

RQG – 132 – Sinking Feeling

Content Warnings

- Small, enclosed spaces, drowning.

ALEX

Hi everyone, Alex here. I would just like to take a moment to thank some of our patrons, Zed Perkins, Ivashia, Robert Groom, Ashoofara, Nyam Hemmingway, Kyle, Joshua Growman, Rachel Oney, Malcolm Snipes, Alex Hadingyack, Michelle Latour, Oscar Marlow, Glory Dooda, Joe Smith, Alex Freeman, Kate May, Zantha Booma, Paul McCue, Siarra McCabe, January Garcia, thank you all. We really appreciate your support. If you would 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 132 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

Zolf Smith.

BRYN

Hamid Saleh Haroun al-Tahan.

LYDIA

Cel Sidebottom.

HELEN

And Azu.

ALEX

I don't like it, it's wrong. It's bad wrong. I want, I want weird grisoock voices and Sasha's intro to take like three to four times the length of everyone else because kind of hesitant...

LYDIA

I talk fast now, Alex.

BEN

I can voice the yawning chasm of the void if you want?

SASHA

Yeah.

ALEX

But what?

Oh yeah please.

BEN

Because I'm dead.

ALEX

Oh yeah, please if you knew...

BEN

Ooooooooooh.

(Laughter)

HELEN

Oh, they know that now?!

ALEX

Yeah.

HELEN

Okay.

(Laughter)

BEN

That would be amazing [overtalking 01:30]

LYDIA

Hey spoilers!

ALEX

This is actually like the first recording in like six months for us where everything is just up to date...

HELEN

Yes.

ALEX

...good, we're not out of sequence anymore...

LYDIA

No, we're not on different timelines.

ALEX

...just doing stories.

LYDIA

How does that...

What's weird is that like the last time we recorded I was so sad. I was really so sad.

HELEN

Aw, yeah.

BRYN

We've had this massive break it's weird for us like it's be a week listening but...

ALEX

It's genuinely quite strange.

BEN

That's a good point, so if we get anything wrong...

BRYN

About what happened in the last episode.

BEN

Sorry.

LYDIA

Yes.

ALEX

It's been ages.

HELEN

Like two months.

LYDIA

Or, or who I am.

(Laughter)

ALEX

So, I am going to do a quick recap – real quick. You came back from Rome obviously a long time had passed, you all went to Cairo to find out that Hamid's house is Harlequin HQ, that's a lot of Hs.

BRYN

Everyone that came back, came back.

ALEX

You then ended up heading onto the Island of Okinoshima. There was a kind of awkwardness where...

HELEN

Kind of awkwardness!

ALEX

Well, you know Azu and Hamid were kind of locked up for a week by an old friend.

BRYN

The most deeply uncomfortable situation I have had to role play.

ALEX

It was excellent I loved it.

BRYN

Just terrible.

ALEX

But you managed to reconvene with Wild and don't all hate one another and managed to recruit Cel...

LYDIA AS CEL

Are you sure?!

ALEX

Yeah, it should be fine.

(Laughter)

LYDIA

A whole Cell!

ALEX

A whole Cell has been recruited.

LYDIA AS CEL

Oh my gosh, and that is actually more appropriate than you guys even know.

(Laughter)

ALEX

Yeah, it's a [overtalking 02:46]

LYDIA AS CEL

It's an entire cell of cells.

ALEX

All that happened is that your terrorist cell found another terrorist cell...

LYDIA AS CEL

Yay!

ALEX

...it's just with this one there's one person called Cel.

You then obviously spend a week trying to find out where the cell was you know a monster that was going to kill you all. Apparently not so far!

LYDIA AS CEL

Oh well, I mean not that kind of monster...

(Laughter)

...because we're really, really specific about what kind of monster that I may or may not be.

ALEX

You spent a bunch of time building a “submersible”...

LYDIA

It’s very exciting.

(Laughter)

ALEX

...also known as stealth catamaran apparently.

LYDIA AS CEL

Crackles of electricity which we may have to deal with...

(Laughter)

...[overtalking 03:19]

HELEN

In water.

LYDIA AS CEL

...but on the other hand.

BEN

Salt water as well.

(Laughter)

ALEX

Yeah.

LYDIA AS CEL

Less of a problem with electric eels and trust me they are tricky...

HELEN

Is it? Oh.

LYDIA AS CEL

Let me tell you about a time that I powered an entire trip through the Amazon with a couple of...

HELEN

Enough.

ALEX

And I believe we ended the episode I am going to pick up pretty much exactly where we left off which is, you have just revealed the catamaran to... I say catamaran, it's not a catamaran but regardless.

LYDIA

It's a stealth.

(Laughter)

ALEX

"It's only got one hole!" much improved, but nonetheless we are going to pick up from the reveal happened and you are looking at the results of your labour, quietly, contemplatively in the middle of the village, well edge of the village.

LYDIA

Well, I want you all to note that at some point randomly because it looks like quite a simple wooden tarred vessel, crackled with electricity just like sparkle...

BEN

That's not even how electricity works.

LYDIA

Yeah, no I am very aware of that.

BEN

[unclear 04:05]

LYDIA AS CEL

But that is how electricity works if you believe.

(Laughter)

BEN AS ZOLF

Right, how is that going to help us?

LYDIA AS CEL

It helps like direct the power around.

HELEN AS AZU

Believe in what? It works?

LYDIA AS CEL

You guys don't seem to really understand how physics works. Physics is how you convince elementals to do what you want them to do? Usually by physically beating them up.

HELEN AS AZU

We can beat people up. Who do I need to beat up, I can do that.

BRYN AS HAMID

Guys, why don't we just ask Professor Einstein to teleport us to the island.

BEN AS ZOLF

Uh.

HELEN AS AZU

Who? Oh.

BEN AS ZOLF

He can do that?

BRYN AS HAMID

“Well, maybe. We could ask.

Do we have a [unclear 04:41] who do we ask?”

I grab a mobile phone, mobile...

ALEX

What?!

BRYN AS HAMID

I grab a rocket.

LYDIA AS CEL

I want to know about this mobile phone.

(laughter)

BRYN AS HAMID

I grab a mobile stone.

ALEX

Sure, yeah well everyone was given a survival pack from Einstein remember, a load of potions, desert survival gear even though you Japan and a mobile stone in there amongst the other stuff.

HELEN AS AZU

I just... okay.

LYDIA AS CEL

I was not.

BRYN AS HAMID

I activate it. You don't dial a number I keep expecting this to work like a normal mobile phone.

Mobile stone activate.

ALEX

For what it's worth in character you've never actually had a successful like, "we'll just make this happen" you always just kind of talk for a while and then hope it works.

(Laughter)

BEN AS ZOLF

Einstein is not here right now...

(Laughter)

...beep!

LYDIA AS CEL

And now there's lots of them so how do you choose who to [laughter – unclear
05:22] with?

ALEX

Narrator!

HELEN AS CEL

Just say...

BRYN AS HAMID

I've got [Hugh Zoo's 05:26] magic device, this is a magical device, I should be able to use it!

ALEX

Then give me a roll, you've never bothered before now...ever!

(Laughter)

You just picked it up and started talking, half the time it worked and half the time you are just talking at a rock!

(Laughter)

Use the skill! Use the skill!

BRYN AS HAMID

You're the GM, it's your job to ask for a skill check when a skill would apply to what we are doing.

BEN AS ZOLF

I am nodding vigorously.

BRYN AS HAMID

24.

ALEX

24.

HELEN AS AZU

That's nice.

ALEX

You reckon you could probably made it work.

(Laughter)

BRYN AS HAMID

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I activate the mobile stone.

Uh, Professor? Hello, Professor, it's Hamid.

ALEX AS EINSTEIN

[screams] Aaaaahhhhhh super busy right now. Whaaaa, what do you need, what do you need?

