

RQG – 131 – Building Friendships

Content Warnings **leave as shown unless dictated otherwise**

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Hi, everyone. Alex here. I'd just like to take a moment to thank some of our patrons. Irene Howsler. Erin Paige. Michaela Palmero. Connor. E Hona. Ace Talo. Julia Mayer. Brance Kassavan. Taffy Ara. Mrs Widgerey's Lodger. Wendy Kaye. Matanja Cohens. DTBR. Daniel Simmons. Emil Johansen. Puta Anjadin. Jan Ci Zen. Clarissa. Emily Richie. Opal Cat 29. 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 131 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

The whole gang's here.

(everyone cheers)

ALEX

And who are you playing?

BEN

Zolf Smith

BRYN

Hamid Saleh Haroun al-Tahan

LYDIA

As far you folks know, Cel

HELEN

And Azu.

ALEX

And we are going to pick up where we left off, which is you met a new person and picked a fight with them immediately.

LYDIA

After the tea party now?

BEN

Yeah.

BRYN

We did not pick a fight, it was them.

BEN

No, no, one of us.

BRYN

I disagree.

BEN

Well, put it to a vote?

ALEX

Why don't we discuss this in character? So, you are all inside the shop. Lydia, could you please describe the shop for people.

LYDIA

Oh, gang, it's so cool.

(everyone laughs)

ALEX

End of description.

LYDIA

Yes, it's just the aesthetic that like rolls off. Cell is like, I say, Kate McKinnon in Ghostbusters slashed with Gambits. Everything is far too mechanical for it's good. There's actually a hammock that's made entirely of cogs but looks weirdly comfortable. Like it's so complicated of the kind of connected gears and chains and things.

BRYN

It's like something built by Wallace and Gromit.

LYDIA

It absolutely is. Mechanically, this character is not wise. The idea of making the most efficient choice is not necessarily at the top of...

BRYN

So, they have a bunch of bad ideas but they all work really well.

LYDIA

They really work. They really work. There are lots of kind of constantly turning displays cabinets that have all sorts of different potions in a lovely spiral and sort of dancing lights somehow in the kind of pillars in the middle so that everything's dramatically put up. And, yeah, total Wallace and Gromit contraption to make, a really exquisite cup of green tea.

ALEX

So, Jasper starts serving tea. Do you have a table? Is it just standing? How does this work?

LYDIA

They push a bunch of half made contraptions, some of which look incredibly expensive, off what might be probably crates that have other contraptions inside them and provides three spaces and you just sit there.

ALEX

And Jasper starts serving tea to everyone. "Tea? Here you go".

HELEN

"Thank you".

BEN

"Thank you".

BRYN

“Thank you”.

ALEX

And the... there’s people at the front door for you.

LYDIA

“Alright?”, then in Japanese they’re like, “Make sure this lot don’t do anything... well, anything. Alright?”

BEN

“We’ll wait quietly”.

LYDIA

“Do you speak Japanese?”... in Japanese.

BRYN

“No, Potion of Tongues”.

LYDIA

“Ah, alright. Is English or is that tongues as well? Which languages you actually speak?”

BEN

“I think English is the shared one”.

LYDIA

“Oh, right”.

BRYN

“Probably easiest yeah”.

LYDIA

“I’s been a while but I’ll attempt to reminisce. Wait, no, I’ll try to remember. Gotcha”. Goes off to the front door.

ALEX

Basically, it’s a couple of the villagers, they done this before. One of them hands over you basically a bunch of flowers and the other one hands over what is... it’s basically a bento box. It’s just a little box of little foods and stuff.

LYDIA

“What? You really didn’t need to...”

ALEX

And then they’re basically, “No, no, of course. Please, please, obviously, obviously, obviously”.

LYDIA

Cel is just stuck to the side and they’re... are they gnomes?

ALEX

No.

LYDIA

Oh, okay. Just give them a hug and then takes the bento box and looks in, closes the door and is stuffing the face. “Wow, this is so... why did you come into my home and attack me”.

BEN

“Right, so... yeah...”

ALEX

Jasper makes himself scarce and he’s just busying himself in the back.

BEN

“That was just a misunderstanding. Obviously, we didn’t the situation, we didn’t know that those thugs were thugs, we just thought they were people, we thought maybe a fight had broken out and you were the scariest person there. Now that...”

LYDIA

“Thank you”.

BEN

“Yeah. So...”

LYDIA

“Awww you should have”.

BEN

“That’s quite alright. Look, tempers were up but that’s done now”.

LYDIA

“Yeah”.

BRYN

“I do apologise, I was trying to deescalate the situation and I made some poor decision”.

LYDIA

“Interesting method you’ve got there.. But, we all make mistakes, don’t we?”
Sometimes I’ve taken potion in both in large and reduce at the same and you think you come out medium. Doesn’t always work like that. One way, one side, one side, the other it’s just so you could get stuck for a week like that. It’s just...”

BEN

“I can imagine that’s quite awkward”.

LYDIA

“Yes”.

BRYN

“From the back”.

LYDIA

“It is. Thank you, Jasper.”

BEN

“So, we are from a group investigating the Shoin Institute.”.

LYDIA

“Oh, someone’s actually paying attention now. That’s nice”.

BEN

“Yeah, yeah”.

LYDIA

“Cool, cool, cool. It’s only been, how many years I’ve been fighting these people all by my own? It’s fine”.

BEN

“Yeah. So, do you know what’s happening in the wider world? Have you heard any stories of what’s going on?”

LYDIA

“I’ve heard... there’s always a war somewhere, isn’t there”.

HELEN

“Now it’s everywhere”.

BRYN

“No, not normally, actually”.

BEN

“Yeah. But now there is. Like a sort of worldwide war”.

LYDIA

“Oh, right. Okay... again, cool”.

BRYN

“Not like again... this is probably the first one really”.

