

RQG – 28 – Not So Hard Time

Content Warnings

- X
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[Show Theme - Intro]

ALEX

Hello and welcome to episode 28 of the Rusty Quill Gaming podcast. I'm your host and GM Alex Newall and with me for yet another adventure, I have

JAMES

James Ross

BRYN

Bryn Monroe

LYDIA

Lydia Nicholas

BEN

Ben Meredith

Rusty Quill Gaming – 28 – Not So Hard Time

ALEX

And who are you playing?

JAMES

Sir Bertrand MacGuffingham

BRYN

Hamid Saleh Haroun al-Tahan

LYDIA

Sasha Rackett

BEN

Zolf Smith

ALEX

Indeed. And we were running into a little bit of legal trouble recently.

BEN

I got arrested!

ALEX

Well...

JAMES

We're going to be fighting the law and we're going to winning. Drinking beer in the hot sun aside.

BEN

I've watched every episode of Ally McBeal. I'm pretty sure...

(Laughter)

ALEX

You see I'm thinking about throwing a problem that you can't stab and I feel like its still going to end in stabbing. That's going to the be problem.

BEN

I've never stabbed anything.

ALEX

So, as a recap...

LYDIA

I haven't, for a full 10 minutes.

(Group laughter)

ALEX

So, as a quick recap, obviously after Kew Gardens and finding out about Svalbard, you basically got yourselves on trains and headed to Dover. Whilst there, you ran into a huge storm and find out that everyone is really annoyed at the cult of Poseidon because they haven't been apparently averting enough storm. Which is a bit ungrateful if you ask me! Anyway, as a result you...there was a riot which Bertie managed to single-handedly shut down by being the loudest...

JAMES

Oh stop. Stop.

ALEX

Again.

JAMES

Stop, stop, stop. You're too grateful if anything!

ALEX

Which led to you being invited to the Officer's Quarters by Commander Barnes. An interesting guy with the adamantine sword, but, unfortunately it sort of came to light that, you know, Zolf sort of needs to be arrested a little bit.

BEN

Ah, he's a bit of a stickler for the Military Service.

ALEX

Mmhmm. What you going to do. So, with that in mind...

LYDIA

The guys in the Military.

(Group laughter)

LYDIA

Ben and them ...

ALEX

With their chain of command. And due process.

BEN

Oh shut up about it! Awful.

ALEX

And literally, the last thing that was happening was the group were walking with Zolf, presumably towards some kind of lockup or something similar...

BEN

I thought it was a party!

ALEX

We'll find out.

JAMES

Prison themed party!

(Group laughter)

ALEX

There were lots of men with you know truncheons and...

BEN

And spend the next two weeks in here. I'm in a like deeply emersed kind of...

(Over talking)

BEN

Does it sound like Bertie's idea of a party?

ALEX

Is Zolf a larper? I feel like might be a larper!

BEN

I don't think you need to be larper...

BRYN

No, you can actually just do the things that larpers pretend to do.

ALEX

No but he larpers like an Accountant.

(Over talking)

JAMES

I reckon we should have like a side quest where all four of the characters larp...not larp, role play as us. So you know, Sir Bertrand MacGuffingham can be an unemployed left-wing comedian...

(Group laughter)

BEN

Oh my God!

(Group laughter)

BEN

I don't think you'll be able to get into that character!

(Group laughter)

JAMES

I just don't understand!

ALEX

So picking up where we left off. You are currently being walked through the upstairs corridors of the Academy. Being led onwards presumably towards some kind of lockup.

LYDIA

Oi, Hamid, Hamid. Do you think I should set fire to something as distraction?

BRYN

No, no. It's going to be fine.

LYDIA

I could set fire...

BRYN

We're going to sort this out...

LYDIA

...to the curtains...

BRYN

We're going to sort this out in...

LYDIA

...they're proper flammable.

BRYN

...a Court room next week. It's fine. We're just going to have to wait in here a week.

LYDIA

Whoosh, there they go.

BRYN

No, no. We don't need to start any fires. We don't need to do anything violent. We're just going to hang out in Dover for a week.

LYDIA

They wouldn't even notice...

BRYN

I'll buy you lots more seafood.

ALEX

I'm right here you know. Just saying. I'm right here.

(Group laughter)

BEN

I cast message!

(Group laughter)

ALEX

Yes.

BEN

Okay, and faceplant!

(Group laughter)

ALEX

Do carry on.

BRYN

No, we definitely don't need to do...

ALEX

So, down the stairs through the Academy. It's actually low key. It's not like there's loads of people around all interested in it. You're led straight out. Gerald, the Butler, offers Sasha a last little sort of doggy bag of food and if anyone left any coats or anything hanging up...

LYDIA

Look, they're like eels, but like, in the sea. And they're not even translucent. It's so cool.

ALEX

He whispers to Sasha ... 'But Barnes isn't necessarily a bad Officer, but, I ... I ...I suspect you might have to just wait the week'.

LYDIA

Is the kitchen going to be serving?

ALEX

I could cook you up...

(Group laughter)

LYDIA

That would be excellent. Well good.

(Group laughter)

ALEX

Front door is open, you're led out across the drive. It is still stormy. The rain is still coming down. Looking around actually, everyone give me a perception check.

(Dice roll)

JAMES

Oh, natural 20!

ALEX

Wow! That's a first.

BEN

For a total of 19!

(Group laughter)

ALEX

Yeah.

BEN

I rolled a 19 for a total of 26!

(Group laughter)

BEN

11.

LYDIA

I rolled a 17 so ...

ALEX

It's fine. It's gone across the board. It's clear that, yes, it's been raining for a long time and it seems to be starting to sort of overwhelm the infrastructure of Dover. Every drain that you see flooded. Pavements, there are huge puddles to the point where as you're starting to get walked along the street, you're having to take big, huge, digressions to avoid huge flooding in that part. The fact that it's the coast...

JAMES

I don't want to be wading up to my waist in a puddle of water!

ALEX

Well, yeah, exactly. It's clear that if this keeps going, its going to go from 'this is bad for trade' to 'we need to start moving people out from Dover. It's not flooding but it's well on its way and it's readily apparent to all of you as you're walking along. But yeah, you are being marched through in the horrible weather and are just being marched. Apparently straight back towards the middle...

