

RQG – 106 – Special Delivery

Content Warnings

- X
- X

ALEX

Hi everyone, Alex here. I'd just like to take a moment to thank some of our patrons. Mr Martin Spider, Sarah Elisabeth Salberg, Gordon Aitken, Antoinette Shustler, Faye Dingleberg, Cody Watson, Elizabeth Beale. 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 106 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 – 106 – Special Delivery

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

Sasha Racket

HELEN

And Azu

ALEX

Big news for everyone.

LYDIA

Yeah

ALEX

Hold your hats

BEN

I have no hat!

ALEX

Good because it's hot.

BRYN

Why would we wear a hat

LYDIA

Mine has already escaped

ALEX

The window is open. The window is open...

LYDIA

That's where my hat went

(laughing)

ALEX

So when you hear cars driving by and you're like what happened to the audio – heat. Heat happened to the audio

BEN

It's very warm in here.

ALEX

It's very warm. Very warm

LYDIA

My hat. I liked it.

ALEX

So it's been a while for us...

BEN

It's gone Lyd, you have to come to terms with that now.

HELEN

I imagine with the shock your hat did that thing in cartoons where it suddenly leaps up like six foot in the air.

ALEX

So it's been a while for us. I believe the last thing that happened was Sasha was getting eaten by a dog.

LYDIA

I'm delicious. I'm so delicious.

ALEX

So unless I'm mistaken you were actually investigating the Simulacrum, like actually making progress on some kind of Simulacrum which definitely has no...

BRYN

We infiltrated a compound. We're like a team of bad ass ninjas.

ALEX

Except ninjas who then blow the place up before leaving.

BRYN

Yeah the best kind of ninja

BEN

I'm pretty sure ninjas were saboteurs so basically absolutely.

LYDIA

That's exactly what we are, yep.

ALEX

So we are still in initiative order. Ok. To repaint the picture for anybody who's forgotten

LYDIA

Which is mostly us.

BEN

Yeah. Oh by the way, it's been many months since we recorded so if there are any mistakes, suck it up.

HELEN

Really? How many months?

BRYN

Two

HELEN

Two!

BRYN

Ish.

ALEX

So Sasha is currently being gnawed on by a guard dog with another guard dog in hot pursuit.

LYDIA

So tasty!

ALEX

All the other dogs are currently asleep magically, thanks to Hamid. At least one person has been shot in the shoulder or something similar and then fled into the administration building which is still full of people. All the other guards at the entrance have been blown up, then blown up again.

BRYN

We knew approximately how many people there were. We had a good count of the number of people in the compound.

ALEX

There are probably around five people in the admin building. Maybe even less than that.

BRYN

Could be six or seven.

ALEX

It's hard to say because you did have a good count but that was assuming you had counted everyone and assuming that I can remember. So we are going to pick up where we left off which I believe, unless I'm mistaken on the initiative order is Grizzop.

BEN

Yes I shoot the dog that's eating Sasha twice.

ALEX

Ok. So don't forget to do your rapid shot which gives you a +10 to each roll rather than your normal attack so remembering to use your rapid shot because it will do better for you.

BEN

Yes I am...well I'm rolling 10s at short range. So am I within 30 foot of the dog.

ALEX

Yes you are.

BEN

Cool. 27 and a 16

ALEX

Both hit.

BEN

That's 3 and then 4 damage.

ALEX

Ok. The dog that's eating Sasha keels over with arrows in it.

BEN

Nailed it.

LYDIA

Literally. I mean arrows not nails but they're going...

HELEN

Shafted it?

LYDIA

Yeah shafted. Yeah it's distracting when they're...

HELEN

You got shafted is what you should've said

(laughing)

LYDIA

...biting you. Ok let's keep on going with the fight!

ALEX

Anything else that you are doing Grizzop?

BEN

No

ALEX

Sasha, you are up. You are now not being eaten but there is a dog...

LYDIA

Attack the other dog

ALEX

...mechanics of Pathfinder is currently [barking noise] but not actually attacking you.

LYDIA

Well then it's not flat footed then is it so I...

ALEX

It's not flat footed.

LYDIA

...will somersault over it and stab it in the back.

ALEX

It is too...no you could do that. You could do that actually.

LYDIA

She's Sasha. Show me a thing she cannot somersault over.

ALEX

Give me the acrobatics roll first.

LYDIA

That's a natural 20 plus...

ALEX

[Sighs] just give me the attack roll

(laughing)

LYDIA

+14

ALEX

Remember that you have to weapon fighting but you can't...

LYDIA

34

ALEX

No you can't use it because you've moved first. You can only do a full attack round

BRYN

Yeah

ALEX

So give me a single attack. But you can use...are you using ice dagger or fire dagger? Important questions there.

LYDIA

Fire dagger

ALEX

Ok

BRYN

You need to make the attack roll before the damage roll. I mean I know it seems trivial that you'll hit but...

Rusty Quill Gaming – 106 – Special Delivery

LYDIA

Oh sorry, yeah I forget that I have to do that.

ALEX

Don't mess with procedure.

LYDIA

That's 26

ALEX

Yes. Yes.

LYDIA

Oh no 29.

ALEX

Yes. 29. Roll your attack and don't forget your sneak attack damage because of your ridiculous feat.

LYDIA

Ok so sneak attack was the 5 damage then also 6 in fire damage plus 0 from the actual...

(laughing)

BEN

I think you have to do a minimum of 1 damage right but...

BRYN

But that's total from the attack.

BEN

Oh!

ALEX

Because she gets a -1 because of other stuff in her...

LYDIA

The actual dagger stabbing...

ALEX

Daggers are a medium. Through it she hurts people just by the virtue of sneak.