BEN

“Can I make a knowledge? I don’t know”.

ALEX

Does anyone have knowledge history?

BEN

“Yes”.

ALEX

Then role it.

BEN

17.

ALEX

17. So, in Merocratic controlled lands, wars have been quite the rarity, the get squashed quite quickly. Beyond Merocratic lands, like how would you know? You’ve had little the outside of them. Zolf, you’ve probably had the most just by virtue of sailing. Occasionally, here, yeah. There’s been wars elsewhere but...

BEN

Have I heard this accent before?

ALEX

It’s hard to place.

BEN

Okay.

ALEX

Yes, in that you recognise it as having America within there. There's other stuff that play as well, it's not... you have encountered like American traders, so you'd probably use that as a base but there's enough difference there that it's probably a bit more complicated than that.

BEN

Fair enough. "I'm going to guess maybe you've spent a lot of time in America?"

LYDIA

"Yeah, yeah".

BEN

"Right. Well, fair enough, in which case, Europe's no go so".

LYDIA

"I mean, it's been a no go so for me my whole life but, yeah".

BEN

"Well for everyone now".

LYDIA

“Alright, okay”.

BRYN

“Would like to help us save the world?”

BEN

“I mean, that. Yeah, pretty much that”.

LYDIA

“I mean, my priorities have been a little smaller. I’m trying to save one village at a time”.

ALEX

Jasper pokes his head out from behind the door. I’ll say that Cel is able to see if everyone else is facing Cel. Eyes big like saucers. You know Jasper has a tendency to kind of romanticise a little bit, it’s just law “Aawww”.

LYDIA

“Jasper, I think that we’ve run out of fish fos and I’d really like you...”

JASPER

“No, we’ve got tonnes”.

LYDIA

“Okay. So, soy sauce?”

JASPER

“Mm mm”.

LYDIA

“Kimchi?? ?”

JASPER

“I’m pretty we’ve...”

LYDIA

“I haven’t seen a souffle in months. Can you go get me one of them?”

ALEX

“Ookay!”

LYDIA

“Have fun, Jasper”.

ALEX

And Jasper heads out back in Japanese mutter something about polka dot paint.

LYDIA

“It’s a real pudding”.

BEN

“Actually, that’s a good point. Sorry, Zolf”.

LYDIA

“Alright, hi”.

BRYN

“Hamid”.

HELEN

“I tried to introduce myself earlier but, I’m Azu”.

LYDIA

“Hi, Azu”.

HELEN

“It’s so big in this shop”.

BRYN

“We’re... you’re so big”.

HELEN

“Yeah, I’ve just got to hope I didn’t actually smash anything”.

BRYN

“Our current goal is to take down the Shoin Institute. We were told that there was an enemy of theirs living in this village that might be able to us. Would you like to help? If not, we’ll leave you alone”.

LYDIA

“Taking down Shoin would solve me a lot of trouble. So, I mean, I don’t think you guys might comprehend how tricky that’ll be but, sure, a little help wouldn’t go amiss. I’m Celquillithon Sidebottom”. Extends a hand.

BEN

“Hello, Celquillithon. Nice to meet you”.

BRYN

Hamid shakes as well.

LYDIA

“Cel for short”.

HELEN

“Hello, Cel”.

BEN

“Yeah. So, there is one thing”.

LYDIA

“Right?”

BEN

“The nature of this threat that... you know, the war and stuff...”

LYDIA

“Oh, he is a right mm aw the swear words. It’s been a lot time since I swore in English. What is it? Poopy head. That’s the word. He really is but, I think we can take him”.

BEN

“Yeah, I get that impression. I mean, the European thing, we might... we need to... would you mind if we stayed with you here for like the next week?”

LYDIA

“That’s a very strange way to invite yourself into my house but, I have a bunch of spare rooms”.

BRYN

“I mean, we can camp outside the village if that’s better. I mean, I don’t want to impose”.

LYDIA

“No”.

BEN

“I mean, we can also help. There’s stuff we could be doing and I’m not saying we just do nothing but... basically, they can influence people without other people knowing but their method of influence reveals itself after about seven days or within that time period. So, basically before we work with anyone we need to make sure that they are not being influence in that way the best way to do that is to you know put them a cell but obviously we don’t want to do that so maybe we’ll just stay with you for that time period but we can help out. You know, we don’t want to be...”

LYDIA

“You’re talking about a kind of controlling person’s spell of something?”

BRYN

“No, not spell, not fungus, not a disease. Paladins are affected by is so...”

LYDIA

“Oh, right”.

BRYN

Yeah, don’t know what it is and it’s a thing and don’t if you are...”

LYDIA

“So, you’re saying something like their minds are being controlled... so, there are these worms you get? I mean, I’ve heard some really tricky interesting stuff about plainer, these people that like take your mind and influence it through... or I got... I got lot of chemicals, probably got an antidote to it”.
Rummaging through all sorts of potions and vials.

BEN

“Well, yeah, I mean, that’s the thing. Like we haven’t been able to work out what it is so at this point the most sure-fire way of making sure that someone ain’t influenced by it...”

LYDIA

“Just wait and...”

BEN

“Just wait”.

LYDIA

“Well, fine. Then I can always use a hands making up defensive structure. The people here are lovely but they’re not always... I mean, I don’t want them to learn to be war like. You know? So, I maybe haven’t taught them well enough about how to defend themselves but it looks like, especially if I’m going to head out for a while that we’re going to need to make some defensive structures that even an idiot could...”

BEN

“That’s the thing, I mean, group action is much better than anything any individual can do and you need to make...”

LYDIA

[huffs and puffs]

BEN

“No, no, no, you need to make sure people are self-sufficient so I think that’s a great idea”.

LYDIA

“Right”.

BEN

“Also, if we are going to take down Shion you will need to leave here”.

