

RQG – 119 – Magic Naps

Content Warnings

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ALEX

Hi everyone, Alex here. I'd just like to take a moment to thank some of our patrons. Lucy McCulley, Kelly Lux Callaghan, Jeffrey Sumler, Melissa Verbal, Greg Langer, Kelsey P, Mobius, Petticoated Swashbuckler, Christopher Piaggio, Asmid. 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 119 of the Rusty Quill Gaming podcast. I'm your host and GM Alex Newall and with me today, I got

HELEN

Helen Gould

LYDIA

Lydia Nicholas

Rusty Quill Gaming – 119 – Magic Naps

BRYN

Bryn Monroe

BEN

A hundred two one three, three, three Ben Meredith

ALEX

And who are you playing?

HELEN

Azu

LYDIA

Ehhhh

(laughing)

BRYN

Somehow much to my surprise I remain Hamid Saleh Haroun al-Tahan

BEN

Grizzop drik acht Amsterdam who is kind of having a fine time. Fine

ALEX

Could be worse

HELEN

I hope you get to come and help us soon

BEN

How am I gonna get there? You've stolen the only Einstein

HELEN

You could find another

ALEX

Let's pick this up shall we. So the party's been having a rough time of it in Rome. You got attacked, managed to find a place...

LYDIA

Let's be honest, no I attacked it first.

ALEX

That's fair

BEN

So you've just been running around Rome attacking the residents

LYDIA

Yeah basically

BEN

Serves you right, that's what I say

LYDIA

Pretty much

ALEX

There goes the neighbourhood. Adventurers all over the place, gah. Meanwhile in slightly less life threatening, slightly more involved we've got Grizzop who's managed to get the orcs of the mountain who have lost their town, you don't know, to landslide and are currently babysitting a Wilde, who's a poorly boy

BEN

Need to teach that man some self-care

ALEX

Poorly boy is Wilde. So with that in mind I'm actually going to start with everyone in Rome. Everyone in Rome. You've all been cuddling for a while. There's one problem, how long do you want to cuddle for because that sun ain't moving.

BRYN

We need to...I mean we need to sleep. If we sleep and we wake up and I have my spell slots back then I'll start moving around

ALEX

Azu give me a fortitude save please

HELEN

19

ALEX

Good and could you give me a heal check please

HELEN

For me?

ALEX

Nope

HELEN

Ok. 15

ALEX

Great. You manage to hardy the night away. You neither heal up but neither do you take damage from being in the cold all the time. The heal check is to make sure that the same happened for Sasha who was not capable of doing anything else. Basically Sasha started suffering from the cold. You did some more healing and hugging and so on and you managed to keep her at bay.

Hamid, you on the other hand, managed to sleep. Give me a will save because Rome's the worst

HELEN

Oh no

BEN

Ooh

BEN

No!

BRYN

9

BEN

Hamid pops

(laughing)

ALEX

Again.

BEN

It just keeps happening.

ALEX

Hamid you wake up after having a night's sleep. Brr, style. It was a horrific nightmare, you remember no details of which whatsoever but you are absolutely certain of where you need to go next. When you wake up you are dead certain that the worst bit of Rome, it's over there and it's the direction that you were...you just know. You have that information

BRYN

Awesome

ALEX

You know that the dreams were horrific, possibly the worst you've ever had, can't really remember any of them. You're just left with the emotional turmoil and the physical symptoms. Azu I'm afraid you did not get sleep because you were too busy making sure that Sasha didn't die and Einstein didn't die so that was...

HELEN

I think that's fair

ALEX

So that was your night

BRYN

Mechanical questions. Have I regained spell slots?

ALEX

You have regained spell slots and have had natural healing. Everyone else has not because you had endure elements which allowed you to weather that cold, long dark...

BRYN

And I'll probably still have another few hours of endure elements left

ALEX

You have a few hours left

BRYN

Not a lot but some

ALEX

And as a recap for everyone, the reason Hamid had endure elements is he cast it on himself, that was find and then tried to cast it on Einstein and accidentally blew a building up and went, you know what, maybe just one of is enough.

BRYN

Well I offered to keep trying and no one wanted it after the small explosion

HELEN

I wonder why

ALEX

Pedance am I right. If you don't want the side effects

HELEN

I just have to accept that all the choices are bad choices don't I, I think

ALEX

That's not true. You can make good choices but I'll punish you for them

(laughing)

HELEN

All the choices are bad choices

BEN

What you need to remember is the universe fundamentally hates us

ALEX

You know what, in some ways it's quite freeing to know that because it means that you don't get to say, oh you know I shouldn't feel bad, you know, it's not like everything's out to get you, it is.

BEN

Like four mile and smash the show

ALEX

So Hamid awakes horrifically

BRYN

Ah, ah...

HELEN

Are you alright?

BRYN

Uh, oh...

HELEN

Hamid?

BRYN

Is...oh, ok.

HELEN

I put a hand on your shoulder.

BRYN

Oh ok

HELEN

A reassuring patting

BRYN

Thank you

HELEN

Bad dream?

BRYN

Yeah...yes, very. Oh dear.

