

RQG – 212 – Final Rest

Content Warnings

- Undead & skeletons.
- Body horror.
- Food & alcohol.
- Discussions of death & afterlife.
- Mentions of necromancy, nausea, physical injury, mold & rot.
- Distorted realities.
- SFX: low drone, fire, static & distorted voices, cutlery.

[Show Theme - Intro]

ALEX

Hello and welcome to episode 212 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

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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

And welcome back to our pro lich podcast where we're helping you live your best lives.

(laughter)

LYDIA

And afterlives.

ALEX

And afterlives, then lives again, maybe, who knows, let's find out.

BRYN

It's literally brilliant!

BEN

Boo!

HELEN

UGHHHHH!

ALEX

So, we are currently still underneath London, but a different type of underneath Lon- we've spent a lot of time underneath London looking back, just with different flavours.

BEN

Yep.

ALEX

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It's just London's all the way down. Surprised you didn't try and fly Topaz up to the top to save everyone the bother of the stairs, but here we are.

HELEN

Don't...

(laughter)

Don't rub it in my face.

(laughter)

LYDIA

Rubbing a massive camel in your face!

(laughter)

ALEX

Don't do that kids it goes wrong.

Yeah, so we are currently in the... okay now this sentence makes me feel like a little bit of a hack now I think about it.

So, we are in the crypt of Geoffrey Chaucer underneath Westminster Abbey in our attempt to end an existential threat to the world.

BEN

So far so genre fiction yes.

HELEN

Yeah.

ALEX

The stakes are quite high.

BEN

Yeah.

ALEX

I didn't consider that. I kind of just followed logical steps and here we are.

(laughter)

So, I believe you are all having a little tete a tete in your own private mausoleum booth, so I'd like to pick up after that if I may. I believe the general consensus was screw it?

LYDIA

Yeah.

HELEN

Yeah.

ALEX

But I just want to check in with everyone.

BEN

Yeah, like it can't be worse than the alternative I think was the option really.

HELEN

Yeah, and basically if he is lying there's not much we can do about it, so we may as well.

(laughter)

BEN

Yeah.

ALEX

In which case then I am going to suggest I would like to follow your lead in terms of you've had the discussion but you're still in the booth, if you want to go have a natter and make an agreement that's fine, if you want go attempt to murder them that's fine too, I'll follow your lead for now but you've just finished your conversation.

BEN

I think we were just about to head out and say, "yeah alright".

BRYN

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Yeah.

ALEX

Fabulous, you all head into the room then in no particular order.

BRYN

Since the tech magic only lasts for a minute, I will refresh it before doing so.

ALEX

That's fine.

The creature – I keep calling the creature, Geoff just for you all to sit back down and join in.

BEN AS ZOLF

Little Geoffrey Chaucer!

ALEX

Do people do so or are you all standing battle ready?

BEN AS ZOLF

No, no we're not.

HELEN AS AZU

No.

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BEN AS ZOLF

I guess we're broadly inclined to accept your terms.

LYDIA AS CEL

Two thumbs up.

ALEX AS GEOFFREY CHAUCER

The compact then.

HELEN AS AZU

I think we agreed to try so you know if it doesn't work, you're not allowed to be angry at us.

(laughter)

ALEX AS GEOFFREY CHAUCER

Were that anger was so easily controlled, the world would be a much better place.

HELEN AS AZU

Well, you know what I mean, we're gonna do our best I suppose.

BEN AS ZOLF

If what you say is true and if you are not lying to us, then we've got your best interests at heart. If you're lying to us, then obviously we got a problem, but

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then we don't know until, you know it's the whole thing innit, we don't want to fight you, it doesn't seem to be useful, we've got you know bigger problem which you are aware of so, yeah.

BRYN AS HAMID

If you are able to render us some assistance, we'll do our best to render you some.

HELEN

Yes that.

ALEX AS GEOFFREY CHAUCER

Excellent.

ALEX

Chaucer reaches over and pulls off a plain gold ring...

BEN AS ZOLF

Oh, rings again ay.

ALEX

...and then lays it on the table and just goes...

ALEX AS GEOFFREY CHAUCER

A symbol of our compact [sighs] and a promise from myself, that thou might carry my authority with those that would follow me.

BEN AS ZOLF

Right.

