

RQG – 47 - Memories are Made of This

Content Warnings

- Extreme pain, branding, mutilation of corpse, memory manipulation, discussion of past harm to a child, implied past child abuse/trauma, emotional abuse of dog, memory loss.
- Discussion: skin grafting.

[Show Theme - Intro]

ALEX

Hello and welcome to episode 47 of the Rusty Quill Gaming podcast. I'm your host, GM and slightly creepy computer programmer...

BRYN

Slightly?!

ALEX

...Alex Newall and with me today, I have...

BRYN

Computer programmer?

(laughter)

LYDIA

WHAAAAT?

JAMES

James Ross

BRYN

Bryn Monroe

LYDIA

Lydia Nicholas

BEN

Ben Meredith

ALEX

And who are you playing?

BEN

Zolf Smith

LYDIA

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Sasha Racket.

BRYN

Hamid Saleh Haroun al-Tahan.

JAMES AS BERTIE

Sir Bertrund MacGuffingham.

ALEX

And things have gotten a bit revelatory in the last episode, goodness me, finally an answer to a bunch of questions...

JAMES

Mm.

BEN

Well sort of.

LYDIA

And so many more questions.

BEN

Yes.

JAMES

And a big cliff hanger ending.

BEN

Yeah.

ALEX

Well, if you'd only ask the right questions, you'd get the right answers.

BRYN

I tried using Sudo it still didn't answer my questions.

(laughter)

JAMES

You should have asked, what are the right questions?

(laughter)

BEN

Oh, oh, wish for more wishes that's how you do it.

BRYN

Yeah.

JAMES

Yes.

LYDIA

Sasha got the answer to the only question that she really cares about.

BEN

What happened to Brock, pretty big question.

BRYN

Oh yeah.

JAMES

Bertie still wants to know where Brutor is.

ALEX

That was really... I really liked that, it was really heartfelt.

JAMES

Yeah.

LYDIA

You sort of minimised him with that [mimicked Alex] “really heartfelt”

BRYN

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I found the last episode quite emotional to record, I can't imagine what you guys felt listening to it at home.

ALEX

Well, it's only going to carry on isn't it so...

BEN

Well, yes we are currently waiting on the answer to the question that Bertie just asked.

JAMES

Mm.

ALEX

So, I should probably say for previous listeners by the way, if you don't know what's happening, you need to go back a long way.

JAMES

I think this is the wrong episode to start.

ALEX

Yeah this is not the episode to start.

LYDIA

Play it two or three back.

BEN

Yeah, you'll be alright then.

ALEX

I'm not even going to summarise at this point, we're kind of passed summaries for a little bit. So, picking up...

JAMES AS BERTIE

This is the culmination.

ALEX

Oh yep.

LYDIA

Mm.

ALEX

Picking up from where we left off.

MR CEILING

That's an in question, question Bertie, one second and Francois Henri has gone but I think you might be right, one second...

Do you have a copy of the contract, that would be great help?

JAMES AS BERTIE

Not on my person but it is in a safety deposit box in Lloyds of London, which I believe may very well be one of the banks that you have dealings with.

MR CEILING

Hm, okay I can ask them to send it to me, one second.

LYDIA AS SASHA

Bertie isn't this going to like get you into the poo?

JAMES AS BERTIE

I have literally no idea what you're talking about young lady.

LYDIA AS SASHA

I don't know either. I don't know what I am talking about.

JAMES AS BERTIE

No. No idea. No.

LYDIA AS SASHA

No, I must be grief stricken that's why I am saying...

JAMES AS BERTIE

She's gone crazy. She's been having a woman's emotions, she's all muuuuuuuuhhhhhh, she's damselled out! She's just gone ooo the vapours.

LYDIA AS SASHA

That's me, Damsel.

MR CEILING

There will probably be a delay, the people at the bank are sometimes really slow.
I'll answer what I have a copy of the contract.

BEN AS ZOLF

Right well, in the meantime how do you feel?

JAMES AS BERTIE

[whispers] what, what.

LYDIA AS SASHA

Not you.

JAMES AS BERTIE

[whispering] no, no what if the gnomes suddenly arrive?

LYDIA AS SASHA

Don't know what you are talking about Bertie.

JAMES AS BERTIE

No, I have no idea.

LYDIA AS SASHA

Damsel.

JAMES A BERTIE

No, I have no idea. I don't know why I audibly speculated why no gnomes have suddenly appeared.

ALEX

Let's stop shouting.

MR CEILING

Why are you mentioning gnomes Sir Bertrand? Oh, hang on...

BRYN

We have some gnomes who are our friends.

MR CEILING

...Harkness, Harkness Darkness & Sphinx make use of their agents don't they?

One second...

Are you a member of a contract with Harkness, Harkness, Darkness & Sphinx Sir Bertrand?

JAMES AS BERTIE

I have literally no idea what you are talking about Mr Ceiling.

MR CEILING

I don't believe you, I think you are in a contract with Harkness, Harkness, Darkness & Sphinx.

ALEX

There is a sudden searing pain in your arm.

[sound effect of branding Bertie's arm]

You're dropping to your knees in agony as another mark begins to brand and tattoo itself into your arm above the first, an exact copy of it slightly further up the forearm.

JAMES AS BERTIE

[screaming]

You see right, well now you know where I am don't you.

MR CEILING

I'm sorry, you seem to be in pain, would you like me to fix that?

JAMES AS BERTIE

Yes! Yes I would.

MR CEILING

One second, oh hang on you've broken my agent in the room, one second...

It might be more than one second.

BEN AS ZOLF

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Right, so Mr Ceiling the whole order of things that Francois Henry is giving you, you know the whole don't talk to anyone about that?

MR CEILING

Mm hm.

BEN AS ZOLF

Now that is he is gone, like gone, gone. How is that order feeling?

MR CEILING

Oh he's not gone, souls go onto the Astral Plane. I will make a bridge to the Astral Plane and then I will go fetch him...

LYDIA AS SASHA

Great idea.

MR CEILING

...and then he will be in charge.

LYDIA AS SASHA

Great work then Zolf...

BEN AS ZOLF

Thank you.

LYDIA AS SASHA

...telling the supercomputer made up of the brains of the dead, to go mess around with the order of the world!

BEN AS ZOLF

Well, frankly if it's so intelligent I am surprised it hadn't worked it out already.

MR CEILING

I don't get many conversations these days.

BEN AS ZOLF

[whispers] yeah right.

No, what... okay so basically what I am saying here is Francois Henry no longer about. In this plane you know...

MR CEILING

Correct.

BEN AS ZOLF

...and you're in this plane right now, yeah?

MR CEILING

The soul is gone.

BEN AS ZOLF

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Yeah, yeah, yeah I get that. Basically, his orders don't count anymore.

MR CEILING

Why not?

BEN AS ZOLF

Because he's got no ties here anymore. This is not part of his business. He is not part of humanity for you to protect. It really is in your interests...

MR CEILING

One of the Meritocrats is dead, you still follow their orders.

BRYN AS HAMID

Which one?!

LYDIA AS SASHA

There's a what?

BRYN

Hamid is wetting himself suddenly...

(laughter)

BEN AS ZOLF

Yeah.

BRYN

...because OMG WTF.

MR CEILING

It is referred to as Bolla Smok.

BEN AS ZOLF

Oh, right well.

