

RQG – 36 – Contracts and Calculator

Content Warnings

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[Show Theme - Intro]

ALEX

Hello and welcome to episode 36 of the Rusty Quill Gaming podcast. I'm your host and GM Alex Newall and with me today, I have

JAMES

James Ross

BRYN

Bryn Monroe

LYDIA

Lydia Nicholas

BEN

And Ben Meredith

ALEX

And who are you playing?

JAMES

Sir Bertrand MacGuffingham

BRYN

Hamid Saleh Haroun al Tahan

LYDIA

Sasha Racket

BEN

Zolf Smith

ALEX

We're getting very slick.

LYDIA

Yeah.

JAMES

Yeah.

ALEX

We're getting very good.

LYDIA

We remember our names ... yeah.

JAMES

We're getting slick like an ... oiled rolling over ... on a ...

ALEX

Unclear 0:00:41

JAMES

No, no ... I should have ... yeah ...

ALEX

You know Lydia?

LYDIA

I grabbed them beforehand.

JAMES

Oh.

(laughter)

LYDIA

Just like a shadow that's been massaged ... with incredibly thick high quality oil, by a magical masseuse so that all of the kinks are completely knocked out and it ... just flows.

ALEX

I shouldn't have opened this door.

LYDIA

Easy as summer Sundays.

(laughter)

ALEX

Easy summer Sundays.

JAMES

That's how prepared that it is ... it's good, it's good.

LYDIA

I didn't ... it wasn't very prepared; I don't actually prepare them before.

(laughter)

JAMES

Too late now, they've planted that seed ... **unclear 0:01:16** been scripted.

LYDIA

Oh, everyone's gonna believe ... it'll be scripted, the whole thing and our improv.

ALEX

That's why I'm so tired, it's why I'm so tired ... is that I'm writing an hour episode.

JAMES

I wrote this interruption, foolishly you didn't edit it out, so ...

LYDIA

You did write that bit, but I wrote the bit about that bit!

BRYN

My script says that at this point Bryn chimes in with ... "Alex is really great and I love him", but I choose to recite it as "Alex is really **unclear 0:01:39** and I love him."

BEN

Despite the fact that the director's note written by Alex says, "Just do it very sincerely".

ALEX

Open bracket, "Bryn tells Alex, he's great, everyone cheers" close bracket.

EVERYONE

Yes.

ALEX

That's all I ask, it's all I ask. That got very weird very quickly.

(Group Laughter)

ALEX

So, you have made it obviously from Dover to Calais, Calais to Paris, you're in Paris and are now, apparently incredibly wealthy because you own the presidential suite in perpetuity.

LYDIA

I'm not, I'm not wealthy, it's very different having something paid for you, for the reasons you don't understand becoming beholden to people that you don't know and, actually owning assets.

ALEX

Yeah.

LYDIA

I think if Sasha ever was given ownership of an asset, she'd try to steal it from herself cause it's the only way that she knows how to interact with property.

JAMES

Property is theft, so that makes perfect sense.

LYDIA

Yeah.

(Group Laughter)

JAMES

If anything ever has a clear sighted view of **unclear 0:02:33**.

LYDIA

The Thief's Guild of Marquis **unclear 0:02:36**.

(Group Laughter)

ALEX

So, currently you are in the hotel ... more importantly you are in your suite ... more importantly a pair of very, very sinister looking gnomes have turned up. After Bertie making use of the uninterruptable room ... the room that is sealed against all other enchantments and listening ins and so on.

JAMES

I shall be writing a very strongly worded letter.

ALEX

Nonetheless chose to explain the nature of the MacGuffingham curse/contract and, was branded burned ... punished.

JAMES

As soon as he emerged.

ALEX

As soon as he emerged.

LYDIA

Not a real friend. Nooo.

ALEX

And yeah ...

JAMES

It got very emotional.

ALEX

Of course, it did get very emotional.

LYDIA

Yeah, that's sad.

JAMES

Why, why would he reveal it to you if he ... didn't think he could trust you?

Isn't that a more significant, a better definition.

ALEX

I feel like ...

LYDIA

Because he just, wants to tell people, it's all about Bertie.

JAMES

There's an element of.

(Group Laughter)

ALEX

So ...

LYDIA

He mostly wanted to tell Brutor, but ...

JAMES

Yeah.

(laughter)

LYDIA

We were all in the room.

BRYN

We were just there.

(laughter)

ALEX

But it's okay, cause remember ... what happens in the room, stays in the room.

BRYN

Apparently not.

JAMES

Yeah.

LYDIA

I assume he's just been punished for cutting contact.

BRYN

We'll have to see.

ALEX

Arr, the Cheshire grin.

JAMES

That is the most logical ...

?

Oh, one more thing, just briefly, now my alignment for my character ... was lawful neutral. Now that is my outward face.

ALEX

I need to address this now, anyway for the listeners in general. So, in Pathfinder they still make use of the alignment system. We've mentioned it in like Metacast and things like that before, but broadly speaking, alignment is meant to be a sort of moral compass world view type of deal. Now, there's whole reams of writing on the subject, so I'm just gonna have to lay down the law here, to get it done, okay? In this game that I am running, there are alignments, I will not ... use them, unless absolutely strictly necessary, I've said it before, if Zolf suddenly starts killing babies and doing horrible things, obviously he's in violation of the point of that build.

LYDIA

If Sasha ever had a consistent moral compass ...

ALEX

Oh, you'd be out.

(Group Laughter)

ALEX

But, my point is, is that I'm not gonna hold you to it. Whereas there are ... there are entire sub-systems dedicated to tracking ... what actions you've done and ... how that relates to your alignment and, I think it interferes. That said, as a brief overview, we have lawful, we have chaotic and we have good, we have evil and neutral in the middle for both of those axis. Broadly speaking in this world, lawful is more a, a leaning towards things being organised, centralised, coordinated ... obviously that tends to tie into law as we understand it. Chaotic would be more a case of ... the ends justify the means.

Good and evil's a fairly transparent one, but generally speaking, the way that it goes through neutral is, it's about who you care about. So good, you care about everyone, neutral, you care about you and yours. Evil, you care about yourself. So, for lawful neutral which, is broadly speaking, the alignment that Bertie's been playing, it's ... you would prefer things to be organised ... and there's a way of doing things and sometimes the end doesn't justify the means, you've got to do the thing and you've got to step through the hoops, and if the hoops are wrong you change the hoops. You don't do without the hoops! Neutral meaning ... you're not, like we said, going round, murdering people in their sleep but you're not a nice man because you only care about you and yours, so that's where that lawful neutral comes in.

BEN

I think the only person who actually, technically interacts with the alignment things is me, with the cleric. Cause if I alter my alignments, away from my god, then they go ... no, you don't get any more power.

ALEX

This whole thing's dedicated to you, you'd have to then find a new god or, make good with the original ... it's a whole big thing.

LYDIA

Go live in a cottage somewhere.

ALEX

Or go live in a cottage somewhere ... yes.

LYDIA

It's quite nice, we'd check in on Zolf every now and again.

(laughter)

BEN

Hey.

LYDIA

His evil mouse.

(Group Laughter).

JAMES

Hello. Doing the gardening with their

ALEX?

Evil being.

?

Imitates sound.

JAMES

Yeah, he picks a potato by just stabbing the ground with his now defective trident.