HELEN

Well at least you've slept, that's good

BRYN

I did, I actually feel a bit better I think. He's sort of patting himself. Well physically at least

ALEX

However unless you're willing to risk a prestidigitation I'm assuming that you're still tattered and slightly burned and stuff

BEN

The greatest indignity

(laughing)

BRYN

Ohhh. I mean how badly wrong can prestidigitation go?

HELEN

Oh my god

BEN

Hamid pops

ALEX

Sasha dies for Hamid's vanity

BRYN

I don't cast...

BEN

He really was a Bertie after all

BRYN

I don't cast prestidigitation. I get a hand mirror and a comb out of my bag of holding and make some attempt to at least not look terrible.

HELEN

Aw

ALEX

How do people live like this!

LYDIA

Because you haven't usually had to do that, you've really got no idea how to...

ALEX

He just keeps poking the hair and wondering why it isn't working. What's the plan? In fact Einstein – what's the plan? What is it? What are we doing?

BRYN

I think I know where we need to go.

ALEX

And how is that exactly?

BRYN

My dreams

ALEX

Oh so that's no sinister or foreboding at all.

BRYN

Well...

ALEX

I'm sure that has no ramifications whatsoever.

BRYN

Well unless you've got a better idea?

HELEN

I don't.

ALEX

This is a good point you know.

BRYN

Everything in Rome has been pretty sinister and foreboding

ALEX

Now I think about it that's a fair point. Everything wants to kill us anyway right

HELEN

And we don't have any way of knowing what direction to go in other than this.

ALEX

The opposite direction to that is also very good option

BRYN

I mean we came here for a reason. We've got to at least try

ALEX

Oh good point. Einstein reaches into his pocket and tries to use the mobile stone that he has for Grizzop. Hello

BRYN

The one in my bag makes a noise

ALEX

Hello? Oh the signal is terrible.

BRYN

Er Professor, that's here now.

ALEX

Oh that was very silly. You should've given that to Grizzop

HELEN

Oh no

BRYN

Yeah

ALEX

Oh well, you know...

BRYN

We were in such a rush and we didn't realise he wasn't coming with us until the last second really.

ALEX

That's fine. That's fine

HELEN

It's not fine

ALEX

No, no but sometimes you say that's fine you feel better you know

(laughing)

HELEN

I don't think that works

ALEX

Er ok. That's fine

(laughing)

HELEN

We should get moving

ALEX

Lead the way spooky knowledge man

BRYN

Are you feeling any better after yesterday?

HELEN

Nope

ALEX

No

BRYN

Oh. Then we can't get moving yet can we?

ALEX

What's that Sasha?

BRYN

Sasha's still out of action.

ALEX

Now here's the thing that occurs to me. I can't teleport till I rest, Sasha can't get better till she rests. The only person here who gets to rest is the one with endure elements. So think either we risk exploding again which by the way, risk I take all the time

(laughing)

Or things only get worse from here so we may as well walk

BRYN

We still have one potion somewhere, we should let Sasha drink that first probably

ALEX

Oh yes definitely

BRYN

I'll try casting it on you professor

ALEX

Ok I suggest that we do it not in here

BRYN

Ok. Cross your fingers.

ALEX

No, no, no you need it, it has a semantic component, you see. Very important

(laughing)

BRYN

I'm saying you should cross your fingers

ALEX

Oh yeah, go nuts. Maybe heal Sasha first so that if I die she can carry me, you know. Don't leave my body here. Actually I should point that out. I don't want to be a zombie.

HELEN

Is that what happens here?

ALEX

I dunno. Rome. Could be

HELEN

You could definitely burn him if he died

ALEX

Oh yeah I saw that by the way. Very nice. He popped

BRYN

Yeah it didn't go exactly according to plan but it seemed to help

ALEX

Between us, did you mean to shoot your feet?

BRYN

Yes

ALEX

Ah good, great, good job

BRYN

It didn't happen quite how I meant it to but it was what I was trying to do so...

ALEX

You do a good fireball

HELEN

Are you telling me you aimed a fireball at yourself?

ALEX

Couldn't you see?

BRYN

Well I didn't know exactly where it was apart from the fact it was really close to me

ALEX

He just sort of fell asleep and then his feet caught fire, it was crazy

(laughing)

LYDIA

Beautiful, dramatic scene and that's how Einstein recalls it and it's perfect.

(laughing)

ALEX

Einstein lives in a very happy and incorrect world

BRYN

I mean close enough

HELEN

Please don't do that again

ALEX

You say that, it sort of worked although high five for the paladin with the axe, right. Yeah, woo!

BRYN

Ok so let's feed this potion to Sasha

HELEN

Alright. Do we need to roll to feed Sasha potion?

ALEX

What kind of potion is it?

BRYN

I believe it's a cure light but it might be a cure moderate

ALEX

So cure light is...

BRYN

D8 + 1

LYDIA

I've got...no it's a moderate

ALEX

Oh is it a moderate

BRYN

2 D8 +3

ALEX

2 D8 + 3

LYDIA

So I've got written down three cure light wounds which would now be two because we gave one to Einstein and cure moderate wounds x1.

ALEX

Ok so scratch off the cure moderate and then you will heal 2 D8. Roll for yourself. Plus 3. Why get potions they say, it's not like you're going to a place where...oh no. Thank goodness.

LYDIA

Oh yay

BEN

Solid

LYDIA

15

ALEX

15.

