

RQG – 115 – [Title]

Content Warnings

- X
- X

ALEX

Rusty Quill presents.

Hi everyone, Alex here. I'd just like to take a moment to thank some of our patrons. Alex Oliver, Devon Vincent, Chase T Hopper, Natalie Mink, Kevin Bradley, Incan Wolf, WW, Bean, Cassidy, Doctor Zombie. 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 115 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

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

A very worried Azu.

ALEX

And it's ok guys. I've managed to right the Good Ship Rusty Quill Gaming. It took a while. Things got away from me but I think I've managed to get things back under control as they should be.

BEN

By which he means he's about to dump more emotional pain upon us.

ALEX

Yep. Dump. I'm going to carefully place it.

LYDIA

Strategic locations yeah.

ALEX

Oh God that's such a more bleak and dark...

LYDIA

Find structurally important parts of our personality.

HELEN

It's sort of like our emotions at this factory floor, right, and you are like all of us.

ALEX

Oh no, no, no. My emotions are the factory floor. You punch them and then I punch back in weird and strange ways. Cool. So, you have ... I believe you just melted a mirror that had shown every single one of you having an important person being taken hostage.

BRYN

Hamid breathes dragon fire for the first time.

HELEN

Yeah, Azu is screaming for Grizzop.

ALEX

We will pick up from there.

BEN

Ok, you're sort of down a corridor. I do not appear.

HELEN

I run down the corridor, still yelling your name.

BEN

Ok. Cool. Well, when you arrive at the bottom, you see me standing in the middle of the factory floor. My weapon is glowing with a holy light and I'm firing flaming adamantite arrows into every single like piece of machinery I can find. I've got berserk in here. I've been working really hard and really energetically to destroy things as quickly as possible.

HELEN

Oh, ok.

ALEX

Slight thing that's worth knowing with those arrows. Because the way they're made, they don't break. I realise that you're functionally like...

HELEN

So when you run out, you were going again.

BEN

No, I leave them in the machines. Because if anything is moving, it will do what we did to the door. That's the plan.

ALEX

Absolutely, that would work.

BEN

But they're also on fire so they destroy wiring.

ALEX

Yep, yep, yep. It's all going wrong! A few fires have broken out. The pile of simulacrum has stopped but that's only because everything has stopped and more and more ore is just piling up at the hopper. That's the only bit of conveyer belt that's still running, is the one that's delivering ore here so far.

BEN

And my face is like when I was shouting at Sasha. So I look extremely angry and I'm openly weeping.

Grizzop? What's going on? No. We're finishing what we started and then they're not going to win. I don't care what they're going to do. No, we've got to finish this.

HELEN

Azu runs down the stairs.

BRYN

Hamid appears at the top of the stairs and starts casting acid blast every six seconds. He has an expression on his face very similar to the expression on Grizzop's face.

ALEX

Yep. To be clear this isn't going James Bond villain, boom, boom, we've got to get out. It's a factory. Factories don't work like that. Evil lairs do. This is a factory. It was just going to stop.

BEN

It is an evil factory?

ALEX

Well, it is a little bit. But the self-destruct button has already been damaged. So...

BEN

There's a pipe ahead.

ALEX

Oh yeah, you can flood it. Anyway, you're still smashing everything on a sort of personal level.

LYDIA

Sasha is staying in the control room and is using very well aimed daggers to stab through wiring that one assumes is telling everything what to do.

HELEN

Azu is keeping her head in a crisis.

LYDIA

Right. I am stabbing things calmly.

(Laughter)

HELEN

Mmhmm. Ok. We have to go.

BEN

No. We're not. We can't. We need to finish what we're doing now.

HELEN

It's finished Grizzop. This is smashed and then we divert the water and we'll flood it.

ALEX

Someone suddenly appears in the middle of the factory floor. Ok. Give me an attack roll.

BRYN

I turn ready spell and I half expect there to be Einstein if I miss.

ALEX

What did you ok.

BEN

Ok.

ALEX

There AC is fairly low.

BEN

That's true. I have a very high bonus. And I roll a 5. I got an 18.

ALEX

Yeah, you totally hit Einstein.

BEN

I deal 7 damage to Einstein.

ALEX

Ok, 7 damage is fine. We're using a flaming adamantite arrow.

BRYN

Oh God you are!

BEN

I do an 8 damage to Einstein.

ALEX

So, Einstein, appears.

Oh my God!

He immediately just drops to the ground.

Argh, argh, this is such a terrible idea. Oh my God!

BEN

I cast lay on hands.

ALEX

Wicked.

BEN

So I need to expend two uses, but immediately cast lay hands.

LYDIA

And I assume that he immediately does a will save. This is two things at once.

(Laughter)

ALEX

Yeah, he's still bleeding. There's still an arrow in his shoulder. He's like argh, ok.

Ok, bye.

He disappears!

HELEN

Look we have to stay calm alright. These are I assume families.

BEN

I'm not an idiot. I know what's going on.

ALEX

You hear [strange noises].

HELEN

I pull the stone out.

ALEX

Oh my God! Are you guys ok?

HELEN

No. No.

ALEX

Do you need to get out? I can get you out.

HAMID

Come back Professor. It was just an accident.

ALEX

No, no. Go back. They were shooting. Shooting.

BRYN

We stopped them!

ALEX

Ok. Ok. I ... ok. You're going to have give me a second. Argh. Stop pulling me. How did you get in? I closed the door.

The pull stops.

BEN

The light goes out on my go.

ALEX

With a final shuddering creak, the only moving parts in this place finally stop. There's the sound of like cooling metal and the odd like crackle and like you know pieces falling. The only thing that you can now really hear is the sound of

like water running through the pipes. It's not rattling, it's not ... everything has just kind of stopped.

BEN

Right, now we've got to flood it!

And I go over to the pipes.