LYDIA

It's quite awkward really.

JAMES

Yeah.

BRYN

Hamid is chaotic good because I believe that the definition of the alignment system means that from inside their own head, all characters get chaotic good, cause they believe they're doing the right thing but they break the rules if absolutely necessary. And therefore I make all characters chaotic good ... that's what everyone believes, as far as I'm concerned.

ALEX

And I'm ...

LYDIA

Someone like Bertie, does obey the rules ...

BRYN?

No, it's not completely true.

BEN?

Also the ...

LYDIA

Even if ... you like rules?

JAMES

Yep.

ALEX

See, I'm not gonna open an whole ... ants' nest here ...

BRYN?

I was just about to ...

LYDIA

This sounds like a mega curve.

ALEX

Yeah, that's the thing.

JAMES

It really is. There is a subject called moral philosophy, people have been talking about this, for a while so ...

ALEX

So ... the new Rusty Quill moral philosophy cast ...

(Laughter)

BRYN

The problem is ... there's literally a plane of good and a plane of evil ... that's where it differs from our ...

ALEX

It's always hard, it's always hard to do like ...

JAMES/LYDIA

Hey!

ALEX

It's always hard to do philosophy and stuff when you can actually just go to god and go ... "Right, okay, I've got a series of questions, I could do with you answering them."

BEN?

Yes, and he lets me do this ... (**imitates sound**).

(Group Laughter)

BRYN?

There you go.

JAMES

That solves a lot.

ALEX

The only time its gonna come up is, there are creatures who can say, for instant, do protect against good. That's a mechanical effect but, for the most part I try to dodge around that kind of thing.

LYDIA

Well it's the only way he knows.

ALEX

A couple of sinister looking gnomes are stood in the doorway with a servant having opened it, and they have just uttered a sentence to you ... what was it? "It's time we talk".

JAMES

Are you breaking up with me?

(Group Laughter)

ALEX

It's not you ...

JAMES

You wish!

(Group Laughter)

ALEX

So, the door is open.

LYDIA

I've just told them that ... I'm sorry that I've had their room ... like because it seems much more appropriate that they have it. "Yeah, like you can have some ... there's lobsters, you can have like ... we are sorry we ate your lobsters. Obviously, you ... it looks like" ...

BRYN?

Well why don't you come and join us and share the food and tell us, what you're here to talk about?

ALEX

In perfect synchronicity, two gnomes' step through and, again coordinating between themselves, one closes the door, the other one gestures for the servant to leave. They look to Sasha for confirmation before they do so.

LYDIA

Yeah but, stay nearby.

ALEX

The servants do so, they ... they're far too professional to show any kind of curiosity and the gnomes ... step forward into the middle of the room, the door is closed. The mechanical man is, still, sort of back into the left of Sasha, just within about a couple of feet.

ALEX

"We presume that you understand why we are here?"

?

No.

LYDIA

No, no idea.

BRYN?

You should explain to us.

LYDIA

Not a clue.

JAMES

See, no-one has a clue. We have no idea who, or what you are.

ALEX

They step forward ...

BRYN?

I wouldn't go that far.

BEN?

We have met them before ... at the British Museum.

LYDIA

Yeah.

ALEX

Sir Bertrand, given the situation you are exempt from any clauses of non-communication whilst we are within this room.

JAMES

Phew.

ALEX

You and everyone within this room.

LYDIA

I still don't ... I don't know nothing about no-one! What, no, nothing.

BEN

But we can't be exempt if we're everything that we're not party to.

LYDIA

Yeah, we don't know.

ALEX

They, they sit down, at the table.

"What you may not be aware though, is that should you spreading contract details regarding Sir Bertrand, without our consent, there are punishments due ... not of course to yourselves, to Sir Bertrand."

LYDIA

Oh, alright then.

JAMES

Oh, come on!

LYDIA

Fine. What kind of stuff can we do to him?

(Laughter)

LYDIA

So, there's like hints, mean that he loses a finger?

ALEX

They both erase mirrored eyebrows.

"We think it will be best if, this subject is not broached in too much detail. Sufficed to say, the penalties for communication are, extremely severe."

JAMES

Bertie makes eye contact with Sasha and then taps the hilt of his sword.

(laughter)

LYDIA

Alright.

ALEX

"Now, it has come to our attention that, not only have there been less than flattering press coverage regarding your actions, not only that, there have been cases of ... people trapped in the tunnels etc, due to your direct actions, not only that you have breached a sub-clause of the contract by which you have communicated with ... your fellow party members here."

LYDIA

No. There was no ... no communication with anyone.

JAMES

Absolutely no evidence of that, can't prove a thing.

LYDIA

Do you hear any communication?

ALEX

They reach up, and then basically cast up into the air and, an illusion of a contract appears. So, it's large ... think Marvel Agents of Shield with their big flashy things. So it just comes up and it's glowing there, over the table and, its incredibly **unclear 0:10:44** ... it just looks like, a pattern. At which point they sort of gesture and it zooms in ... gesture zooms in again and in incredibly fine writing ...

LYDIA

I know **unclear 0:10:52**.

ALEX

Yes, the scale of this contract is ... phenomenal. Like, you could probably make a life's work of just analysing the legalities and they just open with ...

"Page 67, chapter 4, sub-clause 3, paragraph 9. Any attempts to break communication or intention to break contract using magical means to hide any kind of detection of breaks of contract is, in itself a break of contract".

JAMES

The bloody microdot!

ALEX

"You will have noticed the mark on your arm Sir Bertrand?"

JAMES

Yes.

ALEX

"As you are well aware that is, shall we say, a first mark. In the event of three cumulative breaks there will be a penalty more severe than merely marking your breaks of contract. Congratulations you've already made one. It is apparent that in order to meet the terms of your contract, the scale of your deed will need to be significantly increased, in aid of the common good." They say that ... and there's a genuine slight sneer from both of them when they say, "In aid of the common good".

BRYN?

I frown.

ALEX

"With that in mind, you yourselves are now, of course ... hold power over Sir Bertrand, exercise it as you will. His duty to choose who he associates with, if he associates and insists on sharing details of a contract with which he can be suffering ..."

BEN?

Are we under any, sort of obligations, to act in any particular way?

ALEX

They stand, and they put the chairs under the table. We suggest that you address the situation Sir Bertrand as quickly as possible. They ignore Zolf just a little longer. "If you do not do so within the next month Sir Bertrand, you will of course suffer a second penalty for breach of contract."

They open the door.

LYDIA

I throw a bit of lobster after them.

ALEX

It stops ... in mid-air, bursts into flame (**imitates sound**) and the ashes distribute themselves around the room.

LYDIA

I hate the law; I hate the law so much.

ALEX

They both raise an eyebrow at Sasha, step into the lift, the lift closes and they go.

BEN?

I mean, while will ... sign a contract with them and they can't unclear 0:12:45 the original contract?

BRYN?

They're probably quite powerful and could just ... you know do us harm in other ways.

LYDIA

I don't like the law, they're always just ...

BEN?

Anyway, their visit ...

LYDIA

They will get at you right? They always get at you, you're just like ... "Oh yeah, no you're not at harm", and then you throw things at em and it bursts into flames. It's just not fair.

JAMES

So, anyway, I need to ... kill a dragon or something.