BEN

So you brush it against their kidney and it catches on fire.

(laughing)

BRYN

pretty much

LYDIA

Yeah basically what it does, yeah

HELEN

Give it a little shave and then it sets on fire

LYDIA

Basically it's a...it's a small tool well used.

BRYN

It's like a tiny cut. She's hit a tendon so...

(laughing)

HELEN

Two ladies on the vodka!

LYDIA

Yeah! Woo!

BEN

Got a couple of booming Sid James' over here.

LYDIA

Ay, ay, ay

ALEX

What is going on?! The dog dies. Let's bring that tone back down

BEN

Are you happy now? Having fun, with your silly jokes and a dog's died

BRYN

You're the one who started killing dogs, I was trying to put them to sleep

BEN

A fictional dog has died

ALEX

Azu

LYDIA

Fictional murdering dog.

ALEX

You are up. You have seen Sasha remedied...

BRYN

Weren't you running away last episode?

HELEN

I was

ALEX

So Azu was running away and then Grizzop was just like nahh, and then everything turned back around. So you're now halfway between the entrance and the admin buil...well you're a bit closer to the entrance than the admin building but you're sort of...

HELEN

I'm going to turn around and...am I close to Sasha?

ALEX

No

HELEN

Oh

ALEX

So Sasha's the furthest from you. You're closest to the entrance out of the four of you but you're all sort of between the two.

HELEN

Azu sighs and then runs back into the fray because she's not about to abandon everyone.

ALEX

You could easily make it to Sasha with the move action so you still have another action. You could move further, you could attack Sasha I suppose if you wanted.

(laughing)

HELEN

I would like to move to Sasha and...

LYDIA

You could try!

HELEN

...heal her

ALEX

Yeah you could do that.

HELEN

Yeah. Assuming that the dog bite hurt.

LYDIA

I mean I'm only 3 hit points down.

ALEX

Yeah it barely hurt you. It barely hurt you. It basically went [biting noise]

BRYN

Like a deep scratch.

ALEX

Mm leathery trousers

LYDIA

More slobbery. Yeah

HELEN

Well I don't know that so I'm at least going to be like – are you alright Sasha? I saw you got chomped

LYDIA

Yeah. Yeah. My new living body. Such a drag.

ALEX

A perception check.

BEN

10

ALEX

10 from Grizzop

HELEN

20

ALEX

20 from Azu

LYDIA

I only got 14 which is literally the lowest I can roll

(laughing)

BRYN

Did you roll a natural 1?

LYDIA

No, no I rolled a 2 but a natural 1 would be a natural 1. 14 is the lowest she can actually perceive.

BRYN

27

ALEX

27. Ok Azu and Hamid you both notice the definite sounds of agitated chimera and/or manticore from the sounds of warehouses which have clearly heard things going on outside and want in. You aren't able to pin it down to a specific warehouse or anything like but there's the definite sounds of agitated guard creatures. Hamid you are up

BRYN

What's going on...

ALEX

Actually from the same perception check I should probably say. From the admin building

BRYN

Yeah that's what I was about to ask

ALEX

You can see the distinct sight of a couple of people poking their heads around the side of window jams to see what's going on. No one has left the admin building and no one is visible to the point where the people who are peeking over are basically giving total cover to because they are literally just a single eye. Maybe both above the window ledge kind of thing.

BRYN

That's fair. That's fair.

LYDIA

To be fair with magic missile he could probably still hit those

BRYN

If they're in total cover, no but...

ALEX

I would allow you to use it on one of them. I wouldn't allow you to use it on multiple.

BRYN

I'm going to run up to the edge of the admin building and go back to the corner, like peeking around with my finger out. Like a cop in a cop movie

ALEX

Wait, so that if someone comes out the front door you can pew them.

BRYN

I'm not actually going to hold an action to do it. I'm just going to look really bad ass. Can I roll to look bad ass?

Rusty Quill Gaming – 106 – Special Delivery

ALEX

Yes you can...

BRYN

Am I allowed to say bad ass?

ALEX

Yeah you're allowed but...

BEN

Bad bum

(laughing)

ALEX

...you have to roll a perform check for being bad ass.

BRYN

I don't have any points in that but that is still a 16.

ALEX

What I would also suggest is you might be able to do it stealthily so they don't know you're prepped to shoot anyone who steps outside.

BRYN

No I don't want to discourage them from stepping outside.

ALEX

Yeah you manage to run up the admin building. No one seems to take a shot. You definitely knew that at least one or two of them had bows and things but you manage to place yourself to the side. We'll say, because it has that...I said before it had that sort of porch thing going with the steps up and so on. You've actually placed yourself a little bit to the side of the entrance porch let's call it.

BRYN

Ooh, ooh, I cast. I'm going to cast something. You know what I'm going to cast. I'm going to cast mage armour.

ALEX

That's a really, really good idea.

BRYN

Yeah because this combat's going to go on a while.

BEN

It's either going to go on a while or we're going to go, we're leaving now.

BRYN

One of the two. I mean I've spent two first level spells but one of them might've been mage armour. Who can say? Not me. I cast it again. What's the worst that can happen

(laughing)

ALEX

Hamid, now over encumbered with mage armour collapses to the ground!

(laughing)

I'm so safe! Can't move.

LYDIA

Like a shiny tortoise

(laughing)

ALEX

I just love the idea of him there flat out and just...ehhh. So people in the house. Let's take a moment. I'm talking to myself now. Let's take a moment. I've just seen everyone explode twice.

(laughing)

Rusty Quill Gaming – 106 – Special Delivery

One person ran out, got immediately shot and ran back inside. All of the dogs are now, to my eyes, probably dead.