LYDIA

“Yeah, well, that’s literally what I already said. If I’m going to head off and help you guys, whether your little attempt to take down that poopy head, we all have to build up some defensives. I got some lovely crossbows that I probably couldn’t carry with me and I wonder if I could also make those using...” Just rummaging around. “... those cogs from that tank project. The tanks!!! They are halfway into a marsh though”.

ALEX

So, are you going to jump out of RP at this point?

LYDIA

“That explosion was pretty big”.

ALEX

So, walk me through what your plan as a group is so that I can do this because I don't think this is something we're going to RP for the whole 76 hours. That might be another season of building stuff. So...

LYDIA

It's a very small village and at either end of the main high street erecting some barricades and some big automated weapons that even someone as little Jasper could work.

ALEX

So, that's your current plan?

LYDIA

That's my plan.

ALEX

Everyone else, do you go along?

BRYN

Helping I guess, yeah.

BEN

Yeah.

HELEN

Helping keep an eye on...

ALEX

Do you send any message to Wilde?

BEN

“If I travel back I’ll let Wilde know what’s on if you guys want to stay here for the moment. It will only be you know... I’ll be half a day”.

BRYN

“Sure”.

ALEX

Okay. If you’ll excuse me then, what I’m going to do is a little weird which is I’m going to accelerate time to have a quick conversation with Wilde and then continuing accelerating time with this week, basically, because otherwise it’s going to plunky. So, jumping to Zolf coming to Wilde, we’ll skip... you have just

updated him on the situation, okay? Yep, that makes sense. “How do you plan on doing a visual inspection at the end of the week?”

BEN

“Ask nicely”.

ALEX

“Right, if I don’t hear from you in, shall we say eight/nine days, just in case...”

BEN

“Sure”.

ALEX

“Don’t hear from you in nine days I’ll send someone”.

BEN

“Good plan”.

ALEX

“That was it. That’s all I need to double check. Cool”. Accelerate time. Okay, so, can I get... anyone have knowledge of engineering?”

LYDIA

“Oh, yeah, baby! Oh, yeah”.

ALEX

Could you please give me your knowledge of engineering please, Cel? I said please twice there.

LYDIA

Ooh, that is 29.

ALEX

29, okay.

LYDIA

And that's before I even like take 14:10 ??.

HELEN

behind rules again.

ALEX

Can I then ask...

LYDIA

“This is making up for some very bad 14:14??”

ALEX

Can I ask then, each of you please using the skillsets that you've got, what is the best way as individuals you each think that you can help the situation and give me a role associated to it? We'll have a bit of lateral role play thinking.

LYDIA

Ooooh.

BRYN

Right.

ALEX

The engineering's covered. The plans are. All you need...

LYDIA

Shiny and chrome.

HELEN

As I say, I've got spell craft, I could maybe setup like the rewards that can be done. Like early one in systems. That could work.

BEN

I mean, you'd have to have specific spells for that.

HELEN

Ah, so you're asking about actual ability.

BRYN

I mean, the physical person...

ALEX

Literally the ability to carry loads of stuff would count like anything.

LYDIA

"Oh, camels".

ALEX

Yeah.

LYDIA

"Me and my camel we take some much wood and build s much stuff".

HELEN

Could the camel drag a half exploded tank out of a marsh?

BRYN

Can it do it when I've cast pulls strength on it? Probably.

ALEX

I've two of you helping out at the very least but...

BEN

Or the other way also I am professional sailor so I'm going to help with the palisades building with wooden rope.

ALEX

Yep.

BRYN

I don't think Hamid can contribute very much. He, yeah... I mean, he...

ALEX

That's fine.

BRYN

Yeah, it's not really in his skillset. I mean the one thing he can do is fly. So, that might speed things up and he could get and he can kind of carry things up to high places very easily.

ALEX

How else do you think you're going to set things like dead locks and stuff like that?

BRYN

Yeah.

ALEX

Maybe build a watchtower and so on.

LYDIA

Like 15:38 ?? since I realised that I couldn't cast the level of spells that I thought I could. I can't actually fly yet. So, Cel is does not want to help.

ALEX

So, yes, you are all eager to help. Azu, yeah. It turns out having a camel, this isn't even a one horse town so super useful. Also, you're really strong.

HELEN

I'm so strong.

ALEX

These are good things in terms of helping out 16:02 ??.

LYDIA

Occasionally you have fun with like so selling larges and the two of you are like carrying enormous things next to each other.

HELEN

Oh, my gosh. Do we have like a little competitive thing going?

LYDIA

Yeah.

HELEN

Oh, I like that.

LYDIA

Yay!! Sometimes there's a bit of a like ooh.

ALEX

I'm going to move onto the end of the week with the following conclusions. They're all really helpful. The halfling could do better.

LYDIA

He's alright, you know.

ALEX

Unfortunately, I rolled for the entire local population. They were useless. Really good at fishing, you've probably eaten in the last week than you have in ages. You know that it is, they are optimised civilians. So, yeah, unfortunately, they're not especially helpful in the setup. But I am just going to jump ahead to with all of the roles and help you've all suggested, yeah, you can set up

some really quite decent defences like certainly above and beyond what would be even reasonable for this level of people. And, yes, you can pull your “tank” out. It’s a bit more woody than metal just because it’s hard to get hold of enough metal. But, yeah, like you’ve got something. It might explode on its own. So, that might be a last resort kind of thing. But...

LYDIA

“Jasper, set the tank gun off at a distance. You remember what we said about distant fuses and slow fuses, right? Okay, you’re going to do a demo for me so I know that you will not explode yourself. I’ve put a lot of time into training you Jasper and if you explode yourself that would be deeply inconvenient for me”.

ALEX

It’s good, it’s good, it’s good. I’m going to jump ahead to...

LYDIA

“Excellent, work there, Jasper”.

ALEX

Yeah, it’s all fine.