HELEN

You're conscious again

LYDIA

Yeah

ALEX

Brilliant. So you're on minus...

LYDIA

No.

ALEX

No you were on minus...

LYDIA

Oh I was on -7

BRYN

So you'll go to 8

LYDIA

So +15. 8 whole hit points gang which is crazy

ALEX

Also you get to play the game. What's your new scar? Tell me what's your new scar? Is it bad? Does it hurt when you walk...

LYDIA

No, well since she already has a scar that does that and she's already burned down one side of her face and neck and missing teeth, this time I thought that since it was a magical punch she would have basically white hair in the kind of circle around the sort of side of her head where she got punched

ALEX

Nice

LYDIA

So it is not in any like the kind of elegant one white streak. Like this is that her hair looks messed up

ALEX

Manky dalmatian

LYDIA

She looks...yeah manky, manky dalmatian. She it's also...if any of you have ever tried to bleach your hair and it's gone wrong

ALEX

Yes continue

LYDIA

So the hair is sort of dead

ALEX

I look like Alistair Darling. Carry on

HELEN

Oh wow

ALEX

It was not a good look

LYDIA

So the hair is dead and crispy in that overbleached sort of way and one would suspect that it will always grow that way from now one.

ALEX

You awake.

LYDIA

Uhh, it's invisible. You just have to hit...oh

HELEN

It's alright.

ALEX

It's very dead

HELEN

We killed it

ALEX

Hamid exploded

LYDIA

Oh

HELEN

It was not a wise decision

LYDIA

Did he survive that?

HELEN

Yeah he's...

BRYN

Hi

LYDIA

Oh, alright, yeah. It got the drop on me. I don't even know how.

ALEX

Because it was invisible and could fly

HELEN

Yeah

LYDIA

See I could handle one of those things.

ALEX

I know, right

LYDIA

Right ok, let's get going then. Gotta save your people

BRYN

I don't think you should carry on in this condition. I think you need to rest some more.

LYDIA

Well in this place that's just inviting danger.

BRYN

We've been safe here for the last few hours. Enough to rest up a bit but the problem is that it only kind of helps if you're protected from the cold and only I was protected from the cold.

LYDIA

I can share your blanket mate

BRYN

No because of the spell

HELEN

The magical...

ALEX

Magic blanket

BRYN

The one that didn't work yesterday but the professor thinks we should try again because it's the only way to heal up properly and he needs...he needs the ability to cast spells back and that will only happen if he gets to rest

LYDIA

Well, right then like you do that...

BRYN

I think the same should happen to you

LYDIA

I would really rather not be dead again

BRYN

I know

ALEX

So here's the thing, now I'm a generous guy but I do sort of know that if I don't get better, everybody dies. So we've got to take that as given. We could try it on me and then decide from there. I mean we wanna test it now. We don't

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wanna test it where we end up because then we show everyone where we are.
If we do it now then...

BRYN

Yeah it's the best chance we're gonna get probably

ALEX

Tell you what it's very difficult not teleporting everywhere

LYDIA

You have to walk all the time

ALEX

My legs...they're rubbish

LYDIA

Knackereing, yeah

HELEN

Just wasting away

ALEX

It's like balancing on asparagus

(laughing)

HELEN

God I love Einstein!

ALEX

Cool. I'm ready. So I reckon everyone should probably be ready to run in case I explode or the street explodes or 100 invisible demons eat our faces. You know standard stuff

HELEN

Well that one's on the cards apparently. Shall we go outside?

BRYN

Yeah let's give it a try

LYDIA

What did it turn out looking like? Was it like a big invisible dragon? What was it?

HELEN

It was purple

ALEX

Einstein heads outside – he's over there. Also wah it's hot

LYDIA

Oh right, the puddle. I can't believe I lost to a puddle

HELEN

It was very, very dangerous. Also I think acidic or something.

BRYN

I cast endure elements on Einstein.

ALEX

Einstein pulls you away from everyone before you do so. It works. No negative side effects. Not even a little explosion. You started casting. He had double thumbs up, big grin. You finish casting. Double thumbs up, big grin. He waits – is it ok?

BRYN

I think so

ALEX

Ok great

BRYN

How are you feeling?

LYDIA

Still look like a person

ALEX

Oh it's great

BRYN

Not suffering so much from the heat?

ALEX

He looks around. I guess not. I'm gonna be honest, I'm very old. The whole world is just too hot or too cold anyway, you know.

LYDIA

Why...you don't need to make me endure elements. Like why would that even help?

HELEN

Because then you can feel better later

ALEX

You did wake up with frost on you.

LYDIA

Couldn't someone like heal me, I don't...

BRYN

Unless you've got any more potions. I'm out and...

LYDIA

I do actually. I have 2 cure light wounds

BRYN

Well you can try taking them then. It's just that if the professor and I don't rest we can't cast spells and so...

ALEX

I mean here's the thing, I'm good now. I can sleep anywhere, this is fine.

LYDIA

How about we rest and then Einstein teleports us somewhere where we can get better safely and then teleport back

BRYN

Well because teleporting in Rome isn't precise

ALEX

Oh yeah we're 50/50 we die try and leave anyway, you know.

BRYN

We're here, we can't...we've gotta finish this now.

ALEX

Look, you know what, could be worse. Grizzop could be in a terrible situation, who knows.