HELEN AS AZU

“Right.”

Azu gives him a marble.

(laughter)

ALEX

Chaucer holds it up in his skeletal fingers and examines it as one would examine a powerful magical artefact or an ancient archaeological thing, having never seen a marble...

(laughter)

...because I'm assuming you've gone full cats eye marble with it.

HELEN

Oh yeah, I've picked the prettiest marble I could find.

(laughter)

ALEX

Just examines it with the flaming holes in his head that he has for eyes.

(laughter)

Puts it in his pocket.

BRYN AS HAMID

I would like to examine the ring.

BEN

Also, very quickly I had this massively intrusive thought with Alex miming holding the marble and I thought you were going to say, “and just pops it in his mouth”.

(laughter)

ALED

Weirdly... That was weirdly where my brain went.

Why do I want to eat the mime marble? I want too. I really want to eat the mime marble. I don't know why...

(laughter)

I don't know that's not a thing, but I want to eat it I do.

Argh they have provided me with these delicious treats, and they're suck all, crunch, crunch.

(laughter)

HELEN

Munch crunch.

(laughter)

ALEX

What delicious sweet meats the future holds.

(laughter)

HELEN

I'm so sorry if I broke the mood.

BEN

Oh no that was perfect. That was amazing.

(laughter)

LYDIA

No, it was ideal, genius.

BEN

Such a pure like, gesture as well.

HELEN

Yeah, like in my head for Azu like the marble represents some of like her happy times.

BEN

Yeah, lovely, sorry Bryn you were going to continue the plot.

BRYN

No, no it's all good.

ALEX

Can you please give me a perception check and if you want to cast a tech magic before that or after that that's fine, but you need to let me know.

BRYN

Yes, I would like to cast a tech magic and then examine the ring.

24 on my perception check.

ALEX

So, the detect magic shows it is an utterly mundane ring, and it has an engraving on the inside and it just has a single name in sort of a cursive script that says "Phillipa" inside.

BRYN

What?!

LYDIA

I just shut the Wikipedia tab.

(laughter)

BRYN

Look at this lovely, lovely lich, what's going on here?

LYDIA

What a nice lich.

BRYN

Yeah.

BEN

I'm genuinely amazed with Cel like continuously with like the fact that missed and skeleton being like, "are they a friend?" and then we met like their dad and "yes a friend!"

LYDIA

Friend!

(laughter)

Friend.

ALEX

Yeah, it appears to be a mundane wedding band.

BRYN

Okay.

LYDIA

Aww.

ALEX

And it just has the name Phillipa engraved on the inside.

HELEN

That's really nice.

BEN

Cool.

BRYN

I will carry it.

I am not putting it on.

ALEX

Fine [overtalking 06:43] -ardo of the party, yeah.

(laughter)

HELEN

[overtalking 06:43]

(laughter)

BRYN

Well technically in Pathland you can only have one active magical ring on a hand. So what I could do, is just put it on one of the fingers of the same hand I have already got a magic ring on, and then it wouldn't be able to activate.

BEN

Oh, okay, even if it was a trick.

BRYN

Yeah.

BEN

Fair enough.

ALEX

At which point then Geoffrey stands and looks to all of you, and then just stands there looking at you all for a while, just perfectly still.

BRYN AS HAMID

We should take our leave of you then I suppose.

LYDIA AS CEL

Yep.

BEN AS ZOLF

Yeah, thanks.

BRYN AS HAMID

Thank you for your assistance.

LYDIA

Yep, yep, yep. Cheers.

ALEX

Geoffrey holds up a finger for a second and then returns to his perfectly stationary state just sort of staring at nowhere, and his eyes start to grow brighter and brighter...

BEN AS ZOLF

[gasps] Oh!

Yeah.

ALEX

...and brighter. Soon they are emitting light like torches, then like braziers and it feels the room and you start seeing all around the place all of the sort of

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shapes and so on and the flickering shapes of the statutes start to almost animate, and you hear the sounds of distant movement down the corridor.

LYDIA AS CEL

[whispering] Do you think he's controlling his...?

BEN AS ZOLF

[whispering] Yeah.

LYDIA AS CEL

[whispering] Great, right okay.

ALEX

You still have the tech magic on right Hamid?

BRYN AS HAMID

Yeah.