HELEN

“Oh, I love them”.

ALEX

Cool. Your week has finished, your period has closed. It is worth mentioning obviously you've taken a small risk in not doing like daily stuff but...

BEN

"Well, there's also the thing of like I have mentioned that there will have to be a physical inspection because it is blue veins, which are the symptom... and I'm going to do that during the week. Not be like, "Surprise!!!"

ALEX

Yeah, let's not RP this but we will have to negotiate this, which is how is Cel with that situation?

LYDIA

Very not okay.

BRYN

Yeah.

BEN

"All I'll do is... all I can do is apologise and say it's just... it's a thing. And I'll explain why because of blue veins and we've all had to do it. And if there's any individual here that you'll be more comfortable doing the inspection then that's fine, any of the three of us".

LYDIA

“It’s of three of you? Alright, okay. 18:31?? commence my... honour asked me to... right?”

BEN

“Yes, I know it is strange and weird and not great but it’s the nature of the thing. I mean, if you don’t want to do it then, fine, we have helped you build your defences for your village and we will leave you alone”.

LYDIA

“I don’t think that you’ll manage Shoin without me”.

BEN

“Then that’s the choice then that’s the choice but it’s something we have to do”.

LYDIA

They walk off quietly at that point in the conversation I think.

BRYN

Fair.

BEN

So, that’s why I did it not on the last day.

ALEX

Sure, but I am going to get us to the last day.

LYDIA

Yeah.

HELEN

Yeah.

ALEX

By end of the week, how's this playing out then?

LYDIA

Lydia, like they have an awkward conversation with Zolf and then go into a room and come out and after that Zolf's aware of their pronouns, which are neutral.

BEN

Cool. Yeah, like Zolf to the other two like, "Yeah, they're fine".

ALEX

Okay. Good.

BEN

"Let's get going. Are you happy, Cel, with the defences?"

LYDIA

“Jasper, Jasper, fire a demo shot”.

[BOOM]

LYDIA

“I think we might need another one”.

ALEX

I think that might be worth a jump cut. That sounds like a natural jump cut.
I’m going to jump cut to our “Are you okay to go to the inn?”.

LYDIA

Can we have a little pause just as they leave the edge of the village?

ALEX

Oh yeah, cool.

LYDIA

And just be like... “I just need to go back and check again that everything’s
okay”.

BEN

“Yep, that fine”.

LYDIA

“For the third time they say that, Azu going like... maybe I should check, no...”

HELEN

“They will be fine”.

LYDIA

“They.... they’ve been good to me, you. They’re a good lot”.

BEN

“It looks like you’ve been good to them. Well, maybe... I could check with... no. You know, I don’t need to check another time. It’s fine”. They’re walking away and then they lower the blowy goggles and then they look back they’re like [sound like] zooom.

(everyone laughs)

BEN

“Well, we’ll get you back as soon as possible”.

LYDIA

“Jasper, that idiot. That’s now how you polish one of those”.

ALEX

Climbing inside the bar.

LYDIA

“20:39 ?? doing by exploding”. “Oh, you’d also be aware that they have pointy ear”.

BRYN

“Ah”.

LYDIA

“They have one pointy ear and the other one has been half blown off, probably just an 20:48 ?? chemical accident caused you’ve seen how they live now”.

BEN

“Yeah, yeah, yeah”.

ALEX

It’s only living if there’s a constant threat of death..

LYDIA

Exactly. Winds me up.

BEN

Right, okay.

ALEX

So, at the inn there is just the innkeeper, Zolf you know that Wilde will be in the back, trying to stay out of the way as much as possible, and, yeah, this is going to be the biggest inn on the island that you're aware of. It's not a big island, it's currently just the innkeeper there. But everything seems in better nick than you got the impression the rest of the villages are in.

LYDIA

"Okay. Is like the fight ending and everyone's okay again now? Could I like... what... I really thought everywhere else was going to be ruined. What is going on? I'd appreciate an explanation of exactly what is going on here. So, I really thought there was a war on".

BEN

"We've been doing the same version of what you've been doing..."

LYDIA

"Oh, right".

BEN

"...but for here".

LYDIA

"Good job. Good job".

BRYN

“What was the war you thought was on?”

LYDIA

“Well, Shoin as we’ve said is a poopy head and it’s just gone more demanding over time. It’s more a gang issue, I suppose, extortion and really war I should say. As I say, my English is a little rusty. What do you say? Disorganised crime? What’s the...”

ALEX

Wilde pokes his head around from his little corridor, sort of gestures for everyone to come in.

LYDIA

“Alright, new friend”.

BEN

“Oh, this is Oscar Wilde, he’s working with us”.

LYDIA

“Hello”.

ALEX

And he looks at Zolf for one moment.

LYDIA

“He’s the silent type, I like it”.

BRYN

Again, if you guys just nod to each other 22:28??.

ALEX

Oh, yeah, sorry, sorry.

BEN

Oscar Wilde gives Zolf a look.

ALEX

Wilde’s gone very non-verbal recently.

LYDIA

Woo hoo.

ALEX

And Wilde gives Zolf a look as if like, “Are they alright?”

BEN

And Zolf nods.

ALEX

And Zolf nods.

LYDIA

“Oh, right. Oh, are these two... oh, that is cute”.

BEN

“No, no, no, no, no”.

ALEX

Wilde comes over, offers his hand.

LYDIA

“Uh, hello you”.

ALEX

“So, you are Cel, yes?”

LYDIA

“Yes, Cel Sidebottom”.

ALEX

“I am very happy to meet you, Cel”.

LYDIA

“Oh, I like this. This is how you introduce yourself to someone”, I say to Hamid.

ALEX

“We’ve got some food prepped if you’d like to join us. I would love to have a talk with you”.

LYDIA

“Always in the mood for food, darling. Let’s go”.