Flawless Segway that no one will question

(laughing)

So you have managed to get Wilde back to Temple of Artemis. Please, rather than RPing, describe what your game plan is there. Interestingly you guys have more or less synced up a little bit. I think you're still a little bit far ahead but you've more or less synced up.

BEN

Yeah so I'm gonna check in, talk to whoever's in charge and say, that Barret was...that was me who left the note with Barret and then get their best healer to look over Wilde and tell them to put him to sleep because he can't.

ALEX

Get out a lethal injection, yeah. He's had his time. No. So, I'll let you name...you're so keen to name, here name a character. Go. What's the healer called?

BEN

Giffis

ALEX

Giffis.

(laughing)

BRYN

Wow!

ALEX

Giffis is there.

LYDIA

See I was thinking Gilyfilyooks which is scarily similar

ALEX

Giffis. So Giffis is there.

BEN

Giffis is a gnome

ALEX

Giffis is a gnome. Yeah I'll allow that. You know what, here's my new thing. I will take suggestions right up until they're invalid. Giffis is level 20...no Giffis isn't level 20. Shh.

BEN

It's almost like we're playing Apocalypse now

ALEX

So, yeah Giffis the gnome's there. Ok, ok, ok. The Artemis lot is very different. Lot more of hammering of knees even when it's not required, that kind of thing. It's just a bit more rough, bit more rough and ready. Yeah ok cool, let's try this. Boosh. Tries to cast sleep on Wilde. Wilde is out of it. Another success

BEN

Right good

ALEX

Bosh. He strikes again. Screws up some paper. The crowd goes wild.

(laughing)

BEN

Yes brilliant, you've successfully cast sleep on someone

ALEX

Yes I have

BEN

Great, but do you know what is going on. As I said when I found him he was face down and he was bleeding from the nose and ears.

ALEX

Giffis opens his mouth to speak, at which point Wilde is – eh, so...eh... - starts crying out and thrashing

BEN

That's bad

ALEX

Huh. Sleep. Boosh. Wilde goes quiet. Hey!

BEN

He didn't wake up, he was having a nightmare

ALEX

Now he's not

BEN

Wait

BRYN

He's double sleeping

BEN

5, 4, 3, 2, 1...

ALEX

Eh, ahhh.

BEN

Giffis. Stop mucking about.

ALEX

Wilde wakes up. Eyes wide open. Metagame, you've got a good will save on you Wilde I'll give you that.

Ok interesting.

Wilde's just there – hey.

BEN

So magic ain't working either.

ALEX

Hm. That's interesting. Sleep don't work huh?

BEN

Well at least we tried. Now we know something more about your condition

ALEX

Try it again. I keep wanting to say Figgis now.

BEN

It's Giffis.

ALEX

It's Giffis

BEN

Obviously. Giffis the gnome. Good old Giffis. We love Giffis.

LYDIA

Oh I didn't realise you'd redone Figgis. I thought it was just because he kept saying give him a name, give him a name and I was like Gilly, Giffis, Givus...and my brain was like oh the Gilly thing

BEN

No the next one is Siggif

ALEX

Giffis takes Grizzop aside and is like – right, listen. That shouldn't really happen

BEN

Oh really?!

(laughing)

ALEX

Yeah unless someone's casting stuff on him again and again. So what I'm saying is...

BEN

Oh really?

ALEX

Yeah so that would have dealt with something persistent like an enchantment, stuff like that. I mean this issue is still going on, someone's actively trying to...

BEN

Is he doing it to himself? Parasites?

ALEX

Looks at Wilde, looks back. Wilde's grey

BEN

Dunno why he'd be doing it to himself

ALEX

And is just like I don't think he's capable of doing it to himself

BEN

Parasites? What is there's something in him? He was bleeding weren't he?

LYDIA

That thing that was...

HELEN

In the tunnel

ALEX

You finally get an insight into how bad Wilde is. Giffis turns around and goes – right Wilde, strip off. Wilde just goes – yeah, ok. Stands up and starts taking his clothes off.

HELEN

Oh no!

BEN

He's definitely better.

ALEX

Alright I'll take a break there and be back in a second.

And welcome back. I am going to jump back to Rome. Where are you heading? Are you continuing with endure elements or are you moving on?

LYDIA

Well professor do you want to rest now? We don't know how...whether we're going to get chance later on.

ALEX

I mean Einstein looks rough and he's like now, here's the thing. Eh.

(laughing)

BRYN

If we're about to go into the worst part of Rome which I think we probably are, I'd rather that you two were in the best condition possible.

LYDIA

Fine. Cast explode head on me and like...

ALEX

That means...you know what, that might work. This magic's weird. That could do the trick

HELEN

Don't do that.

ALEX

Ok – Einstein backs away

LYDIA

Go on. She just stands in the middle of the street. Can't be worse than being punched by an invisible gut dragon

ALEX

You're so wrong. You're so wrong.

HELEN

Be quiet Einstein

BRYN

Thanks for the vote of confidence professor. I cast ensure elements

ALEX

You try...

BRYN

You better. You...you, words I can't say on this family friendly podcast

ALEX

The spell works without any side effects

LYDIA

She's standing with her arms out in the middle of the street like gripping...with her eyes shut.

BEN

Are you platooning it?