HELEN

Look it's broken. It's broken.

BEN

And we're going to flood it and then we're going to river back and we're going to ...

LYDIA

Everyone!

BEN

And we're going to save Damascus and we're going to carry on with the job.

LYDIA

Everyone get near the way out. Grizzop, what was down there?

BEN

A conveyor belt to the warehouses probably.

LYDIA

Well, let's out that way and I'll through a bomb at it.

BEN

I've kind of blocked it.

ALEX

Azu, you hear a voice in your ear specifically.

HELEN

Ok.

ALEX

If you flood the place, we'll kill one of them.

HELEN

They'll kill one of them if they flood it. We can't ... we need to go...

BRYN

Let's kill them any way! They will get everything paid back. Flood it Sasha.

LYDIA

Let's get there in time to stop them.

BEN

We need to flood it.

HELEN

It's all broken anyway.

BEN

We need to flood it.

HELEN

No. I'm not leaving him there.

BEN

Then go. But we have a job to do.

BRYN

We will go as soon as we are able. Which will be very shortly. The last thing we do before we leave is we're going to flood this place.

HELEN

Do I hear anything else from the voice?

ALEX

Not currently.

HELEN

I feel like they're in more immediate danger.

BEN

Are you a paladin?

HELEN

Yes. Obviously.

BEN

Right, so what have you spent your entire life doing?

HELEN

Helping people.

BEN

Yes. Helping people. Despite your personal problems. This is bigger than us. Yes, I care about the person that he has and if they kill them, then they will have gone ... but this is more important. We can't just give up everything. Otherwise you are a bad paladin!

LYDIA

Grizzop! You're not the only person in the world.

BEN

I don't...

LYDIA

We'll tell Wilde and he can come and finish this job.

ALEX

There's a voice in Azu's ear again. Probably people aren't going to be ... you know what, give me a perception check. It's not got quiet enough that you guys may be able to hear this without sort of puddling in.

LYDIA

Ooh, I got a 20.

BEN

A 10.

BRYN

30.

ALEX

Core!

LYDIA

I mean I got a natural 20 so I mean...

ALEX

I'll tell you what...

LYDIA

I got a natural 20.

(Laughter)

ALEX

I mean it's just going to raise the stakes...

HELEN

30, sorry.

ALEX

So it's Sasha and Hamid.

LYDIA

Yeah. Ah!

ALEX

You can both hear this as well.

We'll start with Emeka.

Just in Azu's ear.

BRYN

Azu, if they know they can get us to do whatever they want by killing these people they will never stop and we will become the tool that they want. We have to show them that we cannot be changed from the course.

HELEN

I don't have that many people for them to kill.

BEN

Azu. I'm sorry. I am so sorry but we can't do this. We have to finish what we're doing, otherwise they win.

HELEN

They'll win either way. And then flood it.

BEN

Are you ready Sasha?

LYDIA

I mean vote is that we go and we let someone else flood it.

BRYN

Then you go, I'll flood it.

LYDIA

'Coz, I mean look we're going to divert the river anyway.

BRYN

Then give me one of your bombs.

LYDIA

It doesn't work like that. I mean it technically doesn't.

BRYN

Yeah, I know it doesn't!

(Laughter)

ALEX

In Azu's ear ...

If there's anything you'd like to tell them, I'll pass along a short message.

HELEN

They're going to kill them. They're going to kill them.

BEN

Then go. and I will stay here. I will finish this. Go.

HELEN

Azu is doing exactly what I'm doing right now...

(Laughter)

ALEX

There's a lot of physical going on from Helen.

HELEN

Yeah! She's got both of her hands on her head and like ... if she had hair, then she would be pulling it.

ALEX

Forgive me for breaking the mood. How long does iron beard last?

(Laughter)

LYDIA

She's pulling out her own beard!

ALEX

She could be pulling out her own beard.

BEN

Trying to get to the floor in anger and disgust!

ALEX

I mean you know what, even if it doesn't run this long, I'm just going to say for this one time, your emotions are running so high that it can last longer if you want to do anything with that.

LYDIA

I don't pull it out. It just retracts completely.

ALEX

Oh, ok.

HELEN

She says ... not to any of these people.

Tell Emeka I tried and that I love him. Anyone else want a goodbye message?

BEN

Give me a bomb and get Einstein.

LYDIA

Ah, you've got to let ... this is a project that is bigger than our heroics guys. Like we've got a whole back up system. We don't need to do the flooding ourselves.

BRYN

Do you not remember what Wilde told us last? He's out of resources.

BEN

I swore an oath with my God that I will finish this thing. So yeah, I'm not the only person in the world but nor are you ok? Other people care about things more than themselves ok? Other people have a purpose. Now give me a bomb and talk to Einstein and go!

LYDIA

The fact that I'm keeping calm Grizzop, doesn't mean I don't care. And anyway. I don't have any Gods.

HELEN

I like try and shake the stone...

Einstein. Einstein.

ALEX

Hello. Yes? Oh my God. Will you give me two minutes to bandage myself, God.

HELEN

Can you please come back here right now?

ALEX

Literally, 20 seconds ok? When did I become a bus driver?

BEN

I'm walking over to the pipe and I'm doing what I can to start destroying it. Which is not very much.

ALEX

Give me a disabled device actually.

BEN

I'm going to assist him.

ALEX

Yeah, yeah. Sure. You do because this isn't...

BRYN

I rolled a 19 and I have quite a high intelligence score. So technically that's 22.

BEN

And I rolled a 15.

ALEX

You know what, between you two, yeah, the combination of acid and working on the bolts that hold the dutchy ... like ok, trying to get through the pipe aint going work. You'll be here hours, and hours, and hours.

BRYN

Yeah.

