

RQG – 94 – Justice

Content Warnings

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BEN

Hi everyone, Ben here. I'd just like to take a moment to thank some of patrons. Scoots, Bruce Rose, Colleen Hara, Kelly Redacted, Catarina Syndalar, Daniel Straw, Alex McMinn, Eric Rooter, Alexa, Aaron Ruderbush, Bibley, Pdraig Barret. Thank you all. We really appreciate your support. If you'd like to join them go to www.patreon.com/rustyquill and take a look at our rewards.

[Show Theme - Intro]

ALEX

Hello and welcome to episode 94 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

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LYDIA

Lydia Nicholas

HELEN

And Helen Gould

ALEX

And who are you playing?

BEN

Grizzop drik acht Amsterdam

BRYN

Hamid Saleh Haroun al-Tahan

LYDIA

Who's asking?

HELEN

Azu.

ALEX

Cool. So, right...I know it's been sad. I know there's been quite a lot of sad.

BEN

Oh are we starting our fun pulpy arc now Alex?

LYDIA

Don't forget all of the fear and also anger, rage, denial...

BRYN

It's not so much the sad I'm worried about as the complete philosophical differences that are going to be impossible to resolve and may end up us just all killing each other. That's apparently how the campaign's going to end.

ALEX

Look it's my job to provide you with the world, it's your job to kill each other over it.

(laughing)

HELEN

Is that what god said do you think?

ALEX

Erm it's certainly what some of the gods here said.

LYDIA

And in this world who is god, except the GM?

ALEX

You know what? That's all I want to hear. Game over. Job done.

BEN

Artemis?

(laughing)

LYDIA

You're so into Artemis!

(laughing)

BEN

I've got the membership badge and everything!

LYDIA

Literally card carrying member!

ALEX

They made me pay a full year upfront so if I don't use it I'm costing myself.

HELEN

Do you have like a...

LYDIA

I get free parking at all the temples.

HELEN

...Artemis badges.

I believe that the last thing that happened was that we got a couple of curses removed in the Temple of Aphrodite. Specifically for Saleh, Hamid's older brother and Howard Carter.

HELEN

Ah yes. That was good.

LYDIA

All the characters are getting their curses removed.

BRYN

The final line of the last episode was, oh no that's not what happened at all.

ALEX

Indeed.

BRYN

As I believe you were doing an impression of my Hamid voice

BEN

In which case, so what did happen then?

ALEX

So Howard Carter and Saleh look at one another, look back and then Howard gestures for Saleh to answer the question. Well I mean, we are alone, right? He looks around. You're in...

LYDIA

There's like eight of us here.

HELEN

And Eren Fairhands is still here

BRYN

No, no she left. He left

ALEX

He left.

BRYN

They left.

ALEX

Elves all the like same to Bryn.

HELEN

Oohhhh

BRYN

I think you might mean poorly described characters all look the same to Bryn

LYDIA

Ooohhh! Woah

ALEX

Look I made Saleh sad, I can make him sad again.

BRYN

I just feel like Ben's been taking too much of the heat recently.

(laughing)

ALEX

So, yeah for listeners, just to remind everyone. You're in what is effectively one of the private health rooms...what do you call it? Private consultation. That's the word!

BEN

Oh right.

ALEX

You're in a private consultation room in a temple. A room for make feel good.
But like on the quiet.

LYDIA

Space to be nice walled roof.

(laughing)

BRYN

Ah I see you've studied hieroglyphics.

ALEX

This will help you going forwards.

LYDIA

I'm literally doing a PhD in healthcare technologies and that's the technical term.

ALEX

Well there we go. So you're in our space for health...

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LYDIA

Health space

ALEX

Health space walls and ceiling.

LYDIA

Walled roof.

ALEX

Walled roof. That's it.

LYDIA

Door too. Very important

(laughing)

ALEX

Yes.

LYDIA

Otherwise temporary health space

(laughing)

ALEX

What's going on!

BEN

It's like the Sims but a hospital.

ALEX

What's...ok, ok...

LYDIA

You would be surprised the sorts of things that get overlooked in major new technology implementation.

ALEX

Terrible trauma. Terrible trauma. Bringing it down.

BEN

We're really sad.

ALEX

Right. Well...so, we did sort of break in the meritocratic vaults. Howard's kind of looking a little bit sheepish but not as bad as he really should. We were heading in. He seems really nervous about saying it in front of everyone but again you did all take a hooded figure so it seems to be, you know, enough.

BRYN

I just give him a nod.

HELEN

Azu's trying not to look intimidating as a 6 foot 6 orc might

ALEX

As a 6 foot 6 bright orc...

BRYN

It's not going well.

ALEX

With a massive axe on your back.

BEN

Grizzop is trying to look intimidating as a 3 foot 4 goblin.

ALEX

Well...

BEN

I've still got a couple of inches on Saleh.

LYDIA

Looming.

ALEX

Well you know about the gambling and well, Barret made a deal with me which was he'd wipe off the debt and wouldn't tell the family or hurt anyone in the family if...all I had to was just get him inside the sort of VIP like consultation rooms at the bank. I don't know if you've seen them Hamid. But turns out that there's a way in there to the tomb that's underneath and you can go through there to the vaults. Obviously they've been in lockdown since everything went wrong but there's a way in basically and Howard here.

Howard's just there, yeah, archaeologist. Interested in tomb. The bank thing was sort of by the by.

BEN

No it was very much in the by. So...what did you go to steal? Did they steal it? Who killed who?

ALEX

I didn't go to steal anything alright.

BEN

Sorry, who did you enable?

ALEX

Well...

Jumping back to Saleh. Howard was there so that once we get into the tomb we could navigate the tomb and then basically break through one of the walls into the vaults. I was just to get them in to that room, that was it. Then there was...one of the guards had been bought off and it's her that died.

BEN

How?

ALEX

We're not sure. There was...

HELEN

How can you not be sure?

ALEX

Well there was...there were traps ok. We went through and Howard's pretty good with traps actually.

I think you'll find I'm excellent with traps.

BEN

Shut up!

ALEX

Alright I will.

And well Howard was there and he was dealing with the traps and I think we missed one. There was a like a darkness...like a supernatural darkness. All of the torches weren't working and then there was this really loud noise and she...basically she attacked Howard. I...we, looks to Howard who's like mm. We think that maybe once she got into the vaults we were meant to be removed from the equation and there was a scuffle but then some stone thing from the darkness clocked her on the head and we fled and as we fled we must've hit one of the triggers.

I believe you'll find it was some kind of warning.

BRYN

Shut up

ALEX

And it all got a bit jumbled.

HELEN

So you're not murderers!

BEN

Well...

LYDIA

Well I mean that is...that is...

HELEN

You didn't strike the killing blow at least which is an improvement.

BEN

They definitely caused the death and so...also who else was with you?

BRYN

I mean it sounds to me like she died in the course of the breaking and the entering as was equally as guilty as the rest of them.

