

RQG – Episode 171 – The Bow Bar

[Show Theme - Intro]

ALEX

Hello and welcome to episode 171 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 !

(laughter)

ALEX

And...

HELEN

Azu apparently being thrown off the ship.

(Group laughter)

BEN

That's Azu slipping off her own shoulder.

(laughter)

BEN ?

I asked for a curtain.

ALEX

That was so weird. Cool, yeah. So we have spent the last I'd say two episodes or so dealing with super strange situations and we're just kind of being unpacking those a little bit. So I am going to one last scene at the start of this. And then – I'm going to warn you all now – I'm probably going to jump time ahead a little bit. But I am going to do a little scene that seizes into that, okay? So, as I said, it's been a number of hours and so on, and you've all be sort of having your side conversations and everyone's been having these sort of quiet hushed conversations and so on. And then all of you at the same time note that Wilde has quietly begun setting something up in the bowel of the ship. You know where you've been playing darts and things like that?

LYDIA

If it's an alchemy thing, right – if it's based on the conversation we had about alchemies – then Cel should not need a perception check to immediately know that it is an alchemy thing.

ALEX

It might loosely be considered an alchemy thing.

LYDIA

Mmmmmmm.

BEN

What does it look like from like an objective sense? What is, what is he doing?

ALEX

He appears to be – he’s brought up a large number of materials from all over the ship – materials that are going spare, but nonetheless materials. So you’re talking like strips of canvas, rope – he found some yardarms that had – like from the old ship, they just happened to get packed along, stuff like that. And he at the moment has just been piling them up at the bow where there’s been dartboards and stuff. And he’s sort of, he’s taking a little while about it because he’s not the most robust individual. But he, he is, he’s sort of doing it on his own, and he keeps standing with his hands on his hips and kind of considering the left and considering the right. Then he goes down below decks, tries to find another bit. He’ll maybe nick a little bit from here. He just seems to be assembling a pile of stuff currently. The reason that I mention that it’s probably got alchemy stuff is he appears to be accruing just about every bottle he can find, on the ship.

BEN

Wilde!

ALEX

Mm hmm.

BEN

What are you doing?

ALEX

Ooh, keeping busy, you know.

BEN

Yeah great. No, no, no. No, great, great. Busy with what? Because I mean, interior decorating, or are you thinking of throwing us all over the side, or your know, what's going on?

ALEX

The former.

BEN ?

Is it some sort of art attack?

ALEX

I, I don't know what that is.

BEN

It's when you kind of, like art that just appears in public places. It's usually quite big. Then people sort of stand and...

ALEX

Oh like a, like a flash mob? I've heard of those.

BEN

Yeah. Flash artists. Yeah.

ALEX

Yes.

HELEN ?

Sorry.

BEN

I just thought that is a very ambiguous turn of phrase [unclear 3:04] ...

(laughter)

HELEN

Yeah.

BEN

Then I was like, do I make a joke about it or....

HELEN ?

No, no, no. It is...

ALEX

I was perfectly in character, which is Wilde...

HELEN

You don't need anyone.

ALEX

Which is Wilde, Wilde goes flat faced, stares Zolf dead in the eye and goes, “Yes.”

BEN

Right.

ALEX

No I just, I thought people might need a, a pick me up. So I thought I might you know...

BEN

Wait, wait, wait, wait.

ALEX

I can't necessarily...

BEN

Are you putting on a play?

ALEX

Look, as much as I'd like to put on a play okay, I don't think – I, I don't have a one man show in me currently and unfortunately I don't think anyone is necessarily going to be in a situation to do that. So I'm finding the next best thing.

BEN

Right no, it's not bloody improv is it? I hate improv.

(laughter)

ALEX

No, it's not improv. And also you can't...

HELEN

There's numbers added to it. Zolf was...

(laughter)

ALEX

Okay. That, that neither surprises me Mr Smith, not also does it encourage me you know. You can learn a lot of useful skills from improv. The ability to react to tense situations in a way that you know, doesn't escalate the situation. The list goes on. Anyway I'm, I'm digressing.

BEN

No what are you doing then?

ALEX

Look, I'm – he takes a moment, gives a big flourish – and then just gives up. I, I'm just trying to make the like, bar social area nice, okay?

BEN

Oh right, so you are doing decorating?

HELEN ?

Ooooh.

ALEX

That's what I said!

BEN

Well no, you said sort of. Yeah well like, great no, brilliant. Let's make it nice. Fab, do you want a hand?

ALEX

I can't do more than...

BEN

Well I ain't doing much, and I'm, I'm in my own you know, body. So I'm not having to deal with anything. So you know, I can help out.

ALEX

I need something spongy, and as much of it as you can get.

BEN

Right, maybe some sort of sponge? I'll check the kitchens.

ALEX

Thank you. Right. The rest of you, you start seeing Wilde separate stuff out into relative piles and so on. Cel, for free to your eye, “Come on.” Like there are – what, what system is that? You can’t just put all of the wood things at one end of the deck and all of the not wood things at the other end of the deck. That’s not a system.

LYDIA

Cel might have the same reaction here as when I was doing some work in Brazil and I tried to order beef, and in the restaurant they, they looked at me extremely confusedly. Because, at least in that kind of carvery restaurant, in that place in Brazil that is the same thing as turning up and just sort of saying, “I would like food.”

(laughter)

LYDIA

And does, you know – it was like, “Do you want, do you want thigh, stewed, leg, what?” These are meaningful phrases. But, yeah, so if you say, “Oh look, they put the metal things in one corner.”

ALEX

Yes.

LYDIA

Like, Cel would just be so baffled by what their...

ALEX

That is absolutely what he has done. He has just made piles of different types of material.

LYDIA

Because there, there must be some kind of coherent order that they just can't work out? Like...

(laughter)

LYDIA

Is it the, there are things with the reflective index over like, 0.7 in a context within which a lightning storm is imminent? That must be what they're doing versus the ones that have an absorptive profile? Like it's, yeah. They're not quite as, they're not quite able to pause.

ALEX

Out of everyone, Hamid is the one who has the most insight. Wilde – I mean it's obvious to your eye – I don't know how anyone else could miss it. Wilde's clearly making it into a cabaret bar.

(laughter)

ALEX

He's taking what is a pile of bottles...

BRYN

He's organising things by aesthetic.

ALEX

Yes.

LYDIA ?

W-h-a-t?

BRYN

And hits how it looks, and no other system.

HELEN

So that is a reflective index...

ALEX

It's actually...

HELEN

...over the grave? I see.

ALEX

Absolutely. From an aesthetic value, it's a very sensible system that's going to allow him to really get a nice cohesive feel going on. You can sort of see what he's already going for. But, yeah.

BRYN

Oh, I used Hamid's normal voice there. Let me recalibrate. Hamid's still with Azu on his shoulder. Wilde, do you really think outside in the possibly, the windiest position on the boat is the correct space for a bar of this kind.

LYDIA ?

Yeah, and...

ALEX

Well, absolutely. That...

LYDIA ?

...and we're, the glass – we could flash it really easily.

ALEX

No, no, no. So ah. Ha ha ha. Wilde's getting weirdly enthusiastic in a way he hasn't for a while. So, okay...

BEN

So also, one quick thing. Just as, Zolf's like walking along holding some stuff. He goes, "It's a ship not a boat." And he carries on, like...

ALEX

Yeah. So, I learnt this one – actually I learnt this one when we were in Prague – I'd never seen it before. Really, really clever. I'll tell you what, give me a second. He, he goes away, takes one of the bottles and he just starts faffing

with something. And then he holds up the most jury rigged thing you've ever seen. What's that? The bottle's upside down and held in like a weird clamp.