BRYN AS HAMID

Are you okay Professor?

ALEX AS EINSTEIN

Don't like horses, what do you need?

LYDIA AS CEL

The stone is the Professor?

BRYN AS HAMID

Well, we, we, we have...

ALEX AS EINSTEIN

OW!

BRYN AS HAMID

We have to get to a different island and there's a storm in the way and we were wondering if you had enough spare spells to help us teleport there?

LYDIA AS CEL

So, the stone has spells?

HELEN AS AZU

No, the stone is the communicator.

ALEX

It's quiet for a while and then finally...

ALEX AS EINSTEIN

[sighs] Say again?

BRYN AS HAMID

We need to get to a different island the one we're on and there's a lot of storms in the way, and we were wondering if you had enough spare spells to help us get there?

ALEX AS EINSTEIN

I mean not really, kind of in the middle of something... Oh it's gone...oh, that's going to take ages to find!

Okay, I'm walking, how are you doing?

(Laughter)

BRYN AS HAMID

I mean we are okay, why are you walking Professor?

BEN AS ZOLF

He fell off his horse.

ALEX AS EINSTEIN

Fool me once, totally got in lots of trouble for oversharing last time Zolf...
Although totally don't let anyone see the whole stone thing, remember that
okay?

BRYN AS HAMID

Yes of course, course.

BEN AS ZOLF

Uh, well I can see it and so can Cel so...

BRYN AS HAMID

But we trust you.

ALEX AS EINSTEIN

Who's that?

BRYN AS HAMID

That's Zolf.

LYDIA AS CEL

Hello stone, you seem really friendly.

BRYN AS HAMID

That's not Zolf.

ALEX AS EINSTEIN

Who is that?

BRYN AS HAMID

Einstein.

LYDIA AS CEL

Hi.

BRYN AS HAMID

That's Cel.

LYDIA AS CEL

Hello.

BRYN AS HAMID

She's a friend...

LYDIA AS CEL

How does it work?

ALEX AS EINSTEIN

I am...

LYDIA AS CEL

What kinds of elementals are you using?

ALEX AS EINSTEIN

...a centian rock...

(Laughter)

...with no important...

LYDIA AS CEL

Oh my god, I'm a centian Cel!

ALEX AS EINSTEIN

...information.

LYDIA AS CEL

People argue with me about that sometimes.

ALEX

Stone goes dead.

HELEN AS AZU

Oh, dear.

BRYN AS HAMID

So, it seems like the Professor probably can't help us.

BEN AS ZOLF

Right, stealth catamaran it is then.

(Laughter)

BRYN AS HAMID

Quiet you.

ALEX

What I am enjoying is that this has happened like after kind of thing, you would have had the same conversation pretty much earlier...

BRYN AS HAMID

Yeah, I'm sure.

ALEX

...I am just enjoying the fact now that...

BRYN AS HAMID

I am genuinely out of character really annoyed at myself that I didn't think to just buzz Einstein at the very beginning of the process, but whatever was happening three months ago when we recorded the last two episodes.

LYDIA AS CEL

I mean I wasn't there, but I heard there were emotions.

ALEX

It's all good, it's all good.

So, that's the lay of the land. They currently have a sentient rock – keep that in mind Cel.

LYDIA AS CEL

I like these people.

ALEX

I know right.

LYDIA AS CEL

Yeah.

Estimation of Hamid has gone up.

(laughter)

BRYN AS HAMID

Hey.

BEN AS ZOLF

So, remind me again, this is powered?

LYDIA AS CEL

No that's just sort of a side effect and then get a bit too involved in things.

BEN AS ZOLF

Right so what you're saying is the actress isn't doing anything?

LYDIA AS CEL

Not right now.

(laughter)

HELEN AS AZU

Why is it there?

LYDIA AS CEL

I just...

ALEX

[whispers] future proofing, future proofing.

(laughter)

LYDIA AS CEL

It's like to plug in any like new applications you might want...

ALEX?

Is it...

LYDIA AS CEL

...so like if say you wanted an entertainment device, you now have the power there, so that right now the sails...

BRYN AS HAMID

Isn't electricity dangerous?

LYDIA AS CEL

Yeah, I mean...

BRYN AS HAMID

Can it be turned off?

BEN AS ZOLF

Can you turn it on? Or can it be turned on because it could be a defence mechanism, but also could electrocute everybody and us lot.

LYDIA AS CEL

Cel does the biggest puppy dog eyes...

HELEN AS AZU

I'm wearing armour so that would be very not good.

BEN AS ZOLF

...probably [overtalking 09:02]. I've got metal legs [sound effect of knocking on metal leg].

LYDIA AS CEL

...and then wanders through, and then you can see like a device at the bottom of the sail where clearly as it was moving around that was like a little thing where there might have been like an element or an elect- but pulls out the electric eel that was in there...

HELEN AS AZU

Awww.

LYDIA AS CEL

...getting irritated every time was like strokes the eel and like wanders off.

BEN AS ZOLF

I mean we can turn it on when we want it, that's useful it's just I don't want to be killed from electric. [Thunder sound effects].

LYDIA AS CEL

Well Sebastian in the bunk or not?

BEN AS ZOLF

Well...

BRYN AS HAMID

Okay.

BEN AS ZOLF

...I know Sebastian no electricity was just sailing the old fashioned way.

BRYN AS HAMID

We just need to get to the island.

BEN AS ZOLF

Alright, well as soon as Wilde is here, he can have a look and he knows what's up then we can get going.

ALEX

I am going to jump time ahead a little bit, for the sake of ease if nothing else, while the rock up around the evening I said. So, evening is happening and Wilde is rocking up in the village [raining sound effects stop and thunder rolls]...

LYDIA AS CEL

Saki.

ALEX

...happening you know.

LYDIA AS CEL

Saki. Saki.

ALEX

That's Cel yeah?

LYDIA AS CEL

Yeah, would you like some Saki?

BRYN AS HAMID

Well, we should probably sail overnight so best to be in fighting conditions.

ALEX

So, get me up to speed, you are sailing there then?

BRYN AS HAMID

It's the best option we've got Oscar.

ALEX

Because the last time I checked it was the underwater...

LYDIA AS CEL

It's a stealth catamaran.

BRYN AS HAMID

There were some practical problems with that application.

BEN AS ZOLF

We've got no way to actually propel it, other than somebody out the back swimming so we decided to give it a sail so that I can sail it while everyone else is inside safe.

ALEX

I mean that makes sense to me, okay.

LYDIA AS CEL

If anything goes wrong, I'll just pull...

BRYN AS HAMID

If we sail at night it shouldn't be too visible, you can see that the sail is not white like traditional ship sails, so it won't show up in the darkness too badly.

LYDIA AS CEL

And I've turned off the electricity, which would have shown up.

BEN AS ZOLF

Yes, very sensible.

ALEX

Wilde just has a moment of inscrutable looking.

(Laughter)

LYDIA AS CEL

Cel hands him a thimble full of warm saki.

ALEX AS OSCAR WILDE

He holds it. "Good, so are we proceeding this evening then?"

BEN AS ZOLF

Yeah, unless anybody has anything they need to do, because it is going to be dangerous and you know it's kind of a one-way trip until we sort it out, there's no bailing so make sure you've got everything you need.

ALEX AS OSCAR WILDE

Wilde puts the saki down and kind of gives Zolf a look which can best be described as, you know what I mean by this. Probably very dangerous there is a B team let's say, but they are not going to be around to help so yeah.

LYDIA AS CEL

A what?

BEN AS ZOLF

A back up if we all die.

LYDIA AS CEL

Oh, I wasn't planning to.

BEN AS ZOLF

No I know, I'm not, but you know just in case.

ALEX

But you know on the positive side, you guys are the A team!

BEN AS ZOLF

Yeah!

Also, if you don't mind, I'll take a saki and have a drink.