LYDIA

One of them snores

ALEX

Nothing discernible happens in the house. Grizzop you're up.

BEN

I run up to the other side of the door with Hamid and hold my bow up, drawn like I have a readied pistol.

BRYN

Yeah!

ALEX

Oh god.

BEN

Can I make a perform check?

ALEX

Yeah you can

BEN

I wanna look bad bum

(laughing)

20.

ALEX

Ah you both totally look bad bum

HELEN

[Singing] Bad bum, bad bum, what you gonna do

(laughing)

BRYN

What you gonna do when the three foot characters come for you.

(laughing)

ALEX

Quick hide on the top shelf!

BRYN

We'll do Charlie's Angels with Azu and it'll just be two silhouettes up to her knees!

(laughing)

LYDIA

And then you wouldn't see Sasha's silhouette

BRYN

Yeah

LYDIA

She's hidden. She's behind...she's invisible.

BEN

The secret fourth angel. Actually I've only taken one move action right?

ALEX

You've only taken a move action

BEN

I'm going to pop my head around the door and have a look.

ALEX

A number of readied actions go off.

BEN

Yeah that's fine. I've got a really high AC

ALEX

What is your AC?

BEN

21. Do I get my eyeballs shot off?

ALEX

So you get hit twice, one of them is a crit

BEN

Ah there you go, I might get my eyeballs shot off. I've got 53 hit points, it's great.

LYDIA

53 blind hit points is tricky

BEN

Did they make called shots?

ALEX

They did not because...

BEN

Mechanically they're not allowed to make me blind.

ALEX

Because I cannot be bothered to...the only time called shots come up if I was going to punish you with being too good.

BEN

Simulationist games

ALEX

Stop saying simulationist games.

BEN

But it's true.

LYDIA

In the end Ben isn't it all a simulation

ALEX

You take 10 damage from two arrows. They are clearly, every single one of them is aimed to the front door...

BEN

Rude!

ALEX

One flies straight past you, it just goes completely wide. And then two of them hit you. One of them hits you really squarely, we'll say just around the collarbone so it clips the top of your armour but still manages to sink its way in a bit.

BEN

Sure I'll duck back go – argh – pull it out and throw it through the door.

LYDIA

Argh, blood, argh. So sticky

ALEX

Arrow shaped grenade! Ok, anything else that you want to do with your turn?

BEN

I think those were my actions.

ALEX

I suppose you could yell more

BEN

Nah

ALEX

Sasha you're up. You just saw Grizzop get shot through a door

LYDIA

I run up to the door and throw a bomb through.

ALEX

Yes you can do that. Give me the attack roll. You're targeting the square inside?

LYDIA

Inside

ALEX

Yeah that's fine.

LYDIA

I'm not going to look and aim

ALEX

That's fine.

LYDIA

Ok. That was 16

BRYN

I mean you hit the square. You probably don't hit a person if you can't see

ALEX

No one is visible. They all poke out, shoot and then poke back.

LYDIA

Yeah so 16. Whatever that tells you.

ALEX

Basically what that tells me is that the bomb goes off in the right place

LYDIA

And the damage it does to whatever is in that place is 7 + 3 splash so I wouldn't be put out if you only use the 3 splash. I don't know how you're gonna figure that out.

ALEX

Correct. What you do is you chuck the bomb in, there's the [exploding noise] and then you see that you've probably taken out the floor in that square.

LYDIA

Ooh handy

ALEX

And you hear the distinct sounds of – urgh. Stop! From inside. Azu, you're up. Everyone seems to just be total bad bums.

HELEN

Azu runs up to the door after Sasha because, I literally came to see if you were ok and you just ran off again

LYDIA

It's what I do.

HELEN

Yeah ok

BRYN

We're destroying the evil people

ALEX

You know what's throwing you all? Things are going well. That's what it is. You're all like what do we do now

LYDIA

I knew what to do. I threw a bomb. That's fine, that's great. More bombs guys, more bombs.

Rusty Quill Gaming – 106 – Special Delivery

ALEX

Why aren't you throwing all of your bombs?

LYDIA

I have more.

BRYN

Oh! I'll do that then

(laughing)

ALEX

Azu

HELEN

I don't have any bombs but I...

LYDIA

[gasps]

HELEN

I know.

LYDIA

What are you even doing here?

(laughing)

ALEX

Do you even bomb?

HELEN

No.

ALEX

So what are you doing?

HELEN

Ok I join the rest of the party and I say – I think we should come up with a better plan because I think that the big monsters might come out soon.

ALEX

Actually everyone give me another perception check

LYDIA

That's a bit more like it. 30. Phew.

BRYN

I rolled a 3

ALEX

Good!

BRYN

15.

BEN

23

HELEN

16

ALEX

So Grizzop...

LYDIA

Sasha sees through time.

ALEX

Grizzop you can definitely hear that one of the creatures is trying to dig its way through the door. Sasha you know the sound of a warehouse door being forced. There's a definite...you know that it is...

LYDIA

I know it's a number 32 Smith Jackinson latch. Clearly they've replaced some of the parts with not original...

ALEX

The warehouse whose alarm you set off, there is the distinct sounds of something attempting to force its way through the door. The main door. You can even at a quick glance, because you got so high, you can see the distinct appearance of claws – two sets – between the door jamb currently tearing through the metal a little bit.

LYDIA

Guys, the doors are not strong enough for whatever you've got in there. There is something coming out right now.

HELEN

It's something very bad and we should...

BRYN

The safest place to be is inside that building. Kick the door down.

HELEN

What so we can get surrounded?

LYDIA

She has a point.

ALEX

With that in mind...

BRYN

So we can have a wall between us and their breath weapons but I don't have time to say that out loud.