HELEN

Is he making a like pendulum thing, so that it stays upright?

ALEX

No, no look, look, look, look. He then, he just, he then just starts like hammering it into a piece of wood. Okay, Hamid, Hamid hold this. Hold this upright.

BRYN

Wilde, I've been, I've been in, in bars which have these sort of things. But they're not normally outside, several hundred feet in the air.

ALEX

Yeah but, that that, let, just let me...

BRYN

Hamid holds what Wilde hands him while saying this.

ALEX

...just let me finish, for goodness sake. Right okay, okay. So, now I need, I need something heavy. Right, okay. Long story short, he does the worst job you have ever seen in your life, Cel. And all it is, is a, a measure for bottles you know. You put the bottle in inverted and it can do measures and so on.

LYDIA

Yeah.

ALEX

But, it uses a counterweight so that no matter what the ship is doing, it's always upright. It, he's done a very terrible job, but the idea is actually sound.

LYDIA

Ah!

ALEX

It's just, it's just one of those measures on a hinge with a big old weight at the bottom.

BRYN

He's made a gyroscopic?

HELEN

That's a word I know.

ALEX

Yes.

BRYN

No, okay. No it's a gyroscope, and they're called optics...

HELEN

Aaaaahh.

BRYN

...[unclear 8:30] measures and...

BEN

I didn't know they were called optics.

BRYN ?

Well hopefully someone out there got that joke.

BEN

Now, now that I know that I think that...

HELEN

That is a joke for people who are better than...

ALEX

Someone is just having the time of their life with that joke right now, Ben.

BEN

That was for all you bartenders out there.

(laughter)

ALEX

But yeah.

LYDIA

Cel takes a while to understand this because they're not, they, they've never been that concerned with the exact amount of alcohol that's being like..

(laughter)

LYDIA

...put into a drink. It's a, it' a thing that one feels rather than measures, you know.

(Group laughter)

LYDIA

It's an art, not a science.

BEN

Is that how they do alchemy as well?

LYDIA

Aaaah, yes.

(laughter)

ALEX

But Wilde, Wilde having shown that he's already kind of just going off and doing it. He is going for a veramder look where he's just trying to stretch out materials over the top as a sort of canopy, where the cross breeze gets them to sort of billow artfully and so on from the bow, where because it's the bow, at least two thirds of it are going to be looking out to the sky. It's all aesthetics, but in fairness, he is doing it where it's like, "No, we need proper tables, or at least close enough." Just lounging around isn't going to do.

BRYN

Oscar, Oscar, this – in many ways this is a wonderful idea – and in some times I would, I would love to partake of a, an aperitif of an evening, in just such an environment. But, you know, only a week ago we, we came through a physical storm you know, where the boat was being thrown around, hammering rain...

ALEX

That's why I'm hammering things down, Hamid.

BRYN

I just, I think you're overestimating how difficult it is to withstand the kind of weather conditions we might encounter.

LYDIA

Yeah Hamid...

ALEX

I mean...

LYDIA

Hamid go, go gently lean on it.

BRYN

Errrrrrr....

(laughter)

BRYN

Okay.

BEN

A lesson on how to be Azu.

(Group laughter)

ALEX

What do you choose to go gently lean on? Feel free to insert something into the scene and we'll just know it's there.

BRYN

Probably one of the table. Has he set up any tables yet, or is it still....

ALEX

Yeah, there's a couple of – I forget what they're called – like the drums that you use for massive amounts of rope and so on.

BRYN

Sure.

ALEX

That you can, you can basically roll...

BRYN

Yes.

ALEX

...and then if you put them on their side suddenly you know, table.

BRYN

Yeah. Okay, Hamid goes and leans on one of them. Still in Azu's body.

HELEN

Yeah.

ALEX

It shifts slightly.

HELEN

Mmmmm.

BRYN

See, that was just you know, not extremely strong weight. I mean if, you know if, if we have to fly through another storm Oscar, it's just...

ALEX

Well what would you propose, Hamid?

HELEN

Nail everything down.

ALEX

That's what I said.

BEN

I mean, I really don't think being on deck is the right place for this. Somewhere slightly more protected from the elements?

BRYN

There ain't no space anywhere else.

ALEX

Thank you Mr Smith.

BEN

I mean I'm, I'm...

ALEX

There's no space anywhere else, Hamid.

BRYN

...not the expert, Zolf. If you think that this can, this is a workable idea, I will leave it to the more...

ALEX

Well the problem is Hamid, there's just no space anywhere else. You, you heard it from the first mate. There's just no space Hamid. Just, not anywhere. There's just no space anywhere else.

BEN

Look, quite frankly, he's got an idea and we have an incredible engineer on board. And some more incredible engineers in the kobolds, because obviously the first person was Cel. So, I'm sure they can make it work.

HELEN

Can Azu roll sense motive on Wilde?

ALEX

Absolutely.

HELEN

Aah, that's only a 16.

ALEX

A 16? You get the impression he is not necessarily as incompetent at this as he might seem to be.

HELEN

Mmmm. Okay. She's not going to say anything about this. Azu just goes, "Mmmm".

(Laughter)

BRYN

Oh!

ALEX

Cel, would you be willing to help? I have a couple of ideas I really think could be, could be goers.

LYDIA

Yeah. So, Oscar I would, I'll be glad to help. I also at the moment am taking shifts, leaning nonchalantly against the door of the room that Carter is inside. And those are quite important. And I'm also trying to keep the, the boat afloat. So you know, on the air as it were. And so the, the help that I can, I can provide may be relatively small, but – and then starts listing lots of ideas about counterweights and how things might balance upright.

BEN

Also Cel, I mean yeah the, the Baron's door leads – no ...

LYDIA

Well Carter's inside, and me and Barnes are taking shifts just...

BEN

Right.

LYDIA

...leaning – he's not a prisoner you know. We're just...

BEN

No, I know.

LYDIA

...leaning against it and...

BEN

Yeah.

LYDIA

...and taking – making sure that he doesn't do anything to the would be you know, Carterish.

BEN

Tell you what, that's good and important work. We should probably draw up a proper rota for that so it's not just you and Barnes sharing the load.

LYDIA

Aah, okay. So, Omuz looks slightly disappointed just because you know, they've been having really nice chats with Barnes. It's, it's been...

BEN

I was about to...

LYDIA

...chilled.

BEN

I think, Zolf catch the look on your face and goes, "Wait, unless that was like quality Barnes and you time." Like no, I mean look, you can have the...

BRYN ?

Oh, is you Barnes?

BEN

...if you want, if you want the rota...

LYDIA

What!

ALEX

I didn't know Barnes was capable of quality time.

HELEN ?

What! Um, but he seems, he seems good. That's nice.

LYDIA

I just wanted to talk to him about like the what, the no, the boat. I'm going to build him a boat. And you need to know quite a lot about someone to find out how you make a nice boat for them, honestly.

ALEX

Oh I doubt that Barnes would have called it a boat. Is that – are you sure that's what you've been talking about, Cel?

LYDIA

Yeah, no it is actually a boat. He doesn't want a ship because he's dealt with ships too much you know. Like he wants a boat...

ALEX

Go on. Wilde's just stepping in.

LYDIA

..to fish from.

ALEX

Interesting, he wants to fish? Okay, cool.

LYDIA

Yeah, there's lots of different ways that you can fish. So you need to talk through all the different like – Cel looks absolutely baffled at you all and just starts building something.

(laughter)

BEN

So do you want that rota or are you...?