BRYN

I really miss the desert!

LYDIA

I really miss the roof!

BRYN

Yeah?

LYDIA

Yeah, we never really had rain down in upper London. Sometimes the lower would flood, but we never got rained on from the top you know.

BRYN

I can imagine, yes. That's how being under a roof works!

(Group laughter)

ALEX

So. You eventually end up back in the centre of Dover. You've gone past the part where the riot was, on the dock front. You notice that there are still a few guards there, a couple of Poseidon guys are representing but there's nothing happening.

JAMES

There's no downside...

(Group laughter)

ALEX

There's no more...

BEN

The trident they call it.

(Group laughter)

ALEX

There's no more dockside waves.

BEN

I did a hand symbol with that trident guys who were listening...

(Over talking)

BRYN

Did they throw it and then just go wet side.

ALL

Aww.

JAMES

I did a gag!

(Group laughter)

ALEX

So ... urgh, that won't pay me!

(Group laughter)

ALEX

You are led back up towards the main street. You had passed the soggy Admiral.

LYDIA

The soggy Lieutenant.

ALEX

Oh sorry, the soggy Lieutenant.

LYDIA

And the soggy...

ALEX

And the soggy cabin boy whose still there...do you want some prawns!

(Group laughter)

JAMES

We missed out the soggy able seaman.

ALEX

Oh well yeah, you know, there's also the soggy boat swain but no one's really there at the moment.

LYDIA

The soggy deputy boat swain...

(Group laughter)

LYDIA

The under deputy boat...

ALEX

It is a thriving high street.

JAMES

There's also a lot of soggy clerical support.

BEN

Soggy man who just kind of stands around!

ALEX

Nonetheless...

JAMES

Soggy master soggy eighth master...soggy six feet master! This is the infinite regress like a Matryoshka doll made of increasingly downbeat...

BEN

Are they just smaller and smaller and smaller.

JAMES

Yeah, yeah, actually.

ALEX

We'll say you head off...

(Group laughter)

BRYN

Obviously he's been following the wall!

ALEX

We'll say that you are heading off what I will now canonically name Soggy Avenue...

(Group laughter)

ALEX

...off to one side and you appear to be heading towards a ... for the sake of speed, an old timely Police Station. It's small. It has a jail with a GA attached. Holding cells.

LYDIA

It's not old time yet, it's just English.

ALEX

It's old time English. Nonetheless it's not like a huge dungeon.

LYDIA

Ye olde jail.

ALEX

But nonetheless, it's primary defences seem to be big, thick walls having some people on the front desk and bars on the window.

BRYN

You missed out big, thick walls and big, thick people!

(Group laughter)

ALEX

And you are led up the steps and in front of you without consulting you, Barnes effectively has a conversation with the Desk Sergeant. Blah, blah, blah, blah... and you know I present you ... all of the happy stuff. I present you with a receipt, blah, blah, blah. They do all of the administration and then the Commander turns to you as his bosses start walking out and the Police Officers, just one Jailer and a Police Officer step forward. Well, I regret to have to do this Zolf. I do hope that it's expediated as quickly as possible and I hope that all of you are eager to stay in touch. Do feel free to come and tell me about anything, and you're welcome, should you need anywhere to stay, at the Academy...

BRYN

I'm not sure that would be appropriate Commander. I think perhaps we'll secure a hotel room. But thank you.

ALEX

That's fair enough. Well, nonetheless, you know how to contact me and I wish you the best of luck Zolf. And he just starts heading out the door.

BEN

Good.

(Laughter)

BEN

Zolf remains silent!

ALEX

So you are led to the first door leading to the holding cells. One of the Policemen turns and goes 'I'm sorry, but the rest of you will just have to wait outside. I can't let everybody in'.

BEN

That's alright, well, you know, I'm fine.

BRYN

We will of course need a conference with Mr Smith about his legal defence.

ALEX

That's fine.

BRYN

Is there a room we can do that in and what are the visiting hours?

ALEX

If you actually wait one hour, there will be visiting hours. We effectively just have to do a basic search, so one like that. And then there is a room where you can have the legal counsellor ... should I assume that you are the legal counsel?

JAMES

We are his legal team. Yes, that is correct.

LYDIA

Right, we're well legal.

ALEX

Wow.

(Group laughter)

JAMES

That is in keeping with the time that everything is going to stop to Dover so far. It is surprisingly East End stroke East Coast, in it.

BEN

I assume...

ALEX

You're very represented as an individual then?

BEN

Yes. I assume I won't be able to take this. Just stipulate with the trident.

ALEX

No...

BEN

I need to keep on religious grounds but I'm assuming that...

ALEX

I'm afraid... you're allowed to keep your pendant if you wish...

BEN

Yeah, sure.

ALEX

But the trident, we'll have to leave in the lock up.

BRYN

We'll go and sort out our hotel rooms Zolf and we'll see you in about an hour.

BEN

Alright. Also, Sasha look after that [handing the trident].

LYDIA

Oh my gosh!

(Group laughter)

BEN

Don't use it for anything not ... you know, just don't.

ALEX

Given that you don't have exotic weapon for efficiency, I wouldn't use it for anything at all.

LYDIA

I don't even use it as a walking stick. I just hug it.

(Group laughter)

LYDIA

It's so shiny!

ALEX

So the Jailer and the standard guardsmen...

BEN

Yep.

ALEX

...lead you through the first door. There is a table. You are required to basically, they take an inventory of all the things that you have.

BEN

I'll do that. I'll do the stuff...

ALEX

That's fine.

BEN

...that won't be a problem.

ALEX

Skipping ahead, you are ... you're allowed to keep your clothing on that isn't armour and you're allowed to keep your poly-pendant job.

BEN

So I'm in my underpants then right?

(Group laughter)

ALEX

They may provide you some cover!

BEN

Orange jump suit.

ALEX

Sure. And you are...

JAMES

This is the 'ye-olde-jail' so it should have little arrows on it or...

(Group laughter)

BEN

Oh yeah, do they give me a ball and chain that I have to carry around? A little stripy hat?

BRYN

And it's got wife written on it!

ALL

Way-hey!

BEN

Oh it's the ye-old-type jail. Ah.... Well go on take her. My mother in law, she's in the other cell. Go on.

BRYN

Is this a jail or a music hall?