BRYN AS HAMID

The exit strategy is still to use the underground tunnel, we thought that it would be well defended in terms of getting.... heading in this direction but likely to be left undefended when it's primarily there as an escape mechanism for them.

ALEX AS OSCAR WILDE

I might be able to do something so that come morning it's a little bit less defended, but again...

BRYN AS HAMID

That would be great.

ALEX AS OSCAR WILDE

...I don't really have much in the way of resources, but you know.

BEN AS ZOLF

Alright, well the alternative is break their forces and just get out, it'll be fine.

BRYN AS HAMID

Yeah, I mean if there is no resistance then obviously, we can leave however we want, but I just mean if we need to make a quick getaway for whatever reason. I mean obviously we don't have the entrance to the secret tunnel at that end but we will figure it out.

HELEN AS AZU

We'll find it.

ALEX AS OSCAR WILDE

Would you excuse us for one moment, Zolf I wouldn't mind a word with you separately just for a moment.

BEN AS ZOLF

Sure, okay.

LYDIA AS CEL

Would you like more saki?

BRYN AS HAMID

Ah, yes thank you.

LYDIA AS CEL

Pours him some more.

ALEX

Wilde steps out holding door for Zolf and then just on the porch for a moment.

BEN AS ZOLF

Yeah?

ALEX AS OSCAR WILDE

Obviously, the crowd you hear is getting anything it could be to do with the Simulacrum.

BEN AS ZOLF

Yeah.

ALEX AS OSCAR WILDE

The goal isn't assassination or anything else. I realise that we have got no reason to assume that Cel has turned, but at the same time you're the person that I currently trust to make sure that whatever's in there makes it back out so that we can use the extra time.

BEN AS ZOLF

Yeah, of course. We've done all the tests, Cel seemed pretty straight up so...

(laughter)

HELEN AS AZU

Oh, no.

BEN AS ZOLF

What are you laughing about in there?

LYDIA AS CEL

Having given Hamid a saki shot which is as big as his head...

(laughter)

...Saki jello shots.

BRYN AS HAMID

This is a shot?!!

(laughter)

ALEX AS OSCAR WILDE

Wilde sort of gives a grim nod and then heads back in. So, last chance, is there anything else that you need from me?

BEN AS ZOLF

I don't think so.

ALEX AS OSCAR WILDE

Let's just get this over with. Well, best of luck.

LYDIA AS CEL

Let's take this guy down.

ALEX

Wilde just gives a curt nod, heads out and just leaves.

LYDIA AS CEL

Everyone in a taking guy down.

BRYN AS HAMID

Well, I mean we need to destroy his operation but ideally he would be alive for questioning, depends if we need him.

BEN AS ZOLF

Well you know like, we'll play it by ear, either way he will be removed as a threat.

BRYN AS HAMID

Absolutely.

LYDIA AS CEL

Dangerous guy.

BEN AS ZOLF

Yeah.

HELEN AS AZU

We can kill them afterwards.

LYDIA AS CEL

Okay.

ALEX

You change, you change ...

HELEN AS AZU

Yeah.

ALEX

...I remember old Azu, you change.

HELEN AS AZU

She was so fed up.

(laughter)

BEN AS ZOLF

Hush Jiminy Cricket.

ALEX

She's just terrible.

(Laughter)

HELEN AS AZU

Yeah.

ALEX

I'm guessing that...

HELEN AS AZU

I predicted this.

(laughter)

LYDIA AS CEL

Yeah.

ALEX

So, I am guessing that you are all taking your ship to the stormy, stormy beach and attempting to sail across to this island.

BRYN AS HAMID, HELEN AS AZU AND BEN AS ZOLF.

Yeah.

BEN AS ZOLF

Cel have you got a bottle of saki?

LYDIA AS CEL

“Oh yeah!” like opens jacket there are so many little potion things.

(laughter)

BEN AS ZOLF

Brilliant.

LYDIA AS CEL

Like so many, in fact categorically because me and Alex had a conversation about this and while he kind of wanted me to have a spreadsheet where I was keeping track of every single chemical...

(laughter)

ALEX

It's the fun bit!

LYDIA AS CEL

It's what?!

HELEN AS AZU

Oh my god.

BEN AS ZOLF

You are so wrong!

(laughter)

LYDIA AS CEL

Your idea of fun is bad.

BRYN AS HAMID

I agree with Alex.

LYDIA AS CEL

So, instead of that just a lot of stuff and then from what looks some of the bottles fizz, some of them are bubbling, some of them like seem to be in an extra colour that you have never seen before, they take out one and like and hand it to you and like “wait no! (puts it back) This one, don’t think that one, this one, this one is saki”

BEN AS ZOLF

Oh no great that’s not for me...

HELEN AS AZU

Oh.

BEN AS ZOLF

...it’s just on troublesome voyages”

Look out towards the sea.

“Which this is going to be, it’s going to be deeply unpleasant...”

LYDIA AS CEL

Oh right.

BEN AS ZOLF

...getting thoroughly rat assed...

LYDIA AS CEL

Yeah.

BEN AS ZOLF

...is usually quite good, so I recommend you all...

BRYN AS HAMID

Uh, no that sounds like a terrible... like we might have to fight as soon as we get there!

BEN AS ZOLF

Maybe.

BRYN AS HAMID

Being drunk for that is not a good idea.

HELEN AS AZU

Almost certainly.

BEN AS ZOLF

Okay, well maybe just it might be good to relax yourselves, but I'll let you...

BRYN AS HAMID

Yeah we might get seasick we'll just have to suck it up you know.

ALEX

I am going to do a smash cut, it's been a while since I have done them okay.

(laughter)

Smash cut to the boat is on the shore okay, I am not going to require roles for how to get there you have access to a camel should you need ropes, a whole village of people who are happy to help out etc, it would be a bunch of roles to just slow the story down.

LYDIA AS CEL

Yeah.

ALEX

So, the sea is properly tempestuous. The villagers have gone as close to the sea as willing and are now pretty much heading back to the village, because being on the shore at this point is dangerous, perpetually.

LYDIA AS CEL

Jasper you should go back look no, you don't get to come with us Jasper.

ALEX AS JASPER

I know, I just want to make sure that you...

LYDIA AS CEL

I'm gonna to be fine. I'm gonna come back and then... but you better be studying while I'm gone okay.

ALEX AS JASPER

I can either study...

LYDIA AS CEL

Yeah.

ALEX AS JASPER

...or I can get in the vehicle, and you just told me that you wanted the vehicle working!

LYDIA AS CEL

Yeah, well that bit is true, okay study in the vehicle, but don't study any of the explosives because if you explode in the vehicle that will be genuinely very tricky to sort out so ah, study like healing potions, but very basic...

ALEX

He just starts heading off because this game has been played before... [overtalking 16:39]

LYDIA AS CEL

Look after everyone Jasper!

ALEX

Jasper leaves, you are now all alone on a horrendously tempestuous beach, think proper heavy waves are coming in so getting the thing out, not something I am going to give you for free.

LYDIA AS CEL

Do you think they're going to be okay I mean I could stay and check that they're okay.

BEN AS ZOLF

I think they're going to be fine because...

HELEN AS AZU

I'm sure they're...

LYDIA AS CEL

Join you guys later.

BEN AS ZOLF

Well look we're going to be creating a problem on the island so there are people on the island to deal with us because we are going to be a much bigger

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problem to the village so us being there is going to keep the village safe probably.

BRYN AS HAMID

Do we need to keep this [mumbles 17:12]?

BEN AS ZOLF

What?! Oh, right yes, usually.

Who is the most competent swimmer, apart from me.

LYDIA AS CEL

I mean I could.

HELEN AS AZU

I can swim.

ALEX

To convert this into mechanics as soon as he is possible, the simplest way of doing this would be, I assume you have a profession sailor?