LYDIA

Well yes, obviously. That would be great.

BEN

Okay, alright. I'll draw up a rota.

BRYN

So, while you're here Zolf I actually – there was something I wanted to ask you and Azu about. Well Skraak mentioned that Sasria was having a, a really difficulty time of it, and I saw you talk to her. And I just wondered if, if she needed additional attention in any way? Or if you've already...

BEN

She's lined out – look basically, she's having to deal with the physical withdrawal symptoms that Earhart's body is dealing with.

BRYN

Aaaahh, yes true.

BEN

But, I had a chat, and she basically seems to totally get it. Like if you want to check in her and make sure she's okay. But pretty much the only thing we can do is just bed rest and like, I've relieved her from duty completely of, of needing to anything.

BRYN

That seems sensible.

BEN

I mean I've, you should check in because obviously she's not used to that sort of stuff. So it could take a toll, so...

BRYN

Yeah. I...

BEN

...especially like other, others of the Kobolds as you know, people that, that she is more comfortable with. Definitely should. And I imagine they are. But you know, if you want to like do something...

BRYN

Yes I, I'll...

BEN

...official then...

BRYN

I'll, I'll do, do the same. Actually Cel, Cel.

LYDIA

Ah, what? Yes, no, what? I was, I was concentrating. Yes, what? Yes.

BRYN

No, just...

(laughter)

BRYN

I've, I've noticed that Sasria has taken to the, the mechanical work as you know, as strongly as, as any of the Kobolds and they seem, they seem to have a particular respect for you. And I think that I would say Sasria looks up to you. And I just wondered...

LYDIA

Oh if anything I, I look up to, I look up to her. She's extraordinarily good at the detailed kind of work that – it, it's partly, it's probably the talons – but it's probably, she's just got an eye for that kind of intricate wiring system which...

BRYN

Well...

LYDIA

...I've always...

BRYN

Exactly. I just think that, that perhaps if you might also be able to visit them and offer them you know – I don't want to put any more demands on your time, I know you've got a lot to do already – but if you could...

LYDIA

What? No, I'm not doing anything important.

BRYN

...construct any...

LYDIA

Yes, I could absolutely to that. What? Yes.

BRYN

But also...

LYDIA

I'll go do that now, and...

BRYN

...sort, sort of construct you know, if they can't be on duty properly, but you know, could do some useful work of just that kind. Or, or even a puzzle or you know, something to keep them busy and keep them...

LYDIA

Aaaah!

BRYN

...practising while they're, while they're resting. If, if you could maybe provide something suitable...

LYDIA

Oooh, I think that there are a few...

BRYN

...if, if you see what I mean? I...

LYDIA

No, no I do.

BRYN

...maybe I haven't explained [unclear 16:34]...

LYDIA

There, there are a few Kobold logic games, I think that like they've mentioned to me, but like we haven't really had time to do a few. So it would be quite fun to actually to, ask her to develop a couple.

BRYN

Because I, I think she'd really appreciate your, your company especially in that, in that way.

LYDIA

Do you think she'd like, she'd like some marbles?

(laughter)

BRYN

Oh yes they, they might, they might like some marbles.

(Group laughter)

LYDIA

Like smash cup.

BRYN

Azu...

HELEN

[unclear 17:00].

ALEX

The bow is crashing, filled to the ceiling with marbles...

(Group laughter)

ALEX

...just haemorrhaging like a comet from the star!

(Group laughter)

BRYN

Completely it, it's just the inside of Azu's head halts fizzpop.gif.

(Group laughter)

HELEN

Can, can we...

[overspeaking – unclear 17:14]

LYDIA

Can I just ask? Partly, I think you may have addressed this before, but it has been a long time. And so, reminding we have in the course of this recording sometimes used 'she' and sometimes used 'they' for Sasria. Do we have this written down?

ALEX ?

Yes.

LYDIA

Is this...

ALEX

Yes, yes. I do, I have lists of the pronouns for the Kobolds. Some are, 'they/them' exclusively, and some Kobolds use a mix of 'he/they' and some Kobolds use a mix of 'she/they'.

LYDIA

Okay.

ALEX

And Sasria is a 'she/her' or 'they/them'.

LYDIA

Okay, cool.

ALEX

But both, uses both...

HELEN ?

So...

ALEX

...and so, yeah.

LYDIA

Awesome. So, well yeah. That's fine, cool. Cel excitedly tells Azu about the exact number of marbles that they will need to... Oh you know what Azu, they actually, they're very good at balance things as well maybe we can get the marbled one.

ALEX

Is it 200,000? Because otherwise I feel like we're not going to use all of Azu's marbles?

(laughter)

HELEN

Azu will happily share as many marbles as you want.

ALEX ?

Cool.

HELEN

We're all sorted.

(laughter)

ALEX

So, I am going to say now that unless anyone objectively interferes, Wilde is going to continue with his plans because he thinks they're a great idea. And occasionally sometimes out of pity, sometimes out of boredom, the odd crew member might do a little tweak here – do a little tweak there – as an example, at some point Frederick comes along and starts fiddling with the accordion a little bit. We'll see why later. And yeah, they all just do like little... that's...

BRYN ?

Presumably because he's going to play with it at some point?

ALEX

...write that down.

LYDIA ?

That is foreboding.

BRYN

But it's not a mystery there.

(Group laughter)

ALEX

But anyway long, long story short – people seem to have like their own little pet projects within this project.

BEN

How is Frederick coping with the, playing the accordion while in the body of a Kobold?

ALEX

Oh he hasn't played the accordion.

BEN

Aah.

ALEX

He just keeps faffing with it. So, unless anyone actively is going to interfere I'm going to start moving time on a little bit, accelerated in terms of like...

LYDIA

Sorry it...

ALEX

...montaging.

LYDIA

...interfere. Like, yeah... if you dare...

ALEX

This is a novel that you're all along for the ride for.

[overspeaking]

ALEX

I don't know what you mean Lydia.

LYDIA

If you dare have seen or do something or tell me information about your character.

ALEX

Do you know what...

LYDIA

Aah this character...

ALEX

I am, I am, I am Jonesing for an explosion okay?

LYDIA

Okay.

(laughter)

ALEX

It has been since anything exploded, nothing is on fire...

LYDIA

Cel feels the...

ALEX

...no one has attacked in days.

LYDIA

Cel absolutely feels when it explodes.

BEN ?

Poof, poof.

LYDIA

Anyway.

ALEX

It's, it's a whole thing. But yeah, in terms of the – in terms of like montage style – it's just. I want you to imagine the time lapse of a little bit goes up here, a little bit goes down, a little bit goes up there, okay down right. Oh, oh now there's canopies, okay. Canopies go down. Canopies go back up but now they have some holes in. All right they go down. They come up, now there's lights. Oh, there's a dartboard. The dartboard's got bigger. Oh okay, right. Okay, right. And it's just slowly taking shape as people do these little things. This is how I'm going to track time for the next I'd say 48 hours, unless anyone's like, "Woah hang on" like, and something super important needs to happen.

LYDIA

What? No these conversations aren't important at all. What? No.

ALEX

Good. Okay, cool. I'm glad.

LYDIA

Is that fine? We're just chatting about boat, no? He he he.

ALEX

In which case I am going to accelerate to about 48 hours from that last conversation we had.

BRYN

Can I, can I throw some scenes into a montage, that we don't necessarily have to play through, but just could I think it would be...?

ALEX

Absolutely. This is what I was about to encourage people to do, is. We have our baseline montage, which is a slow time lapse of this thing taking shape in the bow. Does anyone want to have their own cutaway elements to the montage?