ALEX

With that in mind, Hamid, you're up

BRYN

I stick my hand through the door and cast fireball.

ALEX

Do you have a fireball left?

BRYN

I have two left.

ALEX

No you can't!

Rusty Quill Gaming – 106 – Special Delivery

BRYN

Turns out I have four third level spells a day

ALEX

You can't! You can't have four!

BRYN

That's what the character sheet says

ALEX

So you've used all your invisibility and you still have two fireballs left

BRYN

Fireball's a third level spell and invisibility is a second level spell

ALEX

I hate you!

LYDIA

Alex, when you said, please stop was that in character as one of the people in the building or was that just you? Because that is actually an important distinction and I had thought it was you.

ALEX

Does it matter?

LYDIA

Yes it does!

ALEX

Does it matter at this stage

LYDIA

Well if anyone survives

BRYN

So the saving throw is 18

ALEX

I'm not gonna make that.

LYDIA

Woah!

BEN

That is a very, very large roll. It's alright, they're only taking half of an extremely large amount of damage.

ALEX

It's ok, one of them might survive. So I rolled a natural 20 on their saving roll against the third fireball.

LYDIA

Yeah but Bryn rolled 3 6s.

ALEX

What's the total damage?

BRYN

I did 34 damage.

ALEX

Oh come on!

BRYN

So you still take 17

ALEX

Yeah they're...

LYDIA

Oh man!

ALEX

Ok there's a...

LYDIA

That is brutal

BRYN

I literally have 34 hit points, if someone does that attack against me it drops me.

ALEX

All of the windows on the ground floor blow out showing everyone in glass which affects you because it's that kind of game dealing 2 damage

LYDIA

Hamid!

ALEX

There's so much glass.

BEN

Armour!

ALEX

Yeah I know, your armour's a mess

LYDIA

Can't I, like, dodge it?

ALEX

I'm going to say no.

LYDIA

Oh

BEN

Alex is angry. He's acting out.

ALEX

So there's the distinct cries of – not again. All the windows blow out. There's the distinct sounds of desolation inside. What's left of the floor that you can see from the entrance is already gone.

LYDIA

Do the dogs wake up?

ALEX

The dogs don't wake up because of the way that sleep works however there's the distinct sounds of something trying to get out of a warehouse, stopping.

(laughing)

LYDIA

You intimidated a manticore

BRYN

I mean that's 8 points less than the literal maximum I'm capable of doing with that spell.

ALEX

I am going to take everyone out of initiative order because there's no one left in the entire compound who isn't locked up.

BEN

So shall we go kill the thing in the warehouse?

LYDIA

Can we kill it?

BEN

I dunno but I'm feeling pretty good right now.

ALEX

To remind you there was at least one in that warehouse but you saw them delivering meat to all the warehouse.

BEN

Do it one at a time

HELEN

How many warehouses are there?

ALEX

We're established this. There were 12. There was 13 but where did it go? There hasn't been a 13 for seven years. For audience that's a really lame call back because it's only been a week but for us it's been months. So I'm really happy with myself.

HELEN

Right we know that there are at least 10 of them

BRYN

I'm quite low on spells.

BEN

Alright well we can find a local chapter in Damascus and bring them back here.

HELEN

Yes let's go and regroup

BEN

I mean these things are evil so basically this is out thing right, killing evil things.

BRYN

And also there's hundreds of Simulacrum things which we really don't want to fall into the wrong hands

BEN

Well that's why I was saying kill them now but...

ALEX

Hundreds. Thousands. Tomato, tomato.

BEN

Well actually hang on a minute, can this stone...no it won't...can we ring Wilde on these stones?

BRYN

No I think it only connects to Einstein

LYDIA

Get Einstein to ask Wilde to...

BRYN

No he wants to...remember Einstein's a wanted fugitive.

BEN

Yeah that's true

HELEN

What?

BEN

Yeah because of the...oh no.

HELEN

Have I...

BEN

Because of the Prague thing.

HELEN

Has a wanted fugitive gone to my village in Kenya?

ALEX

And I'm going to take a break there and be back in a couple of minutes.

(laughing)

Rusty Quill Gaming – 106 – Special Delivery

And welcome back. So as you're haunted by the hypothetical cries of your dying village, what's happening?

BEN

Right, no, no so he's wanted for incompetence. As an associate with...you know the thing that happened in Prague, right with Kafka? We explained it.

HELEN

Yes

BEN

Necromancer

HELEN

Yes

BRYN

Well it turns out most of the board of the university were secret separatists and the fact they let one of their...

BEN

Oh yeah I forgot about that.

BRYN

...members go bad meant they were all wanted for questioning and really it was Curie. Curie was very much the ring leader.

BEN

Yeah so he's wanted but not because he's really dangerous. He's just a weirdo.

LYDIA

Einstein's wanted because he wouldn't snitch on his mates

HELEN

Oh that's admirable.

(laughing)

BEN

I mean one of his mates wanted to turn Prague into zombies but you know

LYDIA

But the people he wasn't going to snitch to was the Mars Cult.

BEN

Yeah and those guys can take a long walk off a short pier

BRYN

Einstein clearly didn't understand what was going on in the way that Curie and Freud did

BEN

Anyway we should probably get on with this conversation, right?

HELEN

Right. Huge monsters. We should regroup and come back.

BEN

We need to get back to Damascus and we don't have a cab.

LYDIA

Remember Einstein could teleport anyone he wants into the village though.

BRYN

We don't know where Wilde is. Wilde is probably still in Cairo.

BEN

In which case we need to get back to Damascus and we don't have a cab

HELEN

We have a camel.

BEN

Yes! Let's go.

ALEX

You hear a very distant [slow clapping] coming from the entrance

BEN

Is somebody clapping ominously at us?

