

## RQG – 88 – Moonshine Misery

### Content Warnings

- X
- X

### BEN

Hi everyone, Ben here. I'd just like to take a moment to thank some of patrons. Abigail Probat, Mira Udin, Catlin Connor, Icarus, Xion J, Jimothy Jim, Cameron Di Ordio, Ricky G Dobson, Heather McElfresh, King of Rats. Thank you all. We really appreciate your support. If you'd like to join them go to [www.patreon.com/rustyquill](http://www.patreon.com/rustyquill) and take a look at our rewards.

### [Show Theme - Intro]

### ALEX

Hello and welcome to episode 88 of the Rusty Quill Gaming podcast. I'm your host and GM Alex Newall and with me today, I have

### BEN

Ben Meredith

### BRYN

Bryn Monroe

Rusty Quill Gaming – 88 – Moonshine Misery

**LYDIA**

Lydia Nicholas

**HELEN**

And Helen Gould

**ALEX**

And who are you playing?

**BEN**

Grizzop drik acht Amsterdam

**BRYN**

[Sobbing] Hamid Saleh Haroun al-Tahan

**LYDIA**

Sasha “does not have the tools to deal with this” Racket.

**HELEN**

Azu is being very comforting.

**ALEX**

And welcome to another exciting, action packed, really sad, really low key...

**LYDIA**

A grief safari!

**BRYN**

Season 2 was supposed to be the fun pulp one which had all the emotional baggage. Anyway...so what's the theme of season 3? Is this the emotional baggage season that's going to just get even worse?

**HELEN**

We decide afterwards right?

**ALEX**

Season 3 will have answers. That's the only rule I've got for myself. Season 3 will have answers.

**BEN**

Ah so we're running on the same rules as Magnus.

**ALEX**

Yay! So jumping very quickly back into where we are. There's been a family bereavement. Hamid is meeting his family. Everyone else is sat downstairs in the third...

**BEN**

Well one of us is just lying on the floor.

**ALEX**

One of you is lying on two chaise “longuez”

**HELEN**

Do we really have to say...what “ches-ay longoose”

**ALEX**

“Chez long-guez”. It’s “chez long-guez” it’s not...

**BRYN**

It’s a “chase long-oo mate”

**BEN**

No, “ches long-geese” I know the guy, lovely.

**(laughing)**

**BRYN**

Honk!

**ALEX**

So before we return to Hamid, I will return to everyone else because I can’t just jump cold into that much trauma. I can’t.

**BEN**

So do you think it's going well up there or do you think it's...

**LYDIA**

How could it...going well like ah she's dead. Hurray?

**BEN**

Well no, that's not, well is it. You've been to funerals before. There are ones that go well and there are ones that go badly. Or like not funerals but I guess maybe a wake. I don't know if she's there. Her body I mean. Because...

**HELEN**

What happened to her body?

**BEN**

Oh no she got thrown against a wall and had her neck broke so it's not like...

**HELEN**

Is it still where...or did she...did they...

**BEN**

No they're probably shipping it actually.

**HELEN**

Shipping?

**LYDIA**

Maybe the teleported...

**BEN**

Transporting the body.

**LYDIA**

These people are pretty rich. I'd be surprised...they teleport. That's plausible.

**BEN**

Also to be quite honest, you know, the person's gone. The body's the body.

It's just some stuff so...

**HELEN**

The body is a sacred vessel. You must use it to nourish the crops and will for ever live on in the swirl of your homeland.

**BEN**

Sure and it will feed the animals. There's a whole cycle thing but it's just material at that point. The thing that makes the person a person has gone.

**LYDIA**

Well I mean like actually other than the teeth and the fingerprints...

**ALEX**

Oh Sasha!

**BEN**

Fingerprints...

**ALEX**

Please stop sharing Sasha!

**LYDIA**

The things that are identifiable are actually there for quite a while.

**BEN**

I mean it depends how you use them.

**HELEN**

Do you create mementoes in your culture?

**LYDIA**

Not by choice!

**(laughing)**

**ALEX**

I'm going to jump back to Hamid.

**BRYN**

Yeah. Yeah make me laugh and then plunge me into character. Come on.

**ALEX**

Very much so. Very much so. Very much so. So the set up is before. Your father is looking out over the back of the estate. Your mother has just finished hugging you and returned to her quiet grief. Your sister seems a bit more composed but the two younger brothers, who are significantly younger, are not in the room currently and your brother has finished his first drink and is on to his second.

**BRYN**

I'm going to go over and give my sister a hug.

**ALEX**

She returns it. And gives a meaningful glance towards your father.

**BRYN**

Yeah.

**ALEX**

Give me...for the first time, a sense motive to read the room. It's actually kind of what it's for. I just rarely use it properly.

**HELEN**

Surely the room is sad.

**BRYN**

4.

**HELEN**

The room is gleeful.

**BEN**

Ooh is there a reason you fell out with your parents?

**LYDIA**

Surely you have quite a high sense motive bonus?

**BRYN**

Nope.

**LYDIA**

No?

**ALEX**

No! He's really...his comes from the inside out. It doesn't go from the outside in. He's good at telling people what they feel, not listening necessarily.

**LYDIA**

Oh you're not very wise are you?

**ALEX**

Nope. So as it stands, things are more tense than they potentially should be. It's not just everyone sad. There's... I mean let's be honest, the family always had things that weren't being said. Despite being excellent communicators they weren't so good at communicating often but yeah...there's stuff at play here and there's tensions at play that make it a little bit difficult to really engage.

**BRYN**

I pass by my brother and just give him a solid pat on the shoulder.

**ALEX**

He finishes his second drink.

**BRYN**

Yep and then I go and stand next to my father and I sort of reach out with one hand and I'm about to put it around him and then I sort of withdraw it and I just place on the nearest shoulder.