BRYN

So, Meerk and Natun are in the bodies of Barnes and Carter.

ALEX

Correct.

BRYN

And were already good friends. So they've been spending a lot of time the two of them. And out of the Kobolds, they are both the ones who like music, or in Meerk's case noise, the most.

(Group laughter)

LYDIA

Loud noise!

ALEX

That is an important distinction, yes you are correct.

BRYN

So, Hamid would like to introduce them to Frederick, and basically encourage Frederick to help them explore the variety of noises and sounds they can make while in the different bodies that might be different to the ones they could do in their own bodies.

ALEX

So here's what happens. As you are – and, and this is a non-vocal like you know scene – where we see the image and then we cut away as, as whatever is happening in the background happens. It's clear, it comes clear to you that what Frederick has been doing is trying to build a rudimentary pair of gloves to extend his hand reach so that he can get back to the accordion.

LYDIA

Aaaaawwww.

ALEX

He's not doing a good job, at which point the Kobolds are like, "Mmm" and they start just fielding a new instrument.

BRYN

Awesome. So yeah, so I, I'm seeing Meer, Meerk as our resident loud noise lover is probably percussion. And Natun is more of the vocals, I think you know. So, Natun is in Carter's body and I don't know if Carter would be a singer, but maybe Natun can find some sort of joy in using Carter's vocal chords to sing?

ALEX

Carter has a fabulous voice.

BRYN

Of course he bloody does.

(Group laughter)

ALEX

It's like a problematic angel. Anyone else? I'm going to let each of you insert a scene into our montage before we wrap it up.

HELEN

I want to come back to Azu and Keeko at some point.

ALEX

Okay.

HELEN

But not right now.

ALEX

Understood.

BEN

For me it's nothing serious, like Zolf is just still making sure that people are fine, but most people seem to be handling pretty well, and also Sasria has like the other Kobolds to, to help them. So, like I'm pretty comfortable with them being okay with dealing with this kind of stuff. However I, Zolf will continue to just check in on Earhart because I'm not doing the whole thing if it's like, "Hey, big breakthrough, mass immersion turmoil..."

ALEX

Bye!

BEN

You just deal with that, right?

(laughter)

BEN

So I will, I will check in with her and not like even need to make a big conversation out of it but just make sure she's okay.

ALEX

Earhart has been avoiding everyone, but not spiralling. I don't know how else to describe it.

BEN

Yeah, fine.

ALEX

It's a lot of, "I need some time to think." Well, are you sure? No I, I actually do genuinely need some time to think, kind of thing.

BEN

So what I think is, Zolf will like just give her updates. So if, essentially being first mate, and just doing the job, you know also like checking in. And like keep her abreast of Wilde's bar plans. Because he thinks that her being annoyed at Wilde will help like just get her back to a little bit of normality.

(laughter)

BEN

Because that's like, that is a thing that she's always had, and it's almost an anchor. And also like just yeah, keep mentioning that like hey everyone seems

to actually kind of be pulling together and maybe yeah, inviting her and be like, hey maybe at some point you want to come out and like share in the, the social stuff which is occurring.

ALEX

Then two things I'll give you. One, Earhart seems to be actually starting to captain – admittedly remotely – but it's gone from, "Deal with it" to "Well, how do we do this properly?"

BEN

Great.

ALEX

Not in a, "I'm feeling great!" but more a "I am keeping myself in a cabin all day, and problems to solve is pretty cool right now."

BEN

I will continue to bring her problems then, effectively.

LYDIA

She's doing it through a small sort of square in the edge of the – she's called it Zoom – and so it's like...

(Group laughter)

LYDIA

...remotely a new...

BEN

Is it like those, those Italian like wine windows that they've, they've brought back, where just like a hand comes out with some orders and I hand some orders back?

(laughter)

LYDIA

Yeah, yeah.

BEN

...and just goes back into the office.

LYDIA

Yeah.

ALEX

Yeah, it's called Zoom because it makes the ship goes faster if it works.

LYDIA

Yeah, yeah, yeah.

BEN

Ooooh.

ALEX

But like...

LYDIA

Weirdly like somehow mega corporations are spying on it, but you're not sure how, it's just...

(laughter)

BEN ?

[unclear 24:41]

ALEX

Yeah, for some reason as well...

BEN ?

...like it's...

ALEX

Earhart seems to start getting in on – you know how Wilde's building this thing up front – she starts clearly giving you orders that are meant to make his life difficult but not actively sabotage. Where it's stuff like, "Well we're going to have to requisition a lot of these materials for suddenly this need." Just to give him a headache.

BEN

So I feel like actually Zolf slightly delights in this, because he's pretty confident this is going to be good for Wilde as well. Although Wilde seems to be doing really well, which is grand. But also again, given Wilde's joy – the joy that he seems to take in verbal sparring and basically being...

ALEX

Yeah.

BEN

...annoying to people, that actually having Earhart actively engaging with him again will be, like he'll be annoyed but he'll like take delight from that, so...

ALEX

So it's simple, what our first scene will show is you know, Zolf doing all of the stuff with Captain Earhart. And then being like, "We've got to do something about this, this bar." And then we'll just, as part of the montage, jump to Zolf is with Wilde discussing the bar going, "We've got to do something about this captain." And in both situations Zolf's like, "Mmm yeah."

BEN

Yeah. For, for once in his life Zolf's actually being socially helpful.

(Group laughter)

HELEN ?

By helping people annoy each other...

BEN

Yeah, yeah, yeah. Like that.

HELEN

...in a productive, healthy way.

BEN

That is the kind of thing that a low charisma character can really get into.

(laughter)

ALEX

I've got one from Hamid, I got one from Ben. Any other scenes that people are wanting to insert?

LYDIA

No! I've, I've literally told you what Cel's one are, which...

ALEX

Understood.

LYDIA

Not, not talking about boat, what? No. It's fine. Anyway, I just you know, it's being a responsible **purse** giver and... okay.

ALEX

In which case then, I...

LYDIA

...anyone need one on the boat? No, that's cool.

HELEN

Yeah I think, I think the only thing that Azu will be doing is sort of sticking close to Hamid for now.

ALEX

Give me a diplomacy check, Cel.

LYDIA

Oh gosh!

ALEX

Well, Lydia for Cel.

LYDIA

Okay so, this is a – what are the context within which it gets the massive boosts? Because sometimes it's 11 and sometimes it's 4, and I've forgotten exactly.

(rolling dice)

LYDIA

But let's say it's high, let's say it's cool. We're working on intelligence, in which case it's 26.

ALEX

I'm going to be taking the 4 not the 11 on this one...

LYDIA

Okay!

ALEX

...for a number of reasons.

LYDIA

It's 19.

ALEX

19, okay.

BEN

Good.

ALEX

Barnes lets you know – and I'm not going to RP this scene – there was a young gentleman that Barnes thought he was going to settle down with on this mystical, basically shore cot – he hasn't really thought it out. It's a

Rusty Quill Gaming – Episode 171 – The Bow Bar

combination of like a cottage and its own personal dock. It's not really a thing.
He hasn't...

LYDIA

It's, it's kind of a blurry, it's comfort but on a boat, but also...

ALEX

Yeah.

LYDIA

...with a flyer.

ALEX

But also a cottage.

LYDIA

But also like a cottage, yeah.

ALEX

Yeah.

LYDIA

It's got a cat, but also maybe like a dog?

HELEN ?

Confusing.

ALEX

There was a young gentleman a while ago that he thought might be the person to fill that role. Unfortunately he died in service.