LYDIA

Yeah and like is there for quite a while after you've cast it just like...not...obviously still waiting

ALEX

Hey good job. You're two for two

LYDIA

What?

BRYN

It worked

LYDIA

Oh. I thought it'd be a bit more dramatic than that

BRYN

It's a very simple spell

ALEX

When you get it right! Double thumbs up from Einstein

LYDIA

Right...

BRYN

What about you Azu?

LYDIA

I'll go have a nap. Come on Einstein

BRYN

I can take watch now. I feel ok.

HELEN

I should probably try

ALEX

Ok

BRYN

Ok

LYDIA

Oh no

ALEX

Einstein backs up.

HELEN

Ok

ALEX

Oh wait, wait, wait. One of us should have a potion ready so that if she explodes we can get her back up

LYDIA

Sasha will hand you, hand Einstein her second to last cure light wounds

ALEX

Cool

BRYN

I cast endure elements. Come on. Please

HELEN

Oh I thought I was casting it on myself but ok.

ALEX

Oh! So well but no, natural 1. Spell fails

HELEN

Oh my god! Have you killed me?

BEN

Azu pops

(laughing)

You endure elements but the element was your own blood. Everything falls out of your body.

HELEN

I can cast endure elements on myself

BEN

If Aphrodite will listen to you

BRYN

Now my magic sometimes works, sometimes goes wrong...

HELEN

Mine is completely...

ALEX

Do you want the good news or the bad news?

HELEN

Bad news then good news

ALEX

So the bad news is you are gonna get hurt quite badly. Good news is not all failed spells turn into fireball

BRYN

I mean it's only a first level spell...

HELEN

Flesh eating necrotic bacteria.

ALEX

Is it only first level? Alex puts back the dice that he wanted to use

LYDIA

So many dice.

ALEX

You take 6.

HELEN

Ow!

BRYN

Are you ok?

ALEX

So what happens is purple light, as I was saying before when you're casting here you get these purple lights. The purple lights start shimmering around Hamid and then suddenly purple flames leap up around Azu and then they drop.

HELEN

That did not work

BRYN

Oh ok.

ALEX

Check your fingers, check your toes

HELEN

They're all present and correct

LYDIA

Are you just sure you haven't turned into some kind of crazy, zombie creature?

It's not all that bad if I'm honest.

BRYN

Do you want to keep trying?

HELEN

Azu does what I just did which is just maintains eye contact with you for a while.

ALEX

Ooh she's game. Oh it's on

HELEN

I don't feel like I have that much of a choice. One more time and then...

BRYN

Ok. I try again

HELEN

Do you have unlimited endure elements?

BRYN

No I can cast it seven times

HELEN

Ok then definitely this is the last time

ALEX

Ey. Spell works!

HELEN

Oh!

ALEX

Spell works and is improved in a way that you cannot determine. Maybe Einstein can. Einstein can tell. Ooh look at the fancy man. Comes over – eh

BRYN

What?

ALEX

You just lengthened it, good job

BRYN

Oh that'll help, yeah

ALEX

You can tell by the colouring

BRYN

Cool

HELEN

Good, alright well...

LYDIA

Let's have one of these magic naps then

(laughing)

ALEX

Most Sasha response to the situation ever

BRYN

I'll keep watch

ALEX

Cool

HELEN

Thank you

ALEX

If anyone needs me, I'll be asleep. He climbs into a pot

BEN

Likes sleeping in pots

LYDIA

Is there...so is there a, like the floor that's above the thing whole enough that she could sleep in a different room so that we're not all snuck up on if something comes.

ALEX

Not really. It's basically rubble.

LYDIA

Alright well then she'll just sleep next to the door so if the door opens she'd be behind...there isn't a door, there's a hole. She's just gonna sleep and she's gonna be really angry about the fact that she can't find a way to flank.

HELEN

Azu's just gonna faceplant on the floor.

ALEX

Hamid you're taking first watch

BRYN

Yeah

ALEX

Give me a perception check please

BRYN

15.

ALEX

You hear that something is moving around out in the city. Not the destroyed buildings, not cries or anything but you definitely hear some distinct movement.

BRYN

I'm not going looking for anything. I'm going to stay where I am and only worry if something sounds like it's approaching and getting close.

ALEX

It...what did you get on the perception

BRYN

15

ALEX

15. It sounds like it's casting about, it's not just striking past. It's kind of moving around, stopping. Moving around and stopping. Might be looking for you, it could be a rat. Like you genuinely have no idea.

BRYN

I'm going to do my best to stay hidden as well

ALEX

Ok. I'm going to jump back to Grizzop then at that point. I don't know what to tell you...

BEN

Oh, oh, oh, oh, the parasites that he magic. Remember. Come on. Open an encyclopaedia at some point.

ALEX

I'm...

BEN

I'm gonna run around...

ALEX

Mages...mages...

BEN

Running around his study, I'll find the book and open it on the entry.

ALEX

Yeah, yeah, yep.

BEN

He's got one of those, I bet.

ALEX

Oh yeah, yeah, yeah. We call them shackleworms where I'm from

BEN

Do you? Great. A shackleworm then. He's got a shackleworm. Get the shackleworm out. It's probably in his brain. Wilde, you've probably got a worm in your brain.

ALEX

What?