LYDIA

That's convenient. I was a bit worried about all this travelling we were going to have to do.

BEN

Swing all the way around and loose an arrow at the source of the clapping because people don't ominously clap in a fight zone

(laughing)

LYDIA

And if it's Wilde he deserves it.

BEN

Absolutely

Rusty Quill Gaming – 106 – Special Delivery

ALEX

Give me an attack roll

BRYN

We didn't actually look inside the room to see the damage we'd caused.

BEN

Ooh not very good. 15 and 18.

ALEX

Grizzop doesn't one hit KO the new NPC.

BEN

Ah no we've broken with tradition!

ALEX

Wow.

BEN

Who are you?

ALEX

Hello.

HELEN

Who are you? Explain yourself

BEN

I knock another arrow.

ALEX

Presumably you're looking in the right direction

BRYN

Yeah

ALEX

So what you see is, there are three people there. Two of them look...

LYDIA

So one clap each. It wasn't ominous. They just weren't timed up right

(laughing)

BEN

It's like Harkness, Harkness, Darkness and the Sphinx all over again

ALEX

Except they're all...

BEN

We got a clap from each ear

ALEX

So...I don't know why you're panning on a mic that's on mono

BEN

Oh is it? I thought...oh.

ALEX

No that's all editors. Everyone's just suddenly realised there's microphones.

Two of them are very familiar by which I mean they're heavily cowled.

LYDIA

Oh.

ALEX

There is one person stood slightly further forward. They are vaguely familiar even from this distance to...

BEN

Sorry, just let me know when I can take another shot.

ALEX

Oh I will, I will. Vaguely familiar to Hamid and Sasha. Can both of you give me a wisdom roll. Just flat wisdom.

BRYN

19.

LYDIA

7

BRYN

18. What's my wisdom? I mean I rolled an 18

ALEX

I've given you enough wis saves from you to know your wisdom by this stage.

BEN

Have you not got your stats sheet?

BRYN

Oh 0. 18. 18

LYDIA

He uses intelligence. Sasha's actually very wise. She just rolled low.

ALEX

You know what it looks like? They kind of look like Wellington

BRYN

What?

ALEX

But it's not. It's not Wellington. There's a familial resemblance. You know what, maybe like a son, maybe a...I dunno. But yeah, they kind of look like Wellington

BEN

What is it with this party and being attacked by obscure relatives of known individuals?

BRYN

Is this the one who was off on a world of adventure?

ALEX

No that was Chessington. That was Chessington. How could you forget?

BEN

There's a deep call back.

ALEX

There is a vague...

BRYN

That's a call back to episode 2 you guys. That's over 100 episodes!

LYDIA

I do not remember Wellington at all.

BEN

I think he was hanging around with Colgate

LYDIA

Was he the one that we got in his carriage?

BEN

Yeah because the second episode was called Bertie, Wellington, Bertie, Wellington.

LYDIA

A world of adventure

(laughing)

BRYN

It was such a good joke!

ALEX

So they are dressed in what can only be described as Victorian gentlemen abroad. Linens with a panama hat. It's all white with a...

BRYN

I cast fireball

ALEX

...flowing suit and he's just like, the arrows fly past and he's like – wow, ok, hello. You can take another shot now if you want.

BEN

Yep

BRYN

But the cowled figures as in Barret's cowled figure?

ALEX

As far as you can tell.

BRYN

Cool

BEN

It's another 2 at him. Followed by – who are you?

ALEX

That's fine.

BEN

Oh that'll hit. That might be a crit. Oh no the long sword is 20. So that's 16 and 29

ALEX

16 and 29. One of those hits

BEN

4

ALEX

4. So the arrow buries itself into the person's shoulder. They go – argh – and then disappear. The two cowled figures look at each other and go, look back you can't see any faces and they both just disappear.

HELEN

What just happened?

BRYN

Who were they?

BEN

I dunno

BRYN

It was weird

LYDIA

Posh evil people are behind this all along.

BEN

What a surprise

BRYN

He looked like someone. He looked like a friend of Bertie's.

LYDIA

Doesn't surprise me.

HELEN

That's not a good thing though.

BRYN

Sorry, I don't mean he looked like a friend of Bertie's. I mean we met a friend of Bertie's and it looked like that might've been his son...anyway, I dunno if it's important.

BEN

Well he didn't start off by saying I work for the meritocrats so he got shot

(laughing)

ALEX

Woah!

BRYN

I mean he shouldn't sneak up on us when we're in a high pressure situation really, should he.

BEN

There are at least 12 manticores here. I am not in a relaxed situation.

BRYN

Well exactly. I'm saying you were right.

BEN

Good! Now let's get on a camel and leave unless the manticores and gonna escape.

LYDIA

Someone should guard the manticores.

ALEX

You hear a thud from where the person just disappeared.

HELEN

A thud?

ALEX

A thud. There's something has landed in the dust at the entrance surrounded by the bodies.

BEN

Look a clue!

(laughing)

LYDIA

Sasha will check it for traps.

Rusty Quill Gaming – 106 – Special Delivery

HELEN

Let's go and investigate

LYDIA

Is it just a bomb?

BEN

Yeah that's a good shout.

BRYN

I'd like to look inside the building we're still standing outside

ALEX

You have searched the admin building...oh you mean for...

BRYN

I just want to check that no one's still coming...you know conscious enough to attack us from behind.

ALEX

Ok I'm going to do this cinematically

BRYN

We didn't actually see.

ALEX

I'm going to do this cinematically. You open the door. There are blood and bits of person just plastered everywhere and it's like, cool, close the door.