ALEX

Getting through the bolts, you'll get it done in an hour. Like this is a huge industrial pipe. Like massive. People could walk like two abreast in it kind of thing. But yeah, you reckon that if you worked on the bolts, you could probably do it. But you also know that if you do, this thing will just go. It won't sort of like, oh a little bit will come out it will...

BRYN

Go.

ALEX

...collapse. The system will collapse and this place will fill.

BRYN

But it also is not going to happen immediately, because you've just told us it's going to take a while.

ALEX

Oh yeah, it will take an hour before you even have to be worrying about that.

BRYN

I'm going to carry on. I won't say anything to Grizzop but I'll sort of acknowledge his presence...

ALEX

Sure, sure.

BRYN

...and yep, keeping working with him.

HELEN

Ok. Azu is pacing.

ALEX

Einstein appears. He's bandaged up in the shoulder. You recognise the work of one of the people in your village. I won't say names and so on unless they've been like introduced. But yeah, you recognise that work.

Oh my God! What is this place? Wow.

HELEN

It's a bad place.

LYDIA

They're making simulacrams. This is where the factory ... the guy that's kidnapped all our mates.

ALEX

What's a simulacrum?

LYDIA

It's one of these ...

ALEX

Ahh, what does it do?

He kicks one.

It looks broken.

LYDIA

It's a robot that makes more robots.

ALEX

Ah, yeah ok.

LYDIA

Yeah. Everyone has been helping us out.

ALEX

Einstein begins rattling off some ... Alex can't speak!

BEN

I'm going to turn around and angry shout ...

You haven't got time!

ALEX

Oh, right, yes. Ok.

HELEN

No, we don't have time. We need to get to Rome.

ALEX

I think I can get you close from here. I've not done this before. So...

BRYN

As close as you can get us, we'll be ok.

ALEX

You say that. You say that now. But when you're in a cave or you're in the sky or ... or in an octopus, suddenly it's Einstein's fault ok.

HELEN

You're the only choice we have.

ALEX

Ok. Whom am I taking?

LYDIA

Before you do that, once we've gone Einstein, it's pretty important that you teleport to Damascus and...

ALEX

I thought that's where I am?

LYDIA

No. Right into town and tell a lot of people their river has been stolen so they can come up here...

ALEX

How do you steal a river?

BEN

Sasha! I'm going to do this. Just go!

HELEN

Well I think you should come.

BEN

No! I'm not giving up on my oath ... just go.

LYDIA

This is fulfilling your oath. If we let him go then he's just going to make another factory.

BEN

Will you trust this scar brained idiot. I am making sure that this gets done and done properly. Now go and ... go!

LYDIA

Ok.

ALEX

Einstein rolled well enough to read the route!

So I'm guessing other people were taken?

HELEN

Yes.

ALEX

Ok. Are these things turning to roll?

HELEN

What things? Do you have any experience with these things?

ALEX

Oh, there's saving the world. Stakes are big. Young man's game though.

HELEN

Yes.

ALEX

Or a young woman's game.

HELEN

Thank you. Can you just for me at least...

LYDIA

Well teleport us as near as you...

BRYN

I want to come as well.

LYDIA

...would be pretty sure where we might go.

ALEX

Oh I can do my best, but you know 100 miles. Long way to walk.

LYDIA

Yeah.

ALEX

Ok. You got any prep you've ever done wrong before? I sort of saw it from the outside once. Dry. Kind of weird.

HELEN

How do you mean weird?

ALEX

Weird like Einstein's accent is going because I've been doing it for too long!

You know like monsters. Magic goes very funny.

BEN

I actually ... I stop working briefly. I walk up to Azu. I lay on hands and then I walk back again and keep working.

ALEX

Sure.

BEN

8 hit points back.

BRYN

I take a couple of empty water bottles out of my bags of holding and refill them in the water that's flowing in.

ALEX

I don't think you would want to. Unless one of you has got purify water, I really think that might make you a little bit sick.

BRYN

We're going through an underground cavern. I'm getting it from you know where it flows into the industrial...

BEN

It's still a river. Would you drink the Thames?

LYDIA

I would ... I have frequently drunk from mountain streams and that is essentially what is going on here.

BEN

Well this is the major river that flows through Damascus but...

HELEN

No, but there is...

ALEX

There are probably processes that happens before it goes here.

BRYN

If it looks nasty, I won't.

ALEX

It doesn't look particularly good.

BRYN

Ok.

ALEX

Not for drinking. Like there's streaks of oil and grease in it.

BRYN

Sure.

BEN

So it's officially bad.

ALEX

Yes. It's almost like they weren't really concerned about how they were going to reclaim the water at the end of the process.

LYDIA

I don't understand that how you think that being teleported to 100 miles away from Rome is going to help your families. Like, I don't know if we can take Rome and also walking 100 miles takes a while.

ALEX

Oh there you go. Stuff like this.

He points to the bloodied remains of the medusa.

Yeah, stuff like that. That is the kind of thing you sort of see.

LYDIA

So easy things.

ALEX

Apparently so, yeah! Daisy!

HELEN

What alternative do you have?

ALEX

Oh I don't have an alternative. I just don't want you sort of running in there blind, you know.

HELEN

Then...

ALEX

I mean, I already had to tell all of your village that someone is missing. I'll tell them you're missing too and then they're probably going to associate me with bad memories.

BRYN

They're holding our family? We have to try.

ALEX

Oh totally.

BRYN

We do.

ALEX

So, you're ready to go then?

BRYN

Ready as we'll ever be.

ALEX

I got ... I got two more in me for today though.

LYDIA

So only two of us can go?

ALEX

No, no, no, no. I can get everyone there. And I can get everyone back. But I'll have to stay. Or I could drop you off. But I've got one more left. Teleporting is really hard. I feel like you don't appreciate me sometimes.

(Laughter)

ALEX

I do all of this for you. I work really hard. I probably save months of like tedious journey and like heart to heart conversations as trains as a worst!