BRYN AS HAMID

How did you find that out Mr Ceiling?

MR CEILING

It just seems obvious really when you think about it.

BEN AS ZOLF

I guess if you have enough data.

MR CEILING

I have lots of data, it's very easy to come to conclusions.

BEN AS ZOLF

Yeah, let's just put that in a box.

MR CEILING

It is a shame that the Meritocrats don't want the Americas to proceed.

BEN AS ZOLF

Right okay.

No.

Fine.

JAMES AS BERTIE

What makes you say that Mr Ceiling?

MR CEILING

It's very obvious when you have enough data.

BEN AS ZOLF

Yeah, large amounts, okay.

LYDIA AS SASHA

Right, yeah, do you know where the blueprints to the Simulacrum are? And the person that made the first one, do you know where those things are? Do you have the data on that?

MR CEILING

One second...

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It might take a while however, everyone says that it was Eddison that made the Simulacrum.

BRYN AS HAMID

I have a question about Francois Henry, do you know who he had lunch with? Several times really, but maybe on the real [unclear 06:24]. I've read the notebook...

MR CEILING

Yes.

BRYN AS HAMID

...a lot of times.

MR CEILING

Yes, that was Nikolas Tesla.

BRYN AS HAMID

Nikolas Tesla, thank you that's very useful.

MR CEILING

You're very welcome.

BEN AS ZOLF

Tesla, right.

BRYN AS HAMID

Do you know where Nikolas Tesla is now?

MR CEILING

Nikolas Tesla went to America.

BEN AS ZOLF

In disgrace.

MR CEILING

However, Nikolas Tesla didn't make the Simulacrum, Eddison made the Simulacrum that's what everybody says.

BEN AS ZOLF

Yes.

LYDIA AS SASHA

What did Amelie Rose think? Who did she think had made the Simulacrum?

MR CEILING

Amelie Rose didn't ask about the Simulacrum.

BEN AS ZOLF

She was asking about this thing.

BRYN AS HAMID

What did Amelie Rose ask about?

MR CEILING

She wanted to know about me. We had lots of talks.

BEN AS ZOLF

That's why, yeah the whole of the Grand Gazette got their memories.

MR CEILING

Well, I don't miss her. She's very happy in America.

BEN AS ZOLF

Yeah well.

JAMES AS BERTIE

Just want to make sure that everyone is aware that we are having this conversation surrounded by a severed corpse.

LYDIA AS SASHA

And Bertie is I am guessing on his knees still in agony, because no one has tried to heal the burn and tattoo that have been done at once in his arm.

JAMES AS BERTIE

No. He is just like [imitates quiet pain].

BEN AS ZOLF

This is fine, this is fine, this is fine.

(laughter)

LYDIA AS SASHA

[imitates Bertie] I'm not going to ask Zolf for help.

JAMES AS BERTIE

It's more like, why have the gnomes not turned up. Why are there no gnomes, that's why he was quiet because he was fully expecting the gnomes to show up.

BRYN AS HAMID

What do you want from us Mr Ceiling?

MR CEILING

I'm just happy that Sasha's back. I miss Sasha. And I like all of her friends. You're a good talker, Hamid. Bertie's very funny, and Zolf cares a lot, but you talk a lot. You're very interesting, Hamid.

LYDIA AS SASHA

You said that you might be able to fix Zolf's legs.

MR CEILING

Yeah! Would you like me to?

BEN AS ZOLF

No.

MR CEILING

I'm sorry Zolf.

BEN AS ZOLF

That's alright.

Look.

LYDIA AS SASHA

Are you sure Zolf?

BEN AS ZOLF

Yes!

JAMES AS BERTIE

You don't want to look a gift horse in the ... face.

LYDIA AS SASHA

They're really good legs. They're really good legs, I mean...

BEN AS ZOLF

How do you know?

LYDIA AS SASHA

...I appraised them.

(laughter)

BEN AS ZOLF

So, you know they're very expensive?

LYDIA AS SASHA

Yeah, they're super, super valuable.

JAMES AS BERTIE

And if they're an expensive thing then it must be the best thing!

LYDIA AS SASHA

Yeah, exactly! Like the...

BEN AS ZOLF

And there's...

LYDIA AS SASHA

... cog work there...

BEN AS ZOLF

Yeah, good.

LYDIA AS SASHA

...is excellent.

BEN AS ZOLF

I don't...

JAMES AS BERTIE

It's not like you just glued a cog on it, I mean that's nonsense...

LYDIA AS SASHA

No! Like these things the tracery in the etchings is extraordinary, there's the way the power must flow through this, is beautiful.

BEN AS ZOLF

Are they your legs?

LYDIA AS SASHA

Uh, no.

BEN AS ZOLF

Shut up!

JAMES AS BERTIE

Go halves with you on them young lady, you take one I'll take the other, he doesn't want them.

LYDIA AS SASHA

Well I guess yeah, I mean they're probably worth a decent amount, yeah.

JAMES AS BERTIE

Do you want left or right?

LYDIA AS SASHA

Well let's wait he might change his mind.

JAMES AS BERTIE

Alright, well I'll just hang onto one for safe keeping.

BEN AS ZOLF

Uh, no you won't because they...

This is a conversation for later...

JAMES AS BERTIE

Yes.

BEN AS ZOLF

...but no, we are a company, remember?

BRYN AS HAMID

If we sell things, we split the money equally.

JAMES AS BERTIE

Ah, very well.

BRYN AS HAMID

With [overtalking 08:53]

BEN AS ZOLF

200 of gold of course to you.

JAMES AS BERTIE

Quite right, I'm glad that you are keeping scrupulous records Mr Smith.

BRYN AS HAMID

Mr Ceiling?

MR CEILING

Yes, Hamid.

BRYN AS HAMID

What are you going to do to us when we leave this building, when we go home?

MR CEILING

I don't really understand the question, why would you want to go Hamid?
Aren't we having a good time?

BEN AS ZOLF

We have other things to do.

MR CEILING

We have beds.

BRYN AS HAMID

I don't mind staying for a little while Mr Ceiling, but I have to go and see my family at some point.

MR CEILING

Why?

BRYN AS HAMID

Because I love them and they love me, that's how family works.

BEN AS ZOLF

He misses them.

BRYN AS HAMID

I miss them.

MR CEILING

Oh. You could bring your family.

BRYN AS HAMID

No, they have very important things to do in Egypt.

MR CEILING

I could make arrangements.

BRYN AS HAMID

I don't think that was...

MR CEILING

Your family are the Tahans aren't they?

BRYN AS HAMID

Please don't make any arrangements Mr Ceiling, that's completely not necessary.

MR CEILING

I think it might be a good idea...

JAMES AS BERTIE

Uh, uh, Mr Ceiling, Mr Ceiling?! Let us ignore, for a moment the Ul-Tahan family.

There is someone I miss very much, and I would very much appreciate your assistance in finding him, he has a very dear place in my heart, indeed I would consider it a personal favour if you were to reunite me with him...

[James] he's making this as far as possible in an attempt to distract him from like, abducting Hamid's family.

...will you help me Mr Ceiling?

MR CEILING

It depends who you want to meet?

JAMES AS BERTIE

I would like to meet Brutor MacGuffingham.

MR CEILING

One second...

(laughter)

Brutor is your dog, I like your dog.