LYDIA

Aaaaaaaaaahhhhhhhhhhh!

ALEX

He was a, lost at sea. And by lost at sea I don't mean that in the, "Oooh, maybe he'll..." he was...

HELEN

He was seen to be lost at sea.

ALEX

He was very much like seen to be dead at sea.

LYDIA

Okay, that sounds like an awkward conversation. I'm going to assume that it was not quite...

ALEX

Yeah. I'm not going to...

LYDIA

...bowed...

ALEX

I'm not going RP it but...

LYDIA

It's, it was a, it's a, it ends up being quite a meted – and I suppose at that point like, Cel would sort of say like, "It's strange isn't it? You have people for a while and then you lose them but it's... you know?" Pats him on the shoulder.

ALEX

It is what it is.

BEN

I too have known loss.

(laughter)

LYDIA

Yeah, yeah. This is a low charisma character saying, "There, there." But, but deep like.

BEN

There, there.

(Group laughter)

LYDIA

There, there! Like, "Oh I empathise" but not doing the... this is the, like...

ALEX

I understand exactly what you mean.

LYDIA

...where Cel doesn't run on, you know.

ALEX

Yeah, yeah.

LYDIA

That's the...

ALEX

In which case then, I am going to jump to, Wilde insists on everyone and encourages people to basically get a bit involved as a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the front of the ship.

LYDIA

Aaaahhhh!

ALEX

And he says he realises it's a bit awkward so he encourages people to – I think he picks something like – the theme is fancy dress with the sub-theme of whatever the heck you want, who cares, let's just have some fun.

LYDIA

Ha ha ha ha.

ALEX

He basically just encourages people to dress silly if they want.

LYDIA

Cel is wearing, having Carter in a headlock.

(laughter)

LYDIA

It's like, "Oh look, you get to be involved."

ALEX

I'm going to leave people's, to people's imaginations how people choose to execute upon that.

BEN?

Aaaahh, No!

ALEX

But Earhart does come out and steps out onto the deck, extremely sombrely, and very carefully in a modified pirate's – not pirate's, sorry – in a modified airship captain's garb that actually you know, seems to fit. She's clearly made a couple of adjustments on the sly, with a full size stuffed flamingo in place of the customary feather.

(Group laughter)

BEN ?

Incredible.

LYDIA

[chuckles] Incredible.

BEN ?

Um, has...

ALEX

She has not acknowledged it is anyway and is extremely dour.

BRYN

Hamid would like to borrow the magic sleeves back from his own body.

ALEX

Yes.

BRYN

He's going...

ALEX

Your...

BRYN

...to consult with Azu to make sure she is happy with his choice. But he is going to come if, if Azu is on board in a super fancy ballgown.

HELEN

Ah Y-E-S !

(laughter)

BRYN

What colour?

HELEN

Azu would love this.

BRYN

What colour? I mean like...

HELEN

She never gets to wear..

BRYN

I presume pink? But...

HELEN

I mean, I think Azu has slightly mixed feelings. Because on the one hand she's like, "Yes, put me in a massive dress", but on the other hand she's like, she's not wearing the massive dress.

BRYN

Well one of the things I can, we can do is, I can say, "Well you can do this again whenever you want, because once we've designed this together it will be easy for you to borrow the sleeves and wear it when you want to."

HELEN

[howling noise]

BRYN

Also but I just, feel free to say, say no but I love the idea of maybe doing something in pink and purple, because it's Hamid's colours and Azu's.

(Group laughter)

ALEX

You're thinking big ballgown, maybe with like a purple sash across the waist, that kind of thing?

BRYN

Right.

HELEN

Do you know, you know what Billy Porter wore to the Oscars?

BRYN

Yes !

HELEN

You know?

ALEX

I'm, I'm really sorry I've, I've dived this story well beyond the realms of anything I actually know anything about.

HELEN

So, so there was like ballgown, ballgown something like...

BRYN

Below the waist, and then like...

HELEN

...the waist, but like a suit a, like...

ALEX

Oh, okay.

HELEN

...white tie kind of suit.

BRYN

Oh hell yeah!

HELEN

...at the top.

BRYN

Ah, ah, ah hell yeah!

HELEN

So you can imagine?

BRYN ?

Y-E-A-H

HELEN

You know, that's the kind of....

ALEX

So.

BRYN

Okay. Yeah, I love it. Okay, so we're going for Billy Porter Oscar outfit, but in pink and purple. If, if, if Azu and Hamid can come to that agreement, that feels right to me.

HELEN

Absolutely.

BRYN

I love it.

HELEN

Beautiful.

ALEX

Wilde has used some of the leftover materials to come dressed as the ship. He's done a fairly good job. The costume is faulty.

(Group laughter)

ALEX

And not necessarily very well made, but it's a really sterling effort.

LYDIA

And he did all of that without prestidigitation?

BRYN

Yeah.

LYDIA

The man has respec, respec.

ALEX

Right, well.

BRYN

Well, I, hang on...

ALEX

Oh, of course. I'm so sorry.

BEN ?

So I will, I will ask Barnes but in the interests of, of silly and slightly ironic, I would ask to use Barnes' old naval dress uniform, but make no modifications, so that it's massively oversized for me.

(laughter)

BEN

So that I've got like these big sleeves and stuff.

ALEX

Barnes is fine with that. He's...

BEN

Great.

ALEX

He's, he's completely fine with that.

BEN

So I will turn up in a massively oversized like naval – what was he, a captain – no he was higher than that wasn't he?

ALEX

Commander.

BEN

He was a commander, yeah. So I, I've got the bloody hat...

ALEX

At his peak he was a commander.

BEN

Yeah, I've got that hat.

ALEX

You've got a hat and you've got epaulets and all kinds of stuff going on.

BEN

Yeah, yeah, yeah, great. So that's what I come in.

ALEX

Is, is Cel choosing to take part?

LYDIA

Yeah. Cel will be – what's a good animal – I've forgotten all animals.

BRYN

Out of all of the animals in the world you have to make a choice.

LYDIA

Ooh, ooh I know. A penguin, an emperor penguin.

(laughter)

LYDIA

Because they're in a black tie suit, you know?

(laughter)

BRYN

Love it.

LYDIA

So, going to do that. But the, they can do that a couple of times of course in the day. So they do arrange with Barnes to have an eye on Carter and take it in shifts, so...

ALEX

Yeah, yeah, that's fine.

LYDIA

When it, you know. In between they are wearing...

ALEX

Carter seems to have been far more chill once he realised there was a party on the cards.

(laughter)

BRYN

That's fair enough.

LYDIA

That, him being chilled means he's planning something.

BRYN

We should just dress Carter as like a kettlebell, so we could just place him on a table, and then he can't go anywhere.

ALEX ?

But he's not a prisoner. He hasn't done anything wrong so far.

BRYN

Oh no, he's in, he's in fancy dress...

LYDIA

We're just keeping an eye.

BRYN

You know.

LYDIA

We're just keeping an eye, yeah.

ALEX

And that leaves Helen. What are we thinking? Are we, are we going for it?

HELEN

Ah, right. So Azu is in Meerk's body. So Azu is going to – and Meerk is in Barnes' body? Okay, alright. Well Azu's going to go and find them. And Azu is going to prep – so Azu still has her bag of holding – and Azu is going to produce two horns, like as in like, Horn of Gondor type horns.

ALEX

Sure.

BEN ?

Oh !

HELEN

Because those, those were among the things that I splurged on.

ALEX

Yeah, yeah.

BRYN

Nice.

ALEX

You did explicitly say you bought a massive pair of horns.