BEN

Answer is, it's much the same!

BRYN

[Unclear: 0:11:44] is well known for the successful use of the flail and morning start. However, I'm not sure if I could do a ball and chain.

ALEX

What I would say, they don't seem to be that dim given that they insist on you removing for a brief search, your false leg. Your peg leg.

BEN

Okay, fair enough.

ALEX

Obviously, there's nothing particularly exciting going on, but you know ... They lead you down ... there's only four cells there. Two of them are empty. One of them has someone who appears to be sleeping something off and you are just locked in the end cell. The Jailer presents you with a fairly warm meal. It's still earning morning so it's a breakfast.

BEN

Christmas Eve in the drunk tank!

ALEX

A little bit. But, yeah, they give you some ... some basic [unclear: 0:12:24]

BEN

Cool.

ALEX

And then head off, leave you to it.

BEN

I will sit down and be in jail.

ALEX

What I would say, the Jailer is very kind and he's like if there's anything that you need, you just yell. I'm just at the end of the door. I'm sure this is nothing and, yeah if ... you've got lots of legal counsel. That's good. That's good. Good for you.

BEN

So if I ever need to leave a review, I will be sure to give you five stars.

(Group laughter)

LYDIA

Instead there is no yelp website, but you'll just outside and yelp.

(Group laughter)

LYDIA

Five!

(Group laughter)

ALEX

Meanwhile, we will cut across to everyone else. So...

BRYN

I go to the poshest hotel in Dover.

JAMES

I follow him to the poshest hotel in Dover.

LYDIA

I hug the trident. Stumble after them in the drizzly rain.

ALEX

You manage to find one made in a French style called La Rochelle and it has verandas, the whole works. It looks like a bit of a ... very up market, but nonetheless it's cashing in on people are heading to France and to Europe and they want to be the first port of call for people on that journey. It's very upmarket and for what you can tell, there are actually you know, French Servants, French Waiters, French Receptionists and so on.

BRYN

I go up to the Reception Desk and speak in French.

ALEX

Mmhmm.

BRYN

And ask for the best suite they have available for the next week.

ALEX

It raises an eyebrow but nonetheless they proceed to do the paperwork. They do ask for a deposit up front of something like 10 gold.

BRYN

Sure.

ALEX

Yeah.

BRYN

I'm going to pay up front. How much is it for the full week?

ALEX

For the full week...

BRYN

70 gold?

ALEX

For the full week it's 75.

BRYN

75. Okay. I'll pay 75 gold.

ALEX

The second that you pay up front, the quality of the service ... it wasn't bad ... shoots up to 'and of course, we offer you many of the room services, would you be interested in?'. And he proceeds to list off 'would you like to try their cellar spa? They have a cellar spa.

BRYN

I might try it later in the week. Yes.

JAMES

Can I have the cellar spa brought up to our room?

(Group laughter)

JAMES

I like this place, it's very ... in keeping with the tone of the adventures that I wish to have. You know young lady, La Rochelle is French for The Rochelle.

(Group laughter)

LYDIA

I ask for it in French. Yes. I did understand that...

(Group laughter)

JAMES

Boom!

BRYN

Has Bertie just spoke French?

LYDIA

No.

JAMES

I'm thinking having man splayed into...

(Group laughter)

BRYN

Oh, I say to Sasha in French 'Oh I didn't know you spoke French'.

LYDIA

I speak gutter French. You'll find that like neither of us actually really understand.

(Group laughter)

LYDIA

The kind of the way that in Paris they flip sentences round.

ALEX

Oh yeah, yeah.

LYDIA

It's fricking impossible to understand even if you actually have decent French.

ALEX

Long story short. You have pretty much the top floor to yourself. There are two pairs of sort of connected rooms. So double bed in each and then a connecting room so you could head into each other's rooms if you wish, but there is a lock on it for both sides.

BRYN

I have requested a child's cot for Brutor.

ALEX

It's provided.

BRYN

Good.

ALEX

In fact, without you asking, they also provide via silver service, a dog bowl and steak in a bowl for the dog and they set up ... they basically pimp out that crib for a dog.

BEN

Ah.

BRYN

Why have you gone so gangster? There's been at least ...

ALEX

Times are hard.

BRYN

Right.

ALEX

Times are hard in my life. I'm getting hard with it. So, we'll skip ahead for the hour and presume that you headed straight back. Zolf, again.

BEN

I've started playing a game of Old Mage.

ALEX

The Jailer, as he does his rounds, doesn't help but notice and starts asking if you'd be willing to explain the rules, before he leads you into the room.

BEN

No!

ALEX

[Laughter]...fair enough! He leads you into a ... basically it's a standard room, you know table bolted to the floor, chair on one side, chair on the other side and there is a sort of grated panel at the main door. But it is ... it appears to be a properly ... you know a consultation room. It doesn't appear to have any peepholes or anything obvious like that. There's no two-way mirrors or one-way mirror. It's just a fairly featureless room. And, when everyone rocks up the Jailer is happy to show you in. He obviously asks everyone to leave weapons at the door, but that's about it.

BRYN

I don't carry weapons.

LYDIA

I've got the trident and I don't want them to take it away. So I will ... and I currently offer legal counsel, so I wait outside.

ALEX

Oh, that's fine. Would you like a cup of tea?

LYDIA

Ah, yeah, that will be lovely. Cheers.

ALEX

Alright, no worries. He heads off and makes Sasha a cup of tea. Meanwhile, in the featureless room...

JAMES

I didn't realise that Butler was a ranking of the Police.

(Group laughter)

ALEX

He's a very nice Jailer.

BRYN

He's just a kindly old man.

JAMES

Kindly old man in the Police Force in a Naval town. Okay, we can roll with that.

BRYN

He's probably about three days from retirement.

(Group laughter)

BEN

Oh no!

(Group laughter)

BEN

Oh no! Come on! You have to help the Jailer survive the episode.

(Group laughter)

ALEX

Well just don't cause any trouble at all!

BRYN

From the kitchen, an explosion.

ALEX

You are unaware there's a kindly old gentleman. It turns out emotional blackmail is an amazing tool for Police work.

BRYN

Zolf, what do you want to do? Like we can just offer to buy the commission but we could attempt to mount a legal defence. Me and Bertie have had a few words and we think that between the two of us, we might be able to come up with something. But we'd need to know a bit more about what happened, although I know you're not always keen to share.