(laughing)

Giffis just comes over. The thing with shackles is there'll be an entry mark somewhere and he just starts examining Wilde's body

BEN

I will also start examining Wilde's body

(laughing)

ALEX

Everyone give me a perception check

LYDIA

Fan art on a postcard

BEN

In a fun and sexy way

BRYN

Goblin, a gnome and a naked Wilde

BEN

A mere 11

ALEX

See the funny joke is to go oh there it is, no wait, never mind

LYDIA

There it is again

ALEX

There appears to be no entry wound. At which point then Giffis is like, ah starts having a look inside the ears

LYDIA

And the hair

HELEN

And the hair, yeah

ALEX

Wilde we may have to shave your head. Wilde's just like...gestures vaguely with his hand.

BEN

Shave. Dagger

ALEX

Oh brutal. Wilde gets at...

BEN

It's a sharp dagger

ALEX

Wilde gets an impromptu crew cut. Giffis starts looking at him. No.

BEN

Right so it's not a shackleworm

ALEX

You know what...

BEN

Inside his mouth. Up his nose.

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ALEX

Giffis has already done these checks

BEN

Other places?

ALEX

Giffis has already done these checks

BRYN

Urghhhh

BEN

Right as long as we're thorough

LYDIA

I assume he's like passed out on a bench now

ALEX

I'll be back. Giffis goes out, closes the door behind me. Wilde's just there, his curls in his lap

BEN

I'll get rid of them for you. Throw them away

HELEN

Aw

BEN

Well that doesn't leave the trophy

HELEN

No I just mean it's...

BEN

Oh the...couldn't happen to a nicer man?

ALEX

Shackles anyone. I haven't heard that before.

BEN

Sure. Right. Well while Giffis is off doing whatever it is, we'll get you sorted you out but what next?

ALEX

Have you gone over any of the paperwork that you retrieved from the...he looks at you blankly for a moment

BEN

The factory?

ALEX

Nope. Earlier

BEN

Ratchets?

ALEX

Earlier

BEN

Clanks?

ALEX

Earlier

BEN

The vault?

ALEX

Yes. Yes.

BEN

I thought all that paperwork was supposed to be rubbish.

ALEX

Not all of it. He...

BEN

Well no, you've been looking over that because it's been with you.

BRYN

We had a single cyphered file that we passed to Wilde.

ALEX

He reaches into his clothes which are on a different chair because he's still there, no clothes, just a haggard wreck of a man

EVERYONE

Aw

ALEX

Plucks out a leather wallet and hands it to you

BEN

Right. I'll rifle through it.

ALEX

You have no knowledge engineering or anything like that that's even vaguely relevant do you?

BEN

Geography, nature and religion

ALEX

No. So what you may have there is the beginnings of a kill switch.

BEN

For a...for the Sims...?

ALEX

That's the one, yep.

BEN

Ok

ALEX

Which is good news. We need that.

BEN

Great. Hand it off to your best engineering men

ALEX

It's not finished.

BEN

That's why you would hand it off to your best engineering, sorry, people. Oh no except they might've been infiltrated by the Cult of Hades

ALEX

There you go.

BEN

Well there must be some sort of mechanical temple. Trust the paladins.

ALEX

Wilde's giving you very, very little. He's...

BEN

What about...Hephaestus? They like hammering things

ALEX

Wilde just stares blankly at Grizzop. There's a bit of a shift where it goes from, it's an attempt at withering but slowly just stretches out until you realise he's just gone blank on you again

BEN

Look if you die, what do I do?

ALEX

Kind of sits up, slaps his face a bit – you need to find someone in the Hephaestus lot that you trust with that

BEN

Ok

ALEX

If they can't make it they'll tell you who can

BEN

Right

ALEX

Get that thing made and stay away from the meritocrats now. Something's wrong there. I dunno

BEN

Ok if Giffis comes back with something, just fixe yourself. Get yourself fixed and when you do, help get the others out of Rome.

ALEX

You may want to avoid everyone else now...what was it you were saying off the...

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BEN

Radar. Grid.

ALEX

That's the one

BEN

We don't have radar, it's the grid

ALEX

What's a radar?

BEN

Exactly!

(laughing)

LYDIA

Stay off the perception check.

ALEX

You're gonna have to...you're gonna have to get off the map on this one

BEN

That's usually how I live so that's fine. This is the most on the grid I have been for a while. Anyway get them out of Rome if you can

ALEX

Alright.

BEN

Well try. You're a clever man with a lot of connections. If I can keep going, you can keep going.

ALEX

Wilde sort of stands up. Starts putting his clothes on

BEN

Not now!

ALEX

Why not?

BEN

Because Giffis might have an idea. He's not just run off...sit down.

ALEX

Wilde sits back down

BEN

Because if you just go and try and do stuff you're just going to die and then you'll be no use to anyone. I want you to be useful so you sit there, you get yourself healed and then you help the people that you are supposed to be handling who have gone into Rome because the individuals that you didn't know had infiltrated the meritocracy, have taken people very dear to them and they've gone to try and get them back and we can't abandon them

ALEX

Sure. But you need to know that what you're doing is more important

BEN

Yeah that's why I'm doing it. That's why you're doing the other thing if you live.