ALEX

It was me, it was Howard...we weren't to meant to know one another's names but we did. And then it was just...we were meant to call them "The Muscle" but it was...she was one of the guards for the bank. Presumably...

BEN

Right so she was breaking in with you?

ALEX

Yes

BEN

Oh fine. Fair play then.

ALEX

Basically...

BRYN

Wait, what? After all...ok.

ALEX

The three of us were getting in and then it just went wrong.

BRYN

Was it just the three of you?

ALEX

I think that there were arrangements to have people pick up at the other end but we only met the three of us.

BEN

So nothing got stolen?

ALEX

Anything that was there is still there including...I mean there was...I'm not really sure.

Howard sort of pipes in, I mean I know I'm not meant to speak but I have a pretty, pretty good...

BRYN

Tell us about the tomb. I don't want to hear what happened from you but I would like to know more about this tomb.

ALEX

So, ok. Well I have to reason to believe that is the Tomb of Khufu. Pharoah Khufu that is obvious. I mean it's repeating meritocratic rule by a pretty significant margin actually so obviously there's a lot of...

HELEN

What's so special about Pharoah Khufu?

ALEX

Well the thing about Khufu is everyone sort of thinks that they know the deal. There's the...there's Khufu's tomb but it's not is it. Oh no. Oh no. No, no, no, you see....

BEN

Skip to the end!

ALEX

There's another tomb which is underneath the meritocratic vaults which is the real Tomb of Khufu and I want to study it.

BEN

What's it got in it?

ALEX

I don't know. I want to study it.

BEN

So you're just interested.

LYDIA

So...but...like...

HELEN

Academics.

LYDIA

But Barret you're saying asked you to go down so he knows there's something in there that's good for him.

ALEX

No, well for Barret what it came to is that I want to get into the tomb, right but Barret's thing was he wanted to get into the vaults. So you can get into the vaults through the tomb because you aint gonna be getting in through the front door.

BEN

Ok so basically what it boils down to is this was a whole failed thing on Barret's part. They didn't nick anything. But what is happening now is – looking at Saleh – your dad's taking the rap for something that you did so you should sort it out because you're a responsible adult and are going to face the consequences of your actions. Because you still did something really illegal and very dangerous.

ALEX

His face momentarily adopts the sort of pallor and countenance he had while he was under the curse and he's like, no, you're right. You're right. I'm sorry, I haven't been in my right mind. If you'll all excuse me, I think I have to go make this right.

LYDIA

That's interesting Hamid. Your brother is really up for making this right whereas...

ALEX

In fact where is father?

BEN

In the meritocrat's custody.

LYDIA

He said that he murdered your colleague.

BRYN

Well he said he was responsible for the death.

ALEX

Right, well I think I'm probably going to have to head in.

BEN

Yes and we'll escort you and Mr Carter down to go turn yourselves in.

ALEX

Er excuse me. I don't...

BEN

You broke in to a meritocratic vault didn't you?

ALEX

No, no. You see what I did is I...I was invited into a VIP room of a bank and then entered a tomb.

BEN

So you're saying you're a hostage?

LYDIA

Alright...

ALEX

Yes!

BEN

You're a really bad liar. You're getting arrested.

ALEX

What did I do? What rule did I break?

LYDIA

I think breaking into banks and...

ALEX

I didn't break into a bank.

LYDIA

They are very good at...

HELEN

You and an accomplice.

LYDIA

Yeah, right so, I mean technically if you end up being found in a bank...

ALEX

I mean isn't the crime here building...

BEN

Shut up

ALEX

...on such an ancient, important site...

BEN

Blah, blah, blah, shut up...there's two paladins here and a high heal-y whatever you are. Pointing at Fairhands

ALEX

Fairhands is not in the room

BEN

Oh ok.

LYDIA

And I mean honestly if you get found in a bank vault they will find something to pin on you.

ALEX

I didn't enter the bank vault! I was in the tomb!

BRYN

I think technically the only thing they might be attempted of is attempted burglary.

BEN

Good one, we'll go let...

BRYN

I mean they violated security rules but that's not technically the law, that's really more of a bank...

BEN

Look, you, can you stop trying to weasel your family out of it.

BRYN

No I'm just trying to think through the situation.

BEN

Let's just take them to the station and let them deal with it. It's their problem.

LYDIA

No it's fine. Hamid will find a way to pay it off.

ALEX

Saleh stands. No I think there's been enough of that. He straightens himself up and tidies himself up. It looks like he's sobered as well insofar as perhaps more of the...more of the mannerisms were covered by the appearance of being drunk than actually drunk. He seems to have gone from drunk to pretty much with it the second that that curse was removed. He straightens himself up and going, I'm sorry that you got dragged into this Hamid and I'm sorry for the rest of you.

BRYN

Well I'm just glad that you feel able to deal with it. I mean I know that father did...

ALEX

I mean he's wrong.

BRYN

Sorry?

ALEX

Sorry are we all under the assumption that everyone's just going to believe him straight out the gate?

BRYN

What do you mean?

ALEX

Well do any of you have evidence proving that he did it instead of his father?

BEN

Well if somebody confesses

HELEN

A confession.

BRYN

Well I mean father's already confessed.

BEN

Well then they'll have to fight it out.

HELEN

Yeah that's what...

BRYN

I mean there is such thing as a truth spell though.

HELEN

Ahhh!

ALEX

True.

HELEN

I've heard of those.

BEN

This might be why you got hit by the curse. You apparently forgot that magic exists.

ALEX

He looks at you.

BEN

I'm going to shoot you in the kneecaps if you say anything.

ALEX

Looks at your items and looks up again and goes, sure. That's me. Howard Carter completely ignorant of magic, yep. That's me.

BEN

I am going to shoot you in the foot.

HELEN

Please do not do...don't do that.

ALEX

I mean then you'd all be...accomplices was the word right? In an assault.

LYDIA

Sasha leans over and steps really hard on his foot. Oh no! I tripped over. I'm really sorry

(laughing)

Steps on his foot again. Ah! This is...it's this health condition I've got...

BRYN

Sasha can we not do that? Can we not do that?

ALEX

I'm just saying that...

LYDIA

Step and...

BRYN

Sasha! Sasha!

LYDIA

It's really hard right now. I've got this health condition, it's really messing up my senses and my body.

(laughing)

BEN

You should just really be under arrest

BRYN

Hamid genuinely looks shocked at everyone.

ALEX

Look I'm just saying if you could get me back into the tomb

HELEN

Absolutely not.

ALEX

I mean all of her items are still there.

HELEN

No

LYDIA

How much are they...

HELEN

No

LYDIA

Ok no.

BEN

You know the people who own the building, they could probably just do it themselves without a criminal.

BRYN

They might need to hire a mercenary company to look into the tomb. That's the kind of thing we do, do.

BEN

Sounds like a conflict of interest there Hamid.

ALEX

You know what you'd need if you were a mercenary team, I'm just saying, like I'm pretty good with traps is old Howard Carter. Expert...

BEN

You got cursed! You went into the tomb and you got cursed!

HELEN

And you got someone killed.

ALEX

I think you'll find that Saleh got cursed. Saleh's like, it was me.

BEN

And you missed a trap which got somebody killed. Thank you Azu.

ALEX

Ok look I told him to walk around it.

BRYN

Just shut up!

ALEX

Right...

LYDIA

I guess if you roll with paladins they're going to arrest people.

BRYN

That's fine. I'm not...yes, let's take them down to the meritocratic offices and sort this out.

ALEX

I think that's probably for the best.

BEN

Good let's go then.

ALEX

Do we all head?

LYDIA

Yep.

HELEN

Yes.

ALEX

Eren Fairhands is not outside. He clearly did just leave this to you. I'm sure that you've got this covered Azu.

HELEN

So competent!

(laughing)

BEN

That's his trust in you.

ALEX

I feel that you've got a locker here that says Azu (so competent). Cool. So you head to the meritocratic offices. So, heading out it is clear that a new sandstorm is on the approach. It is not like...you have five minutes and it's here but something of this scale is visible from the distance. People are on the watch and warning for it.

LYDIA

So Howard while you were cursed you did say that you were responsible for the weather. Do you think that maybe you...like what...when did you go into the tomb.

ALEX

I mean a couple of weeks ago.

LYDIA

How long ago was it that there were storms in Dover?

ALEX

More than months.

LYDIA

Ah right. You'd be surprised. It's actually probably only been about three weeks.

ALEX

Listen so I may have said quite a lot of things...the curse sort of...

BRYN

You have an overinflated sense of your own importance with or without a curse.

BEN

Yeah

LYDIA

Yeah

ALEX

Harsh truths but fair. You know what we should discuss that...

BEN

Shut up!

ALEX

Ok.

LYDIA

Oh no the health condition in my foot is flaring up again!

BRYN

Sasha!

ALEX

Saleh's sort of ignoring all of this and is just marching through but yeah, people are starting to board up doors. People are starting to usher people inside. There aren't kids out because, yeah...maybe within the next couple of hours it's going to hit.

LYDIA

Kids getting blown away! Weeee, where am I going mummy?

(laughing)

ALEX

I find it peculiar to what you and don't latch on to as like awful and hilarious.

LYDIA

Weeeee!

BEN

That's because it hasn't happened yet!

ALEX

Oh right, cool.

HELEN

No don't do it!

ALEX

Too late! You open these doors. All I do is push people through them into the sky

BEN

Oh no! The roof of the orphanage has fallen out and they are sucked out like spinach from Popeye's can.

(laughing)

ALEX

I mean I'm not as good as similes as Ben might be but there we go. So you are heading down and you are heading out from that strip, the sort of glitzy one. Whilst the meritocratic offices are large, it's not on the actual Cairo strip. It's a bit further away but Saleh does insist on walking. Thankfully the fact that the sandstorm is on the way means that there isn't quite the worry of crowds and press and everyone getting involved because the place is starting to get a bit deserted. As you head up towards the meritocratic offices what you see is this is not the home of the meritocrats. That is a separate domicile which is way outside of the city and enormous but this is closer to a townhall. So it is a large official looking building. Think embassies that kind of set up and out front there are a couple of guards who are discussing and sort of preparing to lock the doors and so on and they see you coming up. Saleh steps up and goes I'd – looks to Hamid and looks back – I'd like to...

BRYN

I put my hand on his shoulder reassuringly.

ALEX

I'd like to hand myself in please.

HELEN

And so would this person and Azu picks up Howard and puts him next to Saleh.

ALEX

That's true I would also like to hand him in.

(laughing)

You know it's in...

BEN

No! Howard Carter is an accomplice to the heist and is as guilty as Saleh.

LYDIA

Although that was a good line. I'll have to remember that one.

ALEX

The guards look to one another. So who here speaks Arabic?

HELEN

I do!

BRYN

Hamid does.

ALEX

Ok the two of you hear a discussion of, I thought we'd already got the guy that did the thing. Yeah so do I. I mean should we just send them off? Yeah probably. Thank you but we request that you leave. It's...everything's fine.

HELEN

It is not.

BEN

No it isn't.

ALEX

I didn't know you spoke Arabic...

BEN

Sorry!

BRYN

More information has come to light in the case. I think it would be useful to at least put both these people in a holding cell until the full situation can be clarified and cleared up.

HELEN

You have a false confession.

ALEX

So I...the paladins are recognised. I mean do any of you have any official paperwork? It's a bit out of order.

HELEN

Do we have paperwork?

BEN

What?

BRYN

No.

HELEN

Do paladins carry property of...

BEN

I slam my breastplate...

BRYN

It's not necessary for paperwork when someone is wanting to make a confession to a crime.

ALEX

One of the...Saleh's looking super uncomfortable. Howard's just got a little bit of a smirk to him. One of the guards comes over and talks to Hamid aside and goes, I don't know who you are but we've actually already got the person that did this so...we get a lot of false confessions here. A lot of people want the attention. There's a sandstorm coming in. If you can head on this would be really useful. I don't think you want to be here right now. We can process them if you want but it's going to take a long time.

BEN

What's going on?

HELEN

They're saying that they already have a confession and so they don't want to take these two so I suppose we have to convince them.

BEN

What an incredibly stupid attitude.

HELEN

Right...

BRYN

I mean they did say that they get a lot of false confessions so they're worried that people want the notoriety.

BEN

What about the first confession which actually was false!

LYDIA

Yeah tell them that the first confession was false!

HELEN

We tried

BEN

Also it's his son, not a hanger on. You're all part of the al-Tahan family.

HELEN

Now you can use your status.

BEN

Yeah go on, use your name

BRYN

I was about to explain that. I had to stop to explain to you.

(laughing)

BEN

I asked Azu.

ALEX

Yeah the guards are there just like, any time now.

BRYN

So the person that you've currently arrested is my father. This is my brother. It...the reason he gave a false confession was to protect his family. Is this not...

ALEX

Both the guards look at each other.

BRYN

...not credible.

ALEX

Right. Ok. The guard that you're speaking to immediately grabs you and Saleh and goes right everyone stays here. No one leaves. Everyone stays here. Everyone stays here. You stay here. Everyone stays here. Everyone stays here. Right...go get them. Go get them. The other guards...

HELEN

We all have to stay.

ALEX

The other guard is running back inside and you start hearing calls. Something Arabic again. It's something along the lines of, need a lot of people right now, out front.

BEN

This is terrible.

HELEN

This is becoming a situation.

ALEX

The doors burst open and about four guards come out. One of them is the person that just ran inside and is explaining in Arabic. It's all the Tahan family, they're saying it's a massive conspiracy. They're all with it.

HELEN

No!

BRYN

Woah!

BEN

Ok what's happening now?

ALEX

A bunch of pikes are currently pointed at you and everyone's quietly circling going, we'd all appreciate it if you can head inside so we can clear all this up.

BRYN

Everyone just calm down.

HELEN

Yes let's go inside now.

BRYN

I would like to make a diplomacy roll.

LYDIA

I don't want to go inside as a prisoner. I'm not a prisoner. What?

BEN

You haven't done anything wrong.

BRYN

Can I make a diplomacy roll?

ALEX

Yes you can.

LYDIA

It doesn't help Grizzop.

BRYN

27

LYDIA

Pretty diplomey.

ALEX

I want to play it off like yeah you can try, it might not work. I mean they may not be physically able to...

BRYN

If everyone will just take a moment to take a deep breath and listen to me we can get this all cleared up.

ALEX

Everyone's just still.

BEN

What did he say?

BRYN

So...

HELEN

He's being a diplomat

BRYN

My brother and this gentleman of his acquaintance.

HELEN

His brother and a gentleman of his acquaintance.

ALEX

Howard is sort of continuing your gesture so it's just pointing at Grizzop.

HELEN

Oh! Ok. Azu noti...can Azu notice?

ALEX

Yeah, yeah, yeah. It's...

BRYN

Smacks Howard's hand. Oi!

(laughing)

You're a bad human!

BRYN

Were involved in the incident in question. They would like to present their statements to the official investigators. They can cast a great deal of light on the actual happenings. It has become clear in the last hour that both of their minds were affected by a spell caused by a trap they found in the tomb under the complex. I believe you will want to take a full statement from both of them in order to contribute to the investigation. My father's statement may be cast in a new light by this new information. Is that clear?

HELEN

He's explaining about the tomb and everything and...

BEN

As long as he's not trying to weasel out of it.

ALEX

Seems the guards are ok on that. Everyone loosens up a little bit.

BRYN

So if we can all just stay calm. These two gentlemen will come inside with you, as will myself and my organisation just to make sure that everything is taken care of properly.

HELEN

Your organisation? I thought this was a...a communal.

BRYN

It is. My name's on the paperwork.

HELEN

More paperwork!

BRYN

Well there's an official contract but that's not...we can change that if you want but I don't think this is really the time for this discussion. I'm saying this bit in English so it's...

BEN

Yeah fine. Admin later.

ALEX

As this is happening the guards are moving everyone through into...

BRYN

I just thought it might expedite this particular situation.

ALEX

It's clear though that this is a skeleton crew that's set up. Most likely because almost every guard that's available is out helping people prep for the incoming sandstorm. This is like the twelfth one in the equivalent of a month. They

have built some temporary system so you are dealing very much with the skeleton crew. They show you all in. One of the guards who was at the front door sort of asks everyone who isn't currently guilty of a crime, knowingly, to wait out front and they show basically Saleh and Howard into separate holding cells and they are placed under lock and key. And then the first guard comes out, asks for Hamid, having done the talking to sign a habeas corpus. Basically a we have this person, you brought them here, the state of the person when they came in. All of the paperwork. Paperwork, paperwork.

LYDIA

Slightly bruised foot.

ALEX

Paperwork, paperwork, paperwork, paperwork, paperwork. There is...

LYDIA

Don't put my name down there.

ALEX

There is...

BRYN

Yes I wasn't going to.

ALEX

Can you give me, for the first time in this campaign excluding Bertie, can...Hamid as you're filling paperwork in can you give me a linguistics check please.

BRYN

I mean technically no.

ALEX

Ooh alright then.

BRYN

I don't have any ranks in it and it's not a use untrained skill but if you'd like to make a different ruling I can give you...

ALEX

I would not. I thought you had some in linguistics. Ok that's fine. Great. You fill all the paperwork in, apparently fine and everything is filed away and the guard's at the desk going you may – again in Arabic – you may want to leave. The sandstorm's going to get quite bad. We're not going to be able to put you up in here. We don't really have the facilities.

BEN

What's going on now?

HELEN

They're asking us to leave because of the sandstorm.

LYDIA

Alright. So Hamid's place or one of your temples?

HELEN

Can I cast sense motive?

ALEX

Sense...

BRYN

It's a skill.

ALEX

So sense motive is a skill. You do have things like detect evil and so on but tell me what you want to sense and I get you to do a sense motive roll.

HELEN

I want to figure out if justice is going to be done.

ALEX

Give me sense motive then.

BRYN

That's quite a complex question.

ALEX

Yeah like your answer may not be what...

LYDIA

I would like to know the entire system.

ALEX

It's around here somewhere.

HELEN

Yes. That's 18.

ALEX

18 total?

HELEN

Yes.

ALEX

These guards seem on the level. Like it seems like they have taken these people into custody.

LYDIA

But the system is corrupt.

ALEX

Well you're asking...you're asking the equivalent of a receptionist to tell you whether justice is going to be served at a high court of the land. It's like he seems on the level.

HELEN

That's good enough for Azu. She's like yeah, yeah.

ALEX

You're going to make sure this goes alright aren't you? Er, yeah. Great! Fantastic.

HELEN

That's literally what happens!

LYDIA

Woo! There's no punching in the face going to happen. What's structural violence

ALEX

So where are you all heading?

HELEN

What's closest?

LYDIA

The best food will be at Hamid's place.

ALEX

Aphrodite's is closest because it's on the strip and you've only just sort of come a little way off it. Hamid's is further away but obviously, you know, is more luxurious.

BRYN

You're welcome to come back to my family's house if you still want to.

LYDIA

Will there be any more tentacle monsters? That'll be fun.

BRYN

I really hope not.

BEN

We need to plan next steps. We've been spinning our wheels for far too long now.

BRYN

Well we were attending a funeral and dealing with an imminent crisis.

LYDIA

I think I got like 28 days now until I'm a zombie.

BEN

Yeah exactly. We need to sort that out pretty quickly.

BRYN

I agree and if we want to talk to my sister about getting an appointment with Apophis then she'll be at my house.

BEN

Do that then. Yes. Go there then.

HELEN

To Hamid's.

ALEX

Ok you all head to Hamid's. As you're travelling the sandstorm starts picking up.

LYDIA

Do we ride the camel?

HELEN

If you want to.

LYDIA

Yay!

ALEX

All four of you on a single camel?

HELEN

Topaz is a strong, brave camel.

BRYN

Two of us are quite small.

ALEX

I was going to say you might actually be able to manage it.

LYDIA

Grizzop and Hamid are a rounding error

(laughing)

ALEX

Fair. Very fair. Alright then. Yeah, you know what you take camel. Topaz, you can tell Topaz is grumbling. That's a lot of people.

BEN

I weigh 36 pounds.

ALEX

Yeah 36 heavy pounds.

BEN

I'm a backpack

HELEN

But it's four sets of legs so like...

ALEX

Poking everywhere!

BEN

Oh no I'll sit on Azu's head like last time.

HELEN

Eyyy!

LYDIA

It's like a pyramid.

ALEX

You can't speak camel but if you could you'd hear, oh my god just distribute the weight!

(laughing)

So you head towards Hamid's and yeah, by the time you're arriving the sandstorm's picking up and you're arriving to a house that's also entering lockdown. They're closing the shutters up, they're closing everything down and long story short, yeah, you head into Hamid's and the sand storm hits and you are now in Hamid's.

(laughing)

Rather than...house. In Hamid's house. So with mansion, massive, extravagant complex estate, like they're all words. They're all just words. So in terms of what you all want to do, rather than just diving straight into RP, RP, RP, RP. Let's figure out what you actually want to do in a longer scale because otherwise it's going to be hours of just sat chat. Where are you all at? What are your current intentions etc?

BEN

Make sure Sasha doesn't die.

HELEN

Yes that's also Azu's priority because that's what drew her in the first place.

ALEX

Ok. Cool. In which case.

LYDIA

Aw! She's going with all of this to help poor grumpy Sasha.

HELEN

Yeah

ALEX

In which case then I'm going to skip to post dinner in a house where at least two of the family members are currently locked up so not much is happening in the way of jovial conversation. There's a sandstorm outside. Another one is dead. Like this is not a happy household with a sandstorm outside. You all find yourself in the same room.

LYDIA

So you got any board games? Maybe some dice.

BRYN

I mean yeah but I think maybe we need to clear the air.

BEN

No let's just...well fine but let's plan also next steps.

HELEN

Yes we should speak to your sister, soon.

BRYN

Right I mean yeah, I'll go and speak to her now.

BEN

Let's do that then.

HELEN

All of us.

BRYN

Ok. I mean I'm just going to...sure. We find Saira.

ALEX

So you all head up and you remember the butler, it's been a while since he popped up. He's just there. Of course, would you like me to announce you sir.

BRYN

Yes please.

ALEX

He rushes off. Rushes back. If you're ready, she's in the office currently. You know that that's your father's office so you enter the office and Saira's there behind reams and reams of paperwork. She doesn't seem to be going to pieces but is very much drowning in paperwork currently. She looks up. Oh Hamid, come in. And Sasha, Grizzop and Azu yeah? Come in, come in, come in.

BRYN

Thank you. How are you doing?

ALEX

Lot of paperwork.

BRYN

Yeah I'm sure.

ALEX

Lot of paperwork to do. Not really sure what we can do though until the trial's done. I mean did you know that father was going to do that?

BRYN

No, no it caught me somewhat by surprise.

ALEX

I mean it feels kind of pointless now that Saleh's confessed anyway. Why did he let him in the first place?

BRYN

I think he was not...he was in the...

BEN

He was cursed.

ALEX

Sorry what?

BRYN

So beforehand he was cursed...

ALEX

Who cursed Saleh?

LYDIA

Which Saleh? The younger one was cursed.

ALEX

Sorry. Father and Saleh. It's an old habit.

BRYN

So in the tomb that they broke into...

ALEX

Sorry they broke into a tomb?

BRYN

Yeah that was what...

ALEX

So the...like all...I'm getting a bit lost here. So last that I heard was when you were telling me earlier that Saleh had confessed and we were discussing that. There was a tomb involved?

BRYN

So they were attempting to penetrate the vault by going through a hidden tomb.

ALEX

There's a tomb...

BRYN

Yeah. Under the complex

ALEX

Under...

BRYN

Under the complex.

BEN

They built it in a pyramid.

ALEX

Yeah but we thought we'd mapped all of it already.

HELEN

It is a cursed tomb so maybe you didn't find it.

ALEX

Right ok. That...does anyone else have any news? I feel like today's the day I find out that it's not actually Cairo...it's actually Spain

BRYN

We actually have a favour to ask, I know that this is not exactly,...

ALEX

Go on.

BRYN

We don't want to pile on but we need to meet with Apophis.

ALEX

I might need a little bit more to go on than that Hamid.

LYDIA

I'm dead.

HELEN

Dying.

LYDIA

Well no dead.

BEN

Undead.

LYDIA

Well....

BRYN

Well we've dealt with very serious situations in both Paris and Prague and technically the meritocrats have been employing us throughout that and we would like to talk to Apophis about some of the consequences of what has happened in those two cities.

LYDIA

The consequence is that I'm dead.

BRYN

Which is one of the consequences.

ALEX

You are...

LYDIA

I know I'm doing a good impression of alive but...

ALEX

You are very lucky. Like...honestly normally this would be impossible but I've actually just been visited by a meritocratic agent who's been effectively requesting the same thing for all of you.

BEN

Great

LYDIA

Wait which agent?

ALEX

Sorry?

BRYN

Interesting.

LYDIA

Is it Wilde?

ALEX

Oh yes you have met him!

BEN

Oh he's our handler.

ALEX

Ah well...

BRYN

I mean there's also the fact that we seem to be descended from Apophis.

ALEX

Sorry what?

BRYN

Yeah...

ALEX

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

And welcome back. I'm going to pick up...

BRYN

Just a little after that conversation.

ALEX

I feel like there's going to be quite a chunk of reaction that we can skip past a little bit

LYDIA

Say what?!

BEN

Has brandy come out?

ALEX

Let's put it this way, you're all sat far more informally. There's quite a decent amount of paperwork on the floor and Saira's now leaning on the desk holding a drink.

LYDIA

Actually being undead isn't that different from being alive but tired.

ALEX

So this...ok this is quite a lot. I mean you'll forgive me focusing on the Apophis thing a little bit.

LYDIA

I just assumed that that would be the nice trail end of a conversation.

ALEX

I mean I'm not the magic expert here but you're sure of this aren't you?

BRYN

Yes

HELEN

Yes

ALEX

Do you have any idea how bad this is? Like...

BRYN

Actually I probably don't now you come to talk about it but maybe not.

ALEX

I mean let's play this through. I mean never mind the Apophis angle, just in general. I mean the meritocrats have never shown an individual person favouritism before. They've never done that. They've...it sort of undermines the entire basis of their rule.

BRYN

I mean they've...they've shown favouritism before. I mean...

ALEX

I mean they've supported institutions and their representatives have hired or fired but at no point has a meritocrat has said you...you person, I like you best.

BEN

I mean Apophis might've just got frisky with someone. It might've been casual.

ALEX

But that's...

BRYN

We don't even know if Apophis knows.

ALEX

Who else does know?

BRYN

Just the people in this room.

BEN

That was a very dangerous conversation. If you try and assassinate us, I will assassinate you right back.

ALEX

That's not...

BRYN

What, what...assassinations...

LYDIA

You can try.

BEN

If someone asks who else knows. Oh only the people in this room. That's when the guards rush in.

LYDIA

Yeah

BEN

That's when the guards come out.

BRYN

No!

HELEN

Oh I think that's very cynical

BRYN

Yeah!

BEN

Have you met people?

HELEN

No! I lived in the mountains.

BEN

Especially powerful people!

HELEN

Definitely not.

LYDIA

Sasha's checking out the window. Holding daggers.

BRYN

That's literally never how that's happened.

BEN

Well I mean you told me how a meritocrat kind of killed everyone at Eiffel's Folly so I don't know, killing...

BRYN

Because they were an open rebellion.

BEN

And we know something we shouldn't.

BRYN

They're not the same thing.

LYDIA

Hamid you've got a lot of faith in people.

BEN

Yeah well you know. Faith in power.

ALEX

I'm not interested in covering this up. I'm just...do you think people could handle knowing this right now? Like I'm seriously questioning this. I'm asking this. We're in a situation where Cairo's basically being pummelled by these storms, almost daily at this point. The entire systems have gone down. All of the meritocratic offices are basically in lockdown because they can barely handle it. London is effectively a war zone right now.

BRYN

Wait, what?

LYDIA

Wait, what?

ALEX

You've been travelling a lot, ok.

BRYN

Yeah

ALEX

She starts digging through her paperwork and drops a newspaper. It's a copy of The Times that's been shipped through and it has the headline "London in Chaos" which is a nice open start.

LYDIA

Oh look there's an inch of snow

(laughing)

ALEX

A leaf was on the line. London stops!

LYDIA

Noooo!

ALEX

So the article effectively states that the riots started in Other London a few weeks ago, rather than being contained, they seemed to be briefly, have spilled out into the rest of London and it's spiralling out of control and there appears to be open...almost street warfare happening in London and reports from Other London have stopped entirely.

HELEN

Warfare between who? Are there gangs?

ALEX

No one seems to know. So it said that the police are basically trying to stop the fighting but there seems to be...it just seems to be arbitrary chaos. There's no like...they said there's an investigation where we thought it was gangs. It's not gangs. It's not a coup or anything like that. It's just...random chaos. Like arbitrary lines seem to have been drawn and no one seems to really have a handle on why.

HELEN

Ah just lots of very angry people.

ALEX

I just...I don't...

LYDIA

I should go back, I should go back, I should go back. I should check they're ok.

ALEX

I don't think they could handle...I feel like undermining the things that are keeping stuff together right now might be a really terrible idea.

BEN

Well why don't we go have a chat to Apotheosis about it then...Apothis even.

ALEX

Er yeah ok. That makes a lot of sense.

BRYN

I mean I think it's probably their decision really, not ours.

ALEX

I think they're probably...let's put it this way, I doubt Apophis doesn't know this so I think...I think they need to...yeah let's do this. She heads behind the desk and starts signing some paperwork. Heads out to the front door, talks to the butler. Closes the door. We're not going to be able to go today. We'll probably be able to go tomorrow after the sandstorm. Would you...sorry I'm a bit overwhelmed. Would you like to meet your handler? I'm going to be up all night doing this paperwork anyway.

BRYN

We can see him tomorrow as well.

ALEX

Sure, sure. Well have a good night, I guess. If we meet here tomorrow I can arrange for us all to head over to Apophis.

BRYN

Thank you.

HELEN

Thank you for your help.

ALEX

Sure. She sits down and stares blankly at paperwork.

BRYN

Is there anything else we can do to help you.

ALEX

She looks up. No.

BRYN

We'll be in the downstairs parlour.

ALEX

No it's ok. You know what, don't give me any more news. That'd be great.
Just for like five minutes...

BRYN

I'll do my best. I go and give her a hug.

ALEX

Sure. Night guys

LYDIA

We could...I mean this I obviously Barret trying to take power or...like there's no one else that could stand up to him for that long. They...I mean I don't know what's happened to my family. There's...

BRYN

Sasha if we want to go we can do that. That is something we can do but we need to be prepared. We're not going to rush off.

LYDIA

What about Bi Ming? He...his shop couldn't survive in a warzone. They'll have smashed all his stuff.

BRYN

After we've seen Apophis. After we've got the Heart of Aphrodite...

LYDIA

I suppose I should be alive. I'm more useful alive.

BRYN

We can go back to London. I've got people there I care about too.

BEN

You have to track down the Simulacrum

BRYN

We can take a few...

BEN

And also make sure that Sasha doesn't die in 28 days.

BRYN

I did say that we'd do that first.

BEN

Ok

BRYN

I mean the Simulacrum thing it's going to take a long time. If we take a few days to go back to London we can travel there very quickly now and we can travel anywhere else we want very quickly.

HELEN

And if the entire city is in chaos there's very little that four people can do.

LYDIA

Well I mean we don't, I suppose, have Bertie to shout everyone down now. He was useful for that.

ALEX

Hello London! Stop it! That's enough.

LYDIA

He did that in Dover!

(laughing)

BRYN

There's nothing we can do right now. We've got a more urgent problem to take care of first.

LYDIA

Right, right ok, yes.

BRYN

But we can do this Sasha.

LYDIA

Yeah, oh yeah that's fine. Yep. I can't get more dead. Well I suppose I could. We'll see won't we. Yeah. Talk to a dragon. Talk to your grandpappy. That's gonna be...it's gonna be fine

BRYN

Yes

LYDIA

Sasha wanders off.

BRYN

Sasha come and have a drink at least, come on.

LYDIA

I'm fine. Actually, no, I'll take...maybe I'll have a drink – takes the bottle and walks off.

BRYN

You know where to find us if you need.

LYDIA

Yep

BRYN

Ok

ALEX

It's not like she can wander off. It's basically a scale 10 sandstorm outside.

LYDIA

Yeah, opens the door to see if she can head up and chat with the gargoyles. Er no.

(laughing)

ALEX

So is everyone ok for me to assume everyone goes to bed.

BRYN

No! no, no, no, no, no. We have things to talk about.

ALEX

Alright then. You carry on.

LYDIA

Actually this is ideal because Sasha shouldn't hear this conversation.

HELEN

So we're in the parlour.

ALEX

You are wherever you want to be. You have the run of the house.

BRYN

Can I ask...

ALEX

I'd recommend not the guest bedrooms. That's where Wilde is.

BRYN

Can I offer you brandy or anything?

BEN

I'm ok thanks.

BRYN

I think we should talk about earlier, don't you.

BEN

Sure

HELEN

Well it's all been resolved now. I see nothing to talk about.

BRYN

I don't think it has been resolved, has it?

HELEN

Well, he's in custody.

BEN

It's more Hamid's attitude than what's actually going on.

HELEN

Oh yes that mess, yes let's talk about that, yes.

(laughing)

LYDIA

Oh yes that mess. Sorry to add to your editing load! Squawks from upstairs

HELEN

What would you like to say to us?

BRYN

I don't know. I don't know how to make it right.

HELEN

Azu and Grizzop look at each other.

BEN

Do better next time.

HELEN

Yes

BRYN

I don't understand. I want to understand why you felt what I did was so wrong. I'm completely confused.

BEN

You were shielding your brother from the consequences of his actions.

HELEN

And using power and privilege to do it.

BRYN

I just...

BEN

Your brother had the right attitude. As soon as he realised what had happened...

BRYN

No, no, no, no

BEN

I'm going to take responsibility for my actions.

BRYN

Not at all. Once he was in a state where he could deal with it.

BEN

If we hadn't fought you on this, you would've just sent him away, still cursed. Your dad would've gone to prison thinking that your son was a...or his son was a murderer. If it had gone your way and your family had just avoided the actual situation and tried to work around it, then you'd all been worse off.

BRYN

Has this never happened? Has a situation where the head of an organisation has taken responsibility for some sort of screw up in the organisation. Have you never seen that? If the head of one of your temples, you know, if one of the trainees has done something wrong does the head never...does that...is that just how your religions work?

HELEN

No the head would not get punished for something the trainees did. The trainee would get punished because then they would learn.

BEN

Also the...

BRYN

If you've been taught wrong and you don't know what to do, whose fault is that if you then do it wrong.

BEN

He got gambling debts and broke in to a bank vault. I don't get how this is doing something wrong because he's not learned a lesson. Unless you are saying all of his screw ups are your dad's fault. Also the high priest isn't usually the trainee's dad. You're not an organisation. You're a family protecting each other.

BRYN

And your family would never have protected you is that...

BEN

I don't know. But thanks for bringing it up.

BRYN

I'm sorry that's not what I meant. You guys I haven't had friends like you before and I have this "I want to protect you" but I also feel that same way about my family.

BEN

Then don't do it by lying. Especially when murder's involved.

HELEN

Yes it was a miscarriage of justice.

BEN

This isn't the kind of situation where we can just convince you. This change needs to come from you. You need to learn from this situation and if you can't then I misled you.

BRYN

What should I do...I just want to...my family has been through so much and I wanted...my instinct was to protect them and I thought that's what I was doing.

HELEN

You can't protect people from their own actions. They have to be able to learn from the mistakes that they make.

BRYN

I agree but I don't think...my problem is that in the emotional and mental state that Saleh was in previously, I don't see how possibly being sent away from his family, being sent to a prison could've helped him learn or improve and I do think...

BEN

You were going to send him to exile. How would have that helped? He'd have just drunk himself to death

BRYN

I was trying to figure out a different way. I didn't know what...I came to you for advice because I thought you might have advice.

BEN

No! No, no, no, no, no. No! No! you came to us for advice

HELEN

You didn't listen to us.

BEN

Oh yeah you didn't but when we gave you advice we didn't tell you what you wanted to hear. You didn't want advice, you wanted support. You wanted two people who you thought had power to back you up and give you more power. You didn't want to learn. You just wanted to get what you wanted. I am done with this conversation right now. I'm going to leave the room.

BRYN

I'm sorry if you feel that. That's not...I'm sorry.

ALEX

And then there were two.

HELEN

Azu is going to put an arm around Hamid. I'll just be like...

BRYN

Azu I'm so sorry. I didn't...I honestly didn't know what I was doing and I thought that you would have a better idea and it seemed like as soon as I told you, that all Grizzop wanted to do was rush off and arrest him without talking to me. I just wanted...I'm sorry.

HELEN

Apology accepted. Now you know better.

BRYN

I don't know better. I still don't understand why Grizzop won't talk to me.

HELEN

I have only known you for a short time. I think that perhaps you have a lot of maturing to do.

BRYN

I'm trying, I really am.

HELEN

I can...I can see that.

ALEX

Pat, pat.

HELEN

But you did make a decision about justice by yourself or rather perhaps your father...I don't know the specifics.

BRYN

I don't understand, what does justice mean to you? Like I thought I knew what it meant and it just seems like you and Grizzop have this completely different idea.

HELEN

Hm. Azu is frantically thinking about all the philosophy books that she attempted to read and then did not.

ALEX

You know what, give me a knowledge religion.

BRYN

Oh is that...yeah that's for that one.

(laughing)

ALEX

Are you ready to know what you remember about your teachings on justice specifically?

HELEN

Ok so that's a 7 total.

ALEX

Nothing at all!

LYDIA

That's a critical fail.

ALEX

You remember healing. Healing you remember. Defeating evil doers, yep, yep you covered that one. Justice, justice? The actual nature of justice. You know what though I think you might've skipped that one because you saw someone that you thought needed a hug. Like you're just getting a blank. You are on your own.

LYDIA

Where most people have like...there's blank spots where they had a crush in that lesson at school but Azu is just an empathy wave.

BEN

Lesson one, be caring. Azu's like, done. Graduated.

LYDIA

Someone was sad in the room so...

ALEX

Unfortunately yes. I know what the Aphrodite stance on justice is. You're on your own. Didn't pay enough attention.

HELEN

Justice means that people get what they deserve.

ALEX

It's Mr Ceiling all over again.

(laughing)

BEN

That doesn't end well, let me tell you.

BRYN

Hamid starts to cry

HELEN

Oh no! Azu begins to panic.

BRYN

Such are the defence mechanisms for halfling.

ALEX

It's like possuming but far more pathetic.

HELEN

No I didn't mean...I didn't mean that you know...that people was...that he was going to deserve to be but we thought he was a murderer

BRYN

But I haven't gotten what I've deserved Azu. If that's what you think he deserves then that's what I deserve as well and maybe you and Grizzop just need to arrest me too.

HELEN

No!

BRYN

I'm going to bed. Let's talk about it in the morning.

HELEN

Oh no!

BRYN

I don't think it's worth having this conversation unless Grizzop is there.

HELEN

Azu sits by herself in the room.

ALEX

And then there was one.

LYDIA

The thing is you probably can't fit in any of the halfling beds.

HELEN

She just curls up on the floor.

BRYN

There's a guest wing with medium sized beds which she's still slightly too big for but only very slightly.

LYDIA

They're very generously sized, medium sized beds.

BRYN

Yeah they're built for large humans.

ALEX

I am going to jump ahead to the morning unless anyone's planning on...

LYDIA

Another fort save. Woo!

ALEX

Well you've all got more than that but is anyone going off for some midnight shenanigans. Is anyone gonna run off.

BRYN

I'm just hoping the sandstorm is going to keep us here long enough that me and Grizzop can actually get some of the way to resolving this.

LYDIA

Sasha will literally open the window at like 5am and then I assume gets sand [wind noise]. Shuts the door. Shuts the window again.

BEN

Do you think you could sneak through the different grains, just between

LYDIA

No, I think she does have a lot of body weight.

BRYN

She doesn't have improved evasion yet.

LYDIA

She does a lot of bodyweight exercises as the kind of equivalent of going on her morning climb so you might hear some weird thumps and it's her lifting the cupboard.

ALEX

Sasha give me fort save.

LYDIA

14

ALEX

14?

LYDIA

Uh huh.

ALEX

You take the equivalent of 4 hit points of damage as you worsen your condition slightly. Can you also give me a will save because, like I said, every day should start with all of the saves.

LYDIA

Yay! Collect all the dice. Ooh that was only 13.

ALEX

13. You have a troubled night but you do rest. Hamid can you give me a will save?

BRYN

Oh dear. 11.

ALEX

Nightmares for Hamid. No rest for Hamid. Is world is adrift.

BRYN

True story.

LYDIA

You didn't use any spells last night.

BRYN

Does that mean I don't get any spells back

ALEX

'Fraid so, 'fraid so

BEN

Alex really?!

LYDIA

But you didn't use any spells yesterday.

BRYN

I have four written down.

LYDIA

Oh right.

BRYN

The fight with the dude that happened yesterday.

ALEX

Yeah it's been a long day. Been a long day

BRYN

They've all been long days Alex.

LYDIA

Why do you do this to us?

ALEX

Because if I keep going long enough eventually I won't need to punish you. I'll just give you sticks and you'll punch each other over the nature of justice. It's great.

HELEN

This is the Good Place!

(laughing)

ALEX

Campaign over guys!

LYDIA

She spotted it!

BEN

Rusty Quill gaming, the trolley branch.

ALEX

Can Azu and Grizzop please both give me will saves.

BEN

13

ALEX

13. Hamid hit a nerve. You do not sleep well.

BEN

Fair enough.

HELEN

Do I add anything to it?

ALEX

Your will saves are all the way up here.

HELEN

Oh it's here.

ALEX

You should have all of the will save in the world basically.

HELEN

Oh ok so I've got 20.

ALEX

Yeah you're fine!

BEN

Slept like a baby

HELEN

Oh yeah. The servants came in and I was just like [snoring]

LYDIA

Does Azu have tusks?

BEN

Actually I dunno.

HELEN

We did discuss me wearing false tusks and they gave me some vampire fangs.

BEN

You slot them over your canines and like well...

ALEX

Well here's the thing, some orcs have tusks, some don't. Do you? Let's get this canonical.

HELEN

You'll have to imagine has like a faint lisp because I think she does have tusks.
I would like tusks.

ALEX

Ok you have tusks.

HELEN

Yay.

ALEX

Yeah you sleep well. It turns out the thing about all of this is that secretly deep down you know that if everyone could just calm down, chat it out and really, really get along everything would be fine.

LYDIA

Whereas Sasha slept well because she finished the brandy

(laughing)

Much simpler than a general faith in humanity.

HELEN

Yeah passing out and sleeping are slightly different.

ALEX

We come to the next morning. Who's joining who? Where? You have a few hours before Saira will be making tracks to Apophis with you all.

LYDIA

I think breakfast.

BEN

Yeah I mean I will be eating breakfast, not gonna sulk alone.

ALEX

I will jump ahead to you're all in breakfast.

BEN

What is it with you saying in when you should say at!

ALEX

You're all inside breakfast. It's been a long, long week.

LYDIA

Just draped in bacon.

BEN

We're in Hamid's which is in breakfast.

ALEX

Breakfast is a turducken and you are within it. An enormous turducken

LYDIA

Hamid walks in and is like I've made a Mummy costume out of incredibly...like from a dire pig.

HELEN

Oh no

LYDIA

Just a long curly...

ALEX

So it is breakfast. You are upon breakfast

(laughing)

LYDIA

Now we're lying on top of the eggs.

BEN

I'm quite hungry so I'm definitely upon breakfast.

ALEX

You are upon breakfast.

LYDIA

Er yeah,

HELEN

Morning Grizzop

BEN

Good morning.

HELEN

Morning Hamid

BRYN

Good morning.

HELEN

Morning Sasha

LYDIA

Alright

HELEN

Oh how are you feeling?

LYDIA

Oh well the nice thing about here is they do the laundry really quick so the fact that I keep soaking all of my clothes in blood isn't even really that much of a problem.

ALEX

Can you give me a sense motive Azu

(laughing)

HELEN

Alright! That's 16.

ALEX

16?

HELEN

Mm.

ALEX

Sasha clearly feels terrible and isn't happy about it. You've successfully managed to read this correctly. You're good. Your day is starting right.

HELEN

Well hopefully soon we'll be sorting that out.

LYDIA

Hooray.

HELEN

Yes

LYDIA

Yeah that'll be great. I'm sure I won't then get blasted through a door or fall down a chasm. Although the good thing is that Bertie cant fall on me anymore. I guess...wait, you guys know religion. Where is heaven...no wait it's Bertie, where is flaming poo hell?

BEN

Er...

LYDIA

Like it is located above us? I'm just...whether he could theoretically...

BEN

No?

HELEN

It's a metaphysical...

BEN

It's not right up there.

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BRYN

Well no I mean it's a physical plain.

LYDIA

Right so it could...

BEN

Well it might be a pocket dimension.

BRYN

It's more probably sideways.

LYDIA

Sideways alright. So he's unlikely to fall on me from a great height.

BRYN

Yeah

LYDIA

Well that's good.

HELEN

I would protect you.

LYDIA

Cheers. That's good to hear. So how was your discussion last night guys? How was that?

BEN

I don't know. How was it Hamid?

BRYN

Hamid just looks miserable.

LYDIA

Maybe the thing is I can't really understand because I don't really have anyone that, like, I mean aside from you guys that I would...oh and Gragg. And Gragg. And like I suppose a few of my cousins.

BRYN

And Bi Ming.

LYDIA

Oh yeah and Bi Ming. But like I mean the thing is if anyone of them did stuff that needed to get them in prison, like, I mean...I mean Gragg didn't start out as a bouncer for nothing. That'd be quite hard to cover up what he's done. Maybe there's something about families, it's a bit of a mystery I guess.

BRYN

I just accept that what I did was wrong and I will try to do better next time but I'm worried Grizzop that if you feel that way about my brother, you feel that way about me too.

LYDIA

Oh Hamid we've all killed people.

(laughing)

BRYN

I suppose so.

HELEN

Righteously.

BEN

In the end your brother did the right thing. I will judge you on your future actions. Think about what you learned here, if you learned something and don't disappoint us.

HELEN

This sounds like progress

LYDIA

Yeah I mean the only thing that...

BRYN

The only reason I have the opportunity to make future actions is because I'm not in prison.

BEN

Yeah well...

LYDIA

A lot of people do good stuff in prison. Like one of my cousins went to prison, he was in for eight years. He came out, he'd learned to read and like...yeah

HELEN

Wow congratulations.

LYDIA

Yeah he started a really good pie shop. It was...they taught...he was handling all the catering inside. It was a good prison though that is true. Not all of them are like that.

BEN

So like...

LYDIA

And I was kept in prison for quite a few years. That was quite hard to...but I learned quite a lot of skills. Lockpicking.

(laughing)

ALEX

That's the last skill that I learnt now I think about it.

LYDIA

Yeah that is the problem. Not very good at lockpicking at first but they had a magical lock once I got good at lockpicking. That was...that was the problem when you're trying to imprison a thief to use as a thief right. That became quite complicated by the end.

BEN

So from what I can see Hamid, you're already paying for what you've done because you're obviously extremely guilty about it, right. So...

LYDIA

What was it Hamid?

ALEX

And I'll close the episode there.

(laughing)

Not because I hate you but because I want you all to hate me.

LYDIA

That's what he lives for!

BRYN

Ok so I have to remember next week I begin with an indrawn breath.

ALEX

Yes, yes

BRYN

Ok I'll make a note.

ALEX

You know what if you can hold your breath until next week. We'll end it there.

So bye guys!

EVERYONE

Bye!

[Show Theme - Outro]

ALEX

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