(laughter)

BRYN

We will, that's not generally considered the public good. The meritocrats frown on it, rather strongly.

JAMES

A non-dragon, an anti-dragon ...

BEN

Well bearing in mind that, what we're on, what we're doing now ... we've already be seen to the common good.

LYDIA

Yeah.

JAMES

Right, well, let's get on with it ... chop, chop.

BEN

Army of terrifying, you know, infinite workers or whatever it is that could happen out of this lot. Or just take it as it comes, you're gonna have to learn how to be a good guy. It may be boils down to doing the right thing at the right time ... not planning it out.

LYDIA

Maybe ...

BEN

I'm trying to help you here.

JAMES

I know.

(Group Laughter)

ALEX

At this point we'll say that the contract dissipates over the table.

JAMES

I was reading that!

ALEX

Leaving an acrid smell.

BEN?

Ah, the smell of loins.

(Group Laughter)

LYDIA

The **unclear 0:13:55**.

ALEX

If we have any loyal listeners, they're just gonna tune out. Like, they're just gonna be like "lawyers aren't evil, they're just terrible".

LYDIA

They're not, they're not.

BRYN?

Alright, okay, we've got specifically ...

LYDIA

I'm playing a thief ...

BRYN?

Specifically these lawyers are evil.

LYDIA

Please, I'm playing a professional thief.

BEN?

I'm playing a pirate! Well an ex-pirate.

ALEX

Yeah but, I don't think that there's gonna be many pirates who listen to us. But maybe ...

BEN?

That is an untapped market.

LYDIA

I think we'll see some unclear 0:14:15.

ALEX

That would be fascinating.

BEN

Not a very profitable one, cause they pirate all the stuff.

BRYN

I feel like they're giving away, they're not just lawyers, but specifically, evil lawyers by calling themselves heartless, heartless, darkness and sphynx. Like its ...

BEN

No, that's just their names, come on,

BRYN

It's better than Wolferham and Heart, in terms of, you know, "Hey, we're evil".

ALEX

So, its still evening, the two gnomes have left. What we are doing? Are we sticking to the original plan? You were gonna wait till people go to sleep and have an explore on the roof?

LYDIA

I think I'll lock ... I'm going to bed now ... guys, night.

BEN

Yeah, when's, when's our meeting?

BRYN

I said 10.30am in the note.

BEN

Alright. Well if we get a good night's sleep.

BRYN

A nice, civilised time.

BEN

Rest up. We're all a bit, highly strung I feel.

LYDIA

Right.

BEN

So probably a good night's sleep might help.

JAMES

Right, well, not a problem, well, my original plan A was stay in, teach Brutor how to wear a monocle properly.

(laughter)

JAMES

Now, I think I'll probably ... I'll go out and I'll foil some evil before bed. Just, you know ... get a bit in, so tootle ooo, see you in the morning.

LYDIA

Alright. I mean, there might be good honest thieves that are just doing their jobs.

JAMES

I'll do my best to, work out, how difficult a childhood they have had before I fillet them and, wear their ribcage as a hat!

BEN

That ain't gonna get you any points on the good scale, just randomly murdering ... people.

JAMES

It won't be murder, it'll be ... they'll start it, I promise.

(laughter)

BEN

No, that's not good, although, right that's not gonna help. As they've said, they need a much grander scale. Best you rest up, and we focus on the task in hand.

JAMES

I'll find a big one, or four!

LYDIA

Why don't you like ... take down a corrupt system that is, holding the common people down?

JAMES

What, at half past 9pm!

LYDIA

Yeah.

(laughter)

JAMES

If the corrupt system have gone to bed, well the advantage is if you don't have a corrupt system, is you get to leave early! Now that's ...

(laughter)

BEN

Well, that's what I'm saying. So, get a good night's sleep, in the morning we'll go do this, and we'll go and pursue the grander scheme of ... stopping ...

JAMES

Certainly. Oh, I'm really tired, ohhh yawn (**imitates sound**) ... bed, bed time for me, just go for a quick walk just to, you know, get a bit of fresh air in before bed.

BEN

Look, if you wanna go murder some people ...

BRYN

I cast sleep on Bertie.

(Group Laughter)

LYDIA

Yes!

JAMES

Bertie's fallen down where he is.

ALEX

You're not even gonna get the role? As in, are you not even going for the role?

JAMES

I'm not contesting that ... that's funny.

(Group Laughter)

JAMES

I brew till then, like Potters up, and they just ... like falls down asleep on his chest.

ALEX

Yep.

BRYN

"Oh, I probably should have thought this through, I probably can't move him into his bed now, can I?"

BEN?

Just leave him there, he'll be fine. Oh, no we need to get him **unclear 0:16:44**

...

BRYN?

He'll wake up, quite soon. I mean not immediately, but it's not like lasts all night.

BEN?

Can he be aroused?

BRYN?

Not immediately, no.

BEN

Brilliant. Right, lets just get his armour off and get him into bed, and probably lock the door.

BRYN

Then he'll just fall asleep again when he wakes up. Okay quickly.

BEN

Do that. Put **unclear 0:17:00**.

ALEX

You all strip Bertie unconscious of his armour and just ... huff him in to a bed?

BRYN?

Yeah.

BEN?

Yeah.

LYDIA

Yeah.

ALEX

Do you lock a door on him? You have keys, should you wish to?

BRYN

Yeah, I probably will.

BEN

He probably can't be bothered to put the armour back on.

BRYN

I'll tidy away the armour and store it nicely.

ALEX

Okay, so Bertie is now asleep in a bed against his Will.

(Group Laughter)

JAMES

Me and my Brutor are both having the same dream about chasing rabbits, its adorable.

ALEX

Yeah, in both of them Brutor's holding the leash and ...

(Group Laughter)

ALEX

And it's really weird because Bertie's naked and, running through everything, on all floors ... all floors?

BEN?

All of the floors?

ALEX

All of the floors!

JAMES

Yeah.

LYDIA

Simultaneously the rabbit is a multi playing a rabbit.

JAMES

And they're falling and falling and falling, and they wake up and there's an exam ... it's very ... yeah, anyway right carry on.

ALEX

Moving on. So, everyone else going to bed?

ALL

Yes.

ALEX

Okay.

LYDIA

I'm gonna go and sit on the roof, and be, proper Batman like for a while.

ALEX

Brood.

LYDIA

I'm gonna brood.

ALEX

Nice.

LYDIA

Like, Sasha ... didn't really have any friends before, this has affected her deeply, she's ... the idea that people, are actually evil underneath, it's sort of deeply ... got into her, so ... deeply felt.

ALEX

Shall we say that you ...

LYDIA

She will brood hardcore. There's gonna be a sun, the moon will set behind her.

ALEX

Shall we say that you go up, via the balcony?

LYDIA

No, I get up ... go out my window.

ALEX

Okay. So, when you head to the room naturally the mechanical man, he steps along behind you and, when you're heading into the room, he attempts to follow you into the room.

LYDIA

I'll close the door.

ALEX

He knocks slightly (**imitates sound**).

LYDIA

I'll leave it shut.

ALEX

(**Imitates sound**).

LYDIA

I back away from the door. I go back and I lock the door.

ALEX

(**Imitates sound**).

LYDIA

And I ... climb out the window.

ALEX

He just carries on knocking.

LYDIA

That's fine, I can go to sleep on the roof.