ALEX

You're gonna have to turn it off, if you don't want to have the stunned effect.

BRYN AS HAMID

I mean yeah it already... it only lasts a minute, so it'll probably be fading anyway.

ALEX

I would say raw necromantic energy...

BRYN AS HAMID

Yeah.

ALEX

...just like ROARMPH! Just emanating out in a massive wave, every instinct will be saying “this is terrible”...

BEN AS ZOLF

Yeah.

ALEX

“This is awful!” none of you have any physiological effects though apart from a slight queasiness maybe, just a sort of feeling of slight physiological unease, then the lights start to dim a little bit, start to dim and he sort of turns to regard all of you.

ALEX AS GEOFFREY CHAUCER

It is done.

You might proceed to your leisure. I will be trapped within these walls but I, on voice can move beyond them.

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LYDIA AS CEL

Good stuff. Two thumbs up.

BEN AS ZOLF

Thanks Chaucer, oh as a gesture of goodwill I guess I think, and I will grab in my bag I'm holding and hand him a copy of "When Passions Collide".

(laughter)

HELEN AS AZU

Oh yes! Yes!

(laughter)

ALEX

He holds it in his hands and then starts to turn it over, with even through his lack of facial features true reverence, true reverence and he is spending as much time examining the quality of the paper...

HELEN AS AZU

[gasps] Of course.

ALEX

...as he is actually looking at the words.

ALEX AS GEOFFREY CHAUCER

It is a kingly gift.

(laughter)

BEN AS ZOLF

Tell you what, look, because to be honest there might be better here then... and I will grab the rest of my like Campbell collection and just stack it on the table because, I've got a bag I'm holding right I've got all the books.

(laughter)

Just you know, look if we don't manage it, and you're stuck down here well then at least this will give you something to pass the time.

HELEN AS AZU

Aww.

ALEX AS GEOFFREY CHAUCER

Thanks to all of you.

Should thou need rest, do take it.

LYDIA AS CEL

That actually would be a good idea.

BEN AS ZOLF

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Ah, I just... do you think we have the time? Genuinely I...

LYDIA AS CEL

[whispers] Do we have the time to let Azu go up there steal the short on blood?!

BEN AS ZOLF

You're right actually, no you're right, you're right because if we fail then it doesn't matter how long we took, yeah, no you're right, you're right.

BRYN AS HAMID

We're in West Minster Abbey, what if we went up to the roof and look to the situation, and then we can come back down and rest and at least have an idea of what's out there, know what to prepare for.

HELEN AS AZU

Hmm.

LYDIA AS CEL

I don't know he was saying that it was pretty full up there of monster [overtalking 10:23]...

ALEX AS GEOFFREY CHAUCER

It will take time to cleanse the Abbey.

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BEN AS ZOLF

Right, oh.

ALEX AS GEOFFREY CHAUCER

Thou hast a moment...

BEN AS ZOLF

Okay.

ALEX AS GEOFFREY CHAUCER

...to per chance.

BEN AS ZOLF

Oh right, thank you.

Yeah, in which case we are going to go get some rest.

ALEX

Wilde steps up and holds a hand out, to shake...

BRYN

Oooooo.

(laughter)

ALEX

...the lich's hand, looking a little bit edgy, Chaucer sort of looks, tilts a head then reaches out and grabs it. There are literal sparks that spark as they shake hands and the sparks finish.

BEN AS ZOLF

Cool.

(laughter)

ALEX AS OSCAR WILDE

Wilde just turns to look at the rest of you...

“Weirdness aside I mean, it's not often you get to meet your heroes.”

HELEN AS AZU

Mm, very true.

BEN AS ZOLF

Fair enough.

I'm gonna go get some rest, and then in the morning we can all have something good to eat as well.

ALEX AS OSCAR WILDE

Um, can we?

BEN AS ZOLF

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Yeah.

BRYN AS HAMID

Sounds good.

HELEN AS AZU

Okay.

ALEX

Geoffrey gestures at the table should you need, and then rather weirdly like without the social mores, just sits back into the chair at the head of the table perfectly still even though you are sort of around and slightly off to one side just sits staring at a sort of obtuse angle away from all of you.

BEN AS ZOLF

Yeah, fair enough. I will go to a side mausoleum booth and have a kip.