(laughter)

HELEN

And Azu is going to ask Meerk if it would be okay if she like put these massive horns on Meerk's already like...

ALEX

Meerk, Meerk's eyes light up, and unfortunately Meerk's English isn't quite so good as say Sasria's is. So it, all, all you get is basically a [makes growling noise].

(Group laughter)

ALEX

However, Meerk then insists on – basically giving – Meerk gives Meerk's own body a bit of a makeover, where it's like, "Well, we'll put some big horns, massive horns, yeah!"

HELEN

Yeah !

ALEX

And then like, “Okay, no we don’t want spikes, we want M-A-S-S-I-V-E spikes”
and just...

(laughter)

ALEX

You, you come out looking a little bit like a mace?

HELEN

Yes !

(Group laughter)

HELEN

Do you know what?

BRYN

Are there any, are there any like...

HELEN

That absolutely....

BRYN

...jangly, clangy bits? Because remember he does love loud noises.

ALEX

Of course.

HELEN

Yes !

BRYN

Yeah.

ALEX

But what I would say is you turn quite a lot of eyes of the Kobolds who are in various places of the ship and various people's bodies. Like a "Mmm, nice."

(Group laughter)

HELEN

Very spiky, very good.

BRYN

The height of Kobold fashion.

ALEX

Yeah, very spiky.

HELEN

Yeah. Azu goes like, like she's completely down with this because now she has loads of spikes she feels less vulnerable.

ALL

Aaaaaahhhhhh !

(laughter)

HELEN

And she's like, "Yeah ! Fear me."

(Group laughter)

ALEX

So, with everyone ready then, Wilde's son's there beside the, beside the **River**
Nin " " its just a strip of canvas I think – with a knife instead of a pair of
scissors, but he just looks around and says, "Oh, I'm sorry, Captain would you
care to say a few words?" At which point Earhart just gives a big sigh, steps
forward and goes, "No." But in a kind of joking way.

(laughter)

ALEX

And then steps back, at a point Wilde goes...

BEN

Zolf – sorry – Zolf gives her like a massive like, "Yeah!" thumbs up, "Go for it!"

(laughter)

ALEX

At which point Wilde's like, "Couldn't have put it better myself. Excellent. Well..." That, it actually seems to have thrown Wilde, which brings a minor smirk to Earhart's face.

(laughter)

ALEX

Right. So, yeah this is, this is for everyone. It's okay to enjoy it.

LYDIA

Yeah.

ALEX

He then cuts it, then hustles himself over to behind the "bar", ducks down, pulls up, puts on the spangliest bar apron you've ever see.

(laughter)

ALEX

It appears to be covered in bits of like broken mirror for maximum shine and so on, and then just kind of gestures for everyone to come in and take a seat. And I'm going to take a break there.

LYDIA

Oooh, yay!

ALEX

And welcome back. So, I am not going to say what every single individual person has been doing, but I will say this. Let's call them the band that Hamid has encouraged the creation of.

LYDIA

Named so because they are not allowed, but they're playing anyway.

(Group laughter)

ALEX

Clever.

BEN

Alex, could you just quickly say whose in the band? Just for...

ALEX

Yes. So, this is Meerk, Natun and Frederick.

BEN

Yeah.

LYDIA

Aaah.

ALEX

And between the three of them they have completely deconstructed the accordion and built a new instrument which is about five times the volume but does require one of them to be manning a bellows.

(laughter)

ALEX

It's closer to an old style Medieval organ.

(laughter)

LYDIA

Aaaah!

ALEX

But it's got some sick bas, ya'all.

(Group laughter)

ALEX

They modified a barrel to be the lowest tone.

(laughter)

BRYN

Wow! A real...

ALEX

It's...

BRYN

A real big honker.

ALEX

Yeah.

LYDIA

Hey there fellow...

ALEX

In terms of...

BEN ?

Honky boy!

(Group laughter)

ALEX

In terms of Meerk and percussion you were correct. So we now have a massive, basically organ that can be piped and pumped and so on, alongside what basically we would recognise as a drumkit. Both and Meerk and Natun can play the drumkit but they both play it very differently. Meerk is basically...

[makes strange noise], whereas Natun's is a bit more like [makes further strange noise].

(laughter)

LYDIA

Natun's into jazz.

ALEX

They have very different styles. Yeah, they have very different styles.

LYDIA

Ooh a jazz Kobold.

ALEX

Wilde keeps...

BRYN

...thrash metal.

ALEX

Yeah, Wilde keeps gently from his bar encouraging Natun to play the drums rather than Meerk, to keep the ambience but he's not necessarily winning the whole time. In terms of other stuff that's been going on, I'm going to go ahead and say that people managed to get the counterweighted bottles working quite well. It turns out Wilde was born to tend bar. Every single person has a

drink in their hand, and it turns out that he might have a flair for alchemy in a different way.

(laughter)

ALEX

And he seems to have taken that to heart. Make of that what you will. Everyone else seems to be engaging in various ways. Sigiff, Keeko and a couple of the others at various points start a card game going in the corner. It basically seems to be going the way it should, which is it's quite a chill time. It's neither a rave, but also it, it's just quite nice. And people will tag out to say, take shifts at the wheel and things like that. But it's, it's, it's quite a chill little lounge vibe they've got going on. In terms of that, I'm going to let people pursue what they want within here. I am not going to be generating any further scenes. I'm following your lead now.

HELEN

Okay. In which case Azu is going to clank over to Keeko.

(laughter)

HELEN

That's another thing that's reassuring. She clanks again.

(laughter)

ALEX

Yes she does, it's true.

(laughter)

ALEX

Okay, so Keeko, who is in Frederick's body, yeah?

HELEN

Yeah. Azu sort of looks up at her and she's like, "Ello".

BRYN

Ooh !

ALEX

Azu, yes "Hi. How are you doing?" Keeko looks super awkward by virtue of Frederick's enormous, enormous arms, with someone who doesn't know just in general, where to put their arms. So you know when it's like, "Do I put them in my pocket? Do I put them behind my hands?" whatever, like, "I don't know." But because they're just so oversized it's very obvious that Keeko is a little bit awkward in a way that Keeko in her normal body absolutely was not. It, she looks to your eye like without a roll, a lot more vulnerable than she was when the two of you were first sort of getting to know one another.

HELEN

Okay.

ALEX

Would you like to join us?

HELEN

Yeah, I want it but I want, can you come, come over here for a, for a minute?

ALEX

Oh yeah, yeah of course. And Keeko stands knocking the table and bit and everyone's like, "Aaaaaaaaahhhhhhhhh!" and she's like, "Oh, shut up."

Yeah, okay. Keeko comes over with you to a quiet corner of the – I keep wanting to call it 10 forward, and I can't.

(laughter)

ALEX

The Bow Bar.

HELEN

I don't know what that means but okay.

ALEX

Star Trek reference.

BRYN

It was the bar of the Starship Enterprise run by Whoopi Goldberg.

ALEX

We'll call it the Bar Bar, sorry, the Bow Bar even, why not? Until someone gives it a proper name. But yeah, Keeko...

HELEN

We're still working on that.

(Group laughter)

ALEX

Keeko...

HELEN

The Bow Bar, we're still working on the name, okay.

ALEX

Keeko heads over and is just sort of stood awkwardly with you.

HELEN

Okay.

ALEX

Close, but doesn't really know what to do with herself, very obviously.

HELEN

Yeah. Azu is also standing awkwardly, and another familiar thing. So Azu says, "I, wanted to say sorry for not you know, coming in and checking in."