(**Group Laughter**)

ALEX

So, Going up onto the roof ...

LYDIA

I'm perfectly comfortable, doing that kind of thing.

ALEX

No, that's okay. Going up on to the roof, we'll say ... you're just sitting, surveying the vista for a while.

LYDIA

Brooding. Get a good hour's brooding.

ALEX

Give me a perception check.

LYDIA

Rolls dice. 19.

ALEX

19. So, there are a number of cornicing and so on ... up on the roof. There's even a section, you're not on it, but you can see further along, there's apparently like a roof garden or something. In fact, you could go basically from your penthouse suite to a roof garden. But you're on the gabling, and there are a number of gargoyles spread around it. However, here's a fun fact, technically a gargoyle is one that has a gutter in its mouth - that's your fun fact for you. They're ones that are for drainage, otherwise they're known as grotesques. But, its Pathfinder, there are a number of gargoyles and we'll say

that you're, you know, perched up next to one of them. After a good half hour, of brooding ...

LYDIA

Of brooding. I've brooded so hard ... it moulds.

ALEX

It turns its head (**imitates sound**).

LYDIA

Aahh.

ALEX

Yeah, but it turns its head ... (**imitates sound**).

"Is everything alright?"

LYDIA

In French ... in gutter French.

ALEX

In gutter French.

LYDIA

Oh, like, alright my china plate, yes.

(Group Laughter)

LYDIA

It's proper grand in it?

ALEX

"It's alright."

LYDIA

How are you?

ALEX

"Well, you know."

ALEX

It turns its head (**imitates sound**) ... looking back out on the vista ... back.

ALEX

"Bored."

LYDIA

Alright. Like, do you get to move around much here?

ALEX

There's a good like, 30 seconds of silence. (**Imitates sound**). It gives a slight shrug.

LYDIA

Oh, but you must see some proper good stuff from up here like, are there riots and things?

ALEX

Another like, 10 seconds. Then gives ... I have to do it; I have to describe it cause its audio. It just gives a sort of gesture of (**imitates sound**). Just very non-committal.

LYDIA

So, what's the best thing you've seen from up here? Are fireworks? Have you seen any dragons, any airplane crashes?

ALEX

"About 60 years ago, there was an assassination ..."

LYDIA

Up here?

ALEX

"That's interesting ... yeah."

LYDIA

Cool, what happened?

ALEX

"It was like a ... a diplomat or something. "

LYDIA

On the roof?

ALEX

"Yeah."

LYDIA

That's well good.

ALEX

"Yeah."

LYDIA

Did you help?

ALEX

"Yeah."

LYDIA

The diplomat or the assassin?

ALEX

"First one then the other."

LYDIA

Aah right, nice.

ALEX

"Yeah."

LYDIA

Did they give you any, reward for that?

ALEX

It kind of licks its lips and rather than a smacking sound, there's a sound of stone on stone (**imitates sound**).

ALEX

Unclear 0:21:19.

LYDIA

Aah, did you eat them?

ALEX

"Yeah."

LYDIA

Aah, cool. I mean, bad. I don't know, I mean I don't know what eating people is ... like for a gargoyle, morally. I mean, are you trapped up here?

ALEX

"Sort of."

LYDIA

I know what that's like, you know. I got, I got trapped for most of my life, underground though not on the top. So you've got a view at least.

ALEX

"Yeah."

LYDIA

Do you like the view?

ALEX

He sort of gives a (**imitates sound**) and then gestures ... incredibly moving his hand really slowly to one of the other gargoyles (**imitates sound**).

ALEX

"Terrys into it a bit more. Likes his culture."

LYDIA

Aah does he? That's great. I wanna make friends with all the gargoyles.

ALEX

Sure.

LYDIA

Unclear 0:22:05.

ALEX

I'm just gonna accelerate time. I'm happy for you to just ... meet all the gargoyles.

BRYN

Terry's short for terracotta.

(Group Laughter)

JAMES

I was thinking for a pun to that ... yes, well done.

LYDIA

I mean Sasha isn't a charismatic woman. She's just, she's just, quite friendly to just about everyone. Her meeting people isn't going to be the most spectacular entertaining thing.

ALEX

Roll me a knowledge local, to see what information you can garner from them whilst just chatting about stuff with gargoyles on the roof.

LYDIA

Rolls dice. 11 plus 8 - 19.

ALEX

19.

JAMES

So they're garnergoyles.

ALEX

(Laughs). So, what I'll say is just, from, just chatting to them about the city and so on, you now could find your way round Paris ... cause over there you've got blah, over there you've got blah, so you've got a good ...

LYDIA

Knowledge local.

ALEX

You've got a good idea of, like a layout of Paris, hot spots, things like that, but it's all from the perspective of one roof with gargoyles that can't leave it. So, its not like, "here's a good place to eat, it's a lot of people are outside that building over there sometimes." So it's a really weird perspective, but we'll say that that plays out and ...

JAMES

They all have heads ... beyond that couldn't tell you anything ... yet.

ALEX

It's a clear night, so presumably you ... sleep on the roof you said?

LYDIA

Yeah, I think that that would be something that she would do quite often.

ALEX

Sure, that's fine. Cool. We'll take a break there and we'll come back in a couple of minutes.

.....

ALEX

Okay, we'll pick up, it's the morning after. Sasha, as you re-enter your window (**imitates sound**) to the point where it must have been slightly annoying for other people in the night as the mechanical man has "apparently" been there knocking politely on the door ... all night! The whole time. (**Imitates sound**).

LYDIA

I'll just ... open the door.

ALEX

He just sort of steps aside for you to enter the room. Enter the corridor I should say.

LYDIA

Is there breakfast out, or is it ...

ALEX

There is, there is a ... breakfast laid out. Everything was removed, without anyone asking for it to be, and it has been replaced with a ridiculous spread of, sort of continental breakfast, obviously croissants and blah blah.

LYDIA

Are there kippers?

ALEX

You could request kippers.

LYDIA

I'm gonna request Kippers.

ALEX

You've requested kippers, kippers have arrived, but yeah ...

LYDIA

No-one else is up yet, I'm just having a great time.

ALEX

We'll skip ahead to post breakfast and there is a ... again a servant knocks to enter the room ... steps in carries a message for ... who was it that sent the message? Like was it addressed from Hamid, or from ...

BRYN

I would have signed it with my own name.

ALEX

That's fine. So, it comes over to Mr Tahan and then he departs, and it's a sealed envelope with just your name on the front.

BRYN

I open it?

ALEX

Sure. In French, cursive written not typed. "I regretfully am not able to meet you today, however if you were to visit the **Arc De Lore De'Natur**, we would be happy to take delivery of the sample from the British Museum. Regards Francois Henri".

BRYN

It seems he might be trying to avoid us.

BEN

Unclear 0:24:50 be busy.

BRYN

Though it's possible he's just busy.

LYDIA

But how do you know that ... he wrote the note?

BRYN

Again, can't be sure.

LYDIA

I suppose we should head over?

BRYN

Yeah, we probably should.

LYDIA

Maybe you'll a dragon or something. Like an evil dragon?

JAMES

Mmmm.

(laughter)

BRYN

We'll ask where he is. I mean, we still, we'll need an appointment with him at some point, yeah.

ALEX

So, what are people doing?

