go with it.

LYDIA

I think my diplomacy is not good. Yeah, -1.

ALEX

Go for it.

LYDIA

Three 1s.

(Group laughter)

I will roleplay that!

It's you! So that box, you've gotta, you know, what the open thing is...

ALEX

Well, I...

LYDIA

Opening the thing that you should just...

(All talking over each other)

BEN

I don't know what's going on here, but I know I'm convinced.

LYDIA

But you look, you look rubbish at what you do so you should prove it right by doing this for us!

(Group laughter)

BRYN

Hamid has his head in his hands.

Why don't the rest of you just wait outside while I just wrap up here?

ALEX?

But Sasha was doing really well!

JAMES

What she said, basically!

LYDIA

I just chased down a criminal! What did you do with your last [unclear 0:41:08]

BRYN

Would you just, would you just wait outside please? Please, just wait outside!

BEN

Is that what you were doing while I was got...

JAMES

Bertie withdraws his sword and eyes the table.

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BEN

Did you, did you have? Did you all have a [unclear 0:41:20]

BRYN

Everybody out!

BEN

All right, Squeaky McShort Arms!

(Group laughter)

We'll do what you say!

LYDIA

Zolf, you, have they poisoned you, Zolf?

BEN

(laughing) I think I've poisoned myself!

ALEX

For the sake of keeping moving, I'm going to say that...

JAMES

Bertie's then, he ushers both of them out of the room.

ALEX

Yeah. Cool.

JAMES

Powering back with [unclear 0:41:39]

ALEX

Both Sasha and apparently Captain Jack Sparrow! Yeah, the door closes and the manager goes:

Oh, I'm, yes, sorry, right, um.

He ends up actually just passing the missive over to you anyway along with the key.

Right, yes, um, the box. This was left in our possession on a time release for your birthday, but then we never got the go-ahead. We were, so it just sort of sat here, but I thought, well, since you're here anyway you might want it. It's in your name!

BRYN

OK, well I'll take a look then.

ALEX

Right, so he plucks out a key that he had on his person, opens it and then hands it over to you, like, unlocked but not open.

BRYN

I open it.

ALEX

You open it. There are a pair of sort of shimmering, pearlescent tubes of material in the bottom and then a note in an envelope put on top.

BRYN

I read the note.

ALEX

Written on it is: Our dearest son. We know that you have some troubles but you know it means so much to us how you stick at your studies, even through all of the problems. We love you very much, Mother and Father. And then a little kiss.

BRYN

I try really hard not to cry.

LYDIA

Crashes and laughter from the outside.

Hey, Zolf, that's insane!

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BEN

I know! I can just take it off and wave it around!

(Group laughter)

JAMES

Dude, that is sick.

(Group laughter)

ALEX

And cut back to the interior where the manager's just:

I hope it's nothing bad. I have no idea...

BRYN

No, no, it's fine, thank you so much.

ALEX

You're very welcome.

BRYN

I do really appreciate it.

ALEX

Well, if there's anything else I can do for you, do let me know.

BRYN

No, no, you've done more than enough. I really appreciate all your help and thank you for, you know, understanding that sometimes not every situation will be covered by the existing procedures.

ALEX

Right, well, I hope, if there's anything else...

He opens the door and just...

BRYN

You've really been wonderful.

I'll give him a very warm, friendly handshake.

ALEX

I thought you were going to say, I give him a very warm friendly tip!

(Group laughter)

Yeah, sure, he opens the door and just slowly ushers you out and everything seems to be settling down and all of the gang are hanging out...

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BRYN

I assume that these things are the magic item we previously talked about.

ALEX

Indeed! Would you care to identify them?

BRYN

They are called Sleeves of Many Garments.

EVERYONE

Oooh!

ALEX

And what do they do?

BRYN

Basically, I slip them on onto my wrists and I can instantly transform my clothing to anything I want it to be.

ALEX

The best present a parent could give a fanciful child. Ahhh.

BRYN

Definitely still at university.

ALEX

Yeah. So, anyway, you head outside and, yeah, Zolf's looking a bit the worse for wear...

BEN

Well, I currently have my peg leg off...

(Group laughter)

And am hopping around fencing with it. That was what I could take off and wave it around!

LYDIA

Ahh! It's Zolf!

JAMES

I'm presently holding my rapier by the sharp end, so I'm just waving the pommel at him.

LYDIA

Zolf, sing us a pirate shanty!

ALEX

OK, guys, time for dinner!

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?

What?

ALEX

Dinner. It's coming onto 6pm at this point.

BEN

Yep, I, wait, I'm just, he will attempt to walk, forgetting that he's taken his peg leg off.

ALEX

Ahhh.

BEN

And fall flat on his face. Ow.

ALEX

So I'll leave it there, with Zolf stumbling around without his prosthesis whilst everyone else is either making a laugh or... Hamid's just there.

JAMES?

Having embarrassed [unclear 0:44:48] friends.

LYDIA

Hamid, look! Look, isn't it funny! Hamid. Hamid, look, look, he doesn't have his leg on!

BRYN?

Even you could tell my face is super-unimpressed.

BEN

I thought I'd have a little bit of a lie down here.

ALEX

And we'll close it there. So thanks again as always for listening and we look forward to seeing you again next week and I hope that all of your dice rolls go well etc. – I need a better sign-off!

(Group laughter)

LYDIA

Bye! Sorry about the sign-off!

EVERYONE

Bye!

[Show Theme - Outro]

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ALEX

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Test, test, test, test, test, test, teeeest!

LYDIA

I'm afraid you have not passed the finals to the national rapping championship!

(Group laughter)

BRYN?

If you can't rhyme a word with itself, that's how rhyming works!

ALEX?

(sings) Through corridors and automatic...

BEN?

Oars. Automatic oars!

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LYDIA

Yeah!

ALEX?

Automatic oars. Just to row to you. Just to sail the way through.

OK, um...

LYDIA

Let's open the windows, Alex

JAMES?

No! This is why!

LYDIA

That was in [French? unclear 0:46:33]

?

You opened it. You did this!

LYDIA

And wakeful.

?

Yeah.

LYDIA

Pleasant in here.

BRYN?

Actually, that is a point, it's...

LYDIA

Can't be having that!

BRYN?

It's probably quite important that we do, so we don't get into a soporific funk.

?

Yeah.

LYDIA

Yeah.

?

Oh, a soporific funk, this is our new [lullaby? unclear 0:46:47]

?

Yeah. Funky lullabies for babies. Welcome to the soporific [unclear 0:46:50].

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ALEX

Funkabies.

LYDIA

Come on baby, and fall asleep.

ALEX

All right, everyone want to listen to me again for one sec.

(Group laughter)

Test 1, test 2.

LYDIA

Let's soothe that colic away, the next track around.

ALEX

Test 1, test 2.

?

I've got a wing, you've got more of a torso, I think.

(Group laughter)

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?

No, I'm going to have a wing and another wing, 'cause of being a dragon, you're not getting, no...

(Group laughter)

ALEX

Moving on! You guys actually...

LYDIA

Tricking your friends, letting me like, yeah, you've got a wing, I've got the breasts.