(Laughter)

ALEX

You know, who knows how you could fall out of that kind...

LYDIA

Exactly!

ALEX

Oh my goodness, yeah. That's awful. You'd have to read like romantic literature just to pass the time. It would be awful.

HELEN

I put my hands on Einstein's shoulders and I look at him very seriously and I say...

Thank you for everything that you have done.

ALEX

That's ok Azu. You've got a cool family.

(Laughter)

HELEN

I know.

ALEX

Don't drink the booze!

(Laughter)

ALEX

Wow!

HELEN

Ok. I don't have anything to prep really.

LYDIA

Just think this is a really bad idea.

ALEX

To a Rusty Quill campaign, or is it not the case?

I'm going to go round one at a time because I can feel some fractures. I can feel all the pressure I put you on at the beginning.

LYDIA

Is it the fact that we've said that we don't agree with each other?

ALEX

Yes! So, I'm starting with you Helen, what is Azu doing?

HELEN

Azu's going to go because love comes above all inner virtues and she loves her brother.

ALEX

Oh, paladins. I love having rules to exploit. Grizzop?

BEN

Absolutely not going. As I think he has made patently clear.

ALEX

Hamid?

BRYN

Yeah, Hamid is going to go with the teleport crew.

ALEX

Ok.

BRYN

It's a sense of morality. It's simple and straight forward.

LYDIA

Sasha is just disappointed in all of them.

You don't lose your nerve the first time you know gets kidnapped. Like this is...

ALEX

Like day 2 stuff.

LYDIA

This is like gang warfare like 101. You negotiate and you work out ... this is just like ... she's just pinching the bridge of her nose and like well I suppose I'm going with you just to like I suppose protect you. But like, we're probably going to die for no reason to a snow leopard, and mountain, like in a different country.

ALEX

Oh I forgot you keep getting teleported to really random places!

LYDIA

Yes!

ALEX

This isn't the first time for Sasha, I genuinely forgot!

LYDIA

She just thinks this is going to be a massive anti-climax and they're going to end up like stuck on a mountain.

ALEX

So, Einstein who has sort of been kicking the dirt a little bit, the factory floor kind of just ...

So, is that...

LYDIA

No, let's go.

ALEX

...is that three for and one against yeah?

LYDIA

Yeah, lets go. I'll look forward to splatting into the ground and being teleported into the sky.

ALEX

That's fair.

LYDIA

Should I take a parachute maybe? Starts looking at some cloth. No wait. Hamid can fly. So...

ALEX

Oh there you go. Problem solved. Cool, come over then. So I'm going to have to stay aren't I? Because you want an out don't you?

LYDIA

Unless you want to come with us?

ALEX

No, as in I'm going to have stay with you otherwise you know ... you die. I can't get out.

BRYN

I mean if you're willing to Professor, it wouldn't hurt.

ALEX

Nah, it would be a cool story.

LYDIA

Yeah. Right. Come on.

BRYN

Thank you. That's really brilliant of you.

ALEX

I'm not going to be any use once this is done I have one good teleport. I'm an old man with no other skills.

LYDIA

Well, then you could teleport home if it's safe.

ALEX

Oh yeah.

LYDIA

If we end up ... like if you've teleported us into a magna strewn cave, then you could teleport us out, right?

ALEX

Yeah!

LYDIA

Cool.

ALEX

Cool. Holding hands.

HELEN

Azu holds Hamid's hand.

ALEX

Being happy. That's how this works. Ok, here we go. OK Grizzop, don't die!
Three, two, one ...

They teleport off.

BEN

Yeah, once they're gone, I turn round, still very crying. Because I haven't
stopped since we started, wipe my nose and just go...

Good luck.

And I go back to work.

ALEX

You see part of me really wanted a "ha, ha, ha, ha, my plan".

(Laughter)

ALEX

Yeah sure!

BEN

He starts repairing the factory!

(Laughter)

ALEX

So much baggage gone!

Ok, I'm going to jump shocker with the people who have just teleported. One of you, could you roll me a D100? Basically I need to find out how off target you guys are?

HELEN

Oh my God.

ALEX

In fairness, you should be doing this with teleport all the time. Einstein is just really good. Taking Einstein to get there. Very good call.

BRYN

50. Exactly.

ALEX

You lucky, lucky. Ok. And now he gets to find out the directions. Up. Down. Right. You all appear. Everyone give me a perception check before I even describe things because this is going to make life easier for you.

BRYN

25.

HELEN

18.

LYDIA

32.

ALEX

Obviously you all did really well and Sasha has the edge.

LYDIA

By 10!

ALEX

Yeah. I mean that's factually accurate.

BRYN

It's a big edge!

(Laughter)

LYDIA

It's basically a cube this time!

ALEX

You find yourselves in what appears to be the utterly blasted remains of a city. Might even be the right city. By blasted I mean there aren't even like the odd building still standing. At most there is a couple of walls here or there. There's a couple of tell-tale mountains on either side of the valley in which this city is sort of resting. And the sun looks weird. It looks very big. It looks very red. There is a peculiar quality...

LYDIA

Einstein, have you teleported us to another planet?

(Laughter)

ALEX

I mean ... I'm going to take a break there!

(Laughter)

Rusty Quill presents season 4 of the magnus archives. The internationally renowned weekly horror fiction podcast which follows the statements and mysteries that lurk inside the magnus institute. A British organisation dedicated to researching the assertoric and the weird. Join head archivist Jonathan Simms and his dedicated team as they continue to record and investigate paranormal statements. But be warned. Things have changed. The team is in tatters. Beware before the statements were unsettling. Together they have begun to form a picture that is truly horrifying. Because

the archives are awake. They are hungry. And they are not alone. Season 4 of the magnus archives available for free on January 10th 2019 via I-Tunes, Spotify and all other good podcast players. For more information, visit rustyquill.com.