ALEX

No I'm, I'm sorry. I, I'm sorry that I, I should have, it's a lot.

HELEN

No, no what?

ALEX

And...

HELEN

Well, we both... I, it, it's really, it's really weird isn't it? Like...

ALEX

I keep...

HELEN

How are you?

ALEX

I keep worrying that I'm going to like hurt someone.

HELEN

Oh !

ALEX

You know, because I'm just, it's just – I'll tell you what, I mean Frederick doesn't seem the type. Like you know, he's really – you know what I mean – he's a bit of a, he's a bit of a wet blanket. But, he's strong, I'll give him that. I don't think he knows what to do with it but, yeah I'm just worried that I'm going to, yeah. So, she's still stood there and she is super awkward and like picking at her own hands and so on, where she just, it's clear she really doesn't trust herself in this situation. It's obvious to anyone, and she's just there kind of keeping her arms very much tight to herself because, you know. Obvious reasons. I didn't mean anything to stay away. I'm sorry.

HELEN

No, well, me neither. I mean it's a lot, it's a lot to get used to but I wanted you to know that I've been you know, thinking about you, but also you know, we can't really, because we're in different, and it would be weird if...

ALEX

No, no. Yeah, no.

HELEN

Um...

ALEX

I get it.

HELEN

But, and Azu reaches up with her tiny hands, and like puts her tiny hands on Keeko's massive hand...

(laughter)

ALEX

Keeko just kind of...

HELEN

...and she says...

ALEX

Yeah, just encourages it without like crunch grabbing thing.

(laughter)

HELEN

Keeko successfully does not crush Azu, thank you.

ALEX

Basically.

HELEN

Azu says, "Well you know, I've been, I've been very big for, for, for a long time and you know, usually as long as you don't mean to you won't hurt anyone.

And you'll get used to it. And you're not, you're not the kind of person who, would do. So..."

ALEX

Yeah.

HELEN

...you'll be okay."

ALEX

That's true. Well..

HELEN

But yes, I wanted to say sorry for, and that it's not that I've been avoiding you, it's just been weird.

ALEX

Keeko takes a moment, and then sits. And in so doing ends up at eye level.

HELEN

Yay !

ALEX

Yeah. I like your horns.

HELEN

Oh yeah! Yeah, I'm really spiky. Makes me feel better.

ALEX

I kind of want to like roll you a Carter.

HELEN

Ooh yay ! Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah. Go on, go on!

(Group laughter)

ALEX

I'm going to use this opportunity to sort of pull away from that a little bit.

HELEN

He he he he he. Just in the background...

ALEX

I was going to say, yeah...

HELEN

...a spiky dwarf [unclear 43:31]...

ALEX

...no matter what seems happening, Azu in the spike ball is just rolling gently from a fleeing – over a fleeing Carter.

BRYN

And then off frame we just hear a gggggrrrrrr!

(Group laughter)

ALEX

Anyone else have anything they want to pursue at this, at this moment?

BEN

I'll probably grab Zolf and Cel at some point for a chat.

ALEX

Then, now would be a good time.

BEN

Guys, I've just been thinking like, since this happened we've sort of been dealing with the immediate consequences and well it feels like we've you know, put out the fire as it were, as in nothing you know, we know we can, everyone can survive in this state and we know that we can keep flying the ship. But we haven't really made any progress to reversing it. And well, we talked – when it first happened Cel – we talked about the, you know the similar magical effects that we'd both heard about. But, I think we decided that because it was affecting so many people at once, we didn't really have the, the skills or the expertise or the, the means to, to just do it in any reasonable way.

BRYN

Can I just – look from my, from my point of view right – what I'd like to do is find the nearest bloody aurora borealis we can and drive straight into it. However, I haven't been affected by this and it could do something completely

different. So this is not a decision that – it's a decision that I will facilitate as first mate – but it's not a decision that I can make. Because it, it's more important that this decision is, is made, or at least informed heavily, by those of you who have been affected by it. Right?

BEN

I think, yes. So, that's not too different from my own thinking Zolf. Like, we don't have the magical means available to us, but the Wilde magic is there and is a potentially very powerful source. But I think just flying into it and crossing our fingers might not do what we want. And I, I remember Cel, we talked about the design of the, the cage and about how to make it safe. And you, you were explaining how the, the, the, the prod on top...

LYDIA

The prongs? They flow down...

BEN

...it, it channels.

LYDIA

Yes.

BEN

Yeah, well it channels. And I wondered, is there any way to sort of reverse the polarity of that flow?

LYDIA

Of, of the, of the trans? Not the, not the old ones. You would want, you would want not the...

BEN

Well..

LYDIA

You would want the new, the new...

BEN

If we went through another aurora borealis and..

LYDIA

They would be new trons, yes.

BEN

We wouldn't, make sure the flow was flowing in the other direction. I think it would...

(Group laughter)

LYDIA

I...

BRYN

Sorry, just quickly, what is that in like people language?

LYDIA

Oh, we're going to reverse the polarity of the neutrons load, that's...

(laughter)

ALEX

I'll tell you what, can I get a knowledge arcana from both Hamid and Cel?

BRYN

I mean, shall I also make one? Because I think I have it, I'm just...

ALEX

You have knowledge arcana. I didn't realise you had knowledge arcana.

BRYN

I, I, I have a...

LYDIA

I should give, I should also give Hamid the chance to say the phrase as well, I have to say.

BRYN

Yeah. Well, give Bryn the chance.

(dice rolling)

LYDIA

Yeah.

BRYN

Yeah, I have one rank in it. So I get to roll...

ALEX

Yeah you can, you can roll.

BRYN

Oh no, that's a 10 so, no probably not.

BEN

Natural 20, so a total of 36. Ooh yeah.

LYDIA

Mine's 23.

ALEX

The dice know, yeah.

LYDIA

So if I end on top...

ALEX

So, here's a thing. So, Cel yeah that, that scans. Hamid, it's a one in a million chance.

(Group laughter)

ALEX

It just might work!

LYDIA

It, but we have to be really careful about the speed with which we go in to the...

BRYN

Yes, I think fundamentally...

LYDIA

...before we accelerate.

BRYN

...it is, you know it is, sometimes it's a roll of the dice.

(laughter)

BRYN

The way, the, the, you know the, Wilde magic is always going to have some potential unexpected effects. But if we try and replicate the conditions as far as possible, but while also having the flow of magic through the ship in the opposite direction. I think it, it at least increases our chances as much as

possible to, to, to, to have the Wilde magic reverse its, its previous effect, maybe? I mean it...

BEN

Right.

BRYN

...it seems to hold up. I've been thinking about this for a little while.

BEN

So, so, Cel then, from a like sailing point of view...

LYDIA

Yeah.

BEN

You're saying we have to do a particular speed? Is it like – I don't know – like 22 knots per hour, or maybe more than that? Is it...

LYDIA

You've just Googled how many knots there are in a mile haven't you, or else I'm going to have to search that?

BEN

No, not at all. I've just...

ALEX

No, I know, I know what he's going for.

LYDIA

Yeah, yeah, yeah.

BEN

Yeah, I'm just... no, no. I, this is with complete ignorance.

LYDIA

Yeah. I, I figured that like maybe about 88, should do it?

BEN

88, 88 knots per hour?

LYDIA

Yeah.

BEN

Right, okay.

BRYN

That's, that's pretty fast, but I suppose...

BEN

Well no well, yeah, no no...

BRYN

...will be capable of it.

BEN

We can do that. I mean, I guess we'll have to push the elementals. We might like, some of the lightning might leak out behind the ship while we do it, but I think we could just about get there.