ALEX

I think that’s a good chance to take a break there. We’ll be back in a couple of minutes”.

Break

ALEX

And welcome back. So, sat around the table. Wilde’s there and basically gives the run down that the party have already received, which is... I mean, you already know Shoin, which speeds things up immensely but, yeah, he includes in the Simulacra stuff so not literally everything back from two years ago but we believe that the calls for the current war is tied to some machinery, the machinery is tied to this person.

LYDIA

“Right, so, wait. So, this is like the dragons? There are spaces now, the war space?”

ALEX

“Yes”.

LYDIA

“Alright. I always just assumed that that was kind of, you know, messed up anyway. And you say it was nice before? That’s cool”.

BEN

“Well, for a given value of nice, I suppose. It was ordered”.

ALEX

“I think it was nice for a certain type of person in a certain type place”.

LYDIA

“Oh, right. Well, I suppose so with most places”.

BEN

“What could say for it is it wasn’t violent”.

ALEX

So, Wilde also goes into a bit of detail about... his actually been quite open. For what it's worth, Wilde's now kind of an on/off switch, which is either "Cool, you're fine" Bang. "Or, you're not fine you're not." He thinks that he has figured out how stuff is getting to the Shoin Institute, which is they do this big song and dance about boats and a boathouse that people can't go to and blah blah blah but he's certain pretty that there's a tunnel because the distance isn't that far.

LYDIA

"You see, I've been assuming that they were just teleporting it all."

ALEX

"We looked into it, frankly there aren't enough spell casters around to be doing that and we know that we know that he isn't a caster."

LYDIA

"Oh, right. Well, that will make things easier".

ALEX

"We think that effectively what they have is a tunnel hidden at the boathouse, anyone who tries to take the boats obviously isn't making it across but it would be..."

LYDIA

"So, I could just rig that up with explosives and then we destroy it".

ALEX

“Yes and no. We would...”

LYDIA

“There are very few problems that explosions cannot sort.”

BRYN

“We sort of need some of the information. We don’t just need to shut them down. We need to get in there and find out what they know before we destroy it all”.

BEN

“Yeah, blow it up on our way out”.

BRYN

“Yeah, definitely”.

ALEX

“Very much so”.

LYDIA

“So, long as there will definitely be some blowing up”.

ALEX

“Ideally, yes. Ideally yes”.

LYDIA

“Cool, got it”.

BRYN

“Also, I mean, if we’re assaulting this island through a tunnel that’s also not ideal, it’s a very strong point of defence on their side. Is that our best approach, really?”

BEN

“Well, how many times do you cast fly?”

BRYN

“Well, I can cast fly six times but unless the Shion Institute island is quite close to the mainland it’s not going to get us far enough I don’t think”.

ALEX

“There’s a reason that they’ve got a tunnel”.

BEN

“Or we just 25:47 ??”

LYDIA

“Yeah, about a... like so I have got these...” like ruffles in her bag and 25:56 ??
“I’ve had these ideas for this steamboat for quite a while”. Lays it all out. “I think it will only take me like a week maybe two to construct from you know from scratch, maybe with your help it would take only three weeks 26:09 ??”.

ALEX

“I don’t know if we have that kind of time”.

LYDIA

“Oh”.

BRYN

“We’re having to wait a week for other reasons, I don’t see why we can’t wait for other things”.

LYDIA

“Do you already have a boat?”

ALEX

“Unfortunately, time is sort of on our side at the moment. I mean, it depends how you want to think about. I mean there is a war going on so there are people dying as we’re talking. But...”

LYDIA

“Ooh ooh I think if I just reconnect these pipes, that simplifies the vent structure. So, I could probably build this in like three or four days with help”.

BEN

“Yeah, if you can do us a boat that will get us across. We’ve got to go through the tunnel on the way out to blow it up anyway”.

BRYN

“Absolutely, yeah...”

LYDIA

“And like it isn’t a boat that needs to land because we can fly the last 26:45 ??, right? So...”

BRYN

“That’s true”.

LYDIA

“It’s like a one use boat. I am very good at building one use machines. Two use machines, much harder”.

BEN

“Alright, is it going to be weather resistant? Is it going to be... it will have to be”.

BRYN

“Why do we need a complicated boat? Can’t we just get...? There’s only four of us. Why aren’t just getting a small quiet boat that can get there quickly?”

BEN

“It would be destroyed by weather almost immediately”.

LYDIA

“So 27:05 ??”

BRYN

“Well, that’s a good reason then”.

BEN

“Yeah, basically remember the tentacle in the...?”

BRYN

“Yeah”.

BEN

“Yeah. So, I’m pretty certain Shion made that.”

BRYN

“Oh, okay, okay. You see, this is the kind of information that would be useful to know”.

BEN

“I’m sorry there was a lot of information...”

BRYN

“Well, absolutely. It’s a bit...”

ALEX

“We’re not trying to keep things from you”.

BRYN

“...difficult having been on a different plane”.

LYDIA

“What metal tentacle? That sounds very exciting. Highly relevant to my interests. I **27:29 ??** tentacle”.

BEN

“My theory is some kind of biomechanical armoured giant squid that can control the weather?”

BRYN

“Really?”

BEN

“Yeah. Now, it’s...yes.”

BRYN

“Are we going to have to get rid of that?”

LYDIA

“No! No! I would very much like to have that”.

ALEX

“Very much we’d like to get rid of that, if that’s possible”.

LYDIA

“No, I 27:50 ??”

BEN

“Well, no, it’s been...”

LYDIA

“... I can look after that sort of thing. It’s like a pet”.

BEN

“Well...”

LYDIA

“It’s like a pet. I can call it something like Lushis. That’s a good name”.

BEN

“I mean, maybe like it might be like a kilometre long”.

LYDIA

“Aaah”.

BEN

“That’s quite big for...”