This message is for UK citizens between the 29th of November and the 5th December.

If someone has COVID-19, they breathe it out in particles. Particles that linger in the air like smoke. But one in three people who have the virus have no symptoms and could be breathing it onto others without knowing. So when you go out, wear a face covering in enclosed busy spaces to help reduce the amount of COVID-19 particles in the air. Stop COVID-19 hanging around.

Would you live in Nepal. At the [Harahan river](#). Every monsoon season it flooded. Destroying homes and livelihoods. Climate change is intensifying floods for millions of people worldwide. [Bavida](#) become a climate pioneer with practice action. He worked with practical action and built a bio-dyke. This redirects flood water away from homes and crops. People are now returning to start a new life. Your gift can bring positive change too. Go to practicalaction.org/greensnow and give £25 today. Choose a better future now.

ALEX

So, I'm going to jump back ... yeah, I'm going to stick with the people we've just teleported. Yeah, give people what they want. Yes, there's something larger than it should and red, like a deep, deep red, like sunset but it is too high in the sky for that to be the case. There is an acrid, a very, very acrid sort of acidic tang to the air. And there's a lot of sort of like dust devils flying around, and I mean that as in literal like you know swirls of dust, not the creature, dust devils which can be a thing in certain games. However, Sasha, you do see that way off, like way off further down something is flying off in the distance. It hasn't noticed you. But there is something weird shaped flying. You've never seen anything like it before.

LYDIA

Sasha immediately melts into the shadow of one of the walls that's still standing and pulls the other people into the shadow too.

ALEX

Hamid, can you give me a knowledge arcana please?

[Dice roll]

BRYN

18.

ALEX

18. Something is definitely wrong with magic here.

BRYN

Oh no!

ALEX

You do not have the expertise to know what. It is as likely to not work at all as to accidentally your fire balls are maximised and killing everyone in the party.

BRYN

Cool.

ALEX

You have no way of knowing this.

BRYN

We'll burn that bridge when we come to it!

(Laughter)

ALEX

Correct. Literally.

LYDIA

Yeah!

ALEX

So Einstein's there and he's immediately like "wow". Like far too loud.

Wow! I cannot believe...

LYDIA

Sasha puts her hand over his mouth and grabs him towards her. So she basically has her arm over his neck.

ALEX

Yeah.

LYDIA

Not choking him, but like pressure there. Like this is how you silence someone!

BRYN

Professor, we have to make sure no one knows we're here!

LYDIA

There's something flying over there and I assume that it's not some kind of friendly bird, whatever birds are friendly!

(Laughter)

BEN

A chaffinch!

(Laughter)

LYDIA

Not!

ALEX

He loses slightly.

LYDIA

Can I trust you not to scream?

She may have done this a few too many times!

ALEX

Only if like, if something's like eating my leg, I might let something slip you know.

LYDIA

She's pushes him and don't.

ALEX

Oh, ok. It's kind of scary. I've not seen this side before.

BRYN

Let's look for signs of movement.

ALEX

I'm afraid I don't really know where we are relative to the ... like that didn't ... I don't think it went too badly. Like everyone, fingers, toes, check.

LYDIA

She's ... I have got 20.

ALEX

It can't have failed that much. I mean you know everyone's got their bits. So any landing you can walk away from.

HELEN

Azu isn't in the mood to be checking fingers and toes!

BRYN

Stay alert. Let's just make sure we don't draw too much attention to ourselves and look for human habitation.

HELEN

Azu turns down the glowing on her ...

ALEX

Yeah, you can do that. Blip!

So whose leading, whose following?

Einstein asks because Alex needs to know!

BRYN

Sasha is best on points duty.

LYDIA

Sasha just looks around, picks like whatever seems to be the...

ALEX

I'm going to allow a knowledge local, because this is more like how cities are likely laid out.

LYDIA

What is down town?

ALEX

That definitely used to be an inn. You can tell because it had a cellar, that kind of thing.

HELEN

That's 24.

ALEX

If anyone has survival, I'd also allow that as a check!

BRYN

Hah! No.

LYDIA

No.

HELEN

I have. No, I don't have it ticked but I've got three in it.

BRYN

Is a use on train?

ALEX

I had to think then.

[Dice roll]

HELEN

Ooh, look at me making you think! Oh, it's only a 10.

ALEX

10. Sasha, you reckon you can head deeper into the city. Like it's actually surprisingly difficult to tell because the city stretches out in all directions apart from like distant mountains. And there's not any real landmarks. Like it's been levelled. Azu, seems legit. Yeah, I guess.

HELEN

This way, quietly.

ALEX

You know the sun is wrong. Like proper wrong.

HELEN

Yeah.

BRYN

I'm going to stay close to Professor Einstein. Now that Sasha is just a few feet away like sort of leading.

ALEX

Ok. I'm going to jump back to Grizzop. Things to be aware of. Things are temporarily going to start diverging a bit. Because of just the way things are

going. I'm going to do the best I can and fudge it. I'm going to keep counting back and forth between you two. If it works out that the days don't match up, one of you is going to find a reason to sit on their bum for a day, because I can only square the circle so much. Grizzop. You are smashing at this pipe. Alone. It is taking longer. It turns out the acid was doing a lot of the heavy lifting.

BEN

So I am after about half an hour, going to stop around some of those arrows. So out the machines and bits and pieces and start shooting the bolts off.

ALEX

It becomes really apparent the second you start doing that and start thinking a bit more, you could just cut them off almost like butter. It's adamantite this sheers through. This is not an adamantite pipe. It's steel. It's loud. Like that's one of the misconceptions. Everyone's like are you can cut locks off. But you can and you can hear. So yeah, you can become shearing the bolts off. It becomes apparent to you, you're reaching the point though where like some of them might start pinging off and suddenly this room will be very full, very quickly.