JAMES

Well, I would suggest that our only leverage in terms of getting to meet him if he is unwilling to meet us, is the possession of the thing that we are to deliver to him. So, it might be best ...

BRYN

We were technically told just to limit to the Ordinateurs but, we could stretch the truth a little, I suppose?

JAMES

I think ...

LYDIA

I think that's a great idea, and I'm a damsel in distress that needs that to happen, so that's fine.

JAMES

Good. Thank you. Excellent.

LYDIA

Look at me just stressing ... Aargh, Aargh.

JAMES

Look, she's really sad, Bertie addresses the air ... look, (would you mind fainting).

LYDIA

Aargh .

JAMES

Bertie tries to catch her sort of, but it's like a really feeble thing.

LYDIA

As you try to catch me, I do the sort of ... like an oiled slipping like ...

JAMES

Fall through the hands.

LYDIA

Yeah, completely dodge the attempt to grasp me. I wasn't going to fall, but I do end up on the floor because, the dodging impulse is so strong. Aargh it's a hug! Dodge!

(Group Laughter)

ALEX

Evade, evasion.

LYDIA

Yeah, if I've got evasion I don't think I get to the next level.

ALEX

You only take half damage on hugs then?

LYDIA

Yeah.

(Group Laughter)

LYDIA

Only half **unclear 0:26:12**.

ALEX

So, we will say that you head out then, presumably to ... **Arc De Lore De'Natur**.

BEN

It might be worthwhile just meeting some of the other staff ... that is in that list you've got. You know, we don't necessarily have to speak to Francois **unclear 0:26:23**.

BRYN

Were there other people who worked at the Ordinateurs?

BEN

Yeah the first person on the list was an Ordinatis.

BRYN

Oh, okay.

BEN

And to be honest, if Francois is involved in the creation of, whatever we're trying to hunt down ... he might not want to talk to us but we might get more from his inferior, well from his **unclear 0:26:38**.

LYDIA

How do we know it's his inferior? It could, another ... I mean, I suppose there is the boss. Alright, well, let's see how it goes.

BEN

Yeah

ALEX

Alright. So, we'll say you head down, naturally there's lots of toadying as you enter the lobbies. "Is there anything we can get for you; do you like us to arrange a carriage?" It's a visible like few hundred feet's walk to the **Arc De Lore De'Natur**, it's a towering **unclear 0:26:56** ... like immediately opposite so, you could if you want. They're all like "get a carriage for you, is there anything we can do for you?"

LYDIA

No, no, please no, no. Please, no, no, make it stop! No, no no!

JAMES

I think Brutor would like a carriage.

LYDIA

No.

(laughter)

JAMES

Bertie maintains eye contact with Sasha. Takes Brutor out of his **papoose**, passes him to one of the butlers and say, "A carriage, Mr Brutor?"

ALEX

They're very clearly holding Brutor and looking to Sasha as to what to do.

LYDIA

No, no carriages. No, give him to a butler, the butler'll carry him.

JAMES

Look at his little face.

LYDIA

Yeah, it's a dog's face!

JAMES

Arr, spoil my fun.

ALEX

One of the footmen very, sort of ... hiding how much he clearly hates dogs, passes it to your mechanical man, who is still maintaining himself a couple of feet behind you.

LYDIA

I think this guy's, got a bit of a fixation so, let's see ...

BRYN

He probably had orders? I mean, you could probably order him to do something different, just tell him what you want him to do!

LYDIA

Mechanical man, Mr man, Sir, could you stay here and stop doing anything?

ALEX

He stares at you impassively.

LYDIA

Right, I think maybe ... stop doing anything. Right, let's go.

ALEX

He does not follow you. Brutor, as the party starts to walk away sort of ...

(imitates sound) ...

(Group Laughter)

ALEX

(imitates sound)

(Group Laughter)

JAMES

Come on boy.

ALEX

(Imitates sound). He's not willing to jump down. "You made this happen, you do not get to be impatient!"

JAMES

I'm walking, I'm gonna whistle, he's gonna come when called. If that requires an animal check, that requires an animal check?

ALEX

It does. I realise how domestic things have gotten.

JAMES

That's fine.

ALEX

You've forced my hand!

JAMES

Rolls dice. 10 plus 7, 17.

ALEX

Brutor, despite all canine biology raises an eyebrow ...

(Group Laughter)

ALEX

Jumps down, not particularly gracefully, lands, does the best, proceeds to walk very slowly ... past you, not looking at you and then walk along with the rest of the party ... making a big, big show of not looking at Bertie, but nonetheless walking.

(laughter)

LYDIA

What outfit is he in?

ALEX

He'll still be in the smoking jacket, unless you have requested some more clothing, which you will have time to have, by the time he gets back, this evening.

JAMES

Silk pyjamas ...

ALEX

Silk pyjamas ...

JAMES

And they're monogrammed.

ALEX

Monogrammed silk pyjamas.

JAMES

With SBM.

ALEX

I'm writing that down ... in my notes.

BRYN?

Sir Brutor MacGuffingham?

JAMES

Yep.

(Group Laughter)

BRYN?

Have you just knighted your dog?

JAMES

Yep.

BRYN?

I'm not sure you have the authority to do that! It does in the god, in the god kingdom? In the dog kingdom.

ALEX

So, you head across, again you have to wait ... they even have the equivalent of like STOP signs, for cars and so on. But eventually you make it across ... to the Arc, which is in a large sort of, wide ... there's not many buildings around it to steel focus Effectively. It's a large open area, and heading up, beneath the arch, there is a very clearly ... a set of double doors, which just, it's very actually subtle, once you're in there. The actual Arc itself is ridiculous, huge thing. But the actual doorway itself, it's actually just, a little sign ... The Institute of Ordinateur, blah, blah blah. And, presumably, heading in, you enter into a ... a large, but not ridiculous lobby. Still, its quite modest, quite, it's a perfect cube though. Tiled floors, white, there's a couple of windows and there's a person sat behind a desk ... a woman, she appears to be a gnome. And she's sat behind the desk just, sort of doing some paperwork.

LYDIA

Bertie, is that one of yours?

JAMES

It doesn't look like it.

LYDIA

Right. Am I allowed to ask you that?

JAMES

I think so?

ALEX

A sudden searing pain! No, you're alright.

(laughter)

BEN?

What's the line here?

BRYN?

We're looking for ... the director, the director is how he was referred to, wasn't he?

LYDIA

What was his name on the list? I look at the list.

ALEX

It was Francoise Henri, like H, e, n, r, i.

BRYN?

Henri?

ALEX

Yes.

BRYN?

Frank Henri.

ALEX

Frank Henri ... director of L'Académie Dor De Natur.

LYDIA

Who's the other guy?

ALEX

The, what, the Ordinatis?

LYDIA

Yeah.

ALEX

That is Dr Jean Luc Bolio.

LYDIA

I go up, and about to speak and then, as I kind of feel the words coming out of my mouth and see the surroundings, I step back. Hamid I think you'd better take this.

BRYN

Excuse me ...

ALEX

"Yes, how can I help you?"

BRYN

Hi, we er, we sent erm, the director ... a professor is it? Erm Professor Henri?

ALEX

"That'll be director. Technically, it's a superseding title."

BRYN

Of course. We sent the director ... a note, requesting the pleasure of calling on him about ... half past 10, and he did ... reply saying he, erm, wouldn't be able to. But we wondered if it might be possible to arrange err, an appointment with him later in the day, or perhaps at some point tomorrow?

LYDIA

If you bear with me.

BRYN

We've got a personal delivery, from the Curator of the British Museum that we were ... requested to, make sure was placed directly into his hands. I'm sure you understand?

ALEX

"I do. If you'll bear with me one second". She reaches underneath the desk, pulls out what looks like ... this is just gonna be for the sake of magic! A wireless speaking phone. So, you know how normally you'd have those pneumatic tubes, and it's hollow, then it ... it's just ... it's that but with no piping attached. She speaks into it, again from Bertie's perspective "Blah, blah, blah, blah ..."

JAMES

Blah, blah, blah, blah, blah, blah, blah, blah, blah ...

ALEX

None of you can hear what's happening at the other end.

"Yes, I understand. I'm afraid that Mr Henri is, or Moinsuer Henri is busy for the rest of the day. But we are more than happy to accept the delivery of the device. We can provide a receipt for transit."

BRYN

You understand, the Curator of the museum is a close personal friend, he really insisted that I ... I make sure this went directly into Mr Henri's hand himself.

ALEX

Give me a diplomacy check before you carry on.

BRYN

Rolls dice. 14, so 24.

ALEX

24? She looks a bit ... gives it a consideration and goes ...

BRYN

I'm terribly sorry to put you out ... it's I must confess; I've always been absolutely fascinated ... I'm leaning over the desk at her and flashing her my best smile.

LYDIA

Are we having to prop you up?

(Group Laughter)

BRYN

She's a gnome.

LYDIA

Yeah, but she might have steps to get up to her chair.

ALEX

Actually, yeah, we'll say that there's like ... half of it is slightly raised, subtly so that you could stand there and ... talk across the desk.

BRYN

It's always been a ... a desire of mine to meet the director personally, and ... and I was hoping that you, you know, the Curator said that we, we would get on famously and I was really, really hoping if there's anything you could do to ... to ... I don't want to put you to any trouble, it's, it's of course, you know, I don't mind waiting a few days, if necessary but consider it a personal favour ...

ALEX

She takes a moment and then goes ...

"Listen, for what it's worth, you shouldn't take it personally, the director hasn't seen ... hasn't taken any appointments for ... more than a month, no-one really goes in to see him anymore. He's just sort of cloistered himself away, so I, I wouldn't take it personally. For what it's worth, like I said ... I mean, we can accept delivery on your behalf."

BRYN

That's so, disappointing. Is he okay? ...

ALEX

"Oh he's fine, I was just speaking to him on a call".

BRYN

But he, he's closeted himself away?

ALEX

"He's a very busy man, what can I say?"

BRYN

Has something happened?

ALEX

"Not, not as far as we're aware".

BRYN

Mmm, how, how troubling. Let me just talk to my ...

Try and sneak ...

BEN?

Yeah, can I ...

BRYN

Talk. Let me just confer with my associates.

ALEX

"Of course."

BEN

Do you think its worth mentioning to the director if that is to do with Eddison's work?

LYDIA

I think if nothing else has got ...

BRYN

I think **unclear 0:34:21** matches up.

BEN

I don't think we should, warn him of that. I think we're gonna have to go and, see him ... outside of the normal procedures if we have to. But I think a private conference would be the best time to, broach that subject ... don't you think?

LYDIA

Do you think ... maybe, we could get like a tour or something and I could sneak off and find him?

BRYN

I was thinking we could come back this evening and wait for him to leave, or once it's all shutting down for the night? If we if we got inside at that point?

BEN

We'd have to ... case it. Like we don't know if this is the only ... entrance, or he might have chambers in here ...

JAMES

Time's a wasting now, I could provide an appropriate distraction ... while other people perhaps went to another part of the building ... the director's location?

BEN

We don't know where his office?

BRYN

I think ... organising a tour of some kind is, is a good idea and that'll give us a chance to ... to scope the place out.

LYDIA

How about you say you're a massive fan, and that you'd just like to be able to see things around?

BRYN

Yes, well I'll see what we can do. I go back to the receptionist, again, kind of, you know a bit conspiratorially sort of ask if she ... you know as we're so kind of you know excited to be here, if there are tours and whether we could arrange one.

ALEX

She erm pipes up

"Oh yes, obviously you wouldn't be able to meet Mr Henri ..."

BRYN

No, I understand. I'm still going to try because it's such ... it is an important delivery but, I understand that won't be possible today, at the very least but, but we'd still love, we'd still love to, have a look around.

ALEX

She's, again she seems particularly onboard not like, enraptured but, yeah she's fine.

"I tell you what, we've actually had a couple of cancellations, I'd be able to book four of you in for ... a tour later, this afternoon. Obviously, you won't be seeing the ... Ordinateurs themselves, cause they're, they're protected but, nonetheless it would be a tour of an institute."

BRYN

Do the Ordinateurs, give, give any talks on ... I'm absolutely fascinated by the ... the workings.

ALEX

"Oh certainly. Who would you like to be speaking to"? If there's anyone specifically" ...

BRYN

Well, a cousin of mine did, did come for a talk here about, 3 months ago and mentioned the name ... Dr Jean Luc Bolio? Said he, they had a conversation and ...

ALEX

"How long was this? I'll I'll just look it up?"

BRYN

I think it was about 3 months ago. It's hard, hard to ... I'm not too sure of the exact date I mean ... I saw, I must have seen, I must have seen him about a month ago, and he was saying it was ...

ALEX

As you're, as you're saying this, she's working out, she's going ...

"No you see, erm Dr Bolio has departed the Institute about 6 months ago".

BRYN

Oh, it must have been longer ago than I remembered then".

ALEX

"Oh well ..."

BRYN

That's so strange. Maybe it was just before he left. Where, where, where ...

ALEX

"it's interesting, you're not actually the first person who was asking after ... Dr Bolio."

BRYN

Oh really, someone else?

ALEX

"Your cousin, was it ..."

She's reading through.

"Was that Emily Rose".

BRYN

Oh no, that's not my cousin but that is actually ... that's an acquaintance of his that he did introduce me to ... well he must have given the same the story to her.

ALEX

"Well there we go. Yes, I'm afraid she was the last person. The best I could do is ... I probably shouldn't do this, I have some contact details for Miss Rose, if you'd like to contact her? She's the last person that **unclear 0:37:22**" ...

BRYN

Oh lovely, I didn't realise she was in the city, it'll be lovely to see her. We did meet at a couple of parties ... my cousin I think was courting her and introduced us.

ALEX

She writes down some details and passes them over.

BRYN

Thank you so much.

ALEX

"Oh, you're very welcome."

BRYN

So, we'll see you again this afternoon, perhaps?

ALEX

"Sure, about 2pm".

BRYN

2pm. Wonderful, thank you so much.

ALEX

"You're welcome."

LYDIA

So what sort of food do they do in Paris?

JAMES

All of it!

LYDIA

I think we'll have that.

ALEX

I will cut to ... you're back at the institute, well fed, although ... even going to the upmarket place, its pails a little bit compared to what you were getting in the hotel room, just cause it's so ... obscene. But nonetheless there is a small group of people gathered outside the arch ... some of them are in suits. It's not, it seems very much to be a professional tour, so rather than sort of tourists, it's very much a sort of ...