BEN

Seen enough. I joined in the navy, boat sank, I almost died. I didn't go back. I was in the middle of the sea.

JAMES

Could we perhaps include elements of negligence when it comes to the boat sinking on the part of the people who were running the boat? Because, it's my understanding, and I speak as a layperson, that the principle function of a boat is to enable people to maintain themselves above water. Therefore, if it has sunk, it has neglected it's one principle function to stay above water.

BEN

That's a very astute observation.

(Group laughter)

JAMES

I thought so. Well we have ... we have an effective agreement there. Simple majority. Yes, we think that's a good idea.

BEN

Motion passed.

BRYN

And I think that the point is, that you know, if it's them that's at fault and not you, that can be a potential legal justification. Essentially, the commission is a contract and if the break of the contract was on their part rather than yours, that is an effective defence against Court Marshall, I believe. I mean we'll need to do some research as well of course.

BEN

It depends if they've listed me as missing or killed. Because I don't know what they consider ...

BRYN

That's a good point, yes.

ALEX

I would say you will have a memory that in order to sign up to the military graphic forces when it came to the Naval, you had to sign effectively a liability waiver which is if it's a military unit. Things can go wrong.

BEN

I might do a die.

ALEX

Yeah, basically you're not ... it's not their fault, as long as they do what they should and observe proper protocol and stuff like that.

BEN

Yeah, honestly, I'm happy to buy the commission. It's just the delay in time. We've got stuff to do but I don't think...

BRYN

It's only a week.

BEN

Yeah I know. I know. What I'm saying is I don't think that anything that we do is going to help speed that up so, I'll just buy the commission. It wasn't like ... they didn't pay me very much.

JAMES

How much is the commission?

BEN

How much is the commission Alex?

ALEX

You'd have to look it up, you don't know off the top of your head.

BEN

Rough ballpark?

BRYN

Well, you could always go to the commander and request the relevant paperwork to prepare your legal defence. You'd be entitled to that.

ALEX

Ballpark you'd be looking at a few grand.

BEN

A few grand? Oh dear.

ALEX

And they're not fans of people buying their commission.

BEN

It might be ... it might...trouble is, my wife is out. If you can buy out the legal defence it gets me off then great. Boat sunk you know, in a storm.

JAMES

Well the next point to consider of course is what happened after the boat sank. Did you have reasonable measures to get back in touch with the admiralty?

BEN

Ah...

ALEX

Cut to Sasha outside. 'I'll have to ask, where did you get that jacket? My granddaughter has been after something like that for ages. It is lovely'.

LYDIA

Yeah, well, like, there's this ... back in London.

ALEX

Oh right.

LYDIA

And so I did have just a plain leather jacket. But this one is a studded one. And you see the little sheen on it?

ALEX

Oh yeah.

LYDIA

That's because it's got some spells in it.

ALEX

Oh, it's a bit out my price range that.

LYDIA

Well, you say that, but they're really handy. I'm sure you can get one for ... like for effectiveness at like deals and stuff that actually, you know, you could then get discount on stuff. It would probably be useful.

ALEX

Cut back to the interior.

BRYN

Were you prevented from doing so by external circumstances?

BEN

I mean not ... no. No I wasn't. I signed up with another enterprise after I decided that the Navy wasn't really for me and I almost died. Also they don't look at too kindly in aristocratic voices, worship of the old guards. So we could actually ... good grounds for discrimination.

BRYN

Yes, unfortunately, they're allowed to do that. It's not illegal.

JAMES

And in any case, discrimination is just another word for taste.

(Group laughter)

JAMES

A mark in character.

(Group laughter)

JAMES

Just to clarify.

ALEX

And it doesn't matter that someone wasn't going to accuse of any of the things that leaves Bertie's mouth is you James.

BEN

I mean not just in character but of the time, like...

ALEX

Yeah.

BEN

Religious discrimination is not a thing like... it was worth a shot.

BRYN

So that might be tricky.

JAMES

So this aphid that you took up with afterwards, could you give us some more information about it?

BEN

They were ... free traders...

JAMES

Oh. Oh.

(Group laughter)

JAMES

Free traders with you know, jaunty hats and...

BEN

They were pirates.

JAMES

Pirates. Well, they're fun.

BEN

I mean sometimes.

ALEX

Cut back to the exterior. Honestly, it's just nice to talk to someone. You'd be surprised how few people are talkative over here. Mostly I just tend to look after the cells and wash things.

LYDIA

You've still got a nice gig though.

ALEX

Oh it's pretty cushy. I mean if you were looking for work, I can't recommend the Police Force high enough. If you're not on the actual beat, it's quite nice.

LYDIA

Ah, that's cool. I'll think about it.

ALEX

I can tell you're a good 'un.

(Group laughter)

ALEX

You know.

LYDIA

He is right. Cheers. Its good to know that I'm getting good at first impressions.

(Group laughter)

LYDIA

It wasn't my strongest suit for a while.

BRYN

The recruitment poster says 'join the Police, it's quite nice'.

(Group laughter)

JAMES

If you're not on the beat!

ALEX

Cut back to the interior.

JAMES

Well, of course, you weren't kidnapped by them or held by them because that is very common. It wouldn't surprise me at all if you'd been held to some extent hostage, or prisoner. They after all are on a boat in the middle of the sea and the sea is famously quite dangerous if you try and swim to shore from a ship directly.

BRYN

I mean if you were under duress. I mean if you were ...

BEN

Yeah... does it matter?

JAMES

Could you claim mental anguish? Were you mentally anguished into serving on the pirate ship, because you look pretty anguished Mr Smith.

BEN

I don't like ... yeah, fine. Yes, yes. I was held against my will.

BRYN

We can probably spin it. I mean I think we can probably say he was kidnapped by pirates and forced to service.

JAMES

Of course. Is this the kind of man. Does this look like the sort of dwarf that would voluntarily get involved in criminal enterprises on the high seas. I think not.

BRYN

No. I mean if anything we know about his recent history, it proves that he's a man who wants to do good. I mean we were in the papers. That's got to work in our favour don't you think?

JAMES

Well, I know at least three excellent character witnesses who would stand up for his great good conduct recently.

BRYN

We probably shouldn't put Sasha on the stand.