BEN

So I take a deep breath...

(Laughter)

BEN

And continue doing it.

ALEX

Ok. Give me a reflex save.

BEN

I don't like water! That's a 19.

ALEX

That's a 19. Ok. So you cut the last couple...

BEN

Mmhmm.

ALEX

...and then there's like two left. They spontaneously just ping off like bullets. Due to luck, not due to you being ready for them. They just ping off and don't hit you. The water doesn't seem to be coming out. And then suddenly the pipe begins ... and the pipe begins to really start juddering. You know that sort of pressure build you can get in central heating and things like that. That kind of hum. That vibration. It starts going and it starts building and the end of the sort of ... I can't remember what it's called. You know the sort of L bend?

BRYN

It's probably called an L bend!

ALEX

Yeah, the big, big L bend just blows off into the far wall and the room is immediately ... just water is pouring in. Give me another reflex save.

[Dice roll]

BEN

21.

ALEX

You manage to keep your feet but you need to flee. There is no version of events where you could keep your feet if you aren't immediately running away from where this water is coming from. Because it is a whole river coming out of a pipe that's only like ... you know, 10 foot wide or something.

BEN

Yep. I go up the stairs. I'm going out the way we came in because I'm not going to run down the flat passage which will get filled up by river.

ALEX

Sure. You manage to do so. As you are running, you hear like the hiss of steam and the crunch of machinery as it's just being effectively being blow aside. And the last thing that you see beforehand is water gushing down, primarily the route where the ore was coming from.

BEN

Yeah.

ALEX

Not all of it. Like there's enough coming out but it's coming out faster than it can go down that tunnel. But yeah, definitely a good chunk of it is going down there. And yeah, you manage to start running up the corridor that you came from.

BEN

Mmhmm.

ALEX

Things to bear in mind. I'm going to go ahead and say that you know where traps are.

BEN

Well I know where the trap we found are.

ALEX

Yes. Can you give me a perception check please.

BEN

Oh good! That's a 25.

ALEX

25. Like there are no further traps to set off. You can avoid the ones. The wizard one is great. There were only three grubs and you massacred them. So that doesn't even have anything.

BEN

They move too fast anyway.

(Laughter)

ALEX

You manage to make it back to the T-junction. The rest don't harm. There's not even water behind you because this ... there's grating on the floor and stuff.

BEN

So a question about the big pit. Did it have a way up? Was there a scaffold or a ladder or...

ALEX

Yes, there was a single ladder.

BEN

I'm going that way, yeah.

ALEX

Cool. Great. I'm going to go ahead and just jump back to these guys under the assumption that you are doing things like jumping traps, pushing bypass buttons...

BEN

As quickly as I can.

ALEX

The obvious stuff. I'm going...

BEN

Am I being chased by water? How fraught is my situation?

ALEX

No. It is not.

BEN

Cool. I'm still sprinting. But that's good to know.

ALEX

It's a really good call not to have run down the route that the ore was coming from. That was a really good call.

BEN

I don't know why I would've run into a mine. That seems really stupid!

ALEX

Let me re-phrase. That would have been a very, bad call.

BEN

Yeah, no, that's cool.

ALEX

In that case then, jumping back to the rest of the party. You are heading [singing] downtown, everything's lasted, it's downtown...

LYDIA

There is a purple haze! [singing] Downtown the sun is waiting for YOU!

(Laughter)

ALEX

Ok, so yeah, the sun is blazing hot as well.

LYDIA

We're in the shadows.

ALEX

However, the shadows are icy cold. Like far too cold for them to be. So it's like ... you know how in like a desert it can hit really high and then at night it's like frost, there is frost on the sides of building that are in shade.

LYDIA

The shadow never moves!

ALEX

And then there is heat on the side where the sun is coming from. So it's fundamentally...

BRYN

What are people doing?

ALEX

Everyone give me a fort save.

BRYN

I start casting endure elements on people.

LYDIA

20.

BRYN

Oh wow, Helen may good on her...

HELEN

10.

ALEX

Ok.

HELEN

No, that's a natural one.

BRYN

That's a natural one. You rolled a natural one...

HELEN

Yeah, I did. But do I not...

BRYN

Critical miss.

HELEN

Oh.

ALEX

So, everyone seems to be handling it. Azu, you're plate armour is soaking up the heat the second that you are stepping out of the shadows. Like you can't be shadows the whole way. Occasionally you've got, you know, to sprint across the street and so on. When that happens, you are in an oven, like vroom, it's really hot. You aren't burning, but it is as close as it can be before it is. Like people can't touch your armour when you enter the shade. The fact that there is icy shade is how you are currently surviving this.

BRYN

So is every single time we hide in the shadows punctuated by the hiss and crackle of cooling metal?

ALEX

Yes. It...

HELEN

Is it expanding and then shrinking?

ALEX

If your armour wasn't magic it would be taking damage.

HELEN

How?

ALEX

It is because you are wearing metal. So...who is casting endure elements and when?

BRYN

Well you've cast it once, and I know that in character. So I'll cast it on three people and you can cast it on yourself.

HELEN

Ok.

ALEX

I need to know who is casting first. It matters.

BRYN

The first person I cast it on is myself.

ALEX

Ok.

[Dice roll]

LYDIA

You catch on fire, die! Next.

(Laughter)

LYDIA

He was thinking it!

ALEX

No, what makes me laugh though is the next. Now cast endure elements, there's a dead corpse on the next person. So what happens is, it seems to work, however you barely have control of the magic. Like it courses through you in a way it never normally does. It's not so much that you have to call for it, than that it was already there. You went ok, I'd like to us ...oh, that's a lot of magic. From everyone else looking in, he begins to grow with that purple kind of haze. And then it sort of dies down and...