**ALEX**

He doesn't really acknowledge it. He carries on looking out over the river and so on. I'm glad you could make it Hamid.

**BRYN**

Thank you. I...I'm glad I'm here. I only wish it was under better circumstances.

**ALEX**

Quite.

**BRYN**

I'm sorry I haven't kept in touch very well over the last six months.

**ALEX**

I'm sure you've been very busy.

**BRYN**

Oh yes. Yes, very.

**ALEX**

I'm sure we'd all be interested to find out what you've been up but perhaps now's not the time.

**BRYN**

Not the time, no. I agree.

**ALEX**

Hard as it may be we do have a public face to maintain in this time.

**BRYN**

Oh of course. Of course. Yes I...I suppose I had some questions but perhaps again it's not the right time for them.

**ALEX**

Quite. I'm going to jump back to everyone else.

**BEN**

No we don't keep anything. I mean you just get rid of it right.

**LYDIA**

Yeah you absolutely get rid of it.

**HELEN**

I do not...I grew up on a mountain. I don't know how other...other people would...

**BEN**

Well this is an Artemis thing right. It's like...once it's, you know, done with it's usefulness you get rid of it so it doesn't make people ill.

**ALEX**

Everyone give me a perception check.

**BEN**

26

**ALEX**

You're very good at this specific type of check which you'll see in a moment.

**HELEN**

10

**ALEX**

Uh huh.

**LYDIA**

19

**ALEX**

Everyone apart from Azu, which I feel like is going to start becoming a trend again, the help are doing an amazing job not wincing at how tasteless this conversation is but they are clearly doing their job and clearly *grossly* uncomfortable but unwilling to leave because it's their job.

**BEN**

Wait, look, you two, ok, right. Hamid's a friend of ours and we understand the incredible amount of emotional pain that everyone here I'm sure is going through but from certain points of view, now I'm a Paladin of Artemis ok. If you're aware of what Artemis does it's more practical than others might want to think. And I'm not going to disrespect or say that what you're doing is wrong but from our perspective Hamid's sister should be honoured but the body is not the person. Right? The person has left, the person has gone to the astral plain, to whatever deity she may have worshiped and from what I hear...

**HELEN**

But both are important.

**BEN**

Well to some people. And I'm talking about from my perspective.

**HELEN**

Is that a goblin thing?

**BEN**

No it's an Artemis thing.

**ALEX**

Let's cut back to Hamid. Your father's giving you nothing and is just continuing to stare out. It's a shame it couldn't have been a clearer day.

**BRYN**

Oh yes I suppose. I hear the weather here's been slightly unusual recently.

**ALEX**

Hm yes, quite.

[whistling noise]

All things going well we should be...we should be laying your sister to rest tomorrow if you have the time. You did say...

**BRYN**

Of course. Of course.

**ALEX**

...you were quite busy. I wouldn't want to intrude on your arrangements.

**BRYN**

I wouldn't dream of being anywhere else.

**ALEX**

Naturally your guests would be welcome although we do ask that they do maintain a discreet demeanour during the event.

**BRYN**

Of course.

**LYDIA**

Glowing pink discretion!

**(laughing)**

**HELEN**

Towering above the entire event.

**ALEX**

Literally twice the height of every other attendee.

**LYDIA**

Goblin talking about death customs.

**BEN**

It's a very important subject!

**HELEN**

It's fascinating.

**BRYN**

I'm getting Thor in the real world vibes from you at the moment.

**LYDIA**

Looming human!

**HELEN**

Oh that would be wonderful because I'm totally Thor.

**ALEX**

Ok.

**HELEN**

Love snakes.

**BRYN**

Hamid sort of opens his mouth to start a new sentence a couple of times but doesn't and then he sort of bows his head and withdraws from the immediate presence of his father. He's going to go back over to his sister and just indicate and basically nod at the door because he wants to talk to her in a different room.

**ALEX**

She gives a nod and just gestures. Your brother Saleh notices it, having finished his fourth drink in this time and he looks over and gives a pleading, take me with you, expression if you'll throw him that.

**BEN**

Ooh cold.

**HELEN**

Do you not get on with Saleh?

**BRYN**

He's drunk!

**HELEN**

Even more reason to get him away, surely.

**BRYN**

I have a very different conversation I need to have with him than I need to have with Saira.

**ALEX**

Helen! You're not in this room. You're not in this room.

**BEN**

I think Helen is in this room. Azu isn't.

**BRYN**

Hamid attempts to hide his reluctance but he nods. Hamid gets a 22 to hide his reluctance.

**ALEX**

Give your...yeah you're fine. You're fine. I mean just the penalties from four in three minutes as it is, he's good. Your sister heads out, opens the door and gives a nod to your mother who is completely...she's fine to let this happen. She's mostly just in her own little world at the moment and having an outpouring but your brother and sister head outside and close the door. The second that the door's closed your sister gives you a huge, proper, human embrace. "Human" oh faux pas.

**BEN**

Humanoid embrace.

**BRYN**

Racist!

**BEN**

Sentient creature embrace.

**ALEX**

Your sister gives you a huge, genuine embrace that your brother gets involved with. He stinks. He's probably been hitting it from before you arrived but he seems to be holding it together but he always had a knack for seeming alright. I'm so glad that you made it Hamid. I was really worried. We didn't know how to contact you and we're just so happy to see you. This is your sister.

**BRYN**

Well yeah, I'm just glad I'm here.

**ALEX**

And we're so proud. We heard that you did what you could at the time and...and you were there.

**BRYN**

Well I tried.

**ALEX**

I know. It's awful and we're so proud of you.

**BRYN**

Thank you. I don't know if there's much to be proud of but thank you.