JAMES

You are absolutely correct.

(Group laughter)

ALEX

I think we'll call a break there. And we'll be back in a couple of minutes.

And welcome back.

JAMES

I know at least two good character witnesses who you can deploy at short notice.

BEN

Yeah look. Just whatever is helpful emission. Yeah. Find out how much the commission might be and see what you can get.

BRYN

Yeah, we'll go and contact the Commander and ask for the relevant paperwork in order to prepare a legal case. I might send to London and get a book or two shipped down here to help us put something together.

JAMES

Mmhmm.

BRYN

Any books on Naval procedures and precedents of law.

JAMES

Excellent.

ALEX

Cut to the exterior. At this point the Jailer has got effectively all of his kit out and has put it on the table and he's just showing you all of the things he has.

LYDIA

Oh right. So what kind of weight does that truncheon have?

ALEX

Well the thing is, that actually I don't get a standard one any more.

LYDIA

Right.

ALEX

I've not got the strength in me arms.

LYDIA

Ah.

ALEX

So what they do, is they have a second one. I mean this ones mostly for show.

LYDIA

Are there external cues that I can ... when I can tell that someone is carrying a lighter or you know...

ALEX

Oh yeah, it's dead easy.

LYDIA

Right.

ALEX

Honestly, once you know how to look.

BEN

Credit to the force this man!

ALEX

What I'd say in general is when it comes to the guardsmen, its ... most of the strength is actually in the guardsmen...

LYDIA

Right.

ALEX

And never assume that just because he's got the equipment that he knows what he's doing with it.

LYDIA

Right, right. Are there good tells about when someone is well trained?

ALEX

Oh yeah. for the most part. If they're well trained they're not on the Police Force!

(Group laughter)

BEN

Is this guy a plod?

(Group laughter)

ALEX

Cut back to the interior.

(Group laughter)

BRYN

Okay, so I think we've got a good plan. I mean we'll come and visit every day. Do you need us to bring you anything?

BEN

Don't worry about it. The cards that Sasha ... thanks for that by the way. The cards you brought; I'm just going to get very good at building houses. Don't worry about it. Don't bother visiting. Just concentrate on getting stuff done.

BRYN

Okay.

BEN

All I'm going to do is sit on my bum and just wade out.

BRYN

Okay.

JAMES

Very well. Well we shall proceed in the direction of settling your legal proceedings and developing an appropriate strategy and we shall be in touch presently. Bertie, he's got some papers with him. He just shuffles them. Shuffle, shuffle, shuffle. Business, business, business...

(Group laughter)

JAMES

People business. Like a newsreader. People business.

BRYN

And most of the bits of paper are blank! I don't think the order matters.

JAMES

Sshh.

ALEX

We'll presume you bang on the door. Yep, the Jailer, puts his stuff back on...

BEN

I'm amazed he just didn't leave it there!

ALEX

He left some of it there. Certainly he's not wearing his helmet or anything.

LYDIA

Like of the things are there, are there any keys there and I can palm them.

ALEX

What I would say is...

LYDIA

I can roll and pick pocket.

ALEX

Genuinely he leaves the entire rack of keys on the table, comes to the door and then goes 'Oh, sorry. Could you help me out there...' and literally holds out for you to pass him the keys.

LYDIA

Right. I ... I ...

ALEX

You could do a slight of hand to remove a key. There are about 14 big old keys on there. You wouldn't know what door you're getting.

LYDIA

I palm a random key.

ALEX

Go for it. Give me a slight hand check.

(Dice roll)

LYDIA

17 plus 9.

ALEX

We'll give an opposed perception check.

(Dice roll)

ALEX

With zero modifiers because he's just not that competent, yeah. you palm one. I will allow you to pick between. There is a very, very large well polished one that's apparently getting a lot of use. There is a small rusted one which appears to have very little use and there is one which is effectively a very, very small one. It looks like it's probably for a locker or something similar. You can pick...

LYDIA

There are only three.

ALEX

No, there are more on, but of these three you would be able to palm one without him noticing. Which one would you pick?

LYDIA

The rusty one.

ALEX

Okay. Unlocks the door. Doesn't notice a thing. Oh thank you very much. Opens the door. Hope everything was helpful. Is it all good? You all good?

BEN

Lovely. Room is a bit cold and the pillows could do with plumping up.

ALEX

Oh, sorry about that. I'll see what I can do.

(Group laughter)

BEN

Alright! Thank you.

JAMES

We've got a spa in our place. Don't want to rub it in. But I have rubbed it in now haven't I, it seems a shame to ...

BRYN

That's like a masseuse will do for us.

JAMES

Yes. Yes. All masseurs.

BEN

Honestly Hamid, I am surprised.

BRYN

I actually give you like a really hurt look. I look genuinely aghast!

(Group laughter)

JAMES

Bertie doesn't notice any of...

BEN

No, as expected.

ALEX

The Jailer opens the door and ushers you exactly with zero force towards, back to your cell.

BEN

I'll see you guys later. Pick me up a free towel.

LYDIA

I'll look after the trident Zolf. Is there ... does it need any care taken on it? Polishing and stuff?

BEN

No, no, no. It's good. Its hard wearing, but thank you.

LYDIA

Right, I just need to keep it with me then.

BEN

Just don't lose it please.

LYDIA

Right okay. That's cool.

ALEX

So...

LYDIA

It's quite large, I probably won't.

ALEX

Firstly dealing with Zolf. You'll head back to your cell.

BEN

Yep.

ALEX

It's locked. As everyone departs...

BEN

I am surprised by this fact!

ALEX

Hamid will deal with everyone else. He then heads out. Comes back and sets up a brazier. He's not incompetent enough to put it within arms reach of the bars.

BEN

Okay.

ALEX

But nonetheless it is warming it. And he passes you some fresh pillows from one of the other cells.

BEN

Thank you.

ALEX

It's alright. If you'd like anything to read, we've not got much but ...

BEN

I've cards.

ALEX

Don't be a faff. He reaches and passes you a romantic novel. It's very good.

BEN

Alright, yeah, sure.

ALEX

He proceeds to head back out to the front. Meanwhile, dealing with everyone else. Where do you head immediately after the prison?

LYDIA

As we turn the corner ... Hamid, Hamid, can I your hand.