ALEX

Thanks Grizzop

BEN

Now just shut up and try and conserve your energy and don't even think about making some sort of witty, quip.

ALEX

He just kind of sits there and fiddles with his hands a little bit

BEN

I'm staring at him.

ALEX

I'm going to accelerate time for you, Ben. Giffis has a conversation with a bunch of other clerics. They come and take you aside and basically say they're certain that someone is probably casting spells on him from afar, probably more than one person given...distance is difficult. Distance and a specific person over a long distance really, really hard. This kind of thing, like...this might be a concerted effort by multipole people

BEN

So put him in anti-magic shackles

ALEX

That's exactly what we were about to do but do you know if he's got any enemies

(laughing)

BEN

Loads. A bit me for one.

ALEX

They all kind of look at one another...

BEN

And I'm supposed to be one of his friends and close associates so this is the kind of man that Wilde is.

ALEX

Cool.

LYDIA

It's not even related to the meritocrats, it's just an ex. It's just an ex

(laughing)

ALEX

So they take Wilde down to the cells where you still might have Barret locked unless you go with them and they say that they have a cell in there that's equipped with anti-magic crystal basically and then they place Wilde in there. They come back and just go – yeah he's out of it.

BEN

Good. Good. Yeah so just remind him not to take those off and that he's not a wizard for a bit

ALEX

Uh huh

BEN

Oh and what have you done with Barret? The other idiot that I sent here.

ALEX

Oh yeah. They go down, check in on him. Barret still sat, appears to be doing some maths in a corner

BEN

Are you gonna be doing anything useful?

ALEX

Turns around, he's gagged. They're like yeah sorry...

BEN

He can nod and shake his head.

ALEX

He looks at you and then shakes his head

BEN

Right. Did Sasha want him to stay alive?

(laughing)

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He's not gonna be helpful. Barret, if I say I'm gonna kill you if you're not useful, are you gonna be useful

ALEX

Kind of gives a uh

BEN

Now is not the time for sass Barret. Nod or shake your head. Your life literally depends on it.

ALEX

The Artemis guard's like oh please don't, that's so much paperwork for me.

BEN

I'll take him outside

ALEX

Yeah

BEN

If I sign him out...

ALEX

Yeah that's fair. That is fair, yeah

LYDIA

Just has to be out of a 50 foot radius

ALEX

Just please do sign it out. I don't want to have to deal with that

BEN

This man is a predator so if he's not useful he needs to be got rid of

ALEX

Barret stands, comes over to the slot and gestures at his gag

BEN

Get rid of his gag

ALEX

Yeah alright. The guard opens the door, takes the gag off. Barret's there.
What do you want?

BEN

The Cult had kidnapped people close to us and...

ALEX

Yeah they'll do that

BEN

...and my friends have gone to Rome

ALEX

He gives a bit of a blink – ok

BEN

Now you're a bad man and as far as I'm concerned the gods can deal with you.

ALEX

Ok

BEN

So I have no qualms with taking you out the back and shooting you through the back of the neck

ALEX

Ok

BEN

So I need a reason to keep you alive. Do you have one?

ALEX

Give me a moment

(laughing)

LYDIA

The thing is I like the fact that he has some sass because it has to be believable that he terrified everyone close for decades.

ALEX

So I mean what guarantees do I have that if I give you anything at all you're not gonna shoot me anyway

BEN

Well you don't, do you. This is what happens when you have no bargaining chips but you...tell you what...

ALEX

Then why would I help you at all?

BEN

What do you lose? I'm definitely gonna kill you if you don't help me but I only might kill you if you do.

BRYN

You're a paladin, you can just make a promise and then if you break it...

BEN

I'm not gonna give him that sort of leverage

ALEX

Barret's just like – then do it. I've got no reason to help you whatsoever.

BEN

Ok sure. Sign him out.

HELEN

[Gasps] Really?

ALEX

Yeah ok, yeah

BRYN

There was no question that Ben was not going to do that.

LYDIA

The podcast is so much better with Helen's reactions!

ALEX

I am going to jump to Rome

BEN

Yep

ALEX

Ok I get to accelerate time. For a little while. The thing that's casting about, is casting about nearer now. To the point where it might be worth letting people know. It's been about four hours so, let's put it this way, if it's a false alarm people will still be able to go back to sleep and finish their rest but something's moving around a little bit closer.

BRYN

I'll go downstairs and I'll probably wake Azu gently if I can

HELEN

Sure

BRYN

There's something moving around upstairs. I don't know if it's gonna find us but I just thought you should have your armour on just in case.

HELEN

I will definitely do that.

BRYN

I don't think we should wake up the professor but should we wake up Sasha too?

HELEN

Well she doesn't have any armour to put on so when we're sure it's a threat.

BRYN

Ok just stay quiet but get ready. I'm gonna go back to look

HELEN

Ok. Quiet clanking

(laughing)

BEN

What a stage direction

(laughing)

BRYN

I'm going to borrow the cloak of elven kind just so I can make a stealth roll and have a good look out to spot

ALEX

Give me a stealth check

LYDIA

Elven kind is +5

BRYN

20 total

ALEX

Nice. Yeah you manage to basically...you realise that the easiest way that you're going to be able to have a proper vantage is actually going up above the trapdoor into the rubble and then the cloak's doing a lot of the work. You remember the Lord of Rings black gate bit where he's...