**ALEX**

Saleh, your older brother, who's significantly taller comes in and goes, she's right. You did good. You did good Hamid. You did really good.

**BRYN**

Thank you Saleh.

**ALEX**

Like really, really good mate.

**BRYN**

Is there somewhere we can go and talk.

**ALEX**

Yeah, yeah, yeah, no worries.

**BRYN**

I assume there's a servant nearby.

**ALEX**

The butler who showed you up is literally beside the door.

**BRYN**

Can you bring us some coffee?

**ALEX**

Certainly sir. I'll arrange for it to be taken to the smoking room.

**BRYN**

Thank you.

**ALEX**

Jumping back to the rest of the party.

**BEN**

So you know...

**ALEX**

The servants are giving you nothing. They're not stonewalling, they're just giving that nod of there is no way to answer this question without being in trouble.

**LYDIA**

Sasha's got her new ice and fire daggers and is just calmly performing knife tricks.

**ALEX**

And now they are visibly wincing. Visibly wincing.

**LYDIA**

She's not stabbing them into furniture. She's just tossing them around.

**BRYN**

Because that's fine!

**ALEX**

Give me a sleight of hand trick.

**LYDIA**

My bonus is 13.

**ALEX**

I know.

**LYDIA**

I got 17. So that's 30.

**ALEX**

30. I'll tell you what you could charge...charge for the tricks that you're doing. However they're not impressed, they're mostly terrified that you're going to

Rusty Quill Gaming – 88 – Moonshine Misery

drop a knife through a table or tear a furniture that costs more than they'll earn in a year. They're just kind of...

**LYDIA**

Do my knives leave little trails of ice and fire?

**ALEX**

Yes they do

**LYDIA**

Does that scorch things?

**ALEX**

No it doesn't.

**LYDIA**

It's so pretty.

**BEN**

You're just doing an emote from an MMO aren't you?

**(laughing)**

Alright so what do the Aphrodite lot...or what are orc customs since we're asking about that?

**HELEN**

Well as you know we are also fairly short lived and so...

**BEN**

Well you know that's a matter of perspective.

**HELEN**

No it's a matter of numerical perspective

**(laughing)**

**BEN**

It depends if you're coming at it from a human perspective or a goblin perspective. You're pretty klong lived actually.

**HELEN**

How long do goblins live?

**BEN**

Oh you know about 30.

**HELEN**

Oh! How old are you?

**(groaning)**

**ALEX**

Welcome to the physically painful episode everyone!

**BEN**

10

**HELEN**

Ohhh!

**BEN**

Yeah. So I'm pretty keen to get stuff done.

**HELEN**

I gather. That would explain the...ah! I understand. Well a very practical goddess will get things done quicker.

**BEN**

No Artemis isn't a goblin thing.

**(laughing)**

Artemis...

**ALEX**

You're physically hurting me and I can't stop it!

**BRYN**

I can't believe that I have this much white guilt over fictional characters!

**(laughing)**

**BEN**

Given that Azu is 6 foot 4 that is a long way to reach your foot up to your mouth.

**(laughing)**

**ALEX**

And that foot is massive. It's not fitting in your mouth at all!

**BEN**

So I was adopted by the Church of Artemis because my entire cloth died. My...you know, adoptive parent, is a human so will live a lot longer than me so my general thought is that of all the people that I know I am pretty, you know, short on time and the whole Artemis thing...maybe that has informed the decision but that's not why.

**ALEX**

Halflings who live pretty decent lifespans are looking quite awkward at this conversation and they really don't want to be there but they're literally paid to be there.

**LYDIA**

They live to their hundreds right?

**BRYN**

Yeah.

**ALEX**

Oh they rocket past the hundred, they're all good.

**BRYN**

I mean Hamid is definitely going to live at least 100 years barring accident.

**BEN**

So I dunno, you know, did you join up with Aphrodite because you really liked kissing or...

**(laughing)**

**ALEX**

Right I'm going to jump back to Hamid.

**BRYN**

How can you make that conversation more awkward than a wake?!

**BEN**

Oh Bryn you wait!

**(laughing)**

**HELEN**

Oh I thought we would become friends but no.

**BEN**

We have very divergent...

**ALEX**

All good marriages have disagreements.

**BEN**

Are you already shipping us. We've only been in for one episode...no two episodes sorry.

**ALEX**

Oh no, I'm shipping Azu with every single sentient person in the entire plain. That's how that works.

**HELEN**

They're called the shed of love.

**ALEX**

[singing to the theme of "Love Shack"] Love Shed! Ok

**LYDIA**

A love warehouse. It's a big ol' place.

**HELEN**

Perhaps even a brick house!

**LYDIA**

[singing] many people can get together.

**ALEX**

I am going to jump to the incredibly sad and heart breaking story of Hamid.

**BRYN**

Yeah sorry audience for the tonal whiplash you're getting!

**ALEX**

So back in the smoking room and your brother is there. He's...he's mostly with it which again for what he's been doing is fairly impressive. Your sister is there

and they are both leaning in and listening to you as you're sat around the table and it is quiet and you have the room to yourself.

**BRYN**

Yeah I didn't know how much everyone knew about what happened. I didn't realise that the news had travelled that I was there.

**ALEX**

It was in the opera Hamid.

**BRYN**

I know!

**ALEX**

I mean everyone saw basically. It was kind of a big thing.

**LYDIA**

Wait so they all saw him became a little lizard thing and scamper off?

**BRYN**

Well we don't know exactly what made it into the newspapers.

**ALEX**

I mean you might be doing exactly what I always tell you off for which is jumping the gun.

**LYDIA**

I'm really sorry!

**ALEX**

Jumping the gun!

**BEN**

We're just so good at reading narrative.

**BRYN**

It's a curse.

**ALEX**

If only you could read the room!