BRYN

Ooh, ok.

ALEX

Give me a knowledge arcana again now that you've actually cast a spell.

HELEN

Is that a dragon thing?

BRYN

No, I think that's a Rome thing.

[Dice roll]

19.

ALEX

19. The spell that you cast has definitely just been augmented in some way.

BRYN

Cool.

ALEX

You don't think you can reliably replicate that affect.

BRYN

No, probably not.

Ok, yes, so whilst of course there is going to be a risk, I still think it's a good idea to cast endure elements on everyone.

LYDIA

I'm fine.

BRYN

Are you sure?

LYDIA

Yeah. I'd rather not get exploded and just get a bit hot.

ALEX

That's totally a valid thing yeah!

BRYN

What would you like Professor?

ALEX

He muses into his pocket, pulls out a coin, flicks it, lands it.

Ok, that coin is really hot. I'd like endure elements please.

(Laughter)

BRYN

I'll cast endure elements.

ALEX

Wow, do you feel all that power going? It just seems to fly off in a random direction. Like I'm talking sort of mentally abstract here. Everyone give me a perception check.

[Dice roll]

HELEN

That's a non-natural 20.

BRYN

15.

LYDIA

13. No, 23. Sorry!

ALEX

Urgh, plus 10. Its basically rounding the errors! So all of you hear a distant, small explosion. Hamid, that's probably you.

BRYN

That took Professor ... would you like me to do it again?

ALEX

I'm good! I'm good! I'm not a coin. I'm fine.

BRYN

Fine or ok in casting? It's probably going to be a risk either way.

HELEN

This is already full of risks. She's going to cast it any way.

BRYN

You just cast it as it is. You don't roll anything.

HELEN

Oh really.

BRYN

It happens.

HELEN

Ok.

BRYN

God says you get endure elements.

ALEX

Alex does. You're sort of drawing that thing and the first thing that you notice is ... sometimes like when it comes to sort of drawing divine energy, it's almost like you've got the feeling that there's someone else in the room that you know and like. You haven't seen them but you kind of know that there they're there. No they're not.

LYDIA

Oh no!

ALEX

Nothing appears to happen. I don't mean it like [pow, pow], I just mean there's a big empty hole where there should've been a person that you called to. There is no one on the other end of that prayer. And you know it.

(Laughter)

BEN

You've all got magic!

ALEX

Well, so, you feeling endured?

HELEN

I don't think I can access my magic.

ALEX

Oh, so it seems to be you.

BRYN

Do you want me to try casting it on you.

ALEX

Fire away!

BRYN

Hamid looks worried!

HELEN

Does Hamid make the face that you've just made?

BRYN

Yeah.

ALEX

I will survive it.

BRYN

You sure?

ALEX

I mean that's the way survival goes. You know, right up until you don't!

HELEN

Very helpful. Thank you.

ALEX

Ok. You know like this isn't my first rodeo you know. sometimes you've got to just be cheerful.

BRYN

It does Romeo!

ALEX

It's that or cry!

BRYN

Well, I've got endure elements, I'm fine.

ALEX

Yes, you are.

The cold, it's kind of nice and cooling. It's like going from a hot summers day to a cool summers day.

(Laughter)

BEN

Sounding like Alex!

ALEX

Thank you. Thank you. Professional all the time!

BRYN

Turn a hot summers day into a nice air conditioned room.

ALEX

Ooh, I wouldn't go that far.

(Laughter)

ALEX

So are you all pressing on then?

LYDIA

Yeah, and we are just going in a random direction.

ALEX

I do get that.

LYDIA

More central.

ALEX

Everyone give me a perception check please.

[Dice roll]

BRYN

Urgh.

HELEN

God, 10.

LYDIA

18.

BRYN

15.

ALEX

Ok. You still...

BRYN

We all rolled 5...

ALEX

...managing to sort of take your direction. And you are also...

BEN

If I was there, it would've been great!

(Laughter)

BRYN

You'd have rolled a 19!

LYDIA

Well that's your fault. All five of your characters all over the world go ... slight frustration!

BEN

I'm making the Avengers.

ALEX

Sasha, you also manage to skirt where you think creatures are. You never manage to fail so badly that like you can see what they are. So it's just like ... ok, that street I hear something rattling. That's a no. That street...

LYDIA

That looks like a nest!

ALEX

Interesting. Now that one, all I get is an incredibly impending ominous sense of trip. That's the way. We're going that way!

(Laughter)

ALEX

That's the route we're taking.

LYDIA

Although sometimes I would put the ominous dread around the corner and then set the trap and hang them.

(Laughter)

LYDIA

That's the way a real expert would do it!

ALEX

So, I'm going to jump back to Grizzop. You manage to make your way without incident to the empty ... the conical room. The conical cavern. There you go. Bit of an illustration. What now?

BEN

I climb out of a hole.

ALEX

Ah, ah. It is easy to do. It is kind of clearly not a primary route of access. Like it is one of those ladders that have little hoops around it. It falls just short and you can hear that faint buzzing I was describing for Hamid. You are obviously going to have to sort of climb up onto the dirt in order to do it and you're needing checks.

BEN

Yep.

ALEX

You can do so ... the second that you pass that buzzing thing. There's a weird moment where it's like 'ha, that should be my legs but it's an empty hole with no one in it' and then you're up on the top and from where you're stood, there's no river! Not even any sound. It's a really good illusion.

BEN

Sure. How far am I away from Damascus City?

ALEX

Like a day's walk away.

BEN

Cool. So I'm actually ... oh, what time of day is it?

ALEX

It's about 5pm in the afternoon.

BEN

Ok. I said I need to make sure this is done properly and the only way it's going to be done properly is that the facility fills up and the river starts going again. So, I am going to camp on the banks of the river.

ALEX

Basically an overnight vigil kind of thing?