BRYN

Yeah and they look like a rock

ALEX

That happens. That's literally how this thing works

BRYN

A halfling in an elven cloak looks like a rock

ALEX

I know, right

BRYN

Amazing

ALEX

You're basically the closest thing I can get to Mordor. I'm so proud of you.

LYDIA

We are going to Mordor aren't we?

HELEN

Basically

BRYN

We didn't simply walk there so it's fine

(laughing)

LYDIA

Weird Mordor

ALEX

A figure steps out into the alleyway where all of the stabbing and the dead...well almost dead Sasha and so on, at the very, very far end and the light is behind them so you can't make out a shape or anything

BEN

It's Zolf. It's Zolf

ALEX

But they are...they seem to be looking around the corner very carefully. They're big. They're not Azu big but they're like tall, human big, like humanoid. So the figure, they appear to be sort of staring directly at where you are but they don't appear to have seen you and they start creeping, not very stealthily nearer. They have what's left of a cloak upon them. They appear to be a human. The right size, right shape. In fact you see a tattered sleeve arm come out for a moment and then...give me a perception check

BRYN

30

ALEX

30?

BEN

Alright Sasha!

(laughing)

ALEX

You see for a moment that they're clearly wearing, underneath the cloak, a cuirass or a breastplate of some kind with the symbol of Apollo on it.

BEN

You! You!

ALEX

They are...

BEN

It's not...

ALEX

They're coming very, very close...

HELEN

I wonder who this is

ALEX

....but they're looking around...

BRYN

I think I know who it is.

BEN

It's an idiot. It's a big idiot

BRYN

But Hamid wouldn't.

BEN

It's a big idiot

LYDIA

No!

ALEX

And they're looking left and right

HELEN

Oh don't spoil it for me

ALEX

And they're stopped and they're looking at this sort of oily, oily puddle and they just, very carefully they kneel down and they pick it up and wipe it in their fingers a bit. You see them put it to their mouth and then down again. And

then they look up and down the street. They still haven't seen you, they have no idea where you are.

BEN

100%

BRYN

I don't...Hamid never interacted with this person. I don't think there's any reason for him to break his stealth unless I see...

ALEX

Talk about missed trains.

BRYN

Like I saw a marking of Apollo but unless he drops the cloak...

ALEX

No, no, it's fine...

BRYN

...and I see a little bit more

ALEX

The figure looks around, looks left, briefly looks down at the tavern place. There's a cry of some kind of creature distant, the figure turns, looks. For a

brief moment you see in the hood the most stunningly attractive features you have ever seen. And then they run off away from that cry and in towards the streets

BRYN

I think once I've seen their face I'm going to shout out.

ALEX

In which case then, he starts running off and...

BRYN

Wait

ALEX

The figure stops, turns, then throws back their hood revealing...so this is for Helen's benefit...think of the most preternaturally attractive male that you can in a western European tradition

BRYN

Pretty sure he's only charisma 18

ALEX

He was last time you met him

HELEN

In the western tradition

ALEX

Like the western European...so like long golden...at this point...

BRYN

It's Chris Hemsworth

BEN

Is he an Adonis

ALEX

You know what Chris Hemsworth actually...

HELEN

Ohhhh!

ALEX

...as your base template.

BEN

Helen's back in

(laughing)

I think she was out but you've brought her back in.

LYDIA

Western European, ok. Now we're playing, now we're playing

ALEX

Now turn that up.

HELEN

Oh!

ALEX

Think...think....

(laughing)

BRYN

Helen's reactions make it. They make it.

ALEX

Think more Thor Ragnarök because he's been having a rough time of it whoever this person is.

HELEN

Oh but it just makes him sexier

ALEX

They are dirty, they've got their slightly singed hair.

LYDIA

Moved on from the dark world where the hair actually in many ways detracted...

ALEX

You can see certain scarrings...

LYDIA

Actually it's more Hemsworth in Ghostbusters because he's so...

HELEN

He's stupid?

(laughing)

LYDIA

You can imagine everybody being like I do better playing the saxophone or playing the saxophone

ALEX

So the figure in the middle of the street tears off their cloak revealing a bright golden breastplate and just stands there and loudly and clearly goes – you evil doer. I will find you and I will vanquish you. I have travelled a thousand leagues and I will travel a thousand more before I am vanquished by the likes of you. Have at thee and die. Fool

LYDIA

Woah

ALEX

Oh hello.

BRYN

Be quiet

ALEX

Alright [whispers] hello

BRYN

Hi

ALEX

Who are you?

BRYN

Hamid Saleh Haroun al-Tahan pleased to meet your acquaintance

ALEX

Ed

BRYN

Come inside.

ALEX

And I think I'll end the episode there.

HELEN

Oh he's northern too

BEN

Oh yeah

ALEX

That's Ed.

BEN

Have you...ok so Azu's gonna bang Ed...

(laughing)

ALEX

So whilst I look up...

BEN

Not because Azu wants to but because...

ALEX

Whilst I look up a very specific set of the rules within Pathfinder...

LYDIA

Roll for...

ALEX

We'll join you next week. Bye guys!

EVERYONE

Bye!

[Show Theme - Outro]

ALEX

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Rusty Quill Gaming – 119 – Magic Naps

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