LYDIA

[speals]

BEN

“Anyway, it’s also being used to ... it’s...”

LYDIA

“28:06 ??”.

BEN

“It’s being used for bad reasons. So, maybe we can...”

LYDIA

“I mean that technology is not good or bad, nor is it useful it is just technology”.

ALEX

“I think this technology is bad”.

BRYN

“I think this absolutely not the case”.

BEN

“Before we get into a philosophical discussion about the use of discussion about the use of technology, why don’t we deal with Shion at then have this conversation?”

LYDIA

“Alright, okay. So, we could take could take a small quiet boat and I will add floats to it”.

BEN

It might have to be a little bit submersible. Not like fully but...”

LYDIA

“Oh 28:31 ?? submersible, I can absolutely do that”.

BEN

“Okay. Well...”.

BRYN

“That’s not actually a terrible idea.”

BEN

“Actually, could it just be submersible”?

ALEX

“The whole thing basically just [makes a sound]”.

LYDIA

Cel is already sketching. “Give me a few days”.

BRYN

“We just need something simple and quick. You know, let’s fly onto the island if the boat can get us near enough. If the weather isn’t too bad...”

BEN

“The weather will be bad, it’s being used aggressively to protect the island”.
We need something that can survive in like the worst storm you’ve ever experienced”.

ALEX

“Think hurricane”.

BEN

“Remember that thing that almost killed us on the channel?”

BRYN

“That but probably worse. Okay, I mean, flying is also not a great idea in that sort of conditions. I mean, I’ve done it a few times. Those of you who haven’t might struggle”.

BEN

“Then let’s get the one... use submersible”.

BRYN

“Great”.

BEN

“I think she sounds great. What materials do you need while you’re drawing up the plans? We can get you the simple stuff”.

LYDIA

“[chuckles]. Right, we are... may need to go back to my workshop”.

ALEX

I’m going to jump ahead at that point.

LYDIA

What do you mean the roles of success.

ALEX

“So, first things first, building a submersible”.

LYDIA

“Yeah”.

BRYN

“Well...”

LYDIA

“29:35 ??”

HELEN

Did you not anticipate this, Alex?

ALEX

Oh no, I expected something.

BEN

You put weird science into the game. So...

BRYN

Season 4 is very different to previous season so...

ALEX

The fact that you haven't just decided to build the biggest catapult possible is a good thing.

LYDIA

Ooooh, man.

BRYN

Oh, that would work, I've got levitate, it's fine.

LYDIA

Cel wakes up in the middle of the night, has that thought and punches a wall.

BRYN

Two miles, guys, two miles. 30:02 ??.

LYDIA

We would need a 30:04 ??.

BRYN

Biolistic missile system

LYDIA

30:07 ??.

ALEX

Can I get a knowledge engineering for the design?

LYDIA

18.

BEN

You could take 20, because it's plans, right? You could fail at making the plans and restart.

ALEX

Because of the nature of it I would allow you to take 20 but it will take longer. Because this isn't a thing like that's like, "Oh, it will take an hour".

BRYN

No, no, sure.

LYDIA

Yeah.

ALEX

You'll add a couple of days at least.

LYDIA

Yeah.

So, with that knowledge of engineering, you reckon you could make it and it would probably work.

LYDIA

That's the level certainty that they're fine with. "That's where they live".

ALEX

But will mention that it will probably work to everyone or is it just "Are you done?" "Yeah, it's done, yeah, it's done"?

LYDIA

"Like to a I think to a reasonable degree of certainty and efficiency and with a load of tolerance that I am perfectly happy with these plans are deliverable and I... oh, yeah".

ALEX

Okay.

BEN

Now you're speaking my language.

ALEX

Okay.

BEN

How many sprints? Estimate it.

ALEX

Right...

LYDIA

31:08 ?? methodology.

ALEX

Does anyone have anything they can bring 31:12 ??..."

LYDIA

By which I mean, I added my decks.

ALEX

...help in this.

HELEN

Again, I'm very strong and can carry bits of metal or whatever.

ALEX

That will be hard to come by but yeah.

HELEN

I don't know... you might have trans... what's the word?

BEN/BRYN

Transmogrification.

HELEN

Yeah.

ALEX

Transformers.

HELEN

I was thinking transubstantiation but that's... that's Jesus.

BRYN

That's Jesus, yeah.

LYDIA

They do not have transubstantiation until about level 5.

ALEX

Yeah, yeah.

BRYN

"Now, I have to check my spells. So, just carry on without me I guess.

BEN

"Oh no".

ALEX

Hamid, do you have anything that you can bring to that submersible?

BRYN

"Surprisingly, no".

LYDIA

Oh, you know one thing, in order to speed things up, Cel is constantly chugging channel vigor.

ALEX

I may have to recon something slightly which is you may have had to explain a submersible to people and I think that will be fine.

LYDIA

They are hasted the whole time. “Moving around making it really fast”.

BRYN

“So, first of all, I have stone shake, which means that I can just scalp stone which might be useful. I know it’s submersible and should float but also small bits of stone could be helpful. I also going to like when we do it, prepare as much water breathing as I can”.

ALEX

That’s a really good idea. Very fair. How long does water breathing last?

BRYN

“I mean don’t make me look at it, I’m on the spell lick.. Come back to me”.

ALEX

Okay. So, in that case then, what are the knowledges that you have, Cel?

LYDIA

Arkana.

ALEX

Okay.

LYDIA

Engineering, geography, history, nature and nobility claims and religion.

HELEN

My god.

LYDIA

Also, 17 in 32:48 ??.

ALEX

That's fine. Can me a craft alchemy check, please?

LYDIA

27.

ALEX

Okay.

BRYN

I can get people water breathing for 16 hours per use.

BEN

Nice.

HELEN

Could just 32:59 ?? people.

BRYN

It is a third level spell, I could cast it four times.