**BRYN**

I got a 4! It's one of the reasons I asked my friends to come with me because obviously they...they were there as well when it happened and I didn't know if there...sometimes it's helpful to talk to someone who was there. Sometimes it's not. I just thought...

**ALEX**

Saira leans in. I do have to ask from what we understand you were cursed. I mean are you ok? Is everything ok? Have there been any long term Affects?

**BRYN**

I was hit by a pretty powerful spell and it...

**ALEX**

I mean I'm no expert but it looked like a...I heard it was like a polymorph or something. That's about as bad as it gets.

**BRYN**

Not exactly. It was an unusual spell that interacted with me in an unusual way.

**ALEX**

Your brother's there. So...so what like you got...you're not being very clear.

**BRYN**

I don't really know how to say this.

**ALEX**

Hamid, come on you've got to spit it out. You're getting into old habits here.

**BRYN**

Fine, fine. I take off the cloak cape thing that I'm wearing and it instantly fades into dust because it's actually magically created by my magical sleeves.

**ALEX**

Yeah.

**BRYN**

And turn around so they can read the family tree on my back.

**ALEX**

Wooahhh!

**LYDIA**

Wait! So is he drunk or stoned?

**(laughing)**

**BEN**

Why not both?!

**ALEX**

The sister...

**LYDIA**

I don't know if that's ok for a family podcast.

**ALEX**

The sister again, Saira, oh...

**BRYN**

Did you know any of this Saira?

**ALEX**

Uh...not really. I tried to get out of the family business.

**BRYN**

Looks like you didn't get very far! Ha, ha, ha [nervous laughter]

**ALEX**

I'm going to cut back to the rest of the group.

**BEN**

What a wonderful laugh!

**BRYN**

That's my, I'm totally making a joke to make this awkward thing better laugh.

Did you like it?

**BEN**

I did.

**ALEX**

Back into the other awkward room.

**HELEN**

My romantic life is none of your business.

**BEN**

But you know, you joined up with Aphrodite. I thought you know...

**HELEN**

It's about healing. Healing all parts of the body and soul and doing good in the world.

**LYDIA**

Well not everyone's body.

**(laughing)**

**HELEN**

You are a very unusual exception.

**LYDIA**

Oh right. So that's my problem.

**HELEN**

No, no. It is all of our problems because we are here to try and...we will try and save you.

**BEN**

If this episode title isn't just "awkward turtle" I'm going to be so disappointed!

**(laughing)**

**ALEX**

How do you spell [groaning noise]

**HELEN**

Lots of "ns"

**LYDIA**

That's fine. We're talking about short lived. I've got like a month's life expectancy.

**BEN**

Yeah alright. At least...

**HELEN**

We can change that

**LYDIA**

Winning!

**BEN**

At least that's exceptional.

**LYDIA**

Oh right. It's grand because I was expecting something else!

**HELEN**

We will fix this Sasha.

**BEN**

We're going to fix it. We're going to try and fix it. At least it can be fixed.

**LYDIA**

Right, yeah can it.

**BEN**

We'll have to see.

**LYDIA**

Yeah

**BEN**

But you could get knocked over by a carriage or stabbed tomorrow.

**LYDIA**

So could you.

**BEN**

Yes! I know.

**LYDIA**

Yeah. She throws her knife.

**ALEX**

There's the sound of the water dropping from one of the servant's chins from their sweat and landing on the expanding puddle as they are definitely not moving or doing anything to engage in this in any way.

**LYDIA**

I mean when I turn into a necromancer maybe I can fix all of our short life problems.

**HELEN**

You will not become a necromancer.

**BEN**

I mean I'm going to have to draw the line at that. Like really making a...

**ALEX**

Hey woah. Woah. I'm stealing this joke from someone else but a necromancer is just a healer that never gave up.

**(laughing)**

**BRYN**

Yeah I also saw that joke on Twitter this week!

**BEN**

So did I actually.

**ALEX**

It's excellent.

**BEN**

But...usually Artemis has a pretty anti undead situation.

**LYDIA**

Yeah well good for you being the exception.

**HELEN**

But you are our friend.

**BEN**

You're a good person.

**HELEN**

Exactly and we battle against evil but you are not evil.

**LYDIA**

Yeah.

**HELEN**

Very clear cut I think.

**LYDIA**

The undead people that you've met you think are alright but like...other undead people.

**BEN**

If I'm quite honest I haven't met any other undead people.

**HELEN**

No me neither.

**BEN**

Oh wait except for all of those zombies and that necromancer who was trying to kill the population of Prague.

**LYDIA**

Yeah I'm really looking forward to that.

**ALEX**

I'm going to cut back to Hamid.

**(laughing)**

**HELEN**

What is happening?!

**ALEX**

Some people like to build encounters with monsters, some people like to build social encounters.

**BEN**

The monsters are the friends we met along the way!

**(laughing)**

**ALEX**

I like to lock characters in a room!

**BEN**

It's the best bit of roleplay Alex.

**ALEX**

Yes good. Good. Dance puppets, dance.

**BRYN**

I feel like we're the four main characters in the Good Place right now and I've finally realised what's going on.

**BEN**

My stomach hurts.

**LYDIA**

I do think for the listeners at home it might be important to mention that at the beginning of this recording session Alex got us to take miniatures out, presumably for some kind of battle encounter.

**ALEX**

Things took a different direction.

**BRYN**

I could really do with some good old fashioned violence right now.

**BEN**

Yeah in another lifetime it's no so fast ancient pharaoh! The artifact will be under our control!

**(laughing)**

**BRYN**

Play D&D they said. Fight monsters. Win treasure they said!

**LYDIA**

Leave your emotional crises and escape from them into a spectacular...