BRYN

Hamid looks a bit queasy but hides it well from the rest of the party

BEN

Personal growth

LYDIA

Becoming more of a psychopath

ALEX

Ok so Sasha you were the one approaching right?

LYDIA

Yep

ALEX

Someone appears to have maybe teleported in, a fresh body in amongst the others.

LYDIA

Check it for traps

ALEX

The body?

LYDIA

Yes. Someone might've put a bomb in it.

ALEX

Ok give me a disable device

LYDIA

24

ALEX

24. It's apparent to you that...I'm going to go a bit weird with this check. The person isn't dead.

LYDIA

Ooh

ALEX

They do have something pinned to them but you see it's a note. You also recognise the person

LYDIA

Ohhh. There's almost no one that she recognises that is good.

ALEX

It's Barret

LYDIA

Oh my gosh! What!

BEN

Lyd's mind is blown as you can hear.

ALEX

He looks absolutely brutalised. Someone has absolutely laid into him and I mean further than I'm willing to describe here. He isn't missing bits but someone's really done a number on him

BRYN

What does the note say?

HELEN

There was gang warfare in London, wasn't there.

ALEX

Sasha hasn't picked up the note

BEN

And also we don't know it's Barret.

LYDIA

Gonna look at...lean in and take the note

BEN

What's your face doing right now?

ALEX

Well she's facing away from you

BEN

Well I mean...we...

HELEN

What's her body language doing?

ALEX

No one said so. I know it's not a breathe in, breathe out but she did say she was checking for traps. It's not often that people go ooh and then lean in close...

BEN

At this point when Sasha isn't running away from the body, I'll walk over.

HELEN

Yeah

LYDIA

I think actually she's going to go around to reach and get the note, realise it's him and freeze. She's just frozen, she's just not going anything.

ALEX

Makes sense

LYDIA

At the point of grabbing it

BEN

You alright?

HELEN

Sasha?

BEN

Is it...shall we get closer? Is it...

LYDIA

It...was...it's not gonna explode

BEN

Ok

HELEN

Good. I shall enter.

ALEX

Hamid I would say that if you're approaching...are you?

BRYN

I'm probably hanging around at the admin people because three people just arrived and then disappeared again and I want my back to a solid surface

ALEX

Yeah

BRYN

They might reappear anywhere nearby and I'm tense and on alert basically.

ALEX

In which case then Azu and Grizzop, as you approach a kind of old-ish, late middle aged man, maybe a little bit portly with what is clearly a few days

growth of facial hair, who appears to have been very badly beaten is tied up and dropped in the dirt with an envelope on them. They appear to be dressed quite plainly but quite finely. As in expensive materials but not flashy.

BEN

Wow, someone's done a number on him

HELEN

Oh this poor man

LYDIA

He's...don't heal him

BEN

Ok. Wait, why? Who is he?

LYDIA

He's...he's my uncle.

BEN

Ok?

BRYN

Does Hamid hear that?

ALEX

No. Give me a perception check, you're taking penalties for distance.

BRYN

24

ALEX

You know what, I'd say yeah

BRYN

Oh my god what? Hamid runs over.

BEN

Wait you know her uncle?

BRYN

He kidnapped us one time. He's the worst crime boss in London

BEN

Oh. Should I put an arrow in him?

BRYN

Well let's work out what's going on

BEN

What does the note say?

ALEX

You can see that there's an envelope as opposed to just a loose piece of paper and the envelope has L.O.L.O.M.N.G. written on it.

BEN

LOLOMNG, what's that?

HELEN

I'm going to pick up the envelope and read it since everyone else is freaking out.

ALEX

Ok you open it. It says I cast explosive runes this...no. Ok

(Laughing and groaning)

I really want to use that!

BRYN

Oh that would've been so good!

ALEX

I really wanted to use that!

LYDIA

Ah

ALEX

It's the magic for Lydia's benefit and listeners...

BEN

It's the joke from Order of the Stick

ALEX

It's the magical equivalent of a letter bomb.

LYDIA

Ah

HELEN

Is it really?

LYDIA

So you read it and then you explode?

ALEX

Yes

BRYN

You have to actually read it as well.

BEN

But I case explosive rune this morning is a joke

ALEX

It's a joke

LYDIA

Why would anyone read anything in this world?

ALEX

Correct. So you open it and it seems to be a very short, very hastily written note but by someone who has very fine cursive. It just says – apologies for startling. Here's a little present. Will chat later. Apologies again.

HELEN

I think it might be a...it's from the disappearing people

BEN

Right and they sent us your uncle

HELEN

A present apparently

BRYN

Would the two cowled figures are the kind of people we've seen working with him and the guy who attacked us at the funeral...well the guy who was stalking Saleh at the funeral was one of them too.

BEN

Oh the squizard

BRYN

Yeah

LYDIA

He...so when...when we met him in London and those two people were there maybe they weren't working for him, maybe he's been working for them all this time and...

ALEX

Hamid give me a perception check

BRYN

ALEX

You notice that Barret's had all of his jewellery stripped bar one ring which is an identical copy of the one that's on your finger.

BRYN

I point that out.

LYDIA

Is...wait are we talking about the ring that's the messenger one or the ring that's the separatist ring.

ALEX

The message one

BRYN

I don't have a separatist ring.

LYDIA

Oh that was Zolf, yes

ALEX

The one that's currently stuck on Hamid's finger.

LYDIA

Like he's...so he's been working for them?

BRYN

Or they were working for him but there's been a mutiny or something

HELEN

A coup

BEN

What should we do with him?

BRYN

Well we should make sure he doesn't die and we should tie him up.

BEN

Yeah he sounds like a bad egg

ALEX

He's already tied up. Hog tied and gagged and completely...