(laughter)

ALEX

So, I am going to get a little bit fudgy with the mechanics here, which is as far as I am aware people want a proper long rest right like a...

BRYN AS HAMID

Spells back.

ALEX

A reset your spells.

BRYN AS HAMID

Yeah, we need it. We need it.

ALEX

You all settle into your mausoleum for a nice memento mori nap.

(laughter)

Eventually, I'd say... look I'm going to assume that you need the full eight hours.

BEN AS ZOLF AND LYDIA AS CEL

Yeah.

ALEX

A few hours into that, you start hearing a muffled noise coming from one of your packs a sort of [Alex making muffled speaking noises].

BEN AS ZOLF

Oh! Yeah, the stone, the mobile stone!

BRYN AS HAMID

The mobile stone innit.

I grab it.

ALEX

The signal's super crackly in the same way the Babbage stuff was, and you just get...

ALEX AS EINSTEIN

[broken staticky speaking]...o...la...ap...

BRYN AS HAMID

Professor is that you?

ALEX AS EINSTEIN

[broken staticky speaking] Eh... oo...

BRYN AS HAMID

Are you okay?

HELEN

Einstein.

ALEX AS EINSTEIN

[broken staticky speaking] ...ju...Barret...

BRYN AS HAMID

There's too much interference.

ALEX AS EINSTEIN

You okay?

BEN AS ZOLF

Hamid can you maybe get away from Chaucer and see if clears up. I'll come with and make sure I don't, you know get murdered. Actually, shall we all go?

LYDIA AS CEL

[whispers] Let's... I was going to say we can chat to Einstein.

ALEX

So, yeah there are a couple of side doors in the main sort of mausoleum you will be able to head off to easily enough...

BRYN AS HAMID

Okay.

ALEX

...and yeah it is really simple that the more stone you put between you and Chaucer the more it's like...

ALEX AS EINSTEIN

[broken staticky speaking] ...uh...act...okay... improving, hey, hey!

BRYN AS HAMID

Professor I am so glad to hear you are okay.

HELEN AS AZU

Yes.

ALEX AS EINSTEIN

Oh! So, is everyone alive?

BEN AS ZOLF

No.

HELEN AS AZU AND LYDIA AS CEL

No.

ALEX AS EINSTEIN

Oh, I thought that might be the case.

HELEN AS AZU

I mean...

BRYN AS HAMID

We lost Augusta, we lost Sumutnyerl and Nicola as well.

ALEX AS EINSTEIN

That's bad news.

Are you the reason it's all going off at top?

BRYN AS HAMID

Maybe.

HELEN AS AZU

Probably.

BEN AS ZOLF

Yeah, sort of.

Yes.

BRYN AS HAMID

When you say up top where do you mean?

ALEX AS EINSTEIN

At the bunker, it's all kicking off!

BEN AS ZOLF

Oh, right.

ALEX AS EINSTEIN

It's super scary.

BRYN AS HAMID

We're not there anymore, no.

ALEX AS EINSTEIN

Well no I went out, you know you all came in, and then I went out to fetch some things.

HELEN AS AZU

Oh.

BEN AS ZOLF

We got attacked. We got attacked where we lost them, Lovelace is secure in the lab.

ALEX AS EINSTEIN

Okay.

BRYN AS HAMID

Professor what's the last thing that... where is the last time that we saw you from your perspective?

ALEX AS EINSTEIN

Oh, well I brought you all in and then I pretty much headed straight back out to make sure that everything was okay with you know doing the check ins.

HELEN AS AZU

Oh.

BRYN

So, my memory is that when we found Tesla's body, when we broke into pairs and started searching, Skraak and I headed down to the lab and we saw Einstein coming up from the lab...

BEN

OH!

BRYN

...and he said he went to check the toilets.

LYDIA AS CEL

Mmm.

HELEN AS AZU

[gasps!]

ALEX

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You are correct. You came in with Einstein, you all then had a natter, then the next time you saw Einstein was the next morning and then he was like “yeah, I’ll check the toilets, yeah, we’ll go find him” and then when you went to look for Einstein he was gone.

LYDIA AS CEL

[whispers] Was Einstein the beasty?! What that like a fake Einstein?!!

BEN AS ZOLF

I’m kind of... I’m assuming we all fall silent as this dawns, and I’ll make like a ‘smash the stone’ kind of mime at Hamid.