BRYN

Yeah.

LYDIA

I whisper into the ring ... Barret, I know your listening. If you've got any dirty coppers in Dover is a favour that we could ask. So, send a signal. Can you sort something out.

BRYN

Oh, okay. I...

LYDIA

I drop his hand.

BRYN

We think we've got some promising legal avenues to pursue. I'm actually going to go to the Post Office and send to London for a few books.

LYDIA

Yeah. The law. It's a great thing to rely on. Right, yeah.

BRYN

Yes!

JAMES

The law is the thin blue line that separates order from chaos.

LYDIA

Sounds like a great idea, yeah.

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ALEX

So, what's the game plan?

BRYN

I go to the Post Office.

ALEX

Post Office then?

BRYN

Back to the Naval Academy was it?

ALEX

It was an Academy.

BRYN

Ask for copies of the relevant papers and ask what the price of the commission was.

ALEX

Okay.

BRYN

And whether Zolf is missing in action or not. Or yeah, what the exact legal status was and how long he was missing and then presumed dead and whether he was ever officially declared legally dead by the Navy and that kind of thing.

ALEX

Okay, well. Dealing with the first with the Post Office for a nominal fee, let's call it one silver. You are able to request via effectively a public service they have legal documents available should you wish.

BRYN

I will send to London for some books because I need to actually read some stuff.

ALEX

Sure, they're happy to effectively have them sent out once it's established that its for a legal thing. It's all very easy.

BRYN

Yeah. I mean I have lawyers in London.

ALEX

Yeah, sure.

BRYN

That's the kind of person I am. I send to them and ask them to send me the three most relevant books.

ALEX

They say that they'll send it on the next train. You'll have it be tomorrow morning.

BRYN

Yeah, okay.

JAMES

So you've run away from the Navy!

(Group laughter)

JAMES

Who is this guy!

LYDIA

I buy some whelks.

ALEX

You do so.

LYDIA

And enjoy them. I add too much vinegar and not enough salt.

(Group laughter)

LYDIA

And I say food doesn't taste as good now Zolf's in prison.

(Group laughter)

BEN

Aww.

ALEX

Skipping to the Academy. Do you head into the Commander's Quarters where you were before or do you just try one of the other buildings?

BRYN

No, Officer's quarters.

ALEX

Sure. Heading in, first one you see is old Gerald still at the door. Oh hello, is there anything I can do?

LYDIA

Oh no, cheers. I haven't even finished the food you gave me this morning. But, oh wait. Wait. Did we want anything?

BRYN

Well I'd like to see Commander Barnes if possible.

ALEX

Oh yes, he's in.

LYDIA

Cheers Gerald.

ALEX

Oh that's fine. No, not a problem at all.

LYDIA

Nice seeing you again.

ALEX

You too. It was Sasha wasn't it?

LYDIA

Yes.

JAMES

Bertie's back at the hotel by the way.

ALEX

That's fine.

LYDIA

I think I've probably had enough fun with Gerald and the nearby Police Officer that my knowledge local kicks in.

(Group laughter)

LYDIA

I now know where to get stuff. If you want anything. If you want any back alleyways.

ALEX

Totally.

BRYN

Absolutely.

ALEX

So Gerald leads you back into the smoking room you were in before and heads off to fetch Commander Barnes. We'll cut to Bertie at the hotel. 'Sir, is there anything that I can get you. Is there anything we can do? We are so happy for your custom'.

JAMES

Of course. No, you're right to be happy.

ALEX

We are!

JAMES

That's coming across. I like that. I like you. What's your name?

ALEX

Tobias.

BRYN

Very French!

JAMES

‘Yes, extremely French. Lovely. Well, myself and my son here’. Bertie decides he’s going to have a bit of fun with Tobias. Holding up Brutor... ‘my son here, we’re thinking of taking the waters in the spa. If you could arrange for some towels to be put out, that would be excellent’.

ALEX

There’s a moments hesitation at which point... of course, of course. Let me. He just rolls with it and apparently crazy wealth is a thing that has happened before now.

JAMES

And of course, some of my luggage was waylaid on the train on the way over. You know how porters are and so of course, my son here has lost almost all of his clothes. And as we’re at the seaside maybe something ... some sort of charming Naval outfit. You know, with the little cap if that’s the sort of thing that could be arranged. If you happen to know any local tailors...

ALEX

And we’ll cut to Zolf.

BEN

Jennifer, no!

(Group laughter)

ALEX

And we'll cut back to the Naval Academy.

(Group laughter)

ALEX

Yes, Gerald shows Commander Barnes in and he steps in. 'Hello. Sorry I kept you waiting. What can I be doing for you?'

BRYN

Well I was hoping to receive any of the relevant documents relating to Mr Smith's case. I mean we ... I've taken on the case. I'll be his legal representative at the Court Marshall next week.

ALEX

Oh right, that's fine.

BRYN

So I need to review the relevant documents and also I'd like to ask how much buying his commission would actually be as I understand that's an option available to us potentially.

ALEX

Oh certainly. If you'll both accompany me. Do you need anything to eat or drink actually before we set off?

LYDIA

Eyes narrow. Let's say nothing!

ALEX

You know what?, Barnes looks a little bit hurt. Not very hurt. Just a little bit hurt by your distain.

BRYN

What hurt looks essentially.

ALEX

If you'll follow me and he sort of leads you through a few corridors. You're clearly entering in one of the adjoining buildings and you enter something a bit more clerical. Lots of more bookish people. Still wearing uniforms, but you know, hurrying back and forth with papers. He leads you into a quiet reading room and starts out fetching out index cards. Again, I am very sorry about this. I can only say that there's nothing personal, but you have to follow the letters you know. There is a command structure and you have to obey it and if you fly in the face of that, there are consequences. He's still getting papers and laying them out on the table for you.

So it was the commission first right?

BRYN

Yes. Yes please Commander.

ALEX

Now due to the nature of this time of the sign off, he's just consulting some paperwork. It will be around the 5,000 mark. I would say that they will probably lower that given the fact that he was missing in action as opposed to just, you know, running off. From what I understand. I haven't really looked into it to be honest.

BRYN

Of course, of course.

ALEX

But I would suspect that you would be looking around that as a figure. He's going through and has a folder. Yeah, obviously I requested this to be sent yesterday. He is labelled as missing in action as opposed to wilfully AWOL. Again that will count in his favour. Nonetheless there are...