**ALEX**

Ok, ok fine. I'm going to take a break and we're going to walk through, ok, what we're doing and we'll be back in a couple of minutes.

So we're all agreed it's about being as miserable as possible on audio for as long as possible.

**BRYN**

But we respect his craft.

**ALEX**

Jumping back to Hamid. So like what does that mean then?

**BRYN**

Well I'm a sorcerer, you probably don't know what that means I guess. Maybe you do.

**ALEX**

I thought you dropped out?!

**BRYN**

Not...exactly.

**ALEX**

So right...erm...I think we could all take a moment to just breathe.

**BRYN**

Yep

**ALEX**

Just take a moment.

**BRYN**

Where was...where's the coffee. Let's have a coffee.

**ALEX**

So I mean this is interesting but I think it might just be something we're going to have to deal with later.

**BRYN**

I agree. I agree. Better...better to leave it for a little while.

**ALEX**

And I don't know about you, she gives a meaningful look to Hamid, I'm sure we could *all*, slight nudge towards your older brother, do with a lie down.

**BRYN**

Yes. Yes.

**ALEX**

It's been a long day for me and for everyone else and I think we could all benefit...it's going to be a big day tomorrow. It's going to be very tiring. I think that we should all have a lie down. Saleh's there kind of eyes half lidded, uh huh. It's a good idea.

**BRYN**

Yeah I think I definitely agree. Let's do that.

**ALEX**

That's fair enough. He breaks out a hip flask. Bit of a nightcap. Anyone else? By the way it's about 10 in the morning.

**(laughing)**

**BRYN**

I was like I use sleight of hand but I can't because I'm not the one with that skill.

**ALEX**

Whilst Hamid continues to fuff in character, Saleh finishes his nightcap, gives you both an extremely clumsy bow and heads out of the room, closing the door behind him. You hear the distinct sound of a butler not being noticed helping someone away.

**BRYN**

I didn't realise he'd got that bad. Is this just since...

**ALEX**

No.

**BRYN**

Oh god.

**ALEX**

There's something up. I don't know what's gone wrong with him. Look he fell in with a bad crowd for a while. He seemed to come out of it and then recently...

**BRYN**

I know he always missed the thrill of competition but he seemed to be adjusting to working for mum and dad.

**ALEX**

He started hitting the casinos quite a lot.

**BRYN**

Oh dear.

**ALEX**

Presumably he gets it from mum's side. I don't know. But either way we cleaned it up. We sorted it out but he's been...I don't know, he's very nervous now. There's something up. I don't know. He won't talk to me. He won't talk to anyone. That's kind of his thing.

**BRYN**

Yeah we've never been very good at talking to each other.

[whistling noise]

**ALEX**

I'm glad you here Hamid.

**BRYN**

How...how's everything else? I know that the bank's not doing well. I mean none of them. Are mum and dad coping? I want to know everything. I feel like I haven't seen any of you in six months. I haven't heard anything in six months. I was so excited to see Aziza and then I couldn't...

**ALEX**

She just reaches out and holds Hamid.

**BRYN**

[sobbing] I couldn't...[sobbing]

**ALEX**

It's ok.

**BRYN**

I tried. I...

**ALEX**

I know, I know. I know and they know. Mum and dad, they know.

**BRYN**

I missed you all so much. I didn't know if I'd be welcome to come back

**ALEX**

I don't even know where you've been Hamid.

**BRYN**

I got kicked out! They kicked me out. And...mum and dad smoothed it...

**ALEX**

It was Gideon wasn't it?

**BRYN**

Course it was Gideon!

**ALEX**

God I hate him! I don't know what you saw in him Hamid.

**BRYN**

I don't either. I feel like it was all a different...I was so young and stupid and maybe I still am but I've changed. I've changed a lot. I feel like I see everything a bit more clearly now. Mum and dad, they smoothed it over. They sent me a letter.

**ALEX**

Yeah they do that.

**BRYN**

Don't...don't come back until you've made something of yourself.

**ALEX**

Well look at this way Hamid, the entirety of Prague saw you risk your life to save your sister. Saw you stand up to someone that all of them fell to and that's got be worth something.

**LYDIA**

Bertie missed out on that! It's the ultimate irony!

**BRYN**

Yeah. Thank you.

**ALEX**

And I think if all you do is run around trying to impress father, I think you might be wasting your time. And not because I don't think you can do it. I don't think you should want to.

**BRYN**

I...you know the weirdest thing of all is I haven't thought about that really at all.

**ALEX**

Good.

**BRYN**

I still want them to be proud of me. I want you all to be proud of me but I just want to do good and I feel like I've made so many mistakes. I've done things that I regret and I want to make up for them. Does that sound stupid? I want to...maybe it's still childish. I want to help...first I wanted to be a hero so I could be famous and now I just want to...

**ALEX**

How did that go?

**BRYN**

Now I just want to help where I can and turns out maybe I can. It's a lot of pressure though.

**ALEX**

Well doing the right thing always sort of is Hamid.

**BRYN**

Oh yeah. I know that. I know that.

**ALEX**

I'm going to cut back to the rest of the group because that was actually heart warming and nice and didn't make me want to gouge my own eyeballs out with an ice cream scoop.

**BEN**

Oh well so we'll make sure you...

**ALEX**

So you can bring that tone right back in now if we can.

**LYDIA**

I mean Sasha's just looking by a window and doing knife tricks for herself.

**BEN**

I'm pacing back and forwards.

**HELEN**

Azu is going to attempt to comfort Sasha.

**LYDIA**

Oh my god!

**(laughing)**

**BEN**

# read the room!

**HELEN**

Maybe I should try and do that!

**ALEX**

You know what give me a sense motive. Give me a sense motive. Read the room.

**HELEN**

I'm good at that! I think!

**BEN**

Ooh you old empath you.