LYDIA

Yay!

BRYN

It means I won't have any third level spells but people won't die. So, I'm actually willing to take that risk.

ALEX

Okay, yeah. I am going to say it takes you in the end... how many days did you would take? About three?

LYDIA

Yeah.

ALEX

Takes you closer to five. You grossly underestimated the difficulty of it.

LYDIA

There is a really amazing montage of...

ALEX

So, at the end of it you have, I'm afraid, had to cobble together something.

LYDIA

"That is the only way that they know how to work".

ALEX

It is mostly wood that has been tarred for the main body of the thing. It is weighted with just big old blocks of stone because the wood is too buoyant.

LYDIA

That have been shaped.

ALEX

Yep. And then in terms of...

LYDIA

"I like you, Zolf. That's the way I like working, just that misogynist stone over there."

BEN

“Yeah, well, alright. What do you want me to make?”

LYDIA

Excellent, excellent. Well, you’ve just...you’ve already made...”

BEN

“Oh, did I? Sorry, I was looking at the Pathfinder Book.”

ALEX

In terms of...

LYDIA

I have met her.

ALEX

So, the issue is, propulsion. Propulsion you’ve kind of run off into a bit of a brick wall because you ended up having a choice really of... you can make something that isn’t really going to be submersible where it’s effectively just got a sail on the top and it’s under the water, that’s not great. You eventually have come down on... you reckon you might be able to do peddle power but the problem is it would take you like six days because it’s really heavy, really big and you can only have one person and it leaks a little bit so...

LYDIA

I could for eight minutes become a fishy creature.

ALEX

And that's the things that are on the table right now is what you've actually made really is a submersible chariot.

LYDIA

"Right, guys, so we'll have like eight minutes of time but I can just recast it on myself, that's cool. You guys will get in the underwater chariot, which I am calling the "Peddle-a-tron", even though it's not used by peddles, its stuck. So, and I'll...

ALEX

I love that. You're leaving Peddle-a-tron abandoned but, the name, that's a good name.

LYDIA

"That's a good name. So, and then I will hold this and then I can become a sea creature if someone could cast like breath water that might help but who knows. Probably cope, I'll probably be fine. Does water conduct electricity? Yes, it does. Tricky".

ALEX

This is the situation you are all now in. You have a water chariot that you need to pull somehow.

BEN

Hang on, hang on, hang on, hang on, hang on.

ALEX

No, Ben, you want to play and a cleric, 35:29 ?? cleric bring spells, bring more spells.

BEN

No, wait. Yes.

(everyone laughs)

ALEX

I love Ben reading in real time. It's like terrible ASMR. His face.

BEN

I can summon a medium water elemental.

LYDIA

Woo.

BRYN

That'll do really well.

ALEX

That'll do it. How long does it last though?

BEN

34:49 ?? like...oh, no. That's actually rubbish. Damn it.

ALEX

Certainly like a few rounds, isn't it?

BEN

It's eight rounds, it's a combat ability, not a... well, dang. I mean, so I can give you a minute and 16 seconds.

BRYN

Maybe the easiest way is just to go through the tunnel assault. I mean, we've got to...

ALEX

You are at the other end by the way of the four and a half days.

BRYN

"A submersible boat which we don't know for certain we can actually push well enough to get there".

ALEX

Wilde by the way has been off doing other stuff.

LYDIA

Aw Cel and Hamid are not friends.

ALEX

He's trusting Zolf as his subordinate in this one, so just make this happen.

BEN

"Hang on a minute. Hamid, the battery for Mr Ceiling".

BRYN

"Yeah".

BEN

"How are they doing that?"

BRYN

"Well, I don't understand the full theory but..."

BEN

"Wait, Wilde might have the notes.

BRYN

“Essentially, it’s a set of crystals, which you trap four opposing elementals and the might of forces...” Hamid launches into an even more detailed explanation.

BEN

“I can summon those elementals if you can trap them”.

ALEX

I can say now very ambitious. Extremely ambitious... like it’s the equivalent of attempting to build you know a...

BRYN

Like a nuclear reactor.

ALEX

A nuclear reactor in your garage. Hypothetically possible, ill-advised.

LYDIA

Hello!!

BRYN

“I just about understand the theory but I’ve never tried to use it and it’s very risky”.

LYDIA

“I think the way to understand theory is to make things”.

ALEX

You’re fairly certain that there’s more than a 50% chance it would kill all of you, Hamid. Cel, yeah, you could probably do that.

LYDIA

“Yeah, that’s fine. Cool. Yeah, we can do that”.

BRYN

“No, I just don’t think it’s a good idea at all. Like it would require a level of knowledge that we don’t... we simply don’t have. It took several incredibly intelligent people months of research to put it together. We create it in an afternoon even if I understand of the principles”.

LYDIA

“I can give it a whole day. We’ll be fine”.

HELEN

“It doesn’t sound like anything that would work”.

LYDIA

Okay. So, am I just going to go back to my village now? What’s going on?”

BEN

“Okay, okay. So, not a submersible, right? But a land boat...” A land boat...

(everyone laughs)

ALEX

A cart!

LYDIA

“I like it. I like it. I want... I means, that’s what I called the tank for a while”.

BEN

“Okay, so a surface ship. So, we use just sail power but it’s the ability to do down. So, if you can build masts strong enough to survive being underwater if they need to be, then I can just sail it, I’m a sailor. I know what I’m doing”.

LYDIA

“Okay. I could just add masts to the top of this.”

BEN

“Yeah”.

LYDIA

“Alright”. Give me like looks at their watch and chokes haste potion.

ALEX

A day and a half.

LYDIA

“Like 30 minutes”.

(laughter)

LYDIA

Zooms off. Okay.

ALEX

Okay. Yeah, so, it will be a day and a half minimum. Give me another knowledge engineering. Not how I saw this going but I’m okay with it.