BRYN

He was never declared? Presumed dead then?

ALEX

No, he was not.

BRYN

That's very interesting. I mean my understanding is that his ship went down with all hands. Is that...is the status of the rest of his crewmates also simply missing in action?

ALEX

Not all of them.

BRYN

How strange. Would it be possible to see some of the documentation of that wreck?

ALEX

Certainly...

BRYN

Any reports about what happened?

ALEX

He hands you a manifest and then there's a report of it. There is a report of basically unusual storm activity leading to an unforeseen collision with effectively an outcropping of rock off the coast of Norway. There are accounts of at least 10 crew members who are confirmed dead. Bodies washed up and so on. There are another 25 which are missing in action, it was a large ship. And then there are three that are still showing to be alive. Two are still in service, one is retired.

BRYN

But none of them are marked missing presumed dead?

ALEX

All of the ones who were missing were marked missing in action, rather than missing presumed dead.

BRYN

Yeah.

ALEX

There is a line in...

BRYN

How long since the wreck...

ALEX

It's been about six years since the wreck. The reason that there is a note attached to it which is conflicting stories for surviving crew members have led us to decide to keep the case open and register those missing in action rather than presumed dead.

JAMES

You can't fault their logic!

(Group laughter)

ALEX

Cut to Bertie in the spa sat next to Brutor wearing a little sailor outfit...

JAMES

Yep.

ALEX

...and you are ... let's say your both receiving pedicures.

JAMES

Yep.

LYDIA

Are you going to spend any of this time training Brutor or dressing him?

JAMES

I am training Brutor. I'm training him to look adorable and receive pedicures.

(Group laughter)

ALEX

Give me a hand check for receiving a pedicure.

JAMES

In all seriousness, this is more generally like Brutor are you capable of being like vaguely civilised in polite company?

ALEX

That is what this check is.

JAMES

So this is me, attempting to socialise Brutor with a handle animal check and I think given that we're getting pedicures and I poured him a small amount of the champagne I've ordered, I think that qualifies for pomp and pageantry.

ALEX

Oh right? I'll allow it.

(Group laughter)

LYDIA

And he's in a Naval outfit!

BRYN

Yeah do you get...

JAMES

It's a dress Naval outfit that's why it's pomp and pageantry. It is adorable.

LYDIA

What rank have you given him?

JAMES

Admiral!

(Group laughter)

ALEX

He keeps knocking the tricor off.

JAMES

He looks like a young Winston Churchill. It's adorable!

(Group laughter)

JAMES

Handle. 7 plus 1...

BRYN

Do we get commission modifier for having a slightly drunk dog?

JAMES

8 plus 8 is 16.

ALEX

I will say that Brutor causes no fuss whatsoever. Nonetheless there is the occasional thing where Brutor pulls his paw away and the pedicurist every time looks to you for the approving nod before recontinuing to groom your dog's nails.

JAMES

In terms of long term consequences for Brutor and his behaviour, can we now consider him appropriately socialised for at least a very basic level of flight company.

ALEX

Yes. And I would also give him the condition spoil.

JAMES

Okay [laughter]. Does that have any game play effects?

ALEX

It might do! Cut to Zolf, in the prison.

BEN

Richard is not the right one for you!!

ALEX

The Jailer comes along and sits down and goes 'good innit'.

BEN

Yes, genuinely surprised. Have you got any more?

ALEX

He sort of gives you a knowing look. Looks around. Goes over. Unlocks the cell door opposite you. Lifts up the mattress and there's about 40 romantic novels....

(Group laughter)

ALEX

All laid out. They're all clearly part of the same series and you notice that you're on volume 1 and then he says '16 through to 27 are brilliant!'.

BEN

Wow okay, it is. It's Harrison Campbell. Are they still writing or...?

ALEX

Oh Harrison Campbell, yeah, he's a local writer. He's good isn't he?

BEN

Oh I'd like to meet him.

ALEX

Cut back to the interior. Hamid has had access to all of the papers.

BRYN

I'm going to copy the papers. Photocopiers don't exist so I have to do it by hand so it's going to take me most of the afternoon.

ALEX

You could do so magically, but yes. It would require faff and planning stuff.

JAMES

Get a demon to do it.

LYDIA

I'm going to throw daggers at a thing on the wall. It makes sense of the whole levelling up thing. Just getting better at everything than just stabbing things. Throwing daggers.

ALEX

Commander Barnes leads Sasha to a training yard. There's an interior one and there's an exterior one. The interior one is more like a gym. The exterior is a yard. On the way he looks to you. Looks like he's going to start a conversation about five times. And every single time just backs off back to ... not saying anything and just walking along. Do you head to interior, exterior?

LYDIA

Exterior.

ALEX

Exterior. It's absolutely stormy.

LYDIA

That's fine.

ALEX

And parts of it are flooded but...

LYDIA

I want to practice throwing daggers in the rain.

ALEX

Okay. He makes a point of standing and keeping an eye on you and he looks like he's not saying things really loudly.

LYDIA

I throw daggers pointedly.

(Group laughter)

BEN

Yes, it's really hard to throw unpointed daggers.

LYDIA

Easy to throw. Quite a lot of the surface is not the point. The trick is getting the point in the wood.

ALEX

We'll skip time ahead as everyone is occupied. We will say that evening comes on. Hamid finishes doing his copying, presumably head back to the hotel?

BRYN

I am going to go into town, buy a bottle of brandy and find a way to sneak it to Zolf.

ALEX

Okay.

BEN

I think with the thing with this guy it's ask.

ALEX

You know what. I'll RP this. You rock up to the Police Station and you can see down the length of cells...

BRYN

I'm wearing a completely different outfit. This one happens to have large concealed pockets.

ALEX

The Jailer is sat up against...

LYDIA

The brandy must be about the size of Hamid's head!

BRYN

That's why I'm in my clown trousers!

(Group laughter)

BRYN

Its not a very big bottle.

LYDIA

Right.

BRYN

It would look weird if I bought a human sized bottle. So you know, it's like a hip flask size one.

ALEX

The Jailer has pulled a chair up next to Zolf's and they both appear to be reading quietly in each other's company. He sees you come and goes oh, sorry about that.