**HELEN**

That's 14, do I add the...?

**BEN**

Yep

**HELEN**

That's 25.

**BRYN**

That is very good!

**ALEX**

What you know is that sometimes doing nothing is the right thing to do and that short lived as everyone might be there's time enough to deal with this over a slightly less compressed and intense period and that maybe a distraction would go better than a deep insight into everybody's soul.

**LYDIA**

Who wants a sing song?

**HELEN**

Shall I summon my camel?

**(laughing)**

**LYDIA**

Can you summon it in different sizes?

**BRYN**

Nope!

**ALEX**

It's only one delicious size!

**HELEN**

Full size

**ALEX**

Mahousive!

**BEN**

I think it literally just runs around the celestial plain when it's not being summoned.

**ALEX**

It's frolicking currently.

**BEN**

Gambolling

**ALEX**

Ah that's what it's doing. It's gambolling, canon.

**HELEN**

Because she is already claustrophobic, she is instead going to try some excellent halfling wine from the magic table thing that was there.

**ALEX**

Give me a fort save. You should be amazingly good.

**BEN**

Ah it's a nat 20.

**HELEN**

29.

**ALEX**

Do you want the good news or bad news?

**HELEN**

Bad news first, then good news.

**ALEX**

Ok the bad news is if your goal is to have a jolly time you're going to get no buzz from this halfling wine whatsoever. You're pretty sure that they put a slice of lime in water and that's a bit saucy for the family. They're a bit intense. The good news is, it's actually lovely. It's really tasty. There's just not much in the way of a kick.

**HELEN**

In which case like the magic table can summon everything right?

**ALEX**

Give it a go.

**HELEN**

Azu's going to attempt to summon orcish moonshine

**LYDIA**

I think we're soon going to see another side to you!

**ALEX**

Do you have user magic device at all?

**HELEN**

I've got a 4 in it but I haven't got it ticked.

**ALEX**

That's fine. That's fine. Because you're basically good at charisma. Give me a roll to basically...this is just a don't mess up. That's all.

**HELEN**

Oh god! 22

**BRYN**

Computer. Orcish moonshine!

**ALEX**

Hot!

**(laughing)**

Basically this, a crystal decanter appears and at first it looks empty but that's the sign of good moonshine

**(laughing)**

**BEN**

Is it literal moonshine?

**ALEX**

Open it and find out.

**HELEN**

Yeah. Oh one thing. Is the decanter halfling sized or orc sized?

**ALEX**

This one's orc sized.

**HELEN**

Fantastic!

**ALEX**

It fills the table.

**HELEN**

Would anyone like a tippie?

**(laughing)**

**ALEX**

Cut back to Hamid. So anyway father's being father. Mother's being mother. Saleh I can't get anything from. The boys are ok. Mother and father decided that they probably didn't need to be around this.

**BRYN**

Really? I...they're old enough to understand what happened. They should be here. They're not that young anymore.

**ALEX**

I know. I know. They'll be here tomorrow.

**BRYN**

Good. Good.

**ALEX**

Yeah.

**BRYN**

How are you? You seem like you're the only one holding everything together.

**ALEX**

Do you want the honest truth?

**BRYN**

Yeah.

**ALEX**

Until this I was doing really well Hamid.

**BRYN**

Well that's good to hear at least.

**ALEX**

I've got to say that branching out was probably the best thing that I ever did.

**BRYN**

I'm so proud of you.

**ALEX**

But yeah, I'm good. I'm good Hamid.

**BRYN**

Good, good.

**ALEX**

What is it you wanted to actually...was it just to catch up?

**BRYN**

Yeah I just wanted to know how everyone's doing. Like I said with the banking crisis and then this and I just...

**ALEX**

Yeah. I wouldn't...I wouldn't bring that up.

**BRYN**

Ok, ok I won't. I won't. I probably wasn't going to, I hope. Maybe. Anyway...

**ALEX**

So are you all going to be staying here tonight I'm hoping?

**BRYN**

Well I suppose I was planning to. I didn't know if...my friends have other places to stay but I mean they could I suppose if they wanted to. I'll ask them.

**ALEX**

Breathe Hamid.

**BRYN**

I'll ask them.

**ALEX**

Breathe.

**BRYN**

Like I said I'd really like them to be there tomorrow as they were there too and they were trying to...you know with me.

**ALEX**

Well they're welcome. I'm probably going to have to get back in there.

**BRYN**

Of course. I'll come with you. I'll do what I can to help. I'm hoping I'm not the screw up I used to be and if I can I'll share some of the burden with you.

**ALEX**

I understand. And I'm proud of you. And this is meant in the nicest way possible, today isn't about you Hamid.

**BRYN**

That's not what I mean.

**ALEX**

And neither will tomorrow be. I know you don't.

**BRYN**

Of course. Of course.

**ALEX**

But you need to remember that.

**BRYN**

Yeah.

**ALEX**

Ok. It's all been rather intense. If anyone has a complaint let me know otherwise I intend to accelerate time and leave you to do as you will if you let me know how you intend to do as you will.

**LYDIA**

I think it's just a point, what a successful move to just get out the moonshine. The tension in that room may have evaporated.

**ALEX**

Ok can I get...

**LYDIA**

Much as moonshine does at room temperature.

**(laughing)**

**ALEX**

Can I get a fort save from everyone.

**BEN**

Yeah you can.

**ALEX**

Paladin does.

**BEN**

15

**ALEX**

Ok. Paladin does?

**HELEN**

21

**ALEX**

Uh huh.

**LYDIA**

I got 5!

**(laughing)**

**ALEX**

Ok I am going to accelerate to early evening. You guys have had time to kill. The thing was flowing. You weren't about to run off and have an adventure I suspect.