BEN AS ZOLF

Yeah.

ALEX

If I have Zolf get me a profession sailor check, if I had one of you giving me a strength check...

HELEN AS AZU

Then into a hippo.

(Laughter)

ALEX

...then the combination of the strength check and the profession sailor check would be enough to get you out on the sea. However, once you're on the sea it's profession sailor aall the way down.

LYDIA AS CEL

Genuinely can turn into a very strong swim.

BRYN AS HAMID

On the turn quickly.

LYDIA AS CEL

Right, [unclear 17:51]

(laughter)

BRYN AS HAMID

If Azu is going to push, I could cast fly on her so she can fly onto the ship after she has pushed off.

BEN AS ZOLF

I mean fundamentally I could just make myself really strong, and just push off.

BRYN AS HAMID

If that's the easiest way, I mean I am not going to help much so I should probably be on the ship when we push off.

BEN AS ZOLF

Yeah.

BRYN AS HAMID

Then we need to steer Zolf.

ALEX

Don't we need to double points for Hamid.

BEN AS ZOLF

Well no I push it, and then I jump on and then I steer. We just need to set off.

BRYN AS HAMID

Once it's floating, it just kind of goes.

BEN AS ZOLF

But those people who are going to struggle to get inside need to be inside before I start pushing. So, we get it down to right to the edge and then you all jump in and then I...

ALEX

Oh Zolf, you're just not captain material, you're still suggesting instead of ordering!

LYDIA AS CEL

Like Cel is going to begin to push the boat.

BRYN AS HAMID

Hamid will get on it.

HELEN AS AZU

Azu is going to begin to push the boat.

BEN AS ZOLF

Okay, are you taking your armour off and putting it in the boat? If you're wearing your armour you're getting inside because otherwise you're going to sink like a stone and die. [Zolf's sound effect of hitting the water].

(laughter)

ALEX

Do you know what, out of everyone, you are the only one who's not struggling to keep their footing, mostly because it's hitting you like a rock...

(laughter)

HELEN AS AZU

I'm standing like a boulder! In the waves of life!

ALEX

You're watching like water is parting around you.

(Laughter)

HELEN

Okay, whatever you think is best, you're the one who knows I have never been in a boat before.

BEN AS ZOLF

Do you want to stay armoured?

HELEN AS AZU

Yes.

BEN AS ZOLF

Okay, get inside.

(laughter)

ALEX

Fine.

BRYN AS HAMID

Hamid is already inside.

(laughter)

ALEX

Hamid is [laughing/unclear 19:11] merrily aboard.

BRYN AS HAMID

Hamid understands the situation and knows what his role is.

ALEX

He remembers the last time he was on the sea I believe.

(laughter)

BEN AS ZOLF

Right, yeah so let's get this voyage going then Cel.

LYDIA AS CEL

Right, okay.

BEN AS ZOLF

Right so yeah, I am going to cast bull's strength for myself...

ALEX

Bosh, it happens

BEN AS ZOLF

...which means I have an effective strength of 20.

BRYN AS HAMID

Because we're not in Rome.

(laughter)

ALEX

It's easy when you're not in Rome.

(laughter)

BEN AS ZOLF

That's interesting I don't have to contact god in Rome, I wonder how that would work...

Anyway, that's another thing.

ALEX

Oh, yes.

BEN AS ZOLF

Yeah so...

ALEX

Can you give me profession sailor check so that I know how well you succeed in getting out there as it were.

BEN AS ZOLF

Okay, so the strength is like my hidden number of requirements okay.

ALEX

Bingo.

BEN AS ZOLF

Fine.

Oh, I roll a natural one.

LYDIA AS CEL AND HELEN AS AZU

WOW!

BRYN AS HAMID

[Let's have it 19:51]

LYDIA AS CEL

I mean I was going to say can I assist.

BEN AS ZOLF

Yeah, I mean I've still got an 11 but... and I mean also Cel is helping.

ALEX

Do you have any knowledge of sailing whatsoever in your character?

LYDIA AS CEL

Oh, absolutely not.

(laughter)

BEN AS ZOLF

They're just pushing.

BRYN AS HAMID

Yes, and they are therefore helping with the pushing which we've already established is the simple bit...

BEN AS ZOLF

Yeah.

BRYN AS HAMID

...it's the professional sailor which is the complex bit which you have just rolled a natural one.

BEN AS ZOLF

No well I rolled on the pushing, so...

LYDIA AS CEL

Yeah.

BRYN AS HAMID

He literally asked for a professional sailor, we've got a one let's just see what happens.

BEN AS ZOLF

I don't know why.

ALEX

So, this is what happens.

LYDIA AS CEL

Oh no.

ALEX

You manage to push the ship out sail aboard...

[gasps]

...like everything's going great, Zolf congratulations you managed to launch a thing.

BEN AS ZOLF

Right.

ALEX

It seems to be going really well.

BEN AS ZOLF

Okay, I would quite want to start navigating.

ALEX

Okay, cool.

BEN AS ZOLF

Right in you get.

LYDIA AS CEL

Oh, I was oh okay.

BEN AS ZOLF

Oh no if you want to stay out here that's fine, I just, I can make myself breathe underwater.

ALEX

To be clear by the way I would say 50% of the time the thing's entirely just underwater and there is just a mast sticking up out of the water like this thing was not built to float like a boat, this thing was built to just slightly sunken and so on. So, any conversations are yelled over a literal tempest.

LYDIA AS CEL

I can become a dolphin and so like pull us out of any problems.

BEN AS ZOLF

Okay, if that works for you, great!

LYDIA AS CEL

So, I was thinking I would stand here...

BEN AS ZOLF

Fine, yeah.

LYDIA AS CEL

...and just if you need anything just let me know.

BEN AS ZOLF

Brilliant!

ALEX

Give me an acrobatics check.

BEN AS ZOLF

I was about to say watch out for the boom...

(laughter)

LYDIA AS CEL

Eight.

(gasps!)

ALEX

Falls immediately overboard.

HELEN AS AZU

Oh my gosh this is...

ALEX

...immediately overboard.

BEN AS ZOLF

Oh, be a dolphin! Be a dolphin!!

(laughter)

LYDIA AS CEL

I'll be a dolphin.

ALEX

You be a dolphin.

LYDIA AS CEL

Yeah.

ALEX

Okay.

LYDIA AS CEL

That just happens.

ALEX

Okay, do a dolphin. You've got eight minutes.

LYDIA AS CEL

I'll be a dolphin.

ALEX

You be a dolphin.

(laughter)

LYDIA AS CEL

And just swim alongside.

ALEX

So, Cel does be a dolphin.

I am going to take that as break because this campaign is going in a very direction.

LYDIA AS CEL

(screams) WEEEEEEEEEEEEEE!

BRYN AS HAMID

You pushed in there.

HELEN AS AZU

This is you!

LYDIA AS CEL

(screams) WEEEEEEEEEEEEEE! It's amazing!!!

Rusty Quill Gaming – 132 – Sinking Feeling

(laughter)

[mid show break 21:50]

ALEX

Okay, give me a perception check Cel, please.

LYDIA AS CEL

I wish it was B shaped too so I would echo elevation. I don't think such a good roll this low...

(laughter)

BEN AS ZOLF

Welcome to the rest of us.

LYDIA AS CEL

Yeah. A 22.

ALEX

A 22 in perception?

LYDIA AS CEL

Yeah.

BRYN AS HAMID

Still quite high.

HELEN AS AZU

What do you mean roll this low?!

LYDIA AS CEL

Yeah that is [overtalking 22:10].

BEN AS ZOLF

Sally upper half they would say...

HELEN AS AZU

UH!

ALEX

So, anyway...

LYDIA AS CEL

I've got a lot of skill points.