BRYN AS HAMID

Um, it best...

ALEX AS EINSTEIN

So, like where are you?

BRYN AS HAMID

...best to get away from the bunker Professor to stay safe. I don’t think it’s safe there anymore.

ALEX AS EINSTEIN

What? Well try it, it’s so crazy you know you’ve got all the squizzards on one side and then you’ve got all the pods on the other and they all just going at it, it’s crazy!

BEN AS ZOLF

I'll actually mime to the group to like go back towards Chaucer, because we could literally do that "we're going through a tunnel".

(laughter)

BRYN AS HAMID

Yeah, yeah.

(laughter)

"We're... we're out Professor, we're safe, we're still pretty close by, not super safe to talk much about it".

ALEX AS EINSTEIN

But, where are you?

HELEN AS AZU

Uh, we're safe, you remember...

BRYN AS HAMID

Yeah, we're safe just get away and stay safe Professor, we're safe...

ALEX AS EINSTEIN

[static inference begins again as they get closer to Chaucer]

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What...

What about...

BRYN AS HAMID

We're still here.

HELEN AS AZU

"Yes, remember the security, yes, security protocols" and like pulling Hamid.

(laughter)

BRYN

Yeah, I mean Hamid's not resisting.

LYDIA AS CEL

We're in a tunnel, I mean we're not in a tunnel, but I mean equivalent to, we can't hear you!

ALEX

Yeah, you're just getting "eh, eh..." and by the time you make it into like Chaucer's room it is just like [Alex makes a static sound] and then goes dark, like you've lost the signal when you went through that room and re-found it and yeah in that room it's just dead.

BEN AS ZOLF

Smash the stone! There could be...

BRYN AS HAMID

Yeah, Hamid does [sound effect of smashing rock].

ALEX

There's a brief sparkle of purple light and Chaucer turns to look.

BEN AS ZOLF

Enemy action. We think they were trying to find us.

HELEN AS AZU

Yeah.

ALEX

Chaucer just turns.

(laughter)

Returns to his odd little sit.

BEN AS ZOLF

Oh, I hope they haven't got him.

HELEN AS AZU

Me too.

BRYN AS HAMID

Ah, god.

BEN AS ZOLF

I hope that's a fake. Right, well, we'll have to... we'll have to find out after this is done.

LYDIA AS CEL

Maybe even if they have got him if we do the consciousness retraction and doing thing, he will be fine.

BEN AS ZOLF

Yeah.

HELEN AS AZU

Yes. Yes, I forgotten that we were going, yeah...

LYDIA AS CEL

We're gonna save the world, and hopefully that includes Einstein whether he is already gotten or not gotten, he's you know, he's as close as can be to probably okay because even if they've got him, they would probably keep him alive, yeah.

BEN AS ZOLF

Yeah, yeah.

ALEX AS GEOFFREY CHAUCER

There are greater things to fear than death.

BEN AS ZOLF

Uh, yes.

LYDIA AS CEL

Yes, but there's a... yeah okay.

HELEN AS AZU

The worry isn't that he's dead really.

BRYN AS HAMID

Speaking of death though, given that your experiences, do you have any knowledge of Hades?

ALEX AS GEOFFREY CHAUCER

Head just turns to look at you.

“An ancient god, I was speaking more of taxes and fools”

(laughter)

LYDIA AS CEL

That's the Chaucer! There we are! There we are!

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ALEX

Sorry, it takes a while to sort of build it in...

HELEN AS AZU

Fools worse than death!

ALEX

...it has to be natural.

LYDIA AS CEL

Yeah, yeah that's the areas.

(laughter)

ALEX

He just turns and looks back down the table again.

BRYN AS HAMID

Do you know how things are going up above in the Abbey?

ALEX

The head looks up and he's just looking through a ceiling that clearly isn't there to him.

ALEX AS GEOFFREY CHAUCER

Well.

BRYN AS HAMID

We'll get back to our rest then.

HELEN AS AZU

Yeah.

BRYN AS HAMID

Thank you.

ALEX

Just turns in a particularly creepy way with a flash of the eyes and goes...

ALEX AS GEOFFREY CHAUCER

Sleep well.