BEN

Yeah. But after I've pitched my tent, I sit down, fish around inside my coat. I pull out a magical photograph of me and...

ALEX

It doesn't move.

BEN

Yeah.

ALEX

This picture doesn't move!

BEN

It's me and another goblin, smiling happily at a café table, al fresco. And just sit down and go ...

Please be ok.

ALEX

I'm going to jump back to the rest of the party who are moving through what can effectively be described as a living hell.

LYDIA

Fine. Literally fine.

ALEX

You press on. It's been going very well so far.

LYDIA

She's sneaking so angrily.

ALEX

You didn't have to...

BRYN

And huffing into shadows!

ALEX

Everybody that doesn't have a fort save...

LYDIA

He knows the deal! He's probably been kidnapped as a bribe before.

ALEX

I mean you can get a really good deal on the return. So, what I am going to need is a fort save from everyone apart from Hamid.

[Dice roll]

BEN

God, Einstein's is going to be terrible.

[Dice roll]

BEN

He's a wizard! An old wizard!

BRYN

Yeah, aging effect.

ALEX

It's almost like he has a penalty on certain things.

LYDIA

I only got 11.

HELEN

I got 22.

ALEX

Azu?

HELEN

Yeah.

ALEX

Despite the fact that your armour is turning into an oven every 30 seconds...

(Laughter)

ALEX

You're ploughing on regardless because it's almost like you're really good at this kind of thing. Einstein seems to be suffering. Einstein is definitely slowing

down. He's sweating. He keeps smiling any time anyone looks back. He kid of gives a thumbs up, but over the couple of hours that you've been walking, his thumbs start to get a little bit wonky...

HELEN

He starts to melt!

(Laughter)

ALEX

And Sasha you are also starting to suffer.

HELEN

How much damage do I take?

ALEX

You are now taking a minus 1 on all ability checks, deck rolls and basically you're looking at minus 1 on your rolls.

LYDIA

Just minus 1...

ALEX

There is a specific thing. I am not going to dive into the specifics. It will take ages.

LYDIA

Generally suffering.

ALEX

You are generally suffering by about minus 1.

LYDIA

Bad day. A mechanically bad day!

ALEX

Yeah, exactly.

BRYN

Are you sure you guys don't want attempt into your elements?

LYDIA

I'm really ok with feeling not ok rather than feeling exploded.

BRYN

Ok.

ALEX

Everyone give me a stealth check. This is a very check heavy traversal. However, you're all doing really well and avoiding a lot of encounters.

BRYN

Yeah, you're about to make Azu roll stealth.

HELEN

Yeah, what do I use for stealth?

ALEX

It's alright, Einstein is doing it with penalties.

BRYN

You've got your stealth thing.

HELEN

Ok.

BRYN

You'll be taking a minus 5.

HELEN

Oh yes! A minus what?

BRYN

A minus 5 because it's a deck based stealth check which means an arm penalty check.

[Dice roll]

HELEN

Oh no, that's an 8.

BRYN

19.

LYDIA

36. Sasha still thinks that you guys start losing track of her.

ALEX

So you're all heading along. There's a ... there's a brief moment as you're dashing between the baking heat that Einstein trips.

LYDIA

What?

ALEX

He doesn't hurt himself but he does trip. Azu, of course, you head back to help. And there's a really awkward moment where he sort of ... he tries to stand up, slips and sort of pulls you down and your knee ... your knee just hits the dirt just for a second, but it's a really loud clang. Like a [clanging noise]. It's quiet. There's just the wind and the heat. And then you hear from a great, great distance. A howl. A long drawn howl. It's like there's a human voice and a wolf howl. Howling at the same time at a great distance. And then it is taken up by something the same great distance on the opposite side and then a third from a great distance behind you.

LYDIA

Quick.

Can she grab Einstein? How heavy is he?

ALEX

You've never tried before.

LYDIA

I grab Einstein and run.

ALEX

It's like he's made of paper.

LYDIA

Ok. I'm going to grab him and run. I mean ... does ... when ... because she's got all the feats that swap decks for strength, would that include carrying someone?

BRYN

No.

ALEX

No. You can carry him. Like I say, he's a little streak of nothing who can just get around.

LYDIA

She puts him over her shoulder...

ALEX

Yeah.

LYDIA

And runs into cover in the ... like the distance away from the howls.

Follow me!

ALEX

Ok. So you're running.

HELEN

I follow Sasha!

ALEX

Quietly.

Everyone apart from Sasha sees a ... I'm going to read a description. When was the last time I did that? It's like the air tears immediately behind Sasha. There's a faint sound of sort of screams and that howl is suddenly immediately upon you. [Howling noise]. Vaguely dogged shaped thing leaps out of the tear. Immediately at Sasha. Carrying ...

LYDIA

Oh no. Help me Professor.

BRYN

He's very fragile! You'll be fine! You're an adventurer.

ALEX

It dives [growling sound]. Tackles you to the ground but you manage to tumble yourself back up [growling sound].

LYDIA

Is Einstein ok?

ALEX

Einstein is the one who took the hit.

LYDIA

No!

ALEX

It has bitten a huge chunk of his back out.

HELEN

Oh my God!

ALEX

And it doesn't bite in an organic way. You see it has a vaguely ghostly quality. It bites. It pulls. The flesh doesn't tear. It just disappears. It just ceases to be

there. Einstein begins to scream as he drops to the dirt and I'm going to end the episode there! No initiative for you. We are pending it!

HELEN

Only despair!

ALEX

Bye guys!

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 international license. Today's episode was recorded and produced by Alexander J Newall. To comment on episodes, make donations and view links, images, videos and show notes, visit rustyquill.com. Rate and review us I-Tunes. Visit us on Facebook. Tweet us on Twitter @therustyquill, email us at mail@rustyquill.com. Thanks for listening.