ALEX

...I'm going to deal with two things technically, the first one is Zolf for free because of being profession sailor which is you know nice and high, you've gone already lashed yourself to the boat. I am not going to be requiring

acrobatics checks for you have not immediately fall overboard because you know, step one lash yourself to the boat. Okay, number two on that perception check...

HELEN AS AZU

Yeah.

ALEX

...yeah this Zolf guy... he has immediately launched the boat into an extremely like potent cross-current that's leading you in the opposite direction to where you want to go and it's just going to make life more difficult, in fairness it was probably impossible to tell under all the tempestuous stuff, but there's a really strong current in the wrong direction.

LYDIA AS CEL

Oh okay, Cel is as a dolphin going...

ALEX

As a dolphin.

LYDIA AS CEL

...as a dolphin...

ALEX

I want everyone, I want listeners to know that whenever Lyd now says "as a dolphin" she's sort of flapping her arms...

(Laughter)

LYDIA AS CEL

No, they don't flap their arms!

Okay, so Cel's little dolphin head is pointing out and they are trying to explain, you're going the wrong way but in dolphin, I don't think I can talk while I am in animal form?

ALEX

You cannot.

LYDIA AS CEL

[Lydia imitates a dolphin] eeeeeee, eeee, eeee, eee, eeeeeee...

(Laughter)

BEN AS ZOLF

What's that Cel?

(Laughter)

HELEN AS AZU

I believe that's down the mine.

(Laughter)

LYDIA AS CEL

Cel tries whacking their head on the boat and gesturing...

ALEX

I'm going to jump to the interior, things seem to be going well, you're definitely on the water, and then there's a really heavy thumping on the side of the vessel.

HELEN AS AZU

What do you think that is?

BRYN AS HAMID

Oh, it's probably just a loose rope, I'm sure everything's fine.

HELEN AS AZU

Should ropes be loose...?

BRYN AS HAMID

They can, often are on boats, yes.

(Laughter)

HELEN AS AZU

I don't like this.

BRYN AS HAMID

Like if you tie it off quite tight, there's a lot of loose end and like you know if there is only one sailor, they won't have time to secure the entire length of rope, but I am sure everything is fine.

ALEX

Azu, can you give me a will save please?

BRYN AS HAMID

Hamid is genuinely trying to counsel Azu through this...

ALEX

No, I get that.

BRYN AS HAMID

[overtalking 24:00]

...basically being a therapist right now.

HELEN AS AZU

It's very sweet of you. That is 27.

ALEX

You've got the sheer force of will get wonders...

(laughter)

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...jumping back to the exterior.

BEN AS ZOLF

Linguistic check to understand what Cel...

(laughter)

HELEN AS AZU

Really?

LYDIA AS CEL

[Lydia imitates a dolphin] eeeeeee, eeee, eeeeeee...

HELEN AS AZU

Is that another language?

BEN AS ZOLF

It's either that or...

No, no but it's like body language right.

LYDIA AS CEL

Say I jump out of the water and like splash in the direction you should be going
you idiot!

(laughter)

BEN AS ZOLF

Yeah, the alternative is I don't roll, and I just ignore her.

ALEX

I'm not going to do linguistics for this one, can you give me a sense motive?

BEN AS ZOLF

Yes.

LYDIA AS CEL

[Lydia imitates a dolphin] eeeeeee, eeee, eeeeeee...

BEN AS ZOLF

So, that's a 20.

ALEX

A 20, yeah you reckon the dolphin's both communicating and that it's communicating wrong way, completely wrong way...

LYDIA AS CEL

[Lydia imitates a dolphin] eeeeeee, eeee, eeeeeee...

BEN AS ZOLF

What's that Cel? I've gone completely the wrong direction?!

(Laughter)

LYDIA AS CEL

[Lydia imitates a dolphin] eeeeeee, eeee, eeeeeee...

BEN AS ZOLF

Ah, right, okay. I'll sort that out then.

ALEX

I'm not going to require a professional sailor check. I want you to know, the consequences for your natural one earlier would you have just sailed for hours in the wrong direction as your initial launch...

HELEN AS AZU

Oh!

ALEX

...good, good job from Cel correcting that one.

LYDIA AS CEL

[Lydia imitates a dolphin] eeeeeee, eeee, eeeeeee...

ALEX

Anyone just sat on the beach bored it's far more interesting to just make it last hours in game, it's great.

LYDIA AS CEL

[Lydia imitates a dolphin] eh...

ALEX

You're now heading in the right direction.

HELEN AS AZU

Yay!

BRYN AS HAMID

Good. Congratulations everyone, the story can continue.

(Laughter)

ALEX

Yay!

LYDIA AS CEL

[Lydia imitates a dolphin] eh, eeeeeee...

(Laughter)

ALEX

So, time ticks along...

LYDIA AS CEL

Seven minutes dude.

ALEX

I was going to say I am going to jump ahead unless you give me something, I am just going to say you start being in the ocean after eight minutes.

LYDIA AS CEL

Cel is going to like launch themselves onto land as a dolphin on top of the boat and then change back.

ALEX

Okay, give me an acrobatic check but you are getting a big old bunch of bonuses for the dolphin side of things...

LYDIA AS CEL

Because I'm a frickin' dolphin.

(Laughter)

Ah, that's alright that's 21.

ALEX

Yeah. Whoop, BANG! You're next to Zolf on a ship that's going the right way.

LYDIA AS CEL

Hey! You understand dolphin! Sorry I swore so much at you.

(Laughter)

I was really... I really shouldn't have called you those things, but I was just panicking, you know? I was just panicking.

BEN AS ZOLF

Do you know what, it's fine.

(laughter)

ALEX

All of this by the way is huge torrential rain.

BEN AS ZOLF

Do you know what it's water over the boat!

(Laughter)

ALEX

Tormenting 20 foot down to be back up 20 foot again.

BEN AS ZOLF

You might want to tie yourself to the boat!

LYDIA AS CEL

Yeah, I'm gonna do that.

ALEX

I'm going to cut to the interior, can I get another will save please from Azu; and can I get a for save from both of you?

HELEN AS AZU

That's 30 on will.

ALEX

Azu's got this, Azu got's this.

HELEN AS AZU

She's just so fit, I'm getting there.

BRYN AS HAMID

20 on the fortitude save total.

ALEX

Nice.

HELEN AS AZU

Also 20 on fortitude.

ALEX

Nice. Cel up top can I get a for save please?

LYDIA AS CEL

16.

ALEX

16 okay, and Zolf you are not requiring a for save.

Time presses on, and so far from the outside, inside you have no idea what's going on because there's no way to know. From the outside, it seems to kind of be working, I mean you are having to do a lot of sort of tacking back and forth because of squalls blah, blah, blah, blah; the thing seems actually dealt comparatively well.

BEN AS ZOLF

Mate, I've sailed across a channel on a [unclear 27:15]

ALEX

Exactly mate, exactly.

LYDIA AS CEL

I think next time I do this I would stick with the electrical eel, but like I would do some maybe porto like pilot fish...

ALEX

But Cel says, what Zolf hears is Boooshhwaaaa all conversation is now literally impossible upon there.

LYDIA AS CEL

That's fine, they continue talking.

ALEX

Again, because you are already last to the ship there would be multiple points to fall off, in fact, you do!

HELEN AS AZU

Oh.

ALEX

Rope back up and not requiring checks for it because you've had the lashing and you've taken the time to make a thing that can handle, blah, blah, blah, blah.

LYDIA AS CEL

Yeah, not particularly strong but with my [insgram? 27:48] I'm going to guess they are not.

ALEX

You've got Zolf around, it's all good.

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Can I get a profession sailor from Zolf please?

BEN AS ZOLF

[sings] not as bad as last time. Wahey, that's a 24!

HELEN AS AZU LYDIA AS CEL

Wahey!

HELEN AS AZU

You sail good.

BEN AS ZOLF

I do sail good.