(laughter)

HELEN

God I am so... I am so sorry that the fans don't get to see you being creepy corpse Chaucer!

(laughter)

BRYN AND BEN

Yeah!

HELEN

Corpscer!

BEN

Ay.

(laughter)

BRYN

Incredible!

ALEX

Do you know what, that is a break right there!

(laughter)

That is a break, yes! Let's go out on Corpscer!

LYDIA

Applause, applause.

ALEX

[mid show break 18:37]

And welcome back! So, I am gonna to do a rare, rare opportunity and just be like... I think you've now, it's taken a couple of hundred episodes, cracked the formulae, if you want a peaceful rest chill out next to one of the largest beacons of necromantic energy in the world.

(laughter)

BEN AS ZOLF

Yeah, I guess so.

ALEX

Okay, you're all trying to go to comfy beds and nice hotels okay, the very depths of hell is where everyone rests best, just saying.

HELEN AS AZU

You've just got to chill in apocalypses.

LYDIA AS CEL

Look folks...

(laughter)

Popular culture is trying to tell you something, yeah.

ALEX

Okay, so in that case then genuinely you can see out the rest of your rest should you wish, and I am not going to be disturbing you with like “oh my god argh!”

BEN AS ZOLF

I am going to get up a wee bit early, obviously not so early as to muck up the rest, and I will start preparing this heroes feast.

I am going to maybe have a chat to Chaucer and be like “hey if I do some magic on your table, it’s not gonna like hurt you is it?” I don’t think it will but...

ALEX

Tell you what then can we RP that?

BEN AS ZOLF

Yeah, sure.

BRYN AS HAMID

Can I just check the rules for healing ability damage first, because I don’t know them, I think it’s important to confirm if Azu gets all or some of her con back.

BEN AS ZOLF

Yes, no good shout, very good shout.

ALEX

I don't believe Azu will be able to naturally heal all of the con damage back up.

HELEN AS AZU

Yeah.

ALEX

I think it's going to cost Ben a spell.

BEN AS ZOLF

Cool.

HELEN AS AZU

Yeah, because I lost four con total.

ALEX

So, yeah, in terms of the ability damage unless otherwise noted, damage to your ability scores is healed at the rate of one per day, to each ability score that has been damaged.

So, you could heal like dex and charisma and con and blah all by one, but you can't heal...

BEN AS ZOLF

Right.

ALEX

...combine more than one, so you will need to spend a spell, yeah.

BEN AS ZOLF

Fine, in which case yeah, I am going to prep restoration.

ALEX

I'm fine for all of that, that all makes sense.

I'd still quite like to RP your thing with Chaucer if you're willing?

BEN AS ZOLF

Yeah course.

ALEX

So, as you head out you catch Chaucer sat perfectly still in his chair, but he has a book open, and he is slowly very delicately working his way through a Harrison Campbell.

BEN AS ZOLF

Hi, uh, Geoff, I'm going to prepare some food on this table magically I think, if it's not going to cause you harm is it or anything if I do anything like that near you, I don't want to...

ALEX AS GEOFFREY CHAUCER

He turns around to survey you and then returns to their book.

"Thou canst continue though, might I ask a question of you?"

BEN AS ZOLF

Yeah, course.

ALEX AS GEOFFREY CHAUCER

I have learnt what I might, whilst trapped within these walls, sending those out that might fetch for me, did I live good life?

BEN AS ZOLF

Uh, you should probably have a chat to Hamid about that because it's been like I think like 400 years and I am not exactly a history expert so, I don't know. I mean I guess it depends, do you think you lived a good life? Really it kind of comes down to yourself, I mean who's gonna judge, I mean apart from like literal gods but you know but if didn't follow literal gods and they've all got conflicting opinions anyway so who knows, it's all pretty subjective, even if it's their subjection.

What I mean is, I don't know, did you think you did?

ALEX AS GEOFFREY CHAUCER

Might I offer advice?

BEN AS ZOLF

Sure.

ALEX AS GEOFFREY CHAUCER

To thee live well, for second chances are rare.

BEN AS ZOLF

Yeah.

ALEX AS GEOFFREY CHAUCER

...and often undesirable.

BEN AS ZOLF

Maybe, but you got to do what's best with what you're given ay? I know I'm not, well, you know, I've had more experience than you may expect of this.