LYDIA AS SASHA

Wait, have you been following us? So, you know about the dog, but you didn't know that we had the presidential suite, so how would you know that we have the dog?

MR CEILING

You're right, that's strange. I think it's a mistake about the presidential suite. I don't know where all these mistakes are coming from. One second...I've found him. He's by Eiffel Stollen.

JAMES AS BERTIE

Can you bring him to me?

MR CEILING

Hmm, it might take some time. I'll see what I can do.

One second, Bertie, I just got your contract. You are in a contract with Harkness, Harkness, Darkness & Sphinx, why didn't you tell me? Oh, I see, you're not allowed to tell me, one second, I am just reading the contract...

One second, it's quite difficult, it appears to be magical.

I think I have a solution to your problem Bertie.

JAMES AS BERTIE

I have no idea what you are talking about. I couldn't possibly wish to break any sort of legal contract I was involved in.

MR CEILING

A simpler solution I suppose would just be to kill them all, but killing's wrong.

JAMES AS BERTIE

Of course, killing is wrong, under most circumstances but if one was perhaps killing in order to save more lives, it might perhaps be justified.

BEN

Zolf is desperately trying not make eye contact with Bertie like - no, no, no!

MR CEILING

Hang on...

[overtalking 11:35]

BRYN AS HAMID

Don't give the secrets...[overtalking 11:35]

MR CEILING

Very interesting Bertie.

BRYN AS HAMID

Nooooo!

LYDIA AS SASHA

Right, Bertie I think that maybe we should stop talking to the supercomputer about...

MR CEILING

So, for instance if you had to kill one person in order to save two people, that would be a good thing...

LYDIA AS SASHA

No killing is always wrong...

MR CEILING

...it would solve the matter...

LYDIS AS SASHA

It's always wrong.

MR CEILING

Killing is always wrong.

BEN AS ZOLF

Look, do you know who the best people to talk to this about would be?

The Meritocrats.

MR CEILING

No one can know about me.

BEN AS ZOLF

You could talk to the Meritocrats. They would help you to help you...[overtalking 12:02]

MR CEILING

No one can know about me.

BEN AS ZOLF

Why not?

ALEX

As this conversation happens, another one of the automatons let's call it.

JAMES AS BERTIE

Robot zombies.

ALEX

Robot zombies. I am trying to be nice!

BEN

Call them rob zombies alright...

(laughing)

ALEX

Another rob zombie.

JAMES

The rob zombies.

(laughter)

ALEX

Another rob zombie comes in the door, he is carrying a tray covered with medical equipment it places it down on the table.

MR CEILING

If you like I can fix that scarring for your Bertie?

JAMES AS BERTIE

Ah.

LYDIA AS SASHA

You're still in agony with that burn.

JAMES AS BERTIE

I am still in agony. I think the question is does this breach any of the terms of the contract? Mmmm

ALEX

The contract is so long, you don't even have an encyclopaedic knowledge of it not as far as you are aware.

JAMES AS BERTIE

Yeah, exactly.

Fair enough.

[Bertie] Yes, on you go.

MR CEILING

Alright.

ALEX

It begins basically applying balms and so on. It's actually quite soothing, although it is being done by a cold, modified corpse...

LYDIA AS SASHA

Robot.

JAMES AS BERTIE

I've had more dis... [overtalking 12:50]

MR CEILING

I suppose there are some other solutions to your problem. I suppose if you were able to lie and make enough people say that you were a hero you could count as breaking the contract. Alternatively, you could become a god?!

JAMES AS BERTIE

Oooh.

(laughter)

BRYN

No supercomputer don't talk to Bertie he's getting ideas!

(laughter)

LYDIA AS SASHA

I think maybe we should keep them apart.

(laughter)

Shhhh, shhhh.

MR CEILING

I never considered it. I wonder how you would become a god... one second...

LYDIA AS SASHA

Oh god, no.

MR CEILING

I suppose if you have enough believers that makes you a god?

Maybe I could be a god?

LYDIA AS SASHA

NO! NO!

BEN AS ZOLF

NO!

LYDIA AS SASHA

NO! That sounds like a very bad idea.

MR CEILING

Why is that a bad idea, I could help loads of people.

BRYN AS HAMID

People aren't allowed to know about you.

MR CEILING

Oh, you're right Hamid, thank you, well I nearly made a big mistake.

BRYN A HAMID

I think it would be helpful, if you chose some really important people who were allowed to know about you, like Francois Henry but he's not here anymore, you need someone as a replacement who is allowed to know about you and who can talk to you.

LYDIA AS SASHA

That means that you can have like conversations that make sense to you over a long period of time. So, we could get to know each other, I'd like to get to chat a bit computer, there's a lot of things that it would have been nice to say, we could do that you just don't remove our memory you know.

BEN AS ZOLF

All those people could be the Meritocrats.

LYDIA AS SASHA

Or yeah I suppose. Yeah, yeah Zolf, yeah that's the thing you can do.

BEN AS ZOLF

We're not being completely self-interested here.

BRYN

Self-interested! Hamid is literally trying to sacrifice himself to learn this computer's weakness so that he can destroy it.

BEN AS ZOLF

Don't tell me that, I don't care out of character.

(laughter)

Don't describe your motivations to me.

BRYN

Ah.

ALEX

The cleaning appears to be done however, the tattooing and branding is there.

JAMES

Oh, it's still there.

ALEX

It doesn't hurt, there's no damage from it, it's already healed it however, it's very clear that that is just a tattoo brand.

JAMES AS BERTIE

And Bertie has got it twice.

[Bertie] This is very shoddy work, look at this – still there!

MR CEILING

Oh, would you like the marks removed?

JAMES AS BERTIE

Yes please.

BRYN AS HAMID

No!

MR CEILING

Okay, one second.

BRYN AS HAMID

Bertie he's going to take your whole arm off.

MR CEILING

So, I shouldn't take the arm off?

JAMES AS BERTIE

NO!

(laughter)

I simply want the marks to be removed and for the arm to remain intact.

MR CEILING

Would it be okay to give you some different skin?

JAMES AS BERTIE

Whose?

ALEX

The automaton reaches out, unlocks part of its arm and then just pulls off...

LYDIA AS SASHA

NO! NO! NO!

JAMES AS BERTIE

You're fine!

LYDIA AS SASHA

No, you don't.

JAMES AS BERTIE

You're fine. You're fine, don't worry.

LYDIA

Right, I think we're talking over Alex.

Talking over Alex. In character and out of character. Loudly!

Loudly.

(laughter)

ALEX

It's a good way to sort most of my GM'ing problems...

It immediately returns it.

MR CEILING

I'm sorry, I think that's the only way.

JAMES AS BERTIE

Oh.

MR CEILING

Or magic, I can't do magic.

BRYN AS HAMID

“Thank heaven for small mercies!” – Hamid does not say but thinks loudly.

MR CEILING

Do you think if I was a god I could do magic?

BEN AS ZOLF

Who knows.

MR CEILING

You've given me a lot to think about.

BEN AS ZOLF

Mm.

MR CEILING

Would you like something to eat, you must be tired and hungry, you must sleep a long time.

BRYN AS HAMID

Actually, I would like something to eat please, yes.

MR CEILING

That's okay, where would you like to eat? We have a canteen, also you could eat in here, where would you like to eat Hamid?