BRYN

We should take with him us

BEN

Well I don't know if he's going to fit on the camel.

BRYN

Well I don't think all of should leave because we shouldn't leave this entire complex unguarded. There's a load of manticores that might escape.

BEN

Alright well I'll stay here then and you lot go.

HELEN

We shouldn't...we also shouldn't leave one person here alone.

BEN

Well you stay with me then. We're both built for this.

HELEN

Ok

BEN

We've trained for this our entire lives

(laughing)

Literally what we do. Evil creatures.

HELEN

I'm not arguing

BRYN

But if one of you guys go down to the city you can find members of your faith to come and help whereas we'd have to go to a meritocratic office and that would take time and bureaucracy.

BEN

Well then pick someone!

BRYN

I'm just saying two of us should stay and two of us should go. I haven't got as far as working out who. It's Azu's camel.

BEN

Oh yeah

LYDIA

Azu has the camel. You should put Barret on the camel, take him to...there's no...there's no justice for him. There's no one...

BEN

I can put an arrow in him if you want or wake him up. Hang on a minute, shall I just wake him up?

HELEN

Yeah

(laughing)

BRYN

If that's ok with you Sasha

LYDIA

Alright. Sasha stands back so where Barret wouldn't immediately see her waking up.

ALEX

Sure. There's not a lot of cover here because Hamid did blow all of it up but you can...

LYDIA

He's lying down then she's going to stand above his head.

BEN

He's not a beholder so...sorry whatever is legally distinct for a beholder in this universe.

ALEX

Giant eyeball.

HELEN

Yeah

BEN

So I cast lay on hands and then slap him in the face

(laughing)

LYDIA

Slap on hands

ALEX

Cure heal first

BEN

7 hit points and a slap in the face

Rusty Quill Gaming – 106 – Special Delivery

ALEX

Ok roll 1 D4 for a slap in the face

BEN

I'm not trying to do damage. Non-lethal.

ALEX

Yeah alright. I kind of want you to heal him and then knock him back unconscious.

BEN

That just makes me waste lay on hands.

ALEX

So he looks up and you see...

BRYN

Well, well, well.

ALEX

...wide eyes at everyone can see and he is gagged but he doesn't move or struggle to say anything. Just big, wide eyes.

BRYN

Isn't this an interesting predicament Mr Racket

ALEX

Narrow eyes

BRYN

I'm going to reach over and slowly take the gag out of his mouth.

ALEX

That's all you're getting.

HELEN

I'm going to poke him. What's been happening?

ALEX

He kind of looks, does a slight double take. Hello.

HELEN

We don't know each other but I think you're a bad person

(laughing)

BRYN

How to make friends and influence people!

(laughing)

LYDIA

Put it on a mug

BRYN

By Azu T. Paladin.

(laughing)

ALEX

Not a great start is it.

HELEN

How did you end up here?

ALEX

If I knew that I probably would've avoided the situation wouldn't I?

HELEN

Right ok. Who beat you?

ALEX

Hey Hamid. How are you doing?

BRYN

A lot better than you

(laughing)

ALEX

So it would seem. Funny how things shake out.

BRYN

I assume someone in your organisation has rested control from you?

ALEX

He kind of shuffles and pokes his head and looks to the left. Where are we?

BRYN

Middle of nowhere.

BEN

Wait...if we knew that then we would've avoided it.

(laughing)

ALEX

Hello

BEN

Whatcha. Oh by the way if you don't tell us what we need to know I'm going to shoot an arrow through your eyeballs.

HELEN

He will do that

BEN

I'll give him a friendly nod

ALEX

Can I get an intimidate check from both of you. See this is where, again I am converting a fifth ed advantage would be really efficient right now.

BEN

It's a lovely system. Ooh that's a 22.

HELEN

And I've got 25

(laughing)

BRYN

These are my new associates Barret. I didn't know them the last time we met.

ALEX

You've traded up.

BRYN

Yep

ALEX

What was the...I should just point out, just for flavour, so he's on his back tied up, still has no idea that Sasha's there. There's literally an arrow about an inch from his eye I'm assuming and a full Azu stood over him.

LYDIA

I'd assume his bonuses to intimidate checks would be ridiculous.

ALEX

True but when he rolls a 2. He may not wee himself but he'll probably play along enough. Sorry what was the question?

BEN

What do you know about the general situation

HELEN

And who beat you?

BEN

Oh yeah that

ALEX

Well, I don't really remember who beat me. Let's say a previous associate put me in that situation

BRYN

Name

ALEX

We don't really use names

BRYN

You know his name. Don't pretend to be stupid Barret

ALEX

No I'm being genuinely serious here. I actively don't. It wasn't that sort of a ring. Are we...are you going to let me...

BRYN

Are you really stupid enough to have not done your research on someone you ended up working with? What kind of bad ass crime boss are you?

BEN

And after he says that I fire the arrow directly in front of his face and knock another one. This is not a conversation kind of conversation

(laughing)

HELEN

It's an interrogation sort of conversation.

BEN

I'm very good with these. I can start shooting bits off.

ALEX

I can give you a choice. I can either tell you the truth and say I don't know who it was or I can lie and tell you I do. What would you like?

BRYN

What do you know about them then if you don't know their name?

ALEX

They'll do worse

BRYN

Well we can kill you and prevent that. Congratulations. You're today's top winner

ALEX

No. They'll still do worse

BRYN

Oh fair enough then, yeah

HELEN

Some sort of soul thing going on or...

ALEX

Pretty much. Pretty much

BRYN

Who are the cowled figures that you've been working with? You sent one after us at my sister's funeral

ALEX

Look, if I'm here it's because they want you all to have the pleasure of killing me

BEN

Stop saying they! Give us names

ALEX

Why? They'll just punish me more if I do. You can't threaten me with violence

BEN

What about doing the right thing?