LYDIA

Ooh. So, that is only 19.

ALEX

19. Yeah, day and a half and you’ve managed to do a conversion to... what you’ve actually just made is a boat but...

LYDIA

Boat with a roof.

ALEX

It's got a roof...

LYDIA

Yeah.

ALEX

...and it sits really low in the water. So low in the water, actually, it's a little bit under. So you've now just made a boat that you can sail but it's just below the waves level.

BEN

A stealth catamaran.

LYDIA

"Ah, that's a much better name than Peddle-a-tron. I like you, Zolf, I like you."
Looks at Hamid.

ALEX

What you've made is a sailboat that if it capsizes doesn't really matter, that's what you've made.

LYDIA

Excellent.

ALEX

In fairness, what you've done is over the course of about six days is just made that weatherproof boat that was originally on the cards for a about two and a half days.

LYDIA

Right, yeah.

ALEX

Going via a submarine that doesn't go anywhere and then retrofitting back to what your original proposal was anyway.

HELEN

If you needed help Azu would have provided that help, if not she is starting to pace quite a lot. She is like wearing a groove into like outside the inn or something.

ALEX

I do need to know one thing, which is where have you been building this thing.

LYDIA

I mean, in...

ALEX

At your village? At the end they're all of walkable distance so it's just where would you want to put.

LYDIA

In their workshop 39:44 ??.

ALEX

That's fine. Wilde wouldn't bat an eyelid. I don't think anyone else would have a problem with that.

LYDIA

It is montage time. Arcs of Electricity.

HELEN

The 39:54 ?? doesn't use electricity. Somehow it's still wood.

LYDIA

Thinks are like blubbly through pots. Like...

ALEX

It is doesn't use liquid.

LYDIA

I mean, it uses tar but you don't think that usually need that many different like vessels and...

BRYN

Hamid will make the sail. He's got points and profession tailor.

ALEX

Yes, he does.

(everyone cheers)

BEN

Have we just used some professions, that do not get used?

ALEX

So, so, so, so.

BRYN

It's something that he can help with that no one else can.

LYDIA

Really.

BEN

Yeah, that's great.

ALEX

Okay. So, I'm going to jump to the ta-dah would you like it to be covered in a sheet so you can ta-dah it.

LYDIA

Oh, yes, absolutely and they have a captain's hat that is made of offcuts of metal and wood.

ALEX

You have something that could be called a captain's hat in a favourable light?

LYDIA

And in like... and it crackles with electricity from the spring points to each other.

ALEX

That I will allow.

BEN

I'm going to make the sail of spare clothing and I'm going to use lots of dark colours. I don't want a big white sail on our stealth boat.

ALEX

You did run into cloth shortages but you've managed to make it work with what you've got. It's mostly dark with a couple of splashes of bright colours just because you work with that you've got.

LYDIA

I mean, like everyone in the village would have been happy to help.

BRYN

Yeah, yeah.

ALEX

Oh, yeah but that's where he's got that cloth from. You are in a rural fishing village summoning several square feet of a cloth like at the very least is a big deal.

HELEN

How big is the interior of the...?

LYDIA

"It is not roomy".

(everyone) Aaaah.

ALEX

I'd go so far as to go...

BRYN

Helen, we can't do a jumping out of the cart scene in this situation.

ALEX

I'd go so far as to say suicidally cramped.

LYDIA

Cel notices some anxiety. "So, are you aware of the reduce potion?"

HELEN

"I find it's very good when you have to operate in cramped spaces. It's just a... you know, it's not a thing that I've said it's just, you know, on the table..."

LYDIA

Literally put a potion on the table. This is not for those following along at home an infusion this is a potion that they are 41:04 ??.

ALEX

It might be worth mentioning at this point, you haven't said what class you are. I think it might be worth saying now.

LYDIA

Yeah like so, Cel is a pure alchemist. In fact, I may as well reveal there are half-elf alchemists, which none of you would have before and they are very capable of crafting potions, although that takes quite a lot of time and resources. So, while I would say that they are within walking distance of their alchemy shop they could probably access pretty much any potion that is low enough level because they'll have made it and sold to other people.

ALEX

Absolutely. So, this is on the cards?

LYDIA

“Yeah. I just like... it’s just there and maybe you want to have it with you so if at anytime that feels a little too small you can be... makes the space bigger, everything is relative, right? That’s just... I mean, that is on the cards, on the table rather, that’s a table and that’s just, you know...”

ALEX

And give me a ta-dah then.

LYDIA

Tah-da!!

BRYN

Oh god.

ALEX

So, do you cover it with a sheet, the whole nine yards?

LYDIA

Oh, yeah. But, of course, because it had been good cloth it would gone into the sail.

ALEX

Yeah, we've already got 43:22 ??.

LYDIA

It is absolutely like the most tatty like burlap sack type thing. "And then 43:28 ?? I would like all you, my new friends, this is our Peddle-a-tron".

BEN

"Right, it is..."

LYDIA

"It doesn't need peddles anymore, that was a..."

BRYN

"So, it's a Sail-a-tron".

LYDIA

"Sail-a-tron, yes. I like it and I like you".

ALEX

It is not great. Bits of tar are still falling off it. It looks like hypothetically you could all climb inside and be inside of it.

LYDIA

“Absolutely, we can do that”.

ALEX

Sailing, you’re probably going to have to sort of poke your head up, do a sail...

BEN

I’m going to be standing atop here, lashed to it.

ALEX

Oh, that would work, that would work, yeah.

HELEN

Oh, my gosh.

BEN

I need some more space”.

ALEX

So, yeah, here you go. So...

LYDIA

That is like Jack Sparrow's thing where you sail.

BEN

Yeah.

ALEX

I mean, that's literally what it will look like. So, with that, I feel like I might end the episode there.

[Show Theme - Outro]

ALEX

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