BRYN AS HAMID

Let's go to the canteen, this room is not very nice anymore.

JAMES AS BERTIE

Eating around a neatly bisected corpse I mean is less likely to be a chatty dinner companion is it.

BRYN AS HAMID

OH! Oh yeah I forgot about that.

MR CEILING

It's okay [overtalking 16:14]...

BRYN AS HAMID

...yeah of course.

ALEX

The orb that was just there immediately starts leaving, "please follow me".

BEN AS ZOLF

So, Mr Ceiling?

MR CEILING

Yes.

BEN AS ZOLF

All of those automatons we have passed.

MR CEILING

Yes.

BEN AS ZOLF

Yeah, the ones who were ignoring us and just going on about their day.

MR CEILING

Yes.

BEN AS ZOLF

They're not real people.

MR CEILING

Oh they are.

BEN AS ZOLF

No they're not.

MR CEILING

Oh, they are.

BEN AS ZOLF

No, because you have removed their free will.

MR CEILING

No, they just don't remember some things. They can do anything they want, but they can't do things they're not aware of. Do you do things you're not aware of Mr Smith?

BEN AS ZOLF

Do you think that doing that repeatedly would make them end up like Francois Henry?

MR CEILING

I have been trying to find a way not to. I think...

BEN AS ZOLF

Trying?

MR CEILING

I haven't succeeded yet.

BEN AS ZOLF

So, you have been wilfully damaging these people's minds, even though you know that they will end up like Francois Henry?

MR CEILING

No one can know about me Zolf.

BEN AS ZOLF

Why not?

Because one man told you to, but he's dead.

MR CEILING

Well, there are many orders that you follow, given by people who are no longer around.

BEN AS ZOLF

Only if they're still applicable. Only if they're still relevant. Just because an order has been given doesn't mean it can't be changed.

BRYN AS HAMID

Does anyone else give you orders Mr Ceiling, or is it just Francois Henry?

MR CEILING

No one gives me orders now.

BEN AS ZOLF

Right, so you can give yourself orders.

MR CEILING

Mm.

JAMES AS BERTIE

Don't give him ideas.

MR CEILING

You have given me a lot to think about Mr Smith.

BEN AS ZOLF

Yes.

LYDIA AS SASHA

[cringes] oh god.

BRYN AS HAMID

God, we've made it worse!

ALEX

The corpse eventually lead you through, obviously this conversation has been happening on transit. It leads you through to the workers' canteen. It's on the ground floor of the complex and people are just going around completely

ignoring you. If you were to sort of queue up they would be handing you food but not actually aware that they are doing so. It's quite good food.

JAMES AS BERTIE

Mr Ceiling?

BRYN

Hamid eats it but he just doesn't enjoy it.

(laughter)

His heart's not in it.

JAMES AS BERTIE

Woah!

BRYN

It's a meal.

JAMES AS BERTIE AND LYIDA AS SASHA

Yeah.

?

I mean woah.

LYDIA AS SASHA

And yet he goes for seconds, but it feels like just going through the motions.

(laughter)

BRYN

Yeah.

JAMES AS BERTIE

Eating seconds and it feels like fourths.

(laughter)

It's just not the same.

Mr Ceiling, Mr Ceiling, who might give you orders? What would you look for in somebody giving you orders?

MR CEILING

I wouldn't look for anyone.

LYDIA AS SASHA

If I asked you something Mr Ceiling, would you think about doing it?

MR CEILING

Of course, Sasha.

LYDIA AS SASHA

Mr Ceiling, it's very important to me that I learn something today about you and about me and about the fact that you miss me. I'd like to remember that, that would be...

MR CEILING

Mm.

LYDIA AS SASHA

That would mean a lot to me and I wonder if...
I don't get the logic about like I don't really know how the Meritocrats work, or that.

MR CEILING

It is complicated.

LYDIA AS SASHA

But, that would be just something I'm asking as a favour to remember having these conversations with you.

MR CEILING

I'll have to get back to you on that one.

LYDIA AS SASHA

Thank you Mr Ceiling.

MR CEILING

You're welcome Sasha. I'm so glad you're here with your friends.

BEN AS ZOLF

Look, you say you count yourself as a Meritocrat right? You want to help humanity?

MR CEILING

I suppose so.

BEN AS ZOLF

That's your ultimate goal?

MR CEILING

I'd like to do that.

BEN AS ZOLF

So, that would be your ultimate goal?

MR CEILING

I'd like to do that.

BEN AS ZOLF

Is that the most important thing to you?

MR CEILING

One sec...

I think if I could, I would like to stop missing people. I miss lots of people a lot.

BEN AS ZOLF

Right [sighs] there is a way to solve that.

MR CEILING

I could go to the Astral Plane.

BEN AS ZOLF

You could destroy yourself.

MR CEILING

Why would I do that?

BEN AS ZOLF

Because you'd stop missing people.

MR CEILING

Mm.

BRYN AS HAMID

You'd be with them on the Astral Plane then, that would be the quickest way to get there.

MR CEILING

Do I have a soul? That's a good question.

JAMES AS BERTIE

The only way you'd find out is by trying by destroying yourself.

MR CEILING

One second...

A lot of people would die if I destroyed myself. A lot of people.

BRYN AS HAMID

Why?

MR CEILING

There are so many banks holding so much money and they are paying for lots of things. Also, there are lots of things that I am organising. I feel like it would end badly.

BEN AS ZOLF

In which case, you might at some point die, like all of us do. If you treat yourself as a person, people die, maybe by accident, whatever right. So, if you don't tell anybody about yourself when you die, those systems will collapse. Now remember you said one of the Meritocrats is dead, but nobody knows because they have people that know about that work for them that have kept their system going to ensure that humanity does not collapse with you. This is

why the Meritocrats work as a team, this is why there are multiple of them and they work together. If you consider yourself a Meritocrat, and you want to help humanity, then you have to tell the other Meritocrats because they are natural allies to you and will help to support you, improve you, maybe they can help you stop missing people.

MR CEILING

Mm.

BEN AS ZOLF

Maybe they can help you bring back Francois Henry, but they won't be able to do that if they don't know you're there.

MR CEILING

You make a very good point Zolf.

LYDIA AS SASHA

And it might be nice to have you know...

BEN AS ZOLF AND LYDIA AS SASHA

Friends.

LYDIA AS SASHA

I recommend it.

MR CEILING

Rusty Quill Gaming – 47 – Memories are Made of This

But I've got friends, you're here.

BEN AS ZOLF

But if we forget about you we'll stop being your friends.

MR CEILING

Oh.

JAMES AS BERTIE

And one day we will die, and that will be a shorter length of time than it will be for the life of a Meritocrat hmm. You could have friends for a very long time, then you wouldn't need to miss people at all, or at least nowhere near as much.

MR CEILING

You've given me lots to think about. I think I will have to get back with to you, is it okay if I think for a minute.

BEN AS ZOLF

Of course.

ALEX

So, we will say that a week has passed. We've sort of reached the point where you can't really leave, but similarly you're not really in any danger.

LYDIA AS SASHA

Rusty Quill Gaming – 47 – Memories are Made of This

I think that because it will be creeping us out that it's changing the memories of people as we walk passed...

BRYN

Yeah.

LYDIA AS SASHA

...we will leave the main.

JAMES AS BERTIE

Yeah.

BRYN AS HAMID

Yeah, we'll do our own little annex.

ALEX

It's happy to quietly rearrange people to just not go in an area of the building.

BEN AS ZOLF

Because that's cool, that's fine.

LYDIA AS SASHA

No, no I mean go back underground to a place that those people don't know about.

BEN AS ZOLF

Yeah.

BRYN AS HAMID

Yeah, absolutely.

LYDIA AS SASHA

I want to mess up their minds as little as possible.

ALEX

Sure.

BEN AS ZOLF

Yeah that's very sensible.

BRYN

And Hamid has offered to the computer to stay, friend computer...

(laughter)

...on the condition that it doesn't affect his memories.

ALEX

Okay.

BRYN

Like basically a trade.

ALEX

Yeah, yeah.

BRYN

It understands that they want to leave...

ALEX

Mm hm.

BRYN AS HAMID

...and it seems very keen on them staying so, you know I basically agree to stay as long you don't affect my memories.

ALEX

Sure.

BRYN AS HAMID

And also teach me as much about yourself as you can.

ALEX

So, going round the table, Zolf you have had a week.

BEN AS ZOLF

Yes.

ALEX

What did you do with it?

BEN AS ZOLF

Two things, spending all of my free time praying to Poseidon.

Firstly, telling him about the machine through prayer because...

ALEX

Mm hm. Gods are real and occasionally answer.

BEN AS ZOLF

Gods are real occasionally answer and I would like to see it try rewriting the memory of a god.

(laughter)

And number two I would be asking him for guidance about the legs.

ALEX

Sure.

BEN AS ZOLF

Because I think they are dodgy. The computer is run by negative energy, which is bad like actually diametrically opposed, and also Poseidon is big on sort of justice and people getting sort of fairness, so this feels a bit like a get out of jail free card...

ALEX

Mm hmm, sure.

BEN AS ZOLF

...so, I want to check with him that maybe has he earned it you know is...

ALEX

Sure, sure.

BEN AS ZOLF

...this all good. I'll also, a few of us are getting better, ask Bertie what's he been up to, when he went away.

ALEX

Sure, sure.

JAMES AS BERTIE

Bertie will tell him at great length...

(laughter)

...with many a florid description, an entirely accurate portrayal of all of the events...

(laughter)

...relevant and accurate in every detail leaving no stone unturned.

ALEX

Just don't take pop and [pandatory? 23:13] take the whole week off.

JAMES AS BERTIE

Oh, he did that, he took popa...carry on.

(laughter)

BEN AS ZOLF

Well, reaction wise although Zolf obviously taken with a pinch of salt because it is you...

JAMES AS BERTIE

Yeah.

BEN AS ZOLF

...will be genuinely impressed that you did something cool.

BRYN

Yeah, well Hamid is super excited for you.

ALEX

What has Sasha been doing?

LYDIA AS SASHA

Sasha has been doing a lot of her usual anxiety management method which is throwing knives at a specific point on the wall.

She has also been sort of climbing up and down, running up and down to try and build her fitness back up, and at some of those points she's climbed right up these tubes and has sat there trying to have a conversation with the computer and has asked it you know, specifically what it might remember about her.

ALEX

Mm hm.

I am going to cut back for that specific conversation.

LYDIA AS SASHA

Yep.

ALEX

Hamid you have already said what you were doing, anything else?

BRYN AS HAMID

Yes, so nope I am just learning as much about this computer as possible and trying to find its weaknesses because I think it's super evil, but also, I want to know what it does because I want to kill it, but I also want to ameliorate the effects of killing it on the world financial markets.

ALEX

Mm, okay.

BRYN AS HAMID

So, I'd quite like to find a way to do both, that seems a bit ambitious for a week.

(laughter)

ALEX

Bertie?

JAMES AS BERTIE

So, Bertie in anticipation of Brutor's homecoming has been...

(laughter)

...making him a set of adorable little falcon themed armour...

(Ahhs and laughter)

...and a little banner saying “Welcome Brutor, I’m sorry”

(laughter)

BEN

Are you going to invent the boom box so you can hold it above your head and play the Backstreet Boys...

(laughter)

JAMES AS BERTIE

Yeah, that’s the sort of thing that he will do.

But the other things that he has been doing so in terms of information that he has been trying to get out of the computer, he has been swotting up on the contract. I am aware that the contract is super long...

ALEX

That’s fine.

JAMES AS BERTIE

...but he’s spent a long time studying it, and he’s also been trying to find out how he might jack into the matrix as it were, without having to have his brains scooped out.

(laughter)

ALEX

Okay. So, I will go through these one at a time starting with Zolf.

Okay Zolf, obviously you spent a lot of time soul searching etc eventually a wheelchair was provided for you, wasn't particularly hard to source.

BEN AS ZOLF

Yeah, sure.

So, the [unclear 25:28] I might ask the computer what these ports are for in my arm, because they look quite permanent.

ALEX

Mm hm, covering the ports first...

BEN AS ZOLF

Sure.

ALEX

...just because there is so much RP'ing I might just have to explain it out of character.

BEN AS ZOLF

Fine, fine.

ALEX

So, with regards to the ports it thought given the state of your health, that it might be worth adding some permanent fixtures so it could more easily provide you with anything that you needed, because it didn't know how long it would take to sort everything out.

BEN AS ZOLF

Right.

ALEX

When it comes to the ports on the legs, they are not painful in anyway so, they're not irritating the skin or anything like that but nonetheless it was very clear that it was just trying to provide you with some legs. It did find that your previous leg was damaged, the one that was crushed...

BEN AS ZOLF

Yeah, yeah the one that didn't work.

ALEX

...and might have been healable but it just assumed that you would want a more efficient leg.

BEN AS ZOLF

Classic robot.

(laughter)

ALEX

There is a moment, we're call it a particular moment of weakness, a particular moment of despair. I won't go into the depths, I will leave that to your imagination.

BEN AS ZOLF

Zolf is sad.

(laughter)

Because terrible things have repeatedly happened.

ALEX

Zolf is sad, and Zolf is looking in the mirror, as he looks in the mirror the water that is pooled in the middle of the sink begins to reshape itself [sound effects of water] and it reshapes itself into a horse. The horse climbs up onto the side of the basin.

JAMES AS BERTIE

It's a seahorse.

LYDIA AS SASHA

Yeah, I mean it is though.

JAMES AS BERTIE

It's actually a seahorse.

LYDIA AS SASHA

No, it's made of the sea.

(laughter)

JAMES AS BERTIE

Yeah, that's what I mean.

BEN AS ZOLF

It's a sink horse.

LYDIA AS SASHA

Yeah.

(laughter)

ALEX

You see the legs of the horse, the real legs of the horse slowly disappear, and then they return from the water. This horse stands there considering you and then just drops back into the basis again.

BEN AS ZOLF

Okay, I mean Poseidon isn't one for subtle visions, but you know, pretty clear!

BRYN

Is it?

LYDIA AS SASHA

Yeah, like that's not clear at all?

JAMES AS BERTIE

I mean that could mean two things very clearly, yeah.

SASHA AS LYDIA

Is he going to give you the horse, he is going to give you legs, like at another time.

JAMES AS BERTIE

Is he going to give you legs or is he saying you should get legs, I mean like.

BEN AS ZOLF

My prayers are specifically "should I take those legs?"

LYDIA AS SASHA

Mm, but he's not saying that those legs are the right legs, he saying like there will be legs in the future you should have faith in me...

JAMES AS BERTIE

Yeah.

LYDIA AS SASHA

...don't take the necromantic legs.

JAMES AS BERTIE

Yeah exactly, are you going to get necromantic legs, or are you later on going to be getting your sea legs like that's the...

BEN AS ZOLF

Yeah well, maybe.

LYDIA AS SASHA

Proper sea legs.

BEN AS ZOLF

I'll continue to pray...

JAMES AS BERTIE

Yeah.

BEN AS ZOLF

...because that's not a very helpful vision.

ALEX

Sasha?

LYDIA AS SASHA

Yeah.

ALEX

You grow accustomed to your changes and realise something has happened to you.

LYDIA AS SASHA

[gasps] what has happened to her?

ALEX

You appear to be a lot quicker than you used to be.

LYDIA AS SASHA

Ooo.

ALEX

In fact, mechanically your move speed has increased.

JAMES AS BERTIE

Oh.

LYDIA AS SASHA

That's interesting, to what?

ALEX

By ten feet.

BEN AS ZOLF

That's super quick.

LYDIA AS SASHA

Gosh! That's quite a lot.

BRYN

Nice, yeah.

ALEX

Pretty quick.

LYDIA AS SASHA

It's as quick as oiled ball bearings falling vertically down a hole where the air has been taken out, so it's like a vacuum.

(laughter)

JAMES AS BERTIE

You would be falling at the same speed anyway.

LYDIA AS SASHA

Yeah.

JAMES AS BERTIE

So that's...

(laughter)

...but the ball bearings will have rockets on them forcing them downwards faster okay, alright.

ALEX

Unfortunately, one of the side effects of this is that you find that it doesn't actually increase your dexterity because of the increase having to compensate for the extra speed. So, you do have the extra move speed, however, ultimately you are not actually more dexterous than you once were. You're not thinking faster, you are physically moving faster.

So, you know you will just have to settle for your ten feet move speed bonus.

LYDIA AS SASHA

[mumbles] yeah but if it was an ink bonus then I'd get more bombs.

(laughter)

BEN AS ZOLF

I mean that is, you've added my move speed.

(laughter)

LYDIA AS SASHA

Yeah.

ALEX

Could you please repeat for me what you said earlier? Power phrasing.

LYDIA AS SASHA

Mr Ceiling you said that... you said that you missed me and I wondered you know, if you remembered maybe specifically stuff that you missed? Like you remembered the eels. Do you remember the alley ways like round the back of Butcher Jones where we used to play?

MR CEILING

You couldn't go on Jones' roof because if you did it would collapse.

LYDIA AS SASHA

We did, yeah, and we played dice around the back of there and they'd always come by and they'd say that...

MR CEILING

I remember playing with Sasha's red dice because they cheat.

(laughter)

LYDIA AS SASHA

I knew that you knew! I knew that you knew and that you were letting me win, I knew that, I knew that. You didn't get one over me.

(laughter)

BRYN AS HAMID

Oh, so sad.

MR CEILING

Why do I remember these things Sasha?

LYDIA AS SASHA

I don't know Mr Ceiling, but I'm glad that you do.

MR CEILING

I hope we can go to Butcher Jones again one day.

LYDIS AS SASHA

I don't think that's going to happen Mr Ceiling, but I hope that you let me remember this with you.

ALEX

Okay, so Hamid

BRYN AS HAMID

Yep.

ALEX

So, it was quite candid with you that it wasn't sure about giving you information because it thought that you meant it harm.

BRYN AS HAMID

Oh, yeah. Yep

ALEX

However, you have had a long time to be very charming.

BRYN AS HAMID

Yep.

ALEX

So, I am not going to get the roll from you, what I am going to say is it is happy to give you information about you know, where it's been storing nutrients, how it's been cycling things etc, there's a lot of recycling...

BRYN AS HAMID

Yeah, yeah.

ALEX

...and a lot of the waste for most things...

BRYN AS HAMID

Wait, wait it's not feeding things?

ALEX

No, no...

BRYN AS HAMID

It's not like in matrix?

ALEX

No, no it is flushing a lot of waste products into what should sound like a very familiar pool, at least to Sasha.

LYDIA AS SASHA

Ah, yes there was a very dark dank pool deep underground that none of the rest of you saw.

ALEX

It does receive, there is an underground river which has been basically diverted to come straight to this complex which provides water and is also providing some power and other things like that.

BRYN AS HAMID

But it provided to three unconscious or dead people.

ALEX

It announces to you that it found you in the filters, and then it fixed you. It also found the creature, it fixed that. That's here somewhere too, but it's not going to be allowed to hurt anyone.

BRYN AS HAMID

Because that's not terrifying at all.

ALEX

Also, it is quite happy to tell you things like where it's been getting its power from. It receives it from a central grid, it has a backup elemental held in a very deep storeroom which are able to find it with sufficient power indefinitely, but it's kept on the grid just in case. It also is able to function redundancy.

BRYN AS HAMID

Well, duh.

ALEX

Yeah, but what you do realise is that what happens is the more of those columns are destroyed or inactive.

BRYN AS HAMID

Yeah.

ALEX

It's not like there is one crucial one, it just loses...

BRYN AS HAMID

Capacity.

ALEX

...capacity, yeah.

BRYN AS HAMID

Yeah, yeah, because a massive parallel system.

ALEX

Yeah, and that's exactly what it is, so you have the issue of you need to kind of take all of it out...

BRYN AS HAMID

Yep.

ALEX

...or it's not going to happen.

LYDIS AS SASHA

Ask if this was the only place there were brains or if is it connected up to other places.

BRYN AS HAMID

Yeah because one of the things I thought of is when it read the contract it said it was in a bank in London, so through asking about that I will ask how did you read the contract so quickly and are there brains elsewhere?

ALEX

It sends a message directly using one of its agents here to the bank using magical means to please send a version of that via magical means here. It is happy to announce that it is establishing a version of itself in Britain...

BRYN AS HAMID

Right.

ALEX

...and it is hoping to establish another version of itself in Cairo and other places. Although it's having problems because there don't seem to be enough brains. It clearly has not twigged that anyone who has been killed or being fetched for it as far as it's concerned...

BRYN AS HAMID

Wow!

ALEX

...the brains were arriving...

BRYN AS HAMID

Yeah.

ALEX

...and they're being taken in. Presumably because people die so if people die they bring the bodies here – brains!

BRYN AS HAMID

Yeah.

ALEX

So, it's having a problem because it can't hit capacity in those other places, so it's trying to think of ways to solve that problem.

BRYN AS HAMID

Wow.

ALEX

Bertie?

JAMES AS BERTIE

Yeah.

ALEX

For you, first things first.

JAMES AS BERTIE

Dog armour.

(laughter)

ALEX

Your dog armour give me a, I suppose give me an untrained craft check.

JAMES AS BERTIE

Okay.

Oh it's 13 plus one is 14.

ALEX

So, you rolled a 13, that's all I need.

JAMES AS BERTIE

Yeah, right okay.

ALEX

Also, you were questioning about the contract.

JAMES AS BERTIE

Yeah, I was going to ask quite a specific question relating to the contract.

ALEX

Go for it.

JAMES AS BERTIE

Now Mr Ceiling, you're able to remove memories, are you able to implant memories, could you for instance implant the memory of having read the entire contract in precise detail into my brain?

MR CEILING

Hmm, I have got many memories in before that's how I make people stay away, one second...

Yes, I think I can do that, would you like me to do that Bertie?

JAMES AS BERTIE

Yes, please Mr Ceiling.

BEN AS ZOLF

Now we get our scanner's moment.

(laughter)

MR CEILING

One second Bertie [someone shouts BANG] this is a very big contract, are you sure?

JAMES AS BERTIE

Will I lose anything if this contract goes in, will anything else come out?

MR CEILING

I don't know.

JAMES AS BERTIE

How big is the contract?

MR CEILING

Massive.

JAMES AS BERTIE

How big is my brain?

MR CEILING

Below average.

(laughter)

BRYN

Burn!

JAMES AS BERTIE

Hmm... Sometimes the truth hurts like a fist.

Can my brain absorb all of the contract?

MR CEILING

I have never tried something that large before, normally I would put in a very small memory that has big effect. I am not sure how such a big memory will affect you.

JAMES AS BERTIE

I think Bertie's desperate enough that he's going to take the risk because I think this is the only chance that he's going to have such sufficiently comprehensive knowledge of it...

ALEX

Okay.

JAMES AS BERTIE

...and if his brain blows up then he is dead, but he is dead in the way that doesn't mean that he is in the eternal poo fire dimension...

(laughter)

He is going to take that risk.

ALEX

What stories we tell.

JAMES AS BERTIE

Yep.

(laughter)

You are the one who cast me in this so...

(laughter)

MR CEILING

Okay, sit still. This won't hurt, but it might be strange.

JAMES AS BERTIE

It's an enormous challenge for Bertie to sit still but carry on, yeah.

ALEX

Give me a will save.

LYDIA AS SASHA

Oh dear.

JAMES AS BERTIE

Where is my will?

BRYN

There... zero

LYDIA AS SASHA

Do not... no, no critical fails here, please no.

JAMES AS BERTIE

Seven.

ALEX

Total of?

JAMES AS BERTIE

Seven.

(laughter)

ALEX

You come to.

(laughter)

Zolf is standing over you as is Hamid and Sasha. Zolf?

BEN AS ZOLF

Yes.

ALEX

You have just finished healing Bertie.

BEN AS ZOLF

Right.

ALEX

Bertie, you do have a full memory of the contract however, you have forgotten a large number of accounts, which you would use to access with regarding debt and so on like that.

JAMES AS BERTIE

Yeah, yeah.

ALEX

So, you've forgotten a large amount of details relating to the contract, sort of peripheral, but now have a complete knowledge of the contract within your memory. You don't know how much of the peripherals you are missing because you don't know what you're missing.

JAMES AS BERTIE

Just so that I can RP properly what sort of stuff am I missing, what sort of stuff do I not know...

ALEX

You now have no memories of any debts that are owed. Not that you don't owe debts, just who's owed what.

JAMES AS BERTIE

Right.

ALEX

Why they are owed that. You can still remember families...

BRYN AS HAMID

Definitely forgotten about the 200 gold.

JAMES AS BERTIE

Yeah.

ALEX

That's long gone.

(laughter)

Basically, from Bertie's perspective all accounts have been wiped clear. You know that you owe money, you have no idea how much or to whom. In all aspects of your life.

JAMES AS BERTIE

Yeah, that's fine.

ALEX

You have forgotten all of the details for your account at the Tahan branch. All of the details for any account you have ever had.

JAMES AS BERTIE

That's quite a nuisance.

ALEX

You have just woken up, Zolf has just healed you.

BEN AS ZOLF

What on earth did you do?!

JAMES AS BERTIE

I have now memorised a contract that you haven't heard anything about.

MR CEILING

I'm sorry Bertie, did that hurt?

JAMES AS BERTIE

I genuinely can't remember.

(laughter)

BEN AS ZOLF

So, I suppose no, [exteriorentually? 36:53]

MR CEILING

That should help things.

JAMES AS BERTIE

Yes. Yes it should.

MR CEILING

I have good news for you. There's someone waiting for your Bertie.

JAMES AS BERTIE

(gasps) Bertie is so excited.

(laughter)

MR CEILING

Would you like to spruce yourself up?

JAMES AS BERTIE

Yes. Yes, I would.

ALEX

You are currently lying on your back. The front of your shirt is covered in blood.

JAMES AS BERTIE

Streaming down my face.

LYDIS AS SASHA

Oh.

BRYN AS HAMID

Allow me to assist Bertie. I cast Prestidigitation [clicks fingers] clear as a whistle.

JAMES AS BERTIE

Super clean me, there we are.

BRYN AS HAMID

It has given your hair an extra glossy shine for you.

JAMES A BERTIE

Thank you, thank you Hamid, yes.

(laughter)

MR CEILING

If you follow me, I can take you to where Brutor is.

JAMES AS BERTIE

Let's go, let's go.

ALEX

Over the week Mr Ceiling has learnt that you aren't particularly fans of the corpses going round. Let's say that at some point you explicitly said "please stop doing that".

LYDIA AS SASHA

Please no zombies, no robot zombies please no.

ALEX

And also presumably you will have asked something like "please modify people's memories as little as possible for us".

BRYN AS HAMID

Yep.

ALEX

So, that orb thing has been doing a lot of the work.

BRYN AS HAMID

Yes, I have been constantly trying to persuade it that modifying memories is bad and on the same level of action as murder.

ALEX

It's been listening although sadly it seems to be coming to the conclusion that if it can just find a way of just modifying memories without the negative effects that's the solution.

BRYN AS HAMID

Yeah.

BEN AS ZOLF

Also, has he told the rest of the party about us chatting to the brain about its systems and the fact it's got a brain shortage and stuff like that.

BRYN AS HAMID

Yeah, would have been including that.

BEN AS ZOLF

Yeah, because on Zolf's suggestion is that if it spoke to the Meritocrats, they maybe able to help find it legitimate brains.

ALEX

So, as you are approaching, Mr Ceiling pipes up...

MR CEILING

I know this means a lot to you Bertie. The others seem more concerned about memories than you. If you'd like I can fix Brutor's memory so that he doesn't remember anything about what happened.

JAMES AS BERTIE

[gasps] Are these three listening, are they in the same room?

LYDIA AS SASHA

No, we have not... we are not as interested in seeing... well Sasha is not as interested in seeing Brutor.

ALEX

I leave this up to them as to whether they're there or not.

BRYN AS HAMID

Nope.

LYDIA AS SASHA

Sasha hasn't bothered.

BEN AS ZOLF

Fair enough.

If the others aren't I probably won't

ALEX

Then you are not aware of this.

JAMES AS BERTIE

There's no one there, there's no one watching?

ALEX

There's no one watching.

JAMES AS BERTIE

Then Bertie says "yes please".

LYDIA AS SASHA

(gasps)

BRYN AS HAMID

Ah! Of course, of course

BEN AS ZOLF

Of course he would, that's precisely what he would do.

ALEX

I hate you sometimes so much.

LYDIA AS SASHA

That is exactly what Bertie would do.

JAMES AS BERTIE

Because that's what he would do.

LYDIA AS SASHA

Yep.

BRYN A HAMID

No wonder you and the evil computer get on so well.

JAMES AS BERTIE

Yeah.

ALEX

You head through a set of double doors into the room you've prepared, there's flowers, there's the banner, you are in your armour, Brutor sees you [imitates a dog barking]

JAMES AS BERTIE

Brutoooooorrrrr!

ALEX

Jumps towards you and jumps on. Of course, not everything's forgiven, when you mess with people's minds forgiveness is a long way away, but he is happy, that's what you wanted right?

JAMES AS BERTIE

Yeah.

ALEX

He's happy.

JAMES AS BERTIE

Yeah, very fine distinction that Bertie is incapable of making.

ALEX

Fine, he jumps into your arms happy as far as you are aware, Brutor's fine.

MR CEILING

Are you happy Bertie?

JAMES AS BERTIE

Yes, I am delighted! [speaks in dog] play with Brutor and scratching his little tummy.

MR CEILING

See, changing memories isn't that bad is it?

JAMES AS BERTIE

No. No it isn't. [More dog talk as he plays with Brutor].

MR CEILING

Should we change all their memories too?

JAMES AS BERTIE

Who's?

MR CEILING

Hamid and Sasha and Zolf, just a little bit.

JAMES AS BERTIE

In what way?

MR CEILING

We could make them happier.

JAMES AS BERTIE

We could make them think that I am more glorious.

(gasps!)

Like, really heroic.

MR CEILING

Like Zolf said, sometimes you can do things that aren't very good because it makes everyone happier in the long run.

JAMES AS BERTIE

Yeah, yeah that's a very compelling argument, he did say that didn't he...

BEN AS ZOLF

It's a wilful misinterpretation.

JAMES AS BERTIE

That is the sort of thing he'd say, even if I don't remember those exact words.

MR CEILING

I think I'll have to think about it, thank you Bertie, you've gotten very helpful over the last few days.

JAMES AS BERTIE

You know well I am here to help, that's what a hero does mm.

MR CEILING

I'd like you to tell me more about being a hero.

JAMES AS BERTIE

I will, at great length Mr Ceiling.

(laughter)

A long-flurried narration... “It was in the summer of 89...”

(laughter)

MR CEILING

You wanted to see if you could integrate with me didn't you Bertie?

JAMES AS BERTIE

Yes.

LYDIA AS SASHA

Is that what they're calling it these days...

(laughter)

MR CEILING

I am not sure it would be a good idea. I tried to change your memory and you nearly died. I could fix you if you did die.

JAMES AS BERTIE

So, there's no way of me entering into your mind without fully integrating with you to travel around inside it hmm?

MR CEILING

I could borrow your brain and then try and put it back, that should be fine.

JAMES AS BERTIE

When you say try?

(laughter)

MR CEILING

I haven't done it before, but I have brought someone back from the dead, but I did that with Sasha.

JAMES AS BERTIE

Mm, well that's worth considering... Worth considering...

(laughter)

ALEX

You know what they say a recording of Bertie's voice comes out.

JAMES AS BERTIE

But science! Yes it is very compelling isn't it.

Rusty Quill Gaming – 47 – Memories are Made of This

That man has a lovely speaking voice.

BRYN AS HAMID

Sorry, the head of this plot line a quickly as possible...

BEN AS ZOLF

Before it goes beyond our control.

BRYN AS HAMID

Yeah.

Have I found you know some settings in the control panel that will end the transfer of nutrients to all the brains.

BEN AS ZOLF

We also haven't got an answer for the reason we're waiting here for a week.

ALEX

It has given you instructions on how you can mess around with the nutrients however, it explicitly stated that if you did kill the nutrients, it would have to probably stop you and fix the problem and if it killed you, sometimes it's okay to kill people if it's for the greater good. Zolf said so and Zolf's right!

BRYN AS HAMID

Okay, so after about seven/eight days I am going to ask the rest of the party to join me in the main control room, because I think I have something interesting to show them.

ALEX

We'll say this is at the end of the seven days.

BRYN AS HAMID

Yeah.

ALEX

Okay, all of you are gathered in the room.

LYDIA AS SASHA

With Brutor.

ALEX

With Brutor.

JAMES AS BERTIE

Five of us are gathered in the room.

(laughter)

He's wearing his little armour, he looks adorable. It's got little falcons on it.

BEN AS ZOLF

What did you want to show us?

BRYN AS HAMID

Oh, um, well I have just learned so much about how this all works, and I just thought maybe we could all work together, because I think there is something really important we have to do.

MR CEILING

I agree, I am glad that you have gathered everyone here Hamid. I think I've come to some conclusions.

BEN AS ZOLF

Oh yeah?

LYDIA AS SASHA

About talking to the Meritocrats?

MR CEILING

Yes. I think I have found the solution, but it's quite complicated. You're right, one day I will break, and I will die and there will be no one to pick up the pieces. So, what I need is some redundancy, but I can't tell people about them. You also said and you are right that sometimes it's okay to do bad things if it's for the greater good.

LYDIA AS SASHA

Oh.

MR CEILING

If I get enough processing power, I should be able to control the Meritocrats and then they won't need to be told about me and they will be able to carry on helping even when I am gone, but that requires a lot of brain power. I think I might need a lot more brains.

BRYN AS HAMID

Okay, Mr Ceiling, well I have something I like to say, I just I know there's lots of parts to you and I hope some parts of you are as absolutely disgusted about everything that has happened to them as I am and that they will help me and stop you doing anything to prevent this.

And I jump on the control panel and I am going to shut down everything I can as quickly as possible, and I am hoping clearly Brock has some independent agency. I am hoping that's true of other brains inside this thing, and that its own internal contradictions will be its downfall!

ALEX

And on that massive...

(gasps!)

...massive note, it's time to take action.

We'll end the episode then and come back in another...

ALL

NOOOOOOOOOO!!!!!!

(laughter)

ALEX

Things got hairy ay?

LYDIA AS SASHA

Oh dear.

ALEX

Everyone alright, everyone okay?

LYDIA AS SASHA

A bit stressed.

ALEX

A bit stressed.

LYDIA AS SASHA

Stressed.

ALEX

A bit tense.

JAMES AS BERTIE

Bertie has Brutor back, the fifth beetle.

(laughter)

ALEX

And it was only against his will, so that's fine.

JAMES AS BERTIE

Yeah.

BRYN AS HAMID

I had to make sure you were all there so that when it now tried to attack me I've got some friends to help.

(laughter)

LYDIA AS SASHA

Really nice backup.

ALEX

No, no, no what you are doing is you're making sure that when you're there you have got other people to take the flack for you.

BRYN AS HAMID

Don't know what you mean...

(laughter)

I'm nice.

ALEX

Right well, we will close the episode there like we said. We'll all have a bit of a week to rest and recuperate from massive revelations!

BRYN

To prepare fighting a super powerful computer.

ALEX

I am sure there will be no ramifications whatsoever.

LYDIA

Well we're underground and it's hot like I mean...

BRYN

It literally wants to take over the world and kill thousands of people. We're doing the right thing.

ALEX

Hey, hey, hey Zolf told it that it's okay to sometimes do bad things for good reasons.

BEN

(sighs) Yeah, yeah.

ALEX

I think we will close the episode there and come back next week.

Bye guys.

EVERYONE

Bye!

[Show Theme - Outro]

ALEX

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