BRYN

I mean we probably can threaten you with violence. Maybe it's not as bad as what they'll do but crucially we're right here. I turn my hand into a claw and stick it into his arm.

ALEX

Give me the damage. It's still...

BRYN

I mean it's tiny

ALEX

Yeah but he's still surfing the consciousness wave right now

BRYN

Wrong die

ALEX

It's been a while since you had to do hand to hand, hey

BRYN

I mean I don't use them because they do nothing and I have a fireball that does a lot.

ALEX

Did you? I didn't notice

BRYN

4 damage

ALEX

You quite hurt him as well. Look...

BEN

Also doing the right thing, the celestial plane does exist and if you do do things better you're not gonna end up in bad places. So maybe a moment of...

HELEN

Redemption

BEN

That's the one.

BRYN

We could also cut off your finger so the ring they use to track you and listen in on you can't be used anymore. If that would help?

ALEX

Tell you what Hamid, top left pocket. I can feel it still there.

BRYN

I reach into his top left pocket

ALEX

You see a little silver vial. Don't drink it. You want to wipe it on the affected area.

LYDIA

Is it like anti-superglue for magic rings?

ALEX

Who knows? Oh the games we play

BRYN

I'm going to carefully unstopper it.

LYDIA

Hamid has a rash

BRYN

And then look at it and maybe gently sniff it but very gently

ALEX

It smells quite strong but it smells...it's more like, I can't give you an equivalent in world. I'd have to think. Vaguely acidic nail varnish remover kind of smell.

BRYN

I cast detect magic

ALEX

Ooh it comes out as magical. It comes out as transmutation and it comes out as middling. Not world chargingly good or anything.

HELEN

Put it on his finger

ALEX

I mean sure. Look I'm just trying to do things that don't make you hurt me more.

BRYN

Yeah I'll pour some on his finger with the ring.

ALEX

Ok

BRYN

But not all of it.

ALEX

Nothing seems to happen.

BEN

I'll pull the ring off

ALEX

It comes off.

BEN

There you go

BRYN

I pour the rest on my hand over the ring.

ALEX

Oh then something happens. Your finger starts to grow hot. Very hot. Painfully hot and then you feel the ring begin to loosen.

BRYN

I take it off

ALEX

It comes off. I mean let's be honest what am I going to use it for these days

BRYN

Well thank you Barret, that's the first time you've actually done something helpful.

ALEX

So that's redemption box ticked

BEN

Nah not really. That's really...

ALEX

Onto the celestial planes

BRYN

Well there's a to do list. It's quite long in your case

ALEX

Where's Sasha? I kind of figured she'd still be with you?

BEN

Dunno

BRYN

Oh don't worry, I'm sure she'll find you if she wants to.

ALEX

Can I get bluff checks from both of you but he's going to be taking penalties because he's in a bad way

HELEN

Yeah Azu is not saying anything. She's looking...

ALEX

I'll allow you a free deadpan

BRYN

Natural 20 with my bluff score of 13

BEN

And 23 from me

ALEX

I'll be honest I was expecting to be delivered to her not to you but there we go.
So what now?

BEN

Yeah what now?

BRYN

Well you were still telling us about the weird squid people with the cowls

HELEN

Yeah the whole situation...more information please

ALEX

If I tell you who they are would you help me avoid them?

BRYN

Probably but it will really depend on your answers

BEN

We can hand you into custody

ALEX

I sort of meant can you protect me from them actually rather than basically just give me straight to them

BRYN

Like I said it'll depend heavily on your answers and your increasing willingness to do what is right and make up for all the horrible things you've done.

BEN

Also if you tell us who they are we'll know who to hand or not hand you over to.

BRYN

Shall we go inside. I feel weird just doing this on the ground

BEN

I've got a better eye on the manticores honestly

ALEX

I'll make you a deal

BRYN

I mean yes, we said we were willing to continue to provide us helpful information and continue to do things...

ALEX

I'll tell Sasha. She never could lie, if she says that you'll do something, you probably will

LYDIA

I can't put any points in diplomacy at all. She's terrible at it.

BEN

Well if Hamid says if she wants to talk to you she'll arrive

LYDIA

All this time Sasha is crouched down and basically is biting her fingers in that kind of...there is too much going on. She begins to walk towards him but of course he doesn't hear it because...

(laughing)

ALEX

You're Sasha

LYDIA

Don't even need to make a sneak check for that, that's just assumed. But she'll walk slowly towards him and sort of sink down so the first that he might be aware of her is a knife blade...

ALEX

The second he feels that...

LYDIA

...next to his neck

ALEX

Oh hi Sasha

BRYN

Told you she'd find you if she wanted to.

ALEX

Sort of walked into that one didn't I.

BEN

Yep

LYDIA

So he still shouldn't be able to see her face. Yeah

ALEX

What do you know about the Cult of Hades?

HELEN

Oh dear

ALEX

And I will end the episode there.

EVERYONE

Oooh

LYDIA

So many cults

BRYN

Hades. That's another Roman name, right?

BEN

Yep

HELEN

Yes

BEN

No Pluto...basically if it's a planet it's Roman

BRYN

Oh that'll help. I actually know the planets. Cool.

BEN

There you go.

HELEN

Interestingly Hades wasn't technically that evil.

ALEX

So whilst we discuss the nuances of things we'll see you again next week.

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. Rate and review us online. Tweet us @therustyquill, visit us on Facebook, or email us at mail@rustyquill.com. Join our community on Discord, or via Reddit at [r/rustyquill](https://www.reddit.com/r/rustyquill). Thanks for listening.