**BRYN**

You've been given a really good lunch as well.

**ALEX**

The servants have started to loosen up a bit. They...

**HELEN**

Can they have moonshine too?

**LYDIA**

The moonshine has evaporated because of room temperature.

**BEN**

There's like an alcoholic mist.

**ALEX**

The really tense one who has been dripping from their face has been quietly wandering around trying to tidy up after all of you. The other one is steaming!

**(laughing)**

He's absolutely steaming and is now on the couch with you if you will all allow it.

**LYDIA**

Yes!

**BEN**

Yes absolutely!

**ALEX**

So Hamid, I'll have you sort of turning up, if it's ok. Nothing of import really happened. Mostly just a family sharing each other's company for a while. You come down to Sasha absolutely steaming. Like barely able to stand. The servant as well, the other servant has an actual panic attack when they see you enter. The two paladins, you're alright. You're alright. The thing is it's extremely difficult because I don't know if you're going to be fun. You might not be fun and if I'm fun and you're not fun that's a problem...the other servant's just, but what if like this, you know, you're really fun and I'm not fun, like that's being a bad...it's not...

**HELEN**

Oh you are being so much fun.

**LYDIA**

You are the most fun. I could do another knife trick.

**ALEX**

Yes! Yes! Yes!

**HELEN**

I love your knife tricks.

**LYDIA**

So this...I've got a burn-y one! So this I assume is a sleight of hand with penalty?

**ALEX**

It depends. I've decided that it's bled over and we're both now steaming.

**LYDIA**

I'm sure it will!

**ALEX**

So what's...what are you attempting to do?

**LYDIA**

Just throwing them up and making them spin around...

**ALEX**

You know what, yeah roll it.

**LYDIA**

But they have to cross each other's paths. One of them is an ice dagger and one is a fire one.

**ALEX**

The worst that will happen is it'll rain. Give us a roll.

**BRYN**

Why is Alex acting drunk?

**HELEN**

It's hard to stop.

**BEN**

I love you guys!

**LYDIA**

Ok! Sasha got a 3. Her sleight of hand is 13. So that would be 16.

**ALEX**

So you're also taking penalties for being completely drunk. So check it out.

**LYDIA**

Does she lose another finger?

**ALEX**

It's amazing. Hamid, you walk in to see Sasha going [throwing noises], like full nunchuck style. She throws them both in the air and they don't come back down.

**(laughing)**

They are both embedded up to the hilt in the large magical mural that is over the lounge.

**LYDIA**

That's literally the best case scenario!

**HELEN**

Azu will attempt to remove them.

**ALEX**

The servant's just like [clapping noise]. The servant's just clapping. I love it.  
The other one passes out.

**(laughing)**

**BEN**

With the stress

**ALEX**

And they genuinely [falling noise] bang!

**BEN**

Oh! I'm going to run over to that one and see if they're ok.

**ALEX**

They're fine. They're just out of it. It's all a bit much. If only someone had pushed two "chez longuez" together you might be able to lay him out on there.

**HELEN**

Yeah I'm sitting on those.

**BRYN**

Hi guys.

**BEN**

Hi Hamid.

**BRYN**

What's happened here?

**HELEN**

We have made friends!

**ALEX**

Servant stands, salutes.

**LYDIA**

A really great conversation.

**ALEX**

Really pleasant to meet you sir. I hear that you are fun in a way that the rest of your family are not.

**BEN**

Just to say we got her drunk so, you know...

**ALEX**

I really like working here! It's the best job I've ever had!

**BEN**

Basically it all got a bit tense. The whole atmosphere. So we've had a drink.

**ALEX**

I'm really sorry sir.

**BEN**

Would you like to join us? I imagine you want to decompress a little.

**HELEN**

Yes you also look tense.

**BRYN**

It has not been the best day.

**ALEX**

I get that.

**BRYN**

Let's be honest. Yeah.

**HELEN**

Moonshine for you!

**BRYN**

No! No, thank you. No, no.

**LYDIA**

It helps Hamid. I found out earlier today I'm a zombie and I'm going to die in a month and now I feel fine! Absolutely fine!

**HELEN**

Because we will save you!

**LYDIA**

Yeah! We'll totally defeat Barret. That's fine. I won't get locked up again! It won't matter if I get locked up again because I'll be dead!

**BEN**

As I said it's been quite tense. So we've had a drink.

**BRYN**

I can see, yeah. Yeah.

**BEN**

Anyway what should I do with him?

**ALEX**

Just draw on his face!

**(laughing)**

**BEN**

Azu, Azu, shuffle up a bit. Shuffle up a bit. I drag him over and plonk him down.

**HELEN**

I just pick him up and put him on my lap.

**ALEX**

Wait, wait, drunk servant pulls out a lipstick.

**BEN**

No, no, no, no, hang on a minute.

**HELEN**

No that would be uncharitable.

**BEN**

Maybe just...we're having fun but we don't want to get you into trouble.

**BRYN**

Right.

**ALEX**

Wink, they say.

**BRYN**

So the funeral's tomorrow.

**BEN**

Right

**HELEN**

Oh!

**BRYN**

And you guys are invited if you want to come but it would be best if it was more subtle than this.

**BEN**

Well I imagine they'll be less drinking.

**HELEN**

You do not have drinking at a funeral?

**LYDIA**

I thought that that was the point.

**BRYN**

Generally...not until later. I mean...

**HELEN**

But you must toast the...

**ALEX**

Unless your Saleh!

**HELEN**

...the deceased.

**BEN**

Wait hang on, ok, I'm just going to go put [thudding noise]. She put herself to bed.

**ALEX**

She's not actually unconscious. She's now just lying on the sofa looking at you all quietly.

**HELEN**

Can I be holding both Hamid and...

**ALEX**

You have them both.