JAMES

Academicians.

ALEX

Academics, that kind of thing, yeah.

(laughter)

LYDIA

Academiologists.

JAMES

Academology.

LYDIA

Scientists.

JAMES

Yep, Academiologists.

ALEX

Academancy. So, nonetheless yeah ... it's there and there's someone who's sort of taking names for the tour. Presumably you provide your real names?

BRYN

I certainly provide my real name.

JAMES

Yep.

ALEX

It's enough. So, if any of you wants to use a pseudonym ... do tell me.

LYDIA

So ...

ALEX

SASHAR RACKAT!

LYDIA

So ...

JAMES

Sasha Racar.

BRYN

Sasha Fracus.

LYDIA

Racket, aargh.

(Group Laughter)

BRYN

That don't mean Racket.

ALEX

Nonetheless there is a ...

BRYN?

I will give the name Robert Hotson.

ALEX

Sure, sure ... they note it all down, that's fine. They ... start the tour. They head in, you'll see the female gnome looks up from her desk and gives a little wink to ... Hamid as you're heading in. they step through and the tour begins. It starts with the historical "Now the building itself originally created in 16 ... whatever."

JAMES

Forget frogs' legs, blah, blah, blah ... war of 1870.

BRYN

I will provide a running translation for Bertie.

BEN

And Zolf if he wants?

ALEX

Sure. So, the tour can ...

LYDIA

I'll need a cultural translation.

(laughter)

ALEX

The tour continues down, to be blunt a lot of boring corridors with some art depicting various points of its history. The tour explains how, thanks to the Ordinateurs Paris which, was always a world power rose to the prominence for, not just services the ordinating provided, but all of the secondary services ... so banking, cause of course all of that computing power and that they use to ... co-ordinate all of the logistics for various **magicacra**tic endeavours across the globe ... blah, blah, blah. Some of it's very ... dressed up, it's a bit pompous really ... the way that its being described.

LYDIA

About half an hour in, I might try to go off.

ALEX

Give me a stealth check to do so.

LYDIA

Rolls dice. It's been so long that I've forgot myself. So 26.

ALEX

26. Yeah you peel off without anyone noticing. I'll stick with these guys just for a little bit but ...

LYDIA

Oh, can I take Carl's message on me. Carl's message on me Hamid?

BRYN

I do so.

ALEX

Sure. So, you peel off and the tour continues explaining ... how thanks to this Paris has secured itself as a world power because it doesn't just take military might in order to establish yourself. Information ... it could be quite interesting? But the tour is not. Meanwhile Sasha ...

BRYN

I was really enjoying it.

ALEX

Sure. So, Sasha you peel off.

LYDIA

Sneaking around the institute, it's a lovely sneaky time ...

(Group Laughter)

LYDIA

Sneaking around ...

BRYN

The singing really distracts.

(Group Laughter)

ALEX

You're like taking -5, but you just roll really well. What is it you're trying to achieve, where are you trying to go, that kind of thing?

LYDIA

Find, find ... the directors offices.

ALEX

Sure. Its fairly easy to find yourself with ... effectively a fire safety map on one of the corridors ... "In the event of an emergency blah, blah, blah, blah" ...

LYDIA

Convenient map.

ALEX

Sure. It's very obvious to you that the director holds an office at the very, very top of the arch ... sort of like a penthouse office and there it's very easy to locate a lift. Are you trying not to be seen or are you trying to pass off like you should be there?

LYDIA

I'm trying to ... what, in a studded leather jacket!

ALEX

Hey, I'm not gonna tell you what to do!

LYDIA

I'm gonna try and avoid being seen.

ALEX

Can I get one more stealth to get you to the lift please?

LYDIA

I would go up the stairs!

ALEX

Oh, if you're going up the stairs, same difference, same place.

LYDIA

Rolls dice. It's only 12, which means I'm only at 20.

ALEX

20, you're fine. There's a couple of hairy moments where ... a couple of gentlemen in white coats walk past ... **(imitates sound)** ... you know, you duck back, they go through. You notice that a few of the rooms have ... panels at the side where they place their hand on, again, it looks like something similar to a pentagram, you're not magically trained in that area so it's **unclear 0:41:55** to you ...

LYDIA

It looks like that weird stuff they do! That knowledge thing!

ALEX

So, it's clearly they've got a lot of magical locks throughout the place. And, heading through you end up at the staircase at the base. Cutting back to the tour briefly, they have gone through the history and now you get to meet a real live Ordinatist! "Now, this is Dr Picard", let's say.

(Group Laughter)

LYDIA

Bryn's little face.

(Group Laughter)

ALEX

And it's just ...

JAMES

I can understand him, he speaks in such a wonderful English voice.

(Group Laughter)

ALEX

You just go ... you know "You can ask him any questions that you want, no matter how technical". And the questions that everyone else is asking are really boring.

"Would you say that the financial ramifications of the Ordinateurs has been large?"

ALEX/JAMES

Yes.

ALEX

Like, really boring.

JAMES

When you say boring, you mean basic? What do you mean?

ALEX

The questions that they're asking will have been asked a thousand times and have no merit to them.

BRYN

Hamid might well have some actual questions? He's probably following quite closely, but like the technical bits.

ALEX

Sure.

BRYN

He's relatively interested in this.

ALEX

Give me one diplomacy check Hamid.

BRYN

Rolls dice. 17, so 27.

ALEX

27. The Ordinatis' face lights up when you start asking, actually interesting questions. You know stuff like, "Well I mean in banking obviously you have to initial synchronicity between the various Ordinateurs, so how do you account for latency in that period, and stuff like that?" And his face is just like "Oh, okay ...". And he starts going off on one. The tour starts moving on, and he's looking a bit dispirited and then he sort of comes up and gives you a card.

LYDIA

If anybody wants to read a series of blogs/posts about the legal and technical implications of, the spread of machine learning. I do that

?

Yeah you do!

(Group Laughter)

?

In real life.

LYDIA

Look at my Twitters ... you can have that.

ALEX

So, he sneaks up and, just quickly passes a card to Hamid going "If there's anything I can help you with, fantastic speaking to you, hope you have a great day". He's very enthused.

JAMES

Bertie would like to ask a question as well.

ALEX

Go for it.

JAMES

So, Bertie would like to ask about the, possibility of the Ordinateurs for analysing magical and/or legal information.

ALEX

Does someone translate for you?

JAMES

Yes.

ALEX

He goes "Ooh that's ... that's actually a really interesting ques ..." he's again, he's kind of ...

b

Do I need to roll to ask a sensible question that might be ...

ALEX

No, no, it's fine. I get what you're getting at.

LYDIA

Hamid would translate it into sensible ...

JAMES

Yeah, yeah yeah.

ALEX

Exactly, so ...

LYDIA

As well as French.

ALEX

So, the guy again's going "That's actually a really interesting question, we've actually had sort of a lot of issues with, magical contractual law and so on and the analysis they're on ..."

BRYN

Language processing.

ALEX

Because obviously the ...

BRYN

Very difficult.

ALEX

And yeah. Effectively it just goes into "We have a lot of trouble with magical script because, by its nature, its mutable", and they're struggling to find any algorithms to deal with it.

BRYN

I imagine you've got to keep things immutable.

(Laughter)

BRYN

Yeah, that's a real problem.

ALEX

So ...