ALEX AS GEOFFREY CHAUCER

Geoffrey holds up the book, sort of gestures over his shoulder at you.

"My thanks".

Then lifts up a skeletal finger, moves to lick it, stops, and then just turns the page and returns to his book.

BEN AS ZOLF

I will leave him to his reading then, and yeah I will make a heroes' feast on this table.

ALEX

You've never done this before on audio, could I please ask you to do so.

BEN AS ZOLF

Yes, so...

LYDIA AS CEL

Aside of all those other heroes' feasts that we had off audio, like we just love scoffing.

(laughter)

BEN AS ZOLF

Yeah, no this is the first one that I have managed to cast actually, because it's all been a little bit um, been quite busy.

ALEX

Any time Zolf you know, has had spare spell slots and everyone's like "what does he prepare?" it's a heroes' feast all the way down.

(laughter)

BEN AS ZOLF

Uh, no this is bonus spell, this is my new bonus spell...

HELEN AS AZU AND LYDIA AS CEL

Ooooo.

BEN AS ZOLF

...that's why I've got it now because it's the community, yeah community domain.

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But yeah, so basically, I am working my way down the table, I am setting places for four, five, I am setting a place for Babbage, so that's six places. I am actually going to do one for Chaucer, because it's polite.

ALEX

Okay.

HELEN AS AZU

Aw.

BEN AS ZOLF

So, seven places.

Basically, what I am doing is I'm working my way round and I kind of pick up, because you said there's like it's already laid really isn't it?

ALEX

Oh, the table?

BEN AS ZOLF

Yes.

ALEX

Yeah, yeah, yeah, it's still laid with the food from earlier although I'll point out, like you might need to clear it out because it's like certain of the food which was then fresh has started to go a little bit mank, not much, but...

BEN AS ZOLF

I assume being in the presence of a lich probably doesn't help thing's shelf life.

ALEX

Yeah, that's what I was leading to is, everything is rotting super quick.

BEN AS ZOLF

Yeah.

ALEX

So, you are going to need to clear the table. It was fresh when you were there, but it's already like turned.

BEN AS ZOLF

So, I'm not going to bother because I'm doing, as Hamid likes to say, "magic!"

(laughter)

So, basically what I am going to do is just I will work my around the table like picking up the knives and forks and relaying the place, and once I've re-laid the place it's then full of food...

ALEX

Yeah, sounds good.

BEN AS ZOLF

...and I'll just work my way around, I'll pick up like the basket of apples and put it back down, and it's almost like a slight of hand kind of thing, it's not really noticeable when I put it back down it's better, and like I'll pick up the cups and put them down and they are full of like, well I mean it says literally ambrosia, so a pretty cool honeyed wine I suppose.

LYDIA AS CEL

Oo.

BRYN

Aw, I was really hoping for custard.

(laughter)

BEN AS ZOLF

Your beverage may vary I am sure it will adapt. Actually no I like the idea, screw the thing it's a beverage it's whatever your favourite drink is.

LYDIA AS CEL

[excitedly] It is mead for Cel, it is elvish mead!

(laughter)

HELEN AS AZU

Yay!

BEN AS ZOLF

Marvellous.

ALEX

Fabulous, yeah that's all fine.

BEN AS ZOLF

Cool, so this takes me ten minutes to do.

We have to consume it over the course of an hour, if that hour is broken the spell doesn't work, you have to have like a proper hour of merrymaking but, and get your pens ready, so it lasts for... these last for 12 hours these effects, all sickness and nausea is removed. You gain benefits of both neutralize poison and remove disease, which I don't think are relevant right now because we're all actually fine.

ALEX

Weirdly enough so far it would make it more pleasant in Chaucer's presence, like it will mitigate the like nausea and all that.

BEN AS ZOLF

Yes. You gain 12 temporary hit points.

HELEN AS AZU

Very tasty.

BEN AS ZOLF

And you... so that's after having a drink, and then each creature that partakes, gets a plus one morale bonus on attack rolls and will saves.

ALEX

I am not going to be reminding you all of this, this is your jobs to keep track of people.

BEN AS ZOLF

It's fair.

And a plus four morale bonus on saving throws against poison and fear, which I hope is going to be quite useful.

ALEX

Yep.

BEN AS ZOLF

See a lