

RQG – [79] – [Fairwell Bertie]

[Show Theme - Intro]

ALEX

Hello and welcome to episode 79 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

Ben Meredith

ALEX

And who are you playing?

BRYN

Sleepy baby dragon.

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LYDIA

Sasha Racket

BEN

Grizzop Drik Acht Amsterdam

ALEX

And everything's still fine?

BEN

Everything's... ya, actually, it's pretty good. We beat the bad guys so that's nice.

LYDIA

Yeah it's cool. I've just got paper injuries to the hand.

ALEX

There is an elephant in the room or more or less...

JAMES

A dead elephant.

ALEX

An elephant has died and ...

JAMES

A big white elephant, a big white dead elephant.

ALEX

When we come back – yeah, a little bit.

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BEN

I mean elephants are noble sympathetic beasts though so.

ALEX

Elephant in perpetual musk!

(Group laughter)

BEN

Oh no.

ALEX

So it is worth addressing now – would you like to give the news James?

JAMES

Yes, so I am taking an extended sabbatical from the podcasts.

EVERYONE

Oh...!

ALEX

For the best reason possible though which is...

JAMES

I've got a lovely baby!

ALEX

Yes.

JAMES

I want to look after my lovely baby.

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ALEX

Yes you do.

JAMES

Yeah, he's pretty great.

BEN

And bring him up to the opposite of Sir Bertrand MacGuffinham!

JAMES

Basically, yes! You see this Thomas – don't!

(Group laughter)

JAMES

My main parenting advice!

BRYN

It's like how you are the opposite of batman is one the cruellest in the plots you can give. You are the opposite of Sir Bertrand MacGuffinham is one of the greatest compliments!

ALEX

Oh thank you so much!

JAMES

Yeah.

LYDIA

The opposite of Batman is a really good thing – what, you're a really functional member of society, you've got strong family bonds, you contribute not to vigilantism and punching random strangers in the face, but to sustained and inclusive supportive like improvement of society in general.

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BRYN

Sure, analyse, yeah.

BEN

May be you're actually better in the community rather than ...

LYDIA

Yeah, just do that.

JAMES

Yeah.

ALEX

I know, he's a controlling ... we're getting off topic.

LYDIA

True, true.

ALEX

So, nonetheless, yeah Bertie, Bertie has died and James will also be missing.

BEN

Spiderman!

ALEX

What that does mean though of course is that there will be massive ramifications but we wanted people to know it's not a case of your character dies and you leave forever.

BRYN

Yes it is!

JAMES

I was left in a room with a barrel handled revolver with a single bullet in it but I found a way out of that situation!

ALEX

Do you have any idea how expensive it is to get a poster that's the size of the room that says "do the right thing".

JAMES

Yeah.

(Group laughter)

ALEX

Well anyway ... as it stands, yeah, this is gonna be James' final recording with us...

EVERYONE

Oh!!!

ALEX

For the foreseeable, that's a fair way of putting it.

JAMES

Yes.

BRYN

Till the child is 18.

(Group laughter)

Unclear crosstalk 03:01.

JAMES

Yeah, he's pretty gifted so I'll be back in a couple of years!

(Group laughter)

JAMES

The only reason he's not at Cambridge right now is due to a chronic shortage of wet nurses in Michaelmas Term.

(Group laughter)

JAMES

It's kind of all right really.

BEN

Oh God.

ALEX

But nonetheless, I think it's time we start examining the ramifications of everything that happened, so it's worth bearing in mind that obviously if you're playing games yourself you can just reroll the character etc. and get them in as someone else plus...

BEN

Much as we did with Zolf.

ALEX

I mean yeah, we've already done it with Zolf and Grizzop but...

JAMES

I did have a couple of ideas for back-up characters that would have come in but I'm just not going to use those back-up characters.

ALEX

Sure, so as it stands James is gonna be gone for the foreseeable.

BRYN

Was the death predetermined then?

ALEX

So, the thing is, is that I actually with James knew that James was gonna have to be taking this sort of sabbatical and going off and looking after like a human life.

BRYN

So I actually knew as well but I didn't realise it was happening so soon!!!

ALEX

Yeah.

BRYN

I'm not ready.

ALEX

So what it came down to was realising that yes, basically Bertie's gonna have to be gone for potentially ever, probably not, but I don't know, I can't see that far in the future, but yeah, we knew and then it was more...

LYDIA

You can only see three to four months into the future!

ALEX

And it was more a discussion of the how, whether it was a death, whether it was something else. I mean equally Bertie could have just spontaneously

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decided he really wanted to move to Antartica, he'd still be gone but it wouldn't have made much sense, so...

JAMES

I'm going out for a side-quest – I may be some time!

(Group laughter)

LYDIA

I mean even in the episode there are a bunch of different ways he could have gone.

JAMES

Sir Bertrand MacGuffingham's "The Thing". He literally is! Carry on.

ALEX

But yeah...

JAMES

This writes itself!!! Like why... yeah, carry on.

ALEX

As it stood, I knew that Bertie was gonna have to be gone, and I also knew that you were about to go up a really, really powerful NPC so the likelihood is he was gonna die.

JAMES

Particularly if Bertie is alone.

BRYN

He basically one-shotted Hamid – I mean Hami's not dead but he was removed from the fight by a single spell.

ALEX

Yeah, we are skipping past as well like the fact that Hamid is as messed up as he's ever been.

BEN

We need to find him.

ALEX

You're currently not even aware that he's a thing.

BEN

Yeah and the only witness to that or both witnesses to that have died!

BRYN

The entire audience.

ALEX

And the entire auditorium.

BEN

Oh all right!

(Group laughter)

BEN

Maybe there's a few!

(Group laughter)

BEN

But our leads are, yeah, they're slimming down.

(Group laughter)

ALEX

So, I am gonna pick up where we went off – obviously James will be here for the rest of this episode etc.

JAMES

Hello, I'll be quiet, I'll be comparatively quiet!

ALEX

You get to just focus on the funnies.

JAMES

All right.

ALEX

And not the bigotry which was you know, 50% of brain power being wasted on being horrible.

JAMES

Considering my lizard brain is required for the bigotry, you don't actually...

Unclear 05:45 crosstalk

JAMES

It requires intellect to unlearn that!

BEN

There might be a flashback to rag week or something!

JAMES

Oh maybe!

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ALEX

Who knows? So, I'm gonna pick up...

LYDIA

This is specifically what my death was worth!

(Group laughter)

LYDIA

But only just worth!

ALEX

So I am going to pick up after a little bit of time has passed okay. Enough time for the rioting panicked crowd to have vacated the auditorium cos no-one wanted to stay – it's not like you could tell security to go in there and deal with the ... no-one wanted to stay.

BEN

Grizzop's priority is finding the soprano that he flung across the room and obviously hurt really badly.

ALEX

Sure. So, it basically ... you are held up by the massive rush of people etc. however, we are skipping ahead to the auditorium is now empty. As it stands the only people who are in it so far – and this is a temporary state – are Sasha, Grizzop, presumably the remains of Hamid – all of his stuff that's there, the soprano who we'll deal with in a second, and there is no trace whatsoever of Kafka but there are the papers all over the place which are now dull and lacking in that sinister vibe. So first things first ...

LYDIA

Is Bertie still floating?

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ALEX

Bertie is not floating. He is face-down...

LYDIA

Smashed to the ground.

ALEX

He fell to the ground – he only ...

BRYN

Guys we need to steal all his stuff and sell it! It's worth loads of gold!

BEN

It's what he would have wanted!

(Group laughter)

JAMES

It isn't but he would understand!

(Group laughter)

ALEX

Bertie is face-down in the middle of the stage. Actually alone because Kafka was erased and the soprano was off into the side so we're gonna deal with Grizzop first.

Grizzop heading to the soprano.

BEN

Yeah – I'm gonna race over, I'm gonna attempt a heal check to stabilise her if she's unconscious and needing help. That's a 9 – having screwed that up.

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ALEX

It's really obvious to you that she's dead.

BEN

Oh she's just dead then?

ALEX

She's dead.

BEN

Ah.

ALEX

The impact killed her.

BEN

Ah.

ALEX

She hasn't been particularly like maimed so it's nothing like grossly disgusting but nonetheless, like she has a broken neck – she is dead.

BEN

I'll close her eyes and say sorry and leave her.

BRYN

Grizzop says nothing.

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BEN

I would be concerned if it did.

JAMES

I'd be surprised.

ALEX

It has been one of those ...

LYDIA

It has been a zombie apocalypse.

BRYN

I think you'll find if you remember a few episodes back we came up with a funeral prayer for the followers of Artimas.

BEN

Oh no, that was only ... that's not a standard prayer, that was just Grizzop.

BRYN

Oh right.

JAMES

Improvising.

BEN

He was riffing, he's not very good at it.

(Group laughter)

ALEX

Sasha – on to you – what are you doing?

LYDIA

She staggers but she's still very fast staggering – staggers about most peoples' running pace over...

ALEX

You're probably akin to a zombie at this point if you're staggering.

LYDIA

Yeah – over to Bertie and like kicks him in the head – only very ...

ALEX

Yeah of course.

LYDIA

Bertie, where's Hamid? What have you done? Where's Hamid? Bertie, wake up! We don't have time for this. Bertie!

JAMES

Bertie says nothing.

(Group laughter)

LYDIA

Kicks him again – Bertie come on!!! It worked last time.

ALEX

Yeah, yeah.

LYDIA

I mean it literally did wake him up.

ALEX

Yeah, yeah, it has worked before!

LYDIA

Kicking him in the head was the right thing to do mechanically several previous occasions. She's one-handed right now so can't even turn him over.

ALEX

You could struggle but you would be able to turn him over eventually. It's just a struggle.

JAMES

Is there anybody there with some talking thing on his person that you could ask all the relevant questions to?

LYDIA

Turns it over – Bertie! Shaking, shaking.

ALEX

His visor is up.

LYDIA

Oh.

ALEX

Because he's been talking and nodding his head and all this other stuff. His visor is up, his face is blued, the blue that you can only get from suffocation.

LYDIA

Blue-blooded.

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ALEX

His eyes are open and glazed.

LYDIA

Oh, oh dear. Oh, I think we need a healer.

BEN

Aye? All right. Yeah, no.

LYDIA

I mean he looks a bit ... Bertie?

BRYN

And I scamper over – heal check!

LYDIA

Bertie?

ALEX

You don't need to!

BRYN

Yeah I know.

(Group laughter)

ALEX

In fact, what did you roll for the heal check?

BEN

I rolled 14.

ALEX

14?

BEN

Yeah.

ALEX

You know the manner of his death.

BEN

So suffocation.

ALEX

Specifically magical where it wasn't that he was like drowned or anything, like they just took the air.

BEN

Okay.

ALEX

And left him without it.

BEN

Ah... no he's um...he's, he's gone.

JAMES

Bertie's still got his graces though.

EVERYBODY

Ah!

Rusty Quill Gaming – [79] – [Fairwell Bertie]

ALEX

I regret this already!

BRYN

But he died without airs!

JAMES

That's the joke!

ALEX

No airs with an H.

JAMES

Yeah.

(group laughter)

[Crosstalk 10:28].

LYDIA

That left me breathless! Just choking on that one – that's just literal though, literal.

ALEX

Laughing in the face of grief.

LYDIA

Yeah, it's dark humour.

BEN

Yeah, sorry, he's... he's dead. It looks like Kafka nicked the air.

LYDIA

Now who's gonna tell us what happened to Hamid? I mean...I mean a shame he's dead.

(Group laughter)

BEN

Well... yeah, what did happen to Hamid? All his stuff's over there.

LYDIA

I mean...

ALEX

Grizzop.

LYDIA

Hamid wouldn't leave his clothes if something wasn't really wrong.

ALEX

In fact you know what, I'm not even going to get a perception check. The auditorium is still empty and echoing quiet after all of the kerfuffle – his clothes are not discarded, they are completely like ramped – they are torn, it looks like something may be ate him like there are the remnants of what might have been some of his stuff – it's not like his clothes are just to the side.

BRYN

None of his magical items are there apart from the bracelets.

ALEX

Yes.

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BEN

Um... he might have been eaten.

LYDIA

By what?!

BEN

I dunno – zombies! They've done it quite clean.

I'll do a perception check on his pile of clothes.

ALEX

Give me a perception check.

BEN

16.

ALEX

16 – do either of you have survival?

BEN

You'd think so.

LYDIA

No.

ALEX

Unclear 11:51 without survival.

JAMES

Bertie definitely doesn't at this point.

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LYDIA

Yeah!

(Group laughter)

JAMES

Carry on!

(Group laughter)

BRYN

Bertie failed his survival check!

LYDIA

Sasha...

BRYN

Critical fail!

(Group laughter)

LYDIA

Sasha's gonna – okay, the sword, the sword, it's a talking sword, the sword can tell us.

BEN

Oh that's it, yeah.

LYDIA

I'm gonna grab it then realise that my hand is a bloody mess because it's taken 12 damage – do I still have all my fingers?

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ALEX

Yes.

BRYN

You don't have the use of them.

ALEX

It was crushed – you have no use of your hand until you get it sorted out.

BEN

Oh hang on a minute...I'll grab your hand.

LYDIA

Ow!!!!

(Group laughter)

BRYN

Lay on hands.

LYDIA

Ow!!!!

JAMES

Lay on hand.

BRYN

Lay on hand check.

ALEX

One second, one second – you lay on hands.

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BEN

Yeah.

ALEX

Roll the healing.

BEN

8.

ALEX

You take 8 damage.

LYDIA

Right, so I was on 9.

(Group laughter)

LYDIA

Now I'm on one.

BEN

Lucky I didn't roll very well!

(Group laughter)

LYDIA

Ow, why did you do that?!?!

BEN

That's supposed to help.

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LYDIA

What now?

BEN

Why didn't that help?

Unclear 12:48 crosstalk.

LYDIA

Oh my God!

BEN

Are you a zombie?

LYDIA

No! Do I look like a zombie?!?!

BEN

You're definitely acting like a zombie!

ALEX

She looks super messed up on one hit point!

(Group laughter)

BEN

That should help!

LYDIA

Argh!

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BEN

You've got a problem!

LYDIA

Well yeah!! Yeah the problem seems to be you right now!

(Group laughter)

BEN

Unless I do it to a zombie or a vampire or some form of ghoul it usually works!

LYDIA

Two days ago I had a whole team and now I've got you and only one hit point!

BEN

Okay! All right!

LYDIA

And I'm messed up right now!

BEN

Well I mean have a healing potion – does that work? Is it just me?

LYDIA

I don't know – has it ever happened before?

(Group laughter)

JAMES

Here, read these medical manuals – we'll try again in a couple of weeks!

BEN

I swear this is the first time this has ever happened – it's never happened with anyone else.

LYDIA

Look, all right, I might have a mild case of slight bad resurrection so.

BEN

Oh dear.

LYDIA

I just...

BEN

All right, okay – we're not dead and ...

LYDIA

Barely!

BEN

Well yeah but you're not and that's important.

LYDIA

I'm like crouching on the floor.

BEN

The soprano is dead by the way.

LYDIA

Oh dear, that was Hamid's sister.

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ALEX

Give me a perception check.

LYDIA

25.

ALEX

25. Grizzop, get out on this.

BRYN

Oh yeah sure – I've done really badly – 13. 11 even.

LYDIA

That's good. That probably would have seen into my soul and killed it.

ALEX

Sasha?

LYDIA

Yeah.

ALEX

You thought it was over! You really thought you'd dealt with everything – the zombies are gone, the pages are gone, Kafka's apparently gone – there's an inhumane howl....

LYDIA

Oh man.

ALEX

From the rooftops above you.

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BEN

Oh there's something else.

No, I didn't hear that, sorry.

ALEX

You didn't hear that.

LYDIA

Oh there's something on the roof.

BEN

What?

LYDIA

There's something screaming on the roof – it's probably one of those little demon things.

BEN

Oh right – shall I go take a look?

LYDIA

You know what, I'm gonna find out where Hamid...takes her functioning hand and holds Bertie's sword thing – so what happened to Hamid?

ALEX

Oh hi, how are you? How's things?

LYDIA

Really awful right now!

(Group laughter)

LYDIA

Like I am... I am about as ill as I feel like I've ever felt, apart from the times that I was blasted through a wall.

ALEX

And you sound terrible!

(Group laughter)

ALEX

Is he dead? I'm assuming he's dead?

LYDIA

Who? Hamid? What?

ALEX

What? No, the ... Bertie.

LYDIA

Oh yeah... no he... I should be probably more upset.

ALEX

Did he have a son?

LYDIA

That's really tactically useful.

ALEX

Did he have a son?

LYDIA

Not that I know of.

ALEX

Oh great! Okay.

LYDIA

I don't think it's likely given his romantic inclinations.

(Group laughter)

ALEX

So, right, so what was the question sorry? I'm kind of dealing with a lot right now.

LYDIA

You're dealing with a lot?!

(Group laughter)

ALEX

You've no idea!

LYDIA

What happened to Hamid? We need to find our mate.

ALEX

Oh Hamid, yeah, he went and he got turned into something and then ran off.

LYDIA

Oh right, the inhuman scream is probably Hamid.

BEN

Okay – shall I go get him?

LYDIA

What? I mean I ain't really up to much right now.

BEN

All right well ... okay, I'll go.

ALEX

Singing ... Nobody knows the trouble I've seen.

(Group laughter)

LYDIA

Look mate, I have ... I'm just pouring blood out of one hand.

ALEX

Blood, what I'd give for some blood right now.

LYDIA

Would you like some?

ALEX

So people could see how much trouble I'm in.

LYDIA

Like I am not well right now.

ALEX

Oh you're fine.

LYDIA

Are any good at what, resurrection spells? I mean for me, not Bertie, although I suppose you could...

ALEX

No.

LYDIA

No.

ALEX

I'm really good at cutting things, that's sort of my bag. Yeah, I know right.

I'm gonna cut to Grizzop.

BEN

Sure.

ALEX

So you've set off up?

BEN

Yeah, going to the thing on the roof.

LYDIA

Yeah, just really, really not in the headspace to like help that logically. So it's up there. That's what she said.

BEN

Scamper off.

ALEX

Soon enough, you can hear again – it takes a while then there's another howl and so on and it's definitely coming from the roof and it's fairly easy for you to just ... you keep going up and you make your way eventually to a rooftop.

BEN

So I've got an arrow knocked in my bow, not drawn, and I approach the sort of the...

ALEX

So you step on to the rooftop and as you're walking on to the rooftop, there's a faint patter of rain, however, the cloud cover is very broken up and it's probably gonna be like a fairly sunshiney day coming up tomorrow.

LYDIA

Sings... gonna be, gonna be!

ALEX

Yeah! So, there is distinct movement from the opposite end of the roof which is sort of gently sloping in order to accommodate the massive auditorium and so on – give me a perception check.

BEN

That is a 12.

ALEX

12 – the creature is at the opposite end of the roof – that's all you can really discern at this stage.

BRYN

It's looking out over the city and doing this sort... doing a weird sniffing of the air thing and it's occasionally howling. It turns to face you.

BEN

Oh.

ALEX

You are able to recognise Hamid's features in there.

BEN

Okay sure. I'm gonna use handle animal.

ALEX

That's appropriate because it's so low.

BEN

Okay, right well I'll roll and then do it. Just this is trash!

ALEX

Roll good, roll good!

BEN

I mean it's still 11.

JAMES

If only someone with a really good handle animal score was still around.

BEN

I've got plus 7.

JAMES

If only someone with a really good handle animal score was still around!

(Group laughter)

BRYN

You talk a lot for a dead man!

(Group laughter)

JAMES

Bertie says nothing!

(Group laughter)

BRYN

I rolled a sense motive check but I failed!

ALEX

So you've tried to calm the beast and the beast has failed to sense what you're trying to do.

BRYN

It's being very wary of you – it's kind of backing off, snarling, growling.

BEN

All right easy, easy Hamid – Hamid, all right? Do you recognise Hamid?

Sound of snarling beast

BEN

Oh right! Right – how about what do you like? Food? All right I'm gonna get some rations.

ALEX

Oh that's never gonna work Grizzop! Right.

(Group laughter)

BEN

What is this? I demand lobster!

(Group laughter)

ALEX

I'm going to allow you to do a handle animal but you'll have a penalty because it's rations.

BEN

Yes, so you know, hand out, palm flat.

ALEX

Oh right.

BEN

You know, just holding it there. 20.

BRYN

Fail my sense motive again.

ALEX

It's up to you. I trust you to play true to your stats – you always have before.

BRYN

I sort of approach and then I back off again.

BEN

No, no it's fine. Look, I'll put it down – I put the ration down and back off.

JAMES

For a favour, can it be Kendal mint cake?

BEN

Yes, absolutely.

ALEX

Absolutely, of course it is.

BRYN

Hamid again scrambles up to it, sniffs at it, takes a bite and sort of chews and then backs off again.

Sound of snorting monster

BEN

All right, definitely Hamid.

JAMES

The Kendal mint cake's delicious!

(Group laughter)

BEN

I can take you somewhere that will make you better – if you can understand this – you probably can't. How about we go on a walk? Like walkies? Walkies?

JAMES

Problematic!

ALEX

It's so problematic!

BRYN

There's no recognition or understanding in the creature's eyes. It's calmed down very slightly but it's not approaching you.

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ALEX

Your teacher always said you should have bothered more with the animals!

BEN

Crack my knuckles!

ALEX

You never spent enough time with them!

BEN

Knock the bow. Unclear 20:28 then – for Hamid.

ALEX

Okay.

BEN

I'm aiming at its limbs trying to disable them.

ALEX

Are you aiming for non-lethal damage?

BEN

Yes absolutely.

ALEX

Yeah I figured as much. Roll the attack you'll be taking a minus – oh I think it's a minus 4 in order to be do you non-lethal with a lethal weapon.

BEN

Okay – I'm gonna get a plus 6. Do I hit on an 18 and do I hit on a 16?

Rusty Quill Gaming – [79] – [Fairwell Bertie]

ALEX

Hamid, you have all of your ACs still.

BRYN

Yeah, only the 18 hits.

BEN

Okay – it's only one D6 cos it's not flaming. Deal two damage but I'm trying to do basically gambits and..

ALEX

Basically how does Hamid react to this and then we will...

BRYN

He leaps at you.

BEN

Okay.

BRYN

And gets two claw attacks.

ALEX

It's all gone PVP!

BRYN

They both miss.

BEN

Yeah, don't hit a 21.

ALEX

I am going to cut to Sasha. So I'm assuming that you're just on the stage unless you have any other plans?

LYDIA

She's ripping up pages while shouting for a producer.

(Group laughter)

ALEX

This script's terrible!

(Group laughter)

ALEX

Who wrote this?!?!?

LYDIA

I need a stagehand or something, someone that has access to... I dunno ... ailing that doesn't hurt! She's stumbling around drunkenly almost.

ALEX

Give me a perception check.

LYDIA

She's losing a lot of blood. Oh 19 plus 10.

ALEX

You hear there's an argument happening outside – like so that you have the main entrances to the stalls at the very, very back of the auditorium and you can just hear what sounds like an argument on the other side of those doors.

LYDIA

Yeah. Stumbles over and opens the door – I really need help, we've just saved ...

ALEX

I'm just telling you ... they're just teleports, the entire opera house somewhere, problem solved!

So you can see that Einstein is having an argument with Curie whilst Freud is looking on.

LYDIA

You, you guys that have been exactly no help...

(Group laughter)

LYDIA

Like I don't know if you might be able to be a bit of help now – blood is pouring off her.

ALEX

Yeah, yeah you're a mess!

LYDIA

Like just out of her back where there's the falcon.

ALEX

Oh yeah that'll be back.

LYDIA

That is where just raw, like blood just...

ALEX

Yeah, yeah.

LYDIA

...seeping, like its coming out through the hole in her jacket – her jacket isn't damaged so there's just blood seeping from like the sleeve.

ALEX

Oh gross.

LYDIA

And around her neck and then of course her hand is basically a crushed stump and she like shakes the bloody hand at them and like, really? You haven't been any help so far. I got one guy dead, I've got another one disappeared, I've got an angry grumpy sword and, and, and I've got nothing left! Just, just... I've got, I've got no fight in me guys. You're really gonna have to step up here.

ALEX

And we'll take a break there and be back in a couple of minutes.

And welcome back, so as Sasha finally tells you know all of the most powerful majors possibly what she thinks of them, we'll jump back to Grizzop and Hamid and for the sake of my sanity, we're gonna skip ahead to you hogtieing Hamid because we are working off Hamid's close combat stats, so it's more a question...

BRYN

I don't what you're talking about, he's great!

ALEX

It's more a question of when...

BRYN

He has two claws guys.

ALEX

... Hamid gets completely defeated by the combat focus character Paladin who can also heal itself on the fly!

BEN

Only once more!

ALEX

But nonetheless, yeah, I'm gonna skip ahead.

JAMES

That's gonna be a problem given that you're essentially wrestling with a guinea pig.

(Group laughter)

BEN

So I guess I've got him over my back trying to take him down, going Oh for a small bugger you sure are heavy!

ALEX

So presumably you're making your way back towards the auditorium.

BEN

Yes, absolutely.

ALEX

Yeah – I'm gonna cut to Sasha then – all of them go quiet and Curie for once just goes quiet as well.

LYDIA

All right, I mean now Sasha might have been so exhausted and that her general shyness was just worn out but now there's an awkward silence.

ALEX

Oh it's a super awkward silence.

LYDIA

It all comes back! Yeah, so I think, I think I really need some help here. Just...we got him, you know? We got him, he killed, killed a woman and he killed my comrad.

BRYN

Colleague.

LYDIA

Colleague.

BEN

Acquaintance!

JAMES

Yeah.

LYDIA

Acquaintance. He killed a guy!

(Group laughter)

LYDIA

That I worked with.

ALEX

Curie comes forward and actually tries to put her hand around Sasha.

LYDIA

Yeah but she doesn't know that her entire back is raw.

ALEX

No she doesn't, not at all.

LYDIA

Ow!!! Stop!!!

(Group laughter)

LYDIA

Attacking me!

ALEX

I'm guessing that you need a healer, yes?

LYDIA

Well it's a bit more complicated than that.

ALEX

Right. She turns – there's a muttered conversation between Einstein and Freud and Curie and then Einstein you know, teleports away – Freud gives a nod and heads off and then Curie is just there on her own and goes, "I should probably have a look shouldn't I ... at the auditorium – I'm not a healer, I don't do anything like that".

LYDIA

Right, yeah, that's ... yeah, this way, let's just...

ALEX

She heads in and casts a very critical eye over the disarray that is the auditorium at which point Grizzop, you manage to drag a hogtied Hamid thing back into the auditorium.

BEN

It's all right Sasha, I've got him! Phew! Argh, there he is.

LYDIA

All right Hamid?

BEN

It's gone a bit wrong.

BRYN

Hamid's unconscious at this point.

LYDIA

Hamid? I mean he's not dead as well is he?

BEN

No, no, no – he's fine. He's got a bit of fight in him still.

LYDIA

He is scaly.

BEN

Yeah – I don't know what Kafka did to him – oi you! Yeah you! You unhelpful woman – check this out.

LYDIA

Sasha's going to sink to the floor.

ALEX

Curie comes over and casts a fairly formidable knowledge arcana – arguably the most formidable knowledge arcana that you’re ever going to encounter! And rolls a 3! However, it’s a sufficient modifier to at least have a solid idea of what’s going on. She has a look – has another look – “my guess is ... you see it looks like it’s just a simple case of like a feeble minded spell, something similar, that would reduce the intelligence and the well, the nuance of a person – let’s say their personality but ...

BEN

Just get to the end!

ALEX

“This...this ... it’s complicated”.

LYDIA

He’s done it before.

BRYN

So I did announce that I was a sorcerer in the wizard in counsel chamber.

ALEX

I’m getting there, I’m getting there.

“My guess is it’s interacting with his heritage in some way”.

BEN

Thanks for fixing it, bye!

ALEX

“My guess is deal with the feeble minded side and it will probably end up solving the complication”.

LYDIA

Dragon.

BEN

Right, got to sort that out – that’s some pretty serious stuff but I reckon we’ve got some people that could do it.

LYDIA

Well may be she doesn’t say the dragon, but he is covered in fiery scales so. The crocodile bit, a brass crocodile.

ALEX

So...

BEN

Also, do you know any necromancers? Apart from obviously ... well you don’t anymore.

ALEX

Yes, we do have it as an entire school of the university.

BEN

Right, I think one of them might need to check her out.

LYDIA

Ow!

ALEX

Okay.

BEN

I tried to heal her – went badly, that shouldn't happen on people who are alive.

LYDIA

Ow!

ALEX

I am going to now smash cut okay.

LYDIA

Ow.

ALEX

We are back at the university.

LYDIA

Ow.

(Group laughter)

ALEX

You are aware that Freud has been given the basically the job of handling the clean up around the opera house whilst Einstein bouncing around with ridiculous amounts of teleport is just checking around the city and he's proving very useful at like coordinating things, but Curie has come basically with you guys back to the university. As it stands, you are now back in that chamber when you were meeting them for the first time – Curie is there and a healer ...

LYDIA

Sasha is just leaving bloody footprints.

ALEX

Oh yeah, you're a mess.

JAMES

Weird but not stealthy!

(Group laughter)

ALEX

So a healer has appeared to help Hamid and a bunch of necromancers are here to try and deal with Sasha. The issue with the necromancers is you get the impression that for a while at least the department hasn't been very well run so compared to like the gravitas and the style of everyone who's come before, one of them is like oh, it's probably you know, artefacts, yeah, artefacts, mischievous reversal – it's not gonna be mischievous reversal cos that wouldn't interact with it would it? Well it's not gonna be David's claws is it? And they're just chatting nonsense – they have no idea.

LYDIA

Sasha is lying down with her jacket off so you can just see the bloody – the fact that her, through her shirt, the fact that it's all just, it's all just...

ALEX

Yeah.

LYDIA

Bit like she's just caked in...

BRYN

Hamid is conscious again – he did a lot of snarling and growling and scrabbling when he first woke up but he's now kind of worn himself out cos he's still tied up and he's just hissing occasionally.

ALEX

Meanwhile, the healer that's dealing with Hamid has a conversation with Curie – they both sort of give a nod.

LYDIA

Oh was that a critical fail?

ALEX

There was a critical fail in there.

BEN

Oh God!

ALEX

So, what effectively happens is the cleric effectively figures out what actually needs doing and casts the appropriate spell. There's a few that would work – in this case I think it's just a standard heal actually, but like a magical version, however, during the kerfuffle Hamid manages to effectively break free and make a dash for the door kind of thing and Curie just wearily blasts what's effectively a fire ball at his back, pinning him to the wall. He flops back down – the cleric then comes over, finishes the job and transports him back to Hamid. Hamid, you are – she's very good and she deliberately cast it lower level than she could but you've taken about ...

BRYN

I also have fire resistance.

ALEX

Yeah, she cast about 46 worth of damage which will be?

(Group laughter)

BEN

That was a 6, 6, a 5 and a 6! 23 damage.

BRYN

That's fine.

ALEX

You took 23 damage from the lower than normal cast fireball.

BRYN

I have fire resistance 5 – I take 18 – that's about two-thirds of my hit points.

ALEX

And then you are now back as Hamid – you have complete...

BRYN

I'm unconscious again – I still had some non-lethal damage.

ALEX

The cleric just kind of looks at Curie and goes, "ah...sighs" and then proceeds to heal you back up to full hit points. Meanwhile, one of the necromancers with Sasha is like, right get out of the way, out of the way, out of the way. Right. This is either gonna – I've got to warn you - this is either gonna really hurt or make it all better but it won't kill you, huh?

LYDIA

Right, great, just ... I don't have much blood left.

BEN

It's all right, I'm around – if he screws it up...

LYDIA

You'll kill him.

BEN

I'll murder him for you.

LYDIA

Kill him for me, all right.

BEN

All right.

LYDIA

You're all right you know.

BEN

You are too, you've got me out of some... anyway.

LYDIA

You're all right.

ALEX

Do you have knowledge arcana at all?

BEN

Me? No!!!

ALEX

Okay, fine. Basically, the necromancer goes, "ahhh" and passes his hand across Sasha – some green light filters out from his hand. From your perspective Grizzop, you absolutely recognise that as necromance, nonetheless, Sasha, you are, you feel ever so slightly better.

LYDIA

Cool.

ALEX

At which point the other – yeah, the ... in fairness you heal ... yes.

(Group laughter)

ALEX

At which point the other necromancers go, “oh! Right, right, right” – they all start “whoom”... it’s quite uncomfortable for you Grizzop cos there’s like a lot of necromancer magic that’s just being pumped in.

BRYN

I mean there’s nothing inherently bad with necromanci.

ALEX

All I mean is that what you are quite quickly becoming aware of is that they’re repeatedly casting inflict serious wounds on Sasha.

BEN

Oh so it’s more like negative energy.

LYDIA

It’s really bad.

ALEX

Yeah, however, Sasha, you get healed up to full.

LYDIA

Yay!!

ALEX

And you look all right – you look good – may be a little pale but you’re basically fine. Hamid, you are now conscious, with it and the first thing that you see is a cleric who just pats you on the shoulder, and then just walks out leaving you with everyone else. You have fragmentary but generally complete memories of what your time as a sort of weird dragon was.

BRYN

What happened?

BEN

Oh... should you tell him or should I?

LYDIA

Argh! Right – Sasha clambers up – you’re gonna need to be sitting down. Hamid, it went... ow... it went about as badly as it could Hamid.

ALEX

There is a knock at the door.

BRYN

Wh-wh-wh-what happened? What happened?

LYDIA

Sit down.

ALEX

There’s another knock at the door.

Rusty Quill Gaming – [79] – [Fairwell Bertie]

BEN

I storm over and open it – what?!?

ALEX

A pair of really, really well dressed gnomes are stood in the doorway.

BEN

Who on earth are you?

LYDIA

Like really badly Hamid.

BRYN

Why are those people here?

BEN

Who are these people?

BRYN

Where's Bertie?

LYDIA

Hamid, sit down. Um, a hot drink that's what they give people.

BEN

Are you lawyers?

ALEX

We'd really please appreciate it if you would allow us entry into this room.

Rusty Quill Gaming – [79] – [Fairwell Bertie]

BEN

Well I don't know you.

LYDIA

Look, we'll probably have to hear them out – all right.

BEN

All right.

LYDIA

So someone get Hamid a hot drink and like, and me too unless that will hurt me.

ALEX

The gnomes are gonna try and enter unless you physically stop them.

BEN

Unclear 33:49.

ALEX

Yeah, sure. So they head in and they end up – they just stand in the doorway – they don't really sit.

BEN

Tell you what – yeah, I'll go get those hot drinks – and I'm gonna run off to a kitchen.

ALEX

Sure.

JAMES

Rusty Quill Gaming – [79] – [Fairwell Bertie]

The necromancer office faculty kitchen – just things that you don't know how to be dead to work here but it helps!!

(Group laughter)

LYDIA

Hamid, Hamid...

BRYN

Where's Bertie?

LYDIA

I really recommend you sit down.

BRYN

I'm fine.

ALEX

Please – the gnomes gesture further in – it is our sad duty to work through the remainder of Sir Bertrand's estate in the...

BRYN

What?!?!

ALEX

...case of his demise.

BRYN

What happened???

ALEX

Now naturally...

Rusty Quill Gaming – [79] – [Fairwell Bertie]

BRYN

Bertie's dead???? What??? How???

LYDIA

Well we... I mean the same guy that turned you into a dragon...

ALEX

As far as we understand it was a...

BRYN

What???

ALEX

...severe suffocation casting. He will have died due to lack of air.

BRYN

Oh my God!!! Bertie!!!!

ALEX

So as it stands, Sir Bertrand is of course demised. We understand that the sword is actually in your possession.

LYDIA

Well I left it there but I guess I own it.

ALEX

We would ask if it was possible for you to hold on it whilst we attempt to find the next of kin for that item.

LYDIA

All right... maybe... would one of the people that was ... do you think – what did they do with Bertie's body?

ALEX

So, you can ask that of... I can retrospect that into you asking Curie if you want.

LYDIA

Oi! Curie – where did Bertie's body and his stuff go?

ALEX

Um, as it is, he's currently being interred in the local chapter – actually it was Artemis who happened to be closest. He will remain in the crypt whilst they examine for any signs of necromantic complication. As it stands, he will then be handed over to the MacGuffingham Estate for burial at their cemetery.

LYDIA

So apparently I need to carry the sword around?

ALEX

If you would be so kind as to do so, we would greatly appreciate it. However if you do not wish to we would be more than happy to take it off your hands.

BRYN

I can't believe he's gone!

LYDIA

Look, okay, just ... I can have a chat with him, maybe he can talk to Hamid cos I can't...

ALEX

This seems...

BEN

I've got everyone coffee, yeah, it's instant sorry, but I assumed you wanted some – and I'll put down the four mugs in front of the lawyers as well.

JAMES

Kindly note the espresso mugs for the gnomes.

(Group laughter)

ALEX

Yes.

JAMES

But they drink it as a normal strength of coffee.

(Group laughter)

ALEX

I'm gonna...

LYDIA

Sasha takes one and hands it to Hamid like really awkwardly.

BRYN

Hamid takes it.

ALEX

Now here's the thing – the gnomes have your Will.

JAMES

Yeah.

ALEX

There are magical effects that would allow it to be read out in your voice if you want.

JAMES

Oh!

ALEX

Would you like to have your last Will and Testament read out to the room?

JAMES

Yes! Okay, right.

ALEX

So the gnomes they – if you'll excuse us for a moment – they open the letter, place it on the table – pass a hand over it and then Bertie's voice speaks!

JAMES

So, I'm dictating now, alright? So everything I say now is gonna be written down and that's my last Will and Testament, is that right? That is right? That is clever isn't it. That is really quite something.

ALEX

It's a very thick Will!