ALEX

You are making tangible progress towards the island. Two things though are becoming really apparent one, it's actually going to take a decent chunk of time like even though it's only like two miles, you're looking at like a couple of hours because you're having to tack...

BEN AS ZOLF

Yeah.

ALEX

...doubling back, there's loads of squalls, all kinds of things, but you are actually making tangible progress.

Rusty Quill Gaming – 132 – Sinking Feeling

Can I get a perception check from everyone outside of the vessel please?

LYDIA AS CEL

20.

BEN AS ZOLF

17.

ALEX

Okay, and can I get a fort save from everyone else outside the vessel

BEN AS ZOLF

Outside?

ALEX

Outside the vessel.

BEN AS ZOLF

28.

LYDIA AS CEL

11.

ALEX

And last but not least can I get a fort save from everyone? A lot of saves involved in this one.

LYDIA AS CEL

Really, how unusual for this campaign!

BEN AS ZOLF

Yeah, who could have thought. 29.

BRYN AS HAMID

20 again.

HELEN AS AZU

22. There's not space for us to be sick.

(laughter)

BEN AS ZOLF

12

ALEX

12, okay.

LYDIA AS CEL

11 and 12.

ALEX

Okay, so I...

BRYN AS HAMID

Good thing we keep doing well on our saves then.

(Laughter)

ALEX

Yeah, good news for all of you, that's the saves to see us over like 15 minutes of audio at this point I figured I'd get them all out of the way in one go, fantastic!

So, sailing along it's starting to be a bit rough Cel, as in like maybe in the ship it might be a bit better, on the outside being flung overboard more than once, swaying wildly from side to side, two things start happening one, you start getting real cold, real, real cold, the fact that you've fallen overboard multiple times is not helping, the other one you are starting to feel real sick, real, real sick in fact you are now starting to take penalties all over the place for doing things.

LYDIA AS CEL

Am I taking any damage?

ALEX

You are not taking damage at this stage however, you are taking penalties on a bunch of things and are feeling real, real sick and if things continue the way they are, you are going to be good for nothing.

LYDIA AS CEL

Well, I mean I can't go in the boat at this point I assume because it is a storm, and it is under water.

ALEX

You could...

BRYN AS HAMID

You could try you might let some water in.

LYDIA AS CEL

Yeah.

ALEX

Basically, the way that I have been seeing it is effectively you have tarred trap door with like an oil cloth over the top...

BRYN AS HAMID

Yeah, a hatch.

ALEX

...so as long as you are coming in like some water will come in, but you are not going to sink the thing because it's made of wood.

BEN AS ZOLF

So, it might literally turn into a coffin, but I guess we just wait until we are at the top of a wave like “We’re above the water get in!!!”

(Laughter)

ALEX

Are you going to try and get in?

LYDIA AS CEL

Yes.

ALEX

Okay, cool.

LYDIA AS CEL

(gasps!)

Playing somebody who's not self-destructive, this is novel.

(Laughter)

BEN AS ZOLF

I will try to help once [unclear 30:29].

ALEX

Perfect, can I get a just plain dexterity check from Cel and I'll allow you to use profession sailor, Zolf to aid.

BEN AS ZOLF

I hope so.

ALEX

Yeah.

BEN AS ZOLF

I don't get to roll this very often, don't take this away from me.

(Laughter)

Look at the wasted skill points!

LYDIA AS CEL

11.

BEN AS ZOLF

21.

ALEX

Okay, here's how the carnage goes down.

LYDIA AS CEL

[cries] I'm not used to failing skill check.

(Laughter)

I don't know what to do?!

ALEX

So, Cel?

LYDIA AS CEL

Yeah.

ALEX

You start going immediately as you undo the sort of boiled tar across the top, it's flapping all over the place and okay I'll grab that, I'll grab that. The trap door starts to open oh no I've got that up, and then go oh no, no. Zolf is basically lashed to the point where he can't really walk, starts helping out and bundling you inside. As he does so you see on the distant horizon like through the flashes of lightening and something, something moving in the water...

BRYN AS HAMID

No not again! Ahhhh!

ALEX

...quite large but he's already bundled you in, slammed the trap door and tarped the oil.

BRYN AS HAMID

Nautilus.

ALEX

I am going to jump to the interior a Cel bundles in unannounced with some but not problematic amounts of water.

BRYN AS HAMID

Cel are you alright? Are you alright Cel?

LYDIA AS CEL

URGH! Yes it's fine, I just wanted to check on you that's...

ALEX

Cel is green.

LYDIA AS CEL

Hi.

BRYN AS HAMID

Are you feeling alright?

LYDIA AS CEL

I'm fine everybody I just wanted to know how you guys were, you know.

ALEX

(Laughing)

Cel looks terrible.

LYDIA AS CEL

How are you coping?

BRYN AS HAMID

We're doing okay, we're doing good, we're doing okay.

ALEX

And you all plunge another 20 feet.

LYDIA AS CEL

I for instance am absolutely fine.

HELEN AS AZU

You do not look fine.

LYDIA AS CEL

You don't know what I'm supposed to look like.

(Laughter)

HELEN AS AZU

I know what you look like on land and now I know what you look like on a small boat, in a storm.

LYDIA AS CEL

Yeah, that's just different ways that I look. I look a lot of different ways.

HELEN AS AZU

Fine.

LYDIA AS CEL

In fact, I could get smaller if that would help us out?

HELEN AS AZU

That's up to you I suppose.

ALEX

I am going to jump the exterior.

BEN AS ZOLF

I am singing a sea shanty to myself.

(Laughter)

LYDIA AS CEL

Yay!

ALEX

[singing] probably not gonna sink, probably not gonna sink.

(Laughter)

BEN AS ZOLF

I'm a lonesome drunken dwarven sailor, I am on the sea!

I can take to the sea whenever I do please!

I like to be on the sea, I like it when I float!

I want this boat to not sink, please don't sink, please don't sink boat!

(Laughter)

ALEX

Ay.

BRYN AS HAMID

You've been spending too much time with Tim.

BEN AS ZOLF

I was about to say that.

(Laughter)

ALEX

See this is where [fifth 32:54] ever come in, that would be an inspiration right there.

BEN AS ZOLF

No, no, one good system we could have been playing.

(Laughter)

BRYN AS HAMID

It literally exists when we started this campaign.

(laughter)

ALEX

We can move!

BRYN AS HAMID

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No, tragedy bad!

BEN AS ZOLF

Also, our character probably the kind of things are complicated so yeah, transfer over.

ALEX

Almost impossible I have already looked at this.

BRYN AS HAMID

Reset, everybody dies right here we go.

(Laughter)

ALEX

NO!

LYDIA AS CEL

It is quite weird after being someone and you realise how many of their expressions are the same.

(Laughter)

ALEX

Strange isn't it.

BRYN AS HAMID

Yeah.

ALEX

Can I have a perception check for Zolf?

BEN AS ZOLF

So 25.

ALEX

Okay, so...

LYDIA AS CEL

You know the leviathan, you know it's uncle's name, you know it's birthday.

BEN AS ZOLF

Sagittarius.

(Laughter)

ALEX

A bunch more time passes with you heading in the right direction. It's gone to the point where you kind of assume you know where the, I am going to call it rock because island is far too generous a word. You kind of assumed you knew where the rock was, as you proceed you start getting glimpses of a light

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extremely, extremely high up basically lighthouse style and you can use that to navigate so you are able to tack closer and closer to this light, it's not visible all the time, the storm is horrendous, it is yeah you have seen maybe four storms as bad as this.

BEN AS ZOLF

Was one of them quite similar to the one we were in the channel.

ALEX

Really yeah.

BEN AS ZOLF

Ah. Was it also the one that sunk the boat that I went AWOL on?

ALEX

Really yeah.

BEN AS ZOLF

Ah.

LYDIA AS CEL

Oh god.

ALEX

So it's the destiny instalment...

LYDIA AS CEL

What's the fourth one?

ALEX

You took a trip in the last one and a half years now I think about it, where it came up again.

BEN AS ZOLF

Oh, when I was researching this sort of phenomena.

ALEX

Maybe.

BEN AS ZOLF

Interesting, it's almost like it's all connected.

LYDIA AS CEL

No.

ALEX

So, you're proceeding towards the island and yeah it's getting rougher and rougher the closer you get, real rough, give me another profession sailing.

BEN AS ZOLF

Nat 20 so 30.

ALEX

That will see you over the rest of the journey then it gets real, real rough but, it's nothing else you have been kind of doing a lot of storm sailing recently for obvious reasons.

(Laughter)

You do however notice off the previous perception check a little while ago, suspiciously looking little tentacle thing, very, very far off, it is further along so if you have been sailing slightly along the coast as well as towards the rock it's sort of beyond where you will be sailing to on the far side almost but between the shore and rock.

BEN AS ZOLF

Okay, so it's almost kind of a barrier?

ALEX

You, the rock and the creature make an equilateral triangle.

BEN AS ZOLF

Yeah.

ALEX

So, you can make it to the rock without going anywhere near this thing, but you definitely see “oh there, yeah I’ve seen that before” big old tentacle, just a single.

BRYN AS HAMID

You and your long-term plot threads.

HELEN AS AZU

[Overtalking 35:33]...sound of it.

BRYN AS HAMID

So smug about it, isn’t he? Look at his little smile, he’s like yeah!

LYDIA AS CEL

What!

ALEX

And from the lighthouse you see figures mwah ha ha ha.

LYDIA AS CEL

True fact: We got told by someone that did fan art of an oil painting of the tentacle that they use that to get into art school, they could well have finished art school by now.

(Laughter)

BRYN AS HAMID

I don't know if that's true.

BEN AS ZOLF

Goodness, no I mean yeah, yeah.

LYDIA AS CEL

It's been about three years, it's been over three years.

ALEX

Checks out, it checks out.

Nonetheless...

HELEN AS AZU

Ah, I hope they did well.

LYDIA AS CEL

Yeah.

ALEX

...you starting making it towards the rock, okay and you start getting glimpses of what this thing is. Rock is the right word insofar as very, very sheer size with no discernible docks for a little while and a keep, pretty much flushed to the top of it so you have rock, keep immediately on top of that, and what looks to be a fairly sizeable lighthouse again poking up out the middle of the keep

higher up. You're getting sort of flashes of this and so on, as you start drawing near this is [unclear 36:31] be real glad you made that, this is the difference between dashed on the rocks and no way back and I'm kind of annoyed at you for that, that would have been fun.

(Laughter)

BRYN AS HAMID AND HELEN AS AZU

For you!

BEN AS ZOLF

Not for us or the audience.

ALEX

As you're tacking closer and closer it is so rocky. Obviously there is a lighthouse here, no one should be within about two miles of this place.

(laughter)

But you do catch sight of what looks to be basically yeah, a natural cleft in the rock. The kind of place where you're like, you know what, if I was going to be putting a subtle...

BEN AS ZOLF

Smuggler's cove.

ALEX

...a subtle smuggler's cove, that's where you put it.

HELEN AS AZU

A snug, smuggler's nug.

ALEX

The issue with it, and again this is me relying on the nat. 20 it was a nat. 20?

BEN AS ZOLF

It was.

ALEX

Yeah, this is the only reason you are able to achieve this, it's from a natural 20.

HELEN AS AZU

[Unclear 37:15]

ALEX

Do you reckon that despite the fact that the waves are ploughing way above it and down you could probably effectively sneak through at the right time when the waves are low to make it in. However, you are also aware that this is banking on there being space for the seawater to rise on the other side and that you not just heading into a dead hole.

BEN AS ZOLF

I'm feeling lucky.

ALEX

But this is a, I am not giving you any info, you cannot see what is on the other side of it, it's effectively pitch black...

BEN AS ZOLF

I'm feeling lucky.

ALEX

Okay, I am going to give you, you do the run on that 20 okay, so timing it and you are literally fighting against it for a while and you just trying to get the timings down. You then let it go, you let it catch a gust of wind just at the right time, you are having to wait like five to ten minutes just kind of tacking back and forth waiting for the right opportunity, and you dash through dropping the sail.

BEN AS ZOLF

[sound effects of lowering a sail] yeah so pull the bolt out of the bottom of the mast and it collapses it.

ALEX

Yeah absolutely. It is built to just flop effectively.

LYDIA AS CEL

I am extremely impressed by the mechanism.

(Laughter)

BEN AS ZOLF

We're good in action.

ALEX

You plunge into the darkness.

From the perspective of everyone inside the vessel now...

LYDIA AS CEL

Oh gosh.

ALEX

...there has been no word, no sound of anything you've just been kind of in a boat for a while now, then suddenly there is a really loud scraping apparently from all sides like something is grabbing the vessel or something is hit, or you've run aground or something a proper like [Alex imitates the sound] drawn out real, real bad.

HELEN AS AZU

Oh no! No, not good

BRYN AS HAMID

Probably just arriving.

ALEX

A couple of minor leaks spring, not the kind of thing where the vessel is sinking but like some of the tar has sort of separated out a little bit and things like that. Whatever's happening Zolf has treated the vessel terrible, [shouts] smuggler's cove Tokyo drift!

(Laughter)

LYDIA AS CEL

See if you'd given me a little more time I could have give us a double haul.

ALEX

Bash, bash, bash, bash.

LYDIA AS CEL

I could have put in some sort of suspension.

ALEX

And then everything goes still.

BRYN AS HAMID

See we're fine.

LYDIA AS CEL

Maybe we got eaten...

HELEN AS AZU

I don't think that's the case.

LYDIA AS CEL

Maybe we got eaten by a giant whale.

ALEX

Zolf I'll allow you to decide, do you just wander off for a while first or do you open the door?

(Laughter)

BEN AS ZOLF

Why. Why is that even an option in your head?!

(Laughter)

No! If we're safe and we've like beached it.

ALEX

Probably.

BEN AS ZOLF

I open the hatch and go “made it”.

LYDIA AS CEL

Have we been eaten by a whale?

BEN AS ZOLF

No!

HELEN AS AZU

Oh, okay.

BEN AS ZOLF

No, I beached in a hidden cove.

BRYN AS HAMID

After you Azu.

HELEN AS AZU

“Yes, thank you”. Azu leaps out.

ALEX

Azu has dark vision yes?

HELEN AS AZU

Yes.

ALEX

Does anyone not have dark vision.

BEN AS ZOLF

Oh, do I? I think I might.

BRYN AS HAMID

Hamid does not have dark vision.

BEN AS ZOLF

Yeah, of course I've got it.

LYDIA AS CEL

I can get dark vision if I need it.

ALEX

So, people that can see things.

HELEN AS AZU

Yeah.

ALEX

Zolf and Azu only.

BEN AS ZOLF

Yes, haven't stopped that dynamic from [unclear 39:59].

HELEN AS AZU

Oh yeah!

(Laughter)

Oh, that's so nice.

ALEX

So Azu you immediately poke your head out, you find yourself in a like a big cavern effectively...

HELEN AS AZU

Okay.

ALEX

...the water that you are on though is you feel your stomach moving frequently because the water level is easily flinging up and then back down about 20 maybe 25 feet regularly like it's flowing up and then pulling out. The ship, I keep calling it a ship, the monstrosity...

(Laughter)

...that you built that works! It does work.

HELEN AS AZU

Hey! The thing.

LYDIA AS CEL

My hideous child.

(Laughter)

ALEX

Your hideous child is being pulled vigorously towards the entrance every time the water is draining out and so on, and you are lashed to what appears to be a pontoon that leads off beyond what you can see because [dark fish 40:44] is only about 60 feet or so.

BEN AS ZOLF

It is yeah.

ALEX

You can just about when the water is at its highest you can see the roof of the cavern and then it's dropping down. What I would say is again, Zolf you will know this, even with the water level plunging up and down it pulling out and forward it's still sheltering you so much, no one would even be able to exit the vessel if you were to try to dock exterior, even if you had found a dock on the other side or something like that.

Rusty Quill Gaming – 132 – Sinking Feeling

Currently, there is a pontoon leading off beyond your vision effectively, a ceiling that rushes 25 foot closer and then disappears into the darkness again and a very strong current pointing out of it.

BRYN AS HAMID

How is pontoon working?

HELEN AS AZU

Magic.

BEN AS ZOLF

Is it a floating pontoon?

BRYN AS HAMID

Yeah, is it flat and going up and down so it's attached to another floating thing, or is it clearly tilting up and down?

ALEX

So, from as far as you can tell...

BEN AS ZOLF

Before we scoot on with everyone out of the boat there is a favour thing which is as you climb out Zolf offers his hand to help you.

HELEN AS AZU

Yeah, Azu takes your hand.

LYDIA AS CEL

Ahh.

ALEX

Cool.

The pontoon as you are stood on appears to be a long-fixed piece that is up and down and tilting as well, and you think you might see a hinged connection to another pontoon just the edge of your vision but you can't see the...

BRYN AS HAMID

Is it safe to glance some light?

BEN AS ZOLF

I don't know.

BRYN AS HAMID

Can't see anyone around?

BEN AS ZOLF

Well not within our range.

BRYN AS HAMID

I cast dancing lights.

ALEX

That was not necessarily safe.

(Laughter)

ALEX

Out of curiosity because it's been a while since it's mattered, what is the range on visibility for dancing light?

BRYN AS HAMID

Well, so I create a set of torches, I can't remember what illumination torches arrive that, if there is a mechanical thing, but they move in a group and I can basically zoom them around so it's like yeah, it's not much.

ALEX

So, a normal torch sheds light in 20 foot radius and increasing the light level by one step provisional 20 feet?

BRYN AS HAMID

Yeah so actually less than dark vision, but I can move them up to 180 foot from where I am.

ALEX

Presumable you're...

BRYN AS HAMID

So I...

BEN AS ZOLF

[whispers] Stop it, stop it, stop it, stop it! Turn them off!! Just because we can't see anyone within this dark vision doesn't mean there's someone looking at, we've just lit ourselves up, we're supposed to be stealth, TURN THEM OFF! Azu you can see right?

HELEN AS AZU

Yeah.

BEN AS ZOLF

Right.

HELEN AS AZU

We cannot see anyone but there could be other people [unclear 42:52]

BEN AS ZOLF

[whispers] You and Cel hold onto us and we walk down the pontoon, because if we don't want to... You could have just... they can see the light like emanates... dark vision doesn't!

BRYN AS HAMID

Yeah but it's not next to us and we're making noise in this not very.

BEN AS ZOLF

There's a storm!

BRYN AS HAMID

Yeah not in here.

BEN AS ZOLF

Outside is noisy!

LYDIA AS CEL

I was trying not to make noise because...

BEN AS ZOLF

That's why I'm whispering!

HELEN AS AZU

Why don't we get off the boat.

BEN AS ZOLF

[sighs] Yes.

LYDIA AS CEL

Would it help if I was invisible?

BEN AS ZOLF

Uh, I mean yeah unless it is more useful to be invisible like, we're still in the dark, but the point is Azu and I have a natural advantage which we don't want to give up, okay?!

BRYN AS HAMID

Oh, fine.

BEN AS ZOLF

We're trying to be stealth, don't be so hasty.

BRYN AS HAMID

Okay, I'll go and fall in the water then shall I!

BEN AS ZOLF

Azu just pick him up.

(Laughter)

HELEN AS AZU

I was about to say Azu picks him up.

BEN AS ZOLF

Okay, so unless Azu jumps in the water can you please stop complaining?!

HELEN AS AZU

I like pat you on the back like a child.

(Laughter)

BEN AS ZOLF

Cel, you good?

LYDIA AS CEL

Yeah, sure.

BRYN AS HAMID

Hamid is tense.

HELEN AS AZU

Okay, you get some soothing back rubs.

ALEX

Everyone give me an acrobatics check please.

HELEN AS AZU

Oh nooooo!!!!

ALEX

Azu's wearing armour.

HELEN AS AZU

[screams] NOOOO!

BEN AS ZOLF

Ah, nice rolled a natural one, giving me a total of two.

ALEX

Okay.

HELEN AS AZU

Okay, I've rolled 12.

BEN AS ZOLF

So, that's seven.

ALEX

Seven, okay, keep them coming.

BEN AS ZOLF

It's better than mine.

LYDIA AS CEL

I've got 13.

ALEX

Okay, great.

Rusty Quill Gaming – 132 – Sinking Feeling

Oh no, good point.

BRYN AS HAMID

I have no ability to control my own movements.

HELEN AS AZU

Oh god if I drown Hamid I'm going to be so annoyed!

LYDIA AS CEL

It's cool I can be a dolphin.

ALEX

So, keeping your feet on this pontoon in this weather almost impossible.

Everyone, give me a reflex save please, oh no sorry apart from Cel.

HELEN AS AZU

Okay.

BEN AS ZOLF

Ah 6.

HELEN AS AZU

17 but I minus something again.

BEN AS ZOLF

No, no you plus for reflex you've got...

ALEX

Reflex is fine.

HELEN AS AZU

Oh, 21!

ALEX

Okay.

LYDIA AS CEL

Yay.

BRYN AS HAMID

22.

ALEX

22, okay so Cel doesn't need to do the reflex save, you manage to make the DC on the pontoon.

LYDIA AS CEL

This is fun!

[whispers] this is fun.

ALEX

Zolf, you lose your footing, it's actually in fairness it's incredibly difficult situation to travel along, you're still lashed to the boat.

(Laughter)

HELEN AS AZU

At least you don't go away then.

BEN AS ZOLF

Sure, one minute in my head but yeah fine.

ALEX

Well, here's where I breathe in, I breathe out, is playing to your advantage, you never said you unlashed so you're lashed to the boat.

BEN AS ZOLF

Fine.

ALEX

Hamid and Azu – Azu is immediately pitched to the side of the pontoon but both of you manage independently to grab the side of the pontoon, pretty much by fluke...

BRYN AS HAMID

Does Azu drop me?

ALEX

Azu cannot possibly be holding you, and also the pontoon at the same time categorically...

BRYN AS HAMID

Cool.

ALEX

...so as it stands you are holding onto the pontoon being pitched up and down all over the place by the waves. There's a peculiar moment Cel where you know like particularly a huge wave you hear a few splashes, and you are now stood on the pontoon in the dark, and there is a brief moment of quiet from everyone else.

LYDIA AS CEL

Folks? Folks?

ALEX

And I am going to end the episode there.

LYDIA AS CEL

Can never keep friends!

(Laughter)

HELEN AS AZU

Ah.

ALEX

I want you all to know this bit went a whole mess better than it could have done!

(Laughter)

HELEN AS AZU

That's so comforting.

ALEX

Like a whole mess better than it could have done.

HELEN AS AZU

Yeah, well now I am going to drown in my armour so thanks.

ALEX

Yeah, but you'll drown in your armour in the secret entrance right that Zolf found.

BEN AS ZOLF

[moans] god!

LYDIA AS CEL

Folks, I can just be a dolphin and find you!

BRYN AS HAMID

Doesn't help us breathe.

LYDIA AS CEL

I can be a dolphin 12 more times.

EVERYONE

Bye!

(Laughter)

[Show Theme - Outro]

ALEX

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