LYDIA

Oh, no that would be terrible, if there were...

(Group laughter)

BEN

Okay. So, so...

[overspeaking]

LYDIA

Lightning everywhere, while we zoom forward into a...

BEN

Accelerate the ship, hit the, hit the borealis head on, after we've reversed the polarity of the, the, the, the flow of the...

LYDIA

The new...

BEN

...the new trons.

LYDIA

Yeah.

ALEX

At 88 knots per hour.

LYDIA

At 88...

BEN

Yeah, I'll. Right well, I'll let you two deal with that.

BRYN

Cross our fingers and pray to whatever gods we you know, are closest by I guess.

BEN

Alright, well you know, I can, I'll stay outside. I can crank the power, get us up to speed and smash her straight into the aurora borealis, and then I'm like, you two – well obviously Hamid – you'll have to be down there. But Cel, I assume you're going to be manning the – I don't know – room mechanism stuff. I'm assuming there's going to be buttons and levers and dials and stuff. But you know I, that's your kind of deal.

LYDIA

Yeah. I, I, I actually, wow! Thank you. I know I, I have, I'm so sorry that this happened when I, I, I, you trusted the, the, the cage that I, that I helped...

BEN

Wait, no. Cel, stop right there. You had to jury rig together a cage which dealt with an, a, an amount of Wilde magic that no one's ever been able to deal with. And this is the worst that happened? You did a bloody good job.

BRYN

Yeah. Absolutely, Cel. I think how much worse it could have been. Like...

BEN

Yeah.

BRYN

Think about what would have happened if, if, if you hadn't been here. I mean I just can't even imagine, but...

BEN

It, yeah. It is not fair to, to, to treat something that's not a complete success in the circumstances that you had to do it, as a failure.

BRYN

Absolutely.

LYDIA

But...

BRYN

Absolutely impressive as anything.

BEN

Don't be unfair to yourself.

BRYN

Oh I'm, I'm using Hamid's old voice.

BEN

That's alright.

ALEX

Yeah, you are.

[overspeaking]

BRYN?

That's pathetic.

LYDIA

But that's fine though. That's, that's sort of like, maybe you're, you're adapting?

(laughter)

BRYN

Yeah.

LYDIA

Well that, that, that, that, that means a lot every, everyone. Thank you. But I, I, I know that it, it will mean a lot to me to be able to try to help you fix it. I think that Hamid's got an absolutely brilliant idea and...

BRYN

Yeah, I mean I...

LYDIA

...I think that with your help, and with, with me helping you and you helping me and all the others we, we could actually do this. We could actually fix this and everyone, everyone's going to be okay.

BRYN

I mean I, yeah I, I, I only worked out you know, this is a series side of it so I needed to get your input and, on the practicality, and there's still a few calculations to do. But it feels like we might be able to present this plan. Because I think Zolf, you're right that we need people to agree, because there is still risk involved. But we might be able to present this plan to everyone tomorrow at some point, once we've gone over the final, the final calculations, if you think, Cel?

BEN

Alright, well...

ALEX

At this point Wilde steps over with a set of drinks for everyone. Wilde knows what your favourite drinks are. What are they?

BRYN

Oh goodness, Alex!

BEN

You can't...

LYDIA

Cel's is complicated, okay?

(laughter)

ALEX

Let's leave it at that.

BEN

It's complicated.

BRYN

Hamid claims his favourite drink is a very expensive posh red wine. His actual favourite drink is a pina colada.

(Group laughter)

LYDIA

No !

ALEX

Wilde somehow managed, Wilde managed to get your order wrong and ended up making a pina colada. He doesn't know how it happened.

(laughter)

BRYN

Hamid drinks it on sufferance.

(laughter)

BEN

I think Zolf's is a literal yard of ale.

(laughter)

BRYN

Nice.

ALEX

That's fine. Wilde comes over with all three and settles down. He like puts the tray, settles back, down, puts his feet up for a bit and gone, "Looks like inspiration might have struck, mmm?"

BEN

Yeah good party by the way, Wilde. Good job.

BRYN

Yeah. Well, well, well done.

ALEX

Wilde just stands and stretches a bit and goes, "There are very few problems that can't be solved with a good party."

BRYN

For once I might believe you.

ALEX

Grand facts.

LYDIA

I'll, I'll get, I'll get working on those, those tron valves.

BRYN

Well I'm going to go, what...

BEN

You can do it in the morning Cel. It's okay to have some fun as well. We...

BRYN

Yeah.

BEN

There's no borealis on the horizon.

LYDIA

Cel looks genuinely baffled, like what could be more fun than creating a non-reversible tron valve to control the flow of – not just old – but new trons? It's very confusing.

BRYN

Well...

LYDIA

But okay, if you insist, sure.

BEN

I'm, I'm going to slow the ship down, just a smidge, give us some more time, alright? We need to be prepared and then we can you know, then we can get going.

ALEX

And I think on that, I'm going to wrap up the episode there, because apparently, apparently we're going to go at – I'll just say it again – 88 knots per hour. But, let's not examine that at all.

(laughter)

ALEX

To swap the...

LYDIA

But we, we are being powered by three elementals.

ALEX

To swap the old trons for the, for the new trons.

LYDIA

Yeah. Okay.

BRYN

Fast, reverse the polarity.

LYDIA

It, it only works because we're in a polar region.

ALEX

Oh well obviously we've got to reverse the polarity.

HELEN

We're, in a polar region you have to...

BRYN

Hey...

ALEX

Helen looks as disapproving as I am.

BRYN

Sorry.

ALEX

If I felt closer to you.

BRYN

I've just very quickly looked up what 88 knots is in, in miles per hour.

HELEN

Is it thousands?

BRYN

A hundred, 101.2.

LYDIA

We could like a plane...

BEN

So it's actually pretty reason...

LYDIA

Yeah.

BEN

It's pretty reasonable but quite fast.

LYDIA

Yeah.

BRYN

Well it's more complicated than that, because not, well knots are nautical miles.

BEN

Yeah.

BRYN

And the – I don't believe that...

(laughter)

ALEX

Helen, you and me are vibing so hard right now.

(Group laughter)

BRYN

...flying would normally measure it's speed in knots. But knots are related to the diameter of the earth. And since we're up in the air...

ALEX

Okay.

LYDIA

Oooohhhh.

BRYN

...not a single nautical mile would actually be further.

BEN

Alright look, look Bryn. Alright, look. Bryn, look I've Googled it...

HELEN

Right and I think we're going to end the episode there?

ALEX

Yeah, I have, I have to save...

[overspeaking]

ALEX

I have to save both myself and Helen from this purgatory.

HELEN

You're all typical nerds.

(Group laughter)

ALEX

And we'll, we'll just figure out all of the nerd fictional physics and maths, and then we'll come back with a flawless episode that no one will have known how much effort went into it apparently.

(Group laughter)

ALEX

God!

BRYN

We need to go back to the start of the episode, Marty.

(Group laughter)

ALEX

God! Bye everyone.

ALL

Bye !

[Show Theme - Outro]

ALEX

Rusty Quill Gaming is a podcast distributed by Rusty Quill and licensed under a creative commons attribution, non-commercial share alike 4.0 international license. Today's episode was directed by Alexander J Newall and produced by Hannah Preisinger. To subscribe, buy merchandise or join our patreon visit rustyquill.com. Rate and review us online, tweet us @therustyquill, visit us on Facebook or email us via mail at @rustyquill.com. Join our community on the discord or via Reddit at [r/Rustyquill](https://www.reddit.com/r/Rustyquill). Thanks for listening.