(Group laughter)

LYDIA

That is tasteless!

JAMES

La-la-la, so to whom it may concern, obviously if I am dead, then it will be terribly sad for all of you but you know, the thing that I would...

(Group laughter)

ALEX

For the listeners, that no-one can see us like just, it's just sat, well Lydia and Ben just sharing a look, kind of a "ohh!".

(Group laughter)

BRYN

Hamid is genuinely sad!

(Group laughter)

JAMES

Now, obviously this will come as a great trauma to you, all the more so because it is totally unexpected, because let's be honest I'm pretty good at fighting peril. The other day I saw some peril, just hit it, just punched it, it went down, it stayed there out of fear. Gahhh, take that, peril, I said.

ALEX

Would anybody mind if we skip ahead a little bit?

BEN

I'm not bothered.

ALEX

They pass their hand over the paper just a little bit to skip it ahead – just a little bit. It's a very thick Will!

JAMES

That peril, that stayed down, like, it was definitely down by this point, anyway, I digress.

(Group laughter)

JAMES

Tempting though it may be to follow me into the outer planes, wherever I go after death, who can say? No, no, I want you to stay here, stay living, stay strong! Carry my memory of greatness, although it'll be really sad because it's a massive loss to all of you.

BRYN

Hamid starts to cry but quite gently.

JAMES

Now, in terms of my personal effects and debts. Now, the debt is an issue I won't lie. Now, obviously, as much as possible must be sold off to allay the debts of the Old Botham Estate.

ALEX

We'll stop the Will at this point – it's worth noting that almost the entirety of possessions have been reclaimed in order to start paying off some of that debt.

BEN

I'm gonna go get myself a coffee.

ALEX

Very well. They pass their hand across the Will – it resumes.

JAMES

Now, I of course, at the present time, have no male heir that I know of, am I right ladies? I'm definitely right, really, the whole idea sickens me.

(Group laughter)

JAMES

However, I have decided that the mantle of the House of MacGuffingham shall pass upon my demise to this little dog I found recently.

(Group laughter)

JAMES

I see great things in him. You know, there's a certain spirit, a certain strength of character. I predict great things for that small dog. And so, as such, I bestow upon him all that remains after the debts of the Old Botham Estate have been cleared, including my name. Hmm, you alone, as Brutor MacGuffingham. Hmm. Sir Brutor MacGuffingham.

(Group laughter)

ALEX

Is that the end of the Will?

BRYN

That's the end of the Will!

(Group laughter)

BEN

What have I missed?

BRYN

Can dogs inherit?

ALEX

Magical contracts, yes.

BRYN

Titles?

ALEX

Yes.

BRYN

In the British...

JAMES

And in case anybody is wondering – the gnomes have still their hands – dogs can definitely inherit, I did look it up!

BEN

What happened? I went to get a coffee and now a dog is Bertie? Wait – what's happening?

LYDIA

He's left everything to Brutor.

BEN

Who's Brutor?

LYDIA

He's a dog!

BRYN

His dog!

LYDIA

That attacked us once and stuck with us.

ALEX

So, the gnomes take a moment – they fold up the Will - "With that in mind, obviously now that new information has come to light, we would greatly appreciate if you would hand over the sword of MacGuffingham that it might be held to the next heir of the Old Botham Estate?"

LYDIA

To Brutor?

ALEX

Correct, yes.

LYDIA

Well, can I say, you can absolutely have it, but on the grounds that I get to listen in when you manage to get the two of them together.

ALEX

The whole time these gnomes have been deadpan and then just go... "yes" and then reach and take the sword.

BRYN

I can't believe he's really gone.

ALEX

It would appear that we have no more business here. We wish you all the best and should you ever require the services of Harkness, Harkness Darkness & Sphinx of course naturally we would be there to serve you.

LYDIA

Right.

BRYN

I really hope it never comes to that!

LYDIA

Yeah.

BEN

Hey Hamid, look, I know, I know that we haven't really met that long ago, and Bertie's dead, but ultimately he died fighting a real dick, and honestly that's probably the best death anyone can have if they die.

BRYN

I suppose he went out as a hero. That's probably the best that could have been hoped for.

LYDIA

Well Hamid... right... Hamid, so Sasha gets awkwardly to her feet and comes over to where Hamid is definitely sitting down.

BEN

Still in his pants!

LYDIA

Right, yeah. You're drinking your hot drink, right?

BRYN

Oh, yeah.

BEN

Has his third sip!

LYDIA

Hamid...Hamid...um...right, so...there's no way to say this well...and I suppose if there was a way I, I wouldn't have it. But, like...your sister, the singer?"

BRYN

Aziza? Oh, yeah, where is she? What happened? She did the solo so well!

LYDIA

Hamid...

ALEX

The gnomes step forward.

LYDIA

Hamid...I'm sorry.

ALEX

Should you require our services, in addition to our condolences, please do let us know.

BRYN

What?

ALEX

They then turn and leave.

LYDIA

She...she didn't make it Hamid. Uh...that was, like so yeah.

BRYN

What?! What do you mean? She didn't...she wasn't there!

LYDIA

Kafka had her, and he made her...I don't think she suffered.

BRYN

Oh God! Ohhh God!

The mug drops from his hands and shatters on the floor and Hamid follows it. He just collapses and he is screaming wordlessly.

ALEX

And I will end the episode there.

JAMES

Just to say that the mug that Hamid drops, because it's in the necromancy faculty it has "World's Best Dead" on it.

(Group laughter)

ALEX

And on that cheerful note!

EVERYONE

Bye!

[Show Theme - Outro]

ALEX

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