JAMES

Didn't understand that at all.

ALEX

So ...

BEN

It's a joke about my job, as a computer programmer!

ALEX

Long story ...

JAMES

I can do some jokes about being unemployed if you like? It's pretty good!

ALEX

Long story short ... the answer is "hypothetically yes, we're not there yet, because magic's really tricky and slippery".

BRYN

Right.

ALEX

Cutting back to ... Sasha.

LYDIA

Oh, why is the Mission Impossible theme in my head ... I always get just get the countdown them in my head!

JAMES

(Imitates sound).

LYDIA

Thank you.

BRYN

(Imitates sound)

(Group Laughter)

LYDIA

No, every time ... arrh.

ALEX

So, you head up the staircase ...

(Imitates sound)

ALEX

Now sorry to rain on your parade ...

(Imitates sound)

ALEX

It's incredibly easy, there's no drama to it. You're just heading up these stairs, no-one comes into the stairwell, nor the lifts ...

BEN

Mission, very straightforward.

(Group Laughter)

ALEX

Your legs start ...

BRYN

Mission quite achievable.

ALEX

Your legs start getting a little bit tired from all those stairs.

LYDIA

I'm very strong!

ALEX

But nonetheless ...

LYDIA

Not, but -1 but ...

?

Unclear 0:45:31

LYDIA

Arrh, yeah, 1's quite high. My acrobatics is good and my climb is decent.

ALEX

This is where we find out it would've been easier for her to go up the outside of the building.

(Laughter)

ALEX

Anyway, you eventually arrive and there is a very plain looking door which is ...
Francois Henri, Director of the Institute Ordinator.

LYDIA

I'll try and message Hamid. Of course I've got no idea how far away we are.

BRYN?

It doesn't work.

ALEX

It won't work, you're too far.

LYDIA

I suppose ...

BRYN

Magic.

LYDIA

Knock on. No, wait I'm casing the joint, that's fine I can come back later. I'm
sort of standing there a bit.

BRYN

I'm here, but what do I ...

BEN

Can you listen at the door and, at least work out if someone's inside.

LYDIA

I listen to the door.

ALEX

Give me a perception check.

LYDIA

Rolls dice. Oh natural 1. I'm not sure it's a door!

BRYN

No you listen to the door; the door says nothing.

(Laughter)

JAMES

Listen to the door, the door's a bookcase.

LYDIA

I think there's nothing, but it's just that I've got my head against a nicely painted door. Now it's a really useful conversation ...

ALEX

So, you're listening at the door and, as you place your hands upon the door to listen there's a (**imitates sound**) ... inside the office. There's a, again in French obviously ... "Hello" ...

LYDIA

"Alright" knock knock ... "hello".

ALEX

"The doors open".

LYDIA

"Okay." Push the door ... in the most uncharismatic way there folks. Just like me, **unclear 0:46:52** myself. "Hi, you might know me from ... I'm the person that has the presidential suite at the ... the Triumph. It's well good ... and we sent a note earlier today, from that place, which is at the Winn, the Winn ... my French isn't very good. It's at the Very Winn ..."

(Group Laughter)

LYDIA

"So like, we sent it on a bit of a paper because we've got a delivery ... to put, directly into your hands yourself from the Curator of ... the Museum in Britain. It's to put, we want to put the delivery on your hands. On your head, on your hand".

ALEX

Cut to ... the tour. You have finally been shown a, sort of demonstration of ... the principles behind an Ordinateur. It's ...

?

Small scale unclear 0:47:49 ...

ALEX

However, the problem is, it's like telling someone "this is how an iPad works!" And there's a whole iPad there cause they won't let you look inside, cause it's a sealed unit. Then they're basically ... they're just talking like "You put the inputs in here and you get outputs out here, now there's things various inside and we use some magical effect, blah, blah, blah". It's a widely known thing that, whilst the Ordinateur will ... are happy to say ... certain bits of it, they'll never give you enough to actually replicate ... it's a closed system. Anyway, the tour finishes, they say "Thank you for your time" obviously, they show you outside and you find Sasha out there, waiting for you.

JAMES

What, no gift shop?

(laughter)

ALEX

There is no gift shop.

JAMES

Oh, this is outrageous!

?

Monstrous.

ALEX

She, she has the ...

BRYN

Wait ... are we leaving ... you mean outside the building?

ALEX

Outside the building, yes.

BRYN

Okay, so before we leave the building, I am going to try and arrange dinner later with the receptionist.

ALEX

She ...

(Imitates sound)

ALEX

She ... accepts.

ALL

Woooo.

ALEX

Although she said ... she asks where you were, cause she'll pick you up and take you somewhere nice, because, out of towners, they never know where to go.

BRYN

Yeah, I agree with her and say ... "I'm staying at the Triumph".

ALEX

She's suitably impressed but hides it well.

(Group Laughter)

ALEX

Because she's way cooler than Hamid thinks he is. Which is pretty cool anyway. So, yeah, you find Sasha outside.

BRYN

"Hi Sasha, how did it go?"

ALEX

Sasha. You remember it going amazingly well, you spoke to Francois Henri, he was ... he was very, very polite, you had a good long conversation ... the details

don't really matter and, you were really, really ... like eloquent in it, you were very, very charming ... you got along very, very well.

LYDIA

Something is seriously wrong!

(Group Laughter)

ALEX

And ... and basically, he sent you on your way, thanking you for your time.

LYDIA

I think I'm ... I'm better in French than I am in English. It's really weird, I think I might move here. Like, everything went fine ... I went in, I knocked on the door, he gave me everything I wanted.

BRYN

You saw him?

LYDIA

Yeah, yeah, yeah.

BRYN

Oh, what do you mean he gave you everything ...?

LYDIA

I don't know what I mean. Well I mean, everything went fine.

BRYN

I cast a text magic.

ALEX

Can you please ... give me a spell craft check then?

BRYN

Yeah. Rolls dice. Ooh 22.

ALEX

22's good. You're not sure, you could be wrong, it looks a lot like someone's been modifying some memories.

BRYN

Oooo.

LYDIA

Yeah, it went like totally great, I think. I mean, maybe I'm just. Like, it didn't feel like most ... like conversations do ...

BRYN

Let's go back to the hotel and discuss things there. Mmm, that's yes ...

LYDIA

Right.

BEN

What's up?

BRYN

I think ... well, it looks like someone's cast a spell on ... on Sasha.

LYDIA

What, no! I, I ... no-one sneaks up on me. I would know about that! I would like, notice if someone ... managed to like sneak one over me. That's what happened.

BRYN

It looks like a ... a memory modification spell.

LYDIA

Like, that ... what. No.

JAMES

Young lady, young lady ... look at my finger, do you remember this finger?

ALEX

And I'll close there.

(Laughter)

BEN

How unclear 0:51:04 was Bertie?

(Group Laughter).

ALEX

So yes, I realise that can be a little bit weird sometimes for people, so you've just got to bear with it. We'll close there. Thanks for listening, as always and we hope you all tune in next week for yet more exciting Parisian adventures!

LYDIA

Or were there adventures? Are we just mis-remembering it?

?

Nooooooo.

LYDIA

Was it all a dream? Arrhhhhh.

EVERYONE

Arrhhhhh.

ALEX

Bye guys.

EVERYONE

Bye!

[Show Theme - Outro]

ALEX

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