**HELEN**

Like small children.

**ALEX**

Heads on your lap. One of them is just completely out of it and the other one of getting a lot of fond memories of times that they thought they'd forgotten.

**HELEN**

Aw! I am just patting, patting them on the head.

**BEN**

You see that's what I think Aphrodite should be more like.

**HELEN**

More like than what?

**BEN**

Well no...that's the caring thing right. But not the stamping around saying you're so caring. You know, that Eren Fairhands, he's the problem.

**HELEN**

He is not...he is a master healer. One day I wish I could heal as well as him.

**BEN**

Yeah but healing isn't the only thing right.

**HELEN**

Well there is also the defending of the innocent.

**BEN**

And also you've got the...

**BRYN**

How much has everyone had to eat? Would everyone appreciate dinner at this point? I think some people could use some dinner.

**BEN**

We ate half an hour ago.

**HELEN**

I can always eat more.

**BEN**

Yes. I mean they gave us thirds. They kind of wouldn't say no.

**ALEX**

You've got yourself in a really bad state. Specifically Sasha given that food's already been served once.

**BEN**

I mean it's orcish moonshine

**ALEX**

Ok. I get the impression...

**LYDIA**

Can we accelerate through...

**ALEX**

Yeah I was about to say. I feel like we've come to the end of this...

**BEN**

Vignette.

**ALEX**

Yes. That's a good word.

**BEN**

Lovely vignette.

**ALEX**

Lovely vignette.

**LYDIA**

Cut to attempting to find funeral clothes for people that are not the right size.

**ALEX**

So unless anyone has anything specific to plan I'm going to skip ahead to the funeral.

**BRYN**

Yes I'd like to do something that evening.

**ALEX**

Ok that's fine. This is very easy to do. Every single party member who isn't Hamid is unconscious. In a lovely bed. But nonetheless unconscious.

**BEN**

Is Azu in a bed that fits?

**ALEX**

Azu is in the human sized guest wing.

**BRYN**

So it's only very slightly too small for her rather than ridiculously too small for her.

**HELEN**

Just my feet hanging off the edge.

**ALEX**

Yeah so like...

**BEN**

You're not Snow White having to push like seven beds together

**(laughing)**

**ALEX**

So like your feet are poking out and your arms are poking out.

**BRYN**

I would watch the reboot of Snow White where she's a 6 foot 6 dwarf in pink glowing armour. Just FYI.

**HELEN**

Who's this 6 foot 6 swarf?

**BRYN**

Did I? Maybe?

**ALEX**

I mean I'd watch that too but I feel like it's a fairly weird thing to state.

**BRYN**

6 foot 6 orc in pink glowing armour would watch even harder

**(laughing)**

**ALEX**

I am going to jump to Hamid. You are back in your old room and the first thing that you notice is I have actually grown up a lot since then. A lot of the...

**BRYN**

So I last lived in Cairo when I was 15 and I'm not 24 I think according to my character sheet.

**ALEX**

Yeah and even like for halfling I realise that the difference there is minimal. Nonetheless you're looking at this going all this feels kind of trivial now. Lots of stuff like...there's still some clothes screwed up in the bottom of your wardrobe. There's games that you never bothered to put the pieces back kind of splayed out on the floor. Because you insisted that no one go into your room or tidy it because you have it exactly how you want it.

**BRYN**

I cast prestidigitation.

**ALEX**

It works. For the first time. You kill some time doing that but...

**BEN**

You are Mary Poppins!

**ALEX**

So you find yourself...

**BRYN**

Spoonful of magic.

**ALEX**

You find yourself upon the bed.

**BRYN**

I start pacing around the room. Barret, Barret can you hear me? Barret? I speak into the ring even though I know that's not how it works.

**ALEX**

There is no response.

**BRYN**

Barret. I'm not going to give the ring to Saleh.

**ALEX**

There's no response.

**BRYN**

I've seen the state he's in now. I'm not going to inflict any more problems upon him. He probably has debts to you and I'm not going to issue a blank cheque but I will work to recompense whatever issues there are with him. I'm not taking on his debts without a full accounting but I will be responsible for clearing any problems he has with you and I will not be giving him the ring.

**ALEX**

There's no response. The ring doesn't heat. It appears inert as always.

**BRYN**

I hope you heard that.

**(laughing)**

I bang the ring on the wall a couple of times.

**(laughing)**

**ALEX**

It leaves a dent. Next to that one where you thought you'd be good at sword fighting. You weren't.

**BRYN**

I go to bed.

**ALEX**

Ok. I think we'll end the episode there. It's a soft end. It's a gentle end but I feel like if I try to do anything else it'll go wrong in ways that hurt me again and I've been hurt before and I just can't let that happen. I think we need to end this, calm ourselves and come back next week. How does that sound to everyone?

**LYDIA**

My hangover is going to be incredible! You can't even do any sort of sobering heal spell on Sasha because she's undead so that will cause her damage.

**ALEX**

It would literally hurt you.

**LYDIA**

Yeah!

**ALEX**

With that in mind, I'll see you all next week guys. Bye!

**EVERYONE**

Bye!

**[Show Theme - Outro]**

**ALEX**

Rusty Quill Gaming is a podcast distributed by Rusty Quill and licensed under a creative commons attribution, non-commercial share alike 4.0 international license. Today's episode was directed by Alexander J Newall and produced by Hannah Preisinger. To subscribe, buy merchandise, or join our Patron, visit [rustyquill.com](http://rustyquill.com). Rate and review us online. Tweet us @therustyquill, visit us on Facebook, or email us at [mail@rustyquill.com](mailto:mail@rustyquill.com). Join our community on Discord, or via Reddit at [r/rustyquill](https://www.reddit.com/r/rustyquill). Thanks for listening.