BEN

I'll put the book away.

BRYN

Is everything okay Zolf?

BEN

Yeah, fine, yeah, yeah. Fine. Fine.

BRYN

I just wanted to talk to you privately for just a minute.

ALEX

Oh that's fine. Can I get you a cup of tea or anything like that? Something stronger? The nights are coming in.

BRYN

Oh. No. I'd love a brandy.

ALEX

Tell you what, I'll go and get you one. Would you like one Sir?

BEN

No, thank you.

ALEX

Excellent. He heads off.

BRYN

Well this seems rather redundant now, pulling out the bottle of brandy!

BEN

Oh. No.

BRYN

Well I'm glad you're being well taken care of.

BEN

I've got to say, I'm a bit wierded out by how nice he is. Nicest Jailer I've ever met.

BRYN

It's a bit strange I suppose. But well, I mean nice to know that not everything that happens to us is bad luck.

BEN

Yeah, yeah. Look, I think generally we've done alright. Really. You know apart from a couple of steps out.

BRYN

I might come back to see you tomorrow afternoon. I've got a few questions about what happened when the boat sank because it turns out that a couple of ... there were a couple of survivors but their statements on what happened don't agree. Probably best to talk about that tomorrow.

BEN

Who survived?

BRYN

I give him the names.

ALEX

So the survivors were a man named Jonah, a woman named Tallulah and Captain Samael.

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BRYN

Can I say that?

BEN

Are they still alive?

BRYN

Yes, all three of them according to the Naval records.

BEN

Are they still serving?

BRYN

No, the Captain retired. The other two are still...

BEN

Oh.

BRYN

...have commissions.

BEN

Right. Well, I don't think anyone got out of that. Not relevant for now. Yeah, okay.

BRYN

Well, lets talk about it tomorrow afternoon when you've had some time to think and relax and...

BEN

Yeah, sure okay. Thank you for the brandy actually means a lot.

ALEX

The Jailer comes back with a brandy. And a cup of tea. And he's going now how did you do that?

BEN

I cast back to digitation. Send up a cloud of smoke and leave...

(Group laughter)

BEN

And as I'm leaving whisper 'magic'.

(Group laughter)

BEN

I'll probably have to make a stealth roll to get me out of this.

ALEX

Yeah, yeah. Give me a stealth roll.

BEN

He's still standing there!

(Dice roll)

Natural 20.

ALEX

Aww.

BEN

Plus 6.

BRYN

Right, so Zolf has no idea what's going on either!

ALEX

So it's just at the end it's just a puff. And then you just have the Jailer stood there looking really confused. Having a moment with Zolf.

BEN

And the whisper on the air of 'magic'.

(Group laughter)

ALEX

And we'll cut back to the Academy. We'll say that you...

LYDIA

Throw! Throw! Throw! The other hand throw. Yep.

ALEX

We'll accelerate time to the point where you know evening is coming in. What do you do?

LYDIA

I pick up my daggers. I still think I've got 14 of them! And head back to the hotel.

ALEX

Sure. Commander Barnes escorts you out again. He doesn't...

LYDIA

Obviously it takes quite a long time for me to pick up the daggers and arrange them around my person. Actually, no I wouldn't show him where I was hiding them. I'd just gather them all up in a big pile and look at him angrily.

(Group laughter)

LYDIA

And stomp off.

ALEX

So as you stomp off...

LYDIA

With a trident under my elbow.

(Group laughter)

LYDIA

A massive haul of daggers.

ALEX

So as you walk out, as a waling armoury.

JAMES

It sounds like my mum has packed for your trip!

(Group laughter)

BRYN

Also Sasha is not a very large woman as well so this is like a lot of stuff.

LYDIA

Yep.

ALEX

Eventually you get to the front door. Gerald again opens it for you and the Commander steps forward and just goes 'listen, I really mean no offence, but I feel like you may have fallen into some bad company and I ...

JAMES

Huh, how dare he!

BEN

Yes, because Sasha is the bad one!

ALEX

And just, if there's anything that we can do to help you out, do let us know.

SASHA

They're not bad people. I've fought with them. I've served next to them. We defeated a plant monster and like thieves and posh, like this posh woman that was dressed as a man and had magic. And I blew everything up. It was great. If Zolf hadn't been there, I'd have died when they blew me up.

ALEX

Mmhmm. Well.

SASHA

Rattle as I shuffle ... rattle, rattle, rattle.

BRYN

You've got a bag of holding. You could do a wonderful Mary Poppins moment, with a trident in it!

LYDIA

Oh yes! My gosh. I had forgot that. The thing is, she got given that right?

BRYN

Yeah.

LYDIA

She's not necessarily sure what it is but may be like, its something more like she's putting the daggers in one by one and at the end the trident goes in and it kind of keeps going.

(Group laughter)

LYDIA

To her surprise and everyone else's.

ALEX

We'll say that yeah, you head off from the Academy. Barnes watches you leave and doors are closed and the last thing we'll have as we close for time is everyone apart from Zolf convening to a hotel room.

BRYN

I buy us a lovely dinner and order myself a massage.

ALEX

They...

JAMES

I order myself an at table massage.

(Group laughter)

ALEX

So we'll close with all of you sat for dinner and Brutor sat in a highchair at the table.

LYDIA

What's that on his nails? How does that happen.

ALEX

[Dog noise]

(Group laughter)

ALEX

Poshest I can do!

BRYN

I just have to say, I am imagining Bertie flat on one of those massage tables with the hole just feeding himself...

(Group laughter)

JAMES

He's decided one of the waiting staff to chew, chew, chew, here comes the...

(Group laughter)

JAMES

...that's for Brutor.

BEN

I thought they were for yourself!

JAMES

Not that would be ... we would have to go under then.

(Group laughter)

ALEX

Here comes the assent.

(Group laughter)

JAMES

Yes, it's swooping. Like a swallow. Like it kind of dives into the undercroft and then to Bertie's face and the massage table and just gorges this. Partially chewed worms. Like a caring mummy worm, mummy bird.

ALEX

On the most vile image I've had since last week probably, we'll close there. That was a good one. That was fun. I just like locking player characters up. What can I say. I hope everyone tunes in next week for yet more and we'll see you then!

EVERYONE

Bye!

[Show Theme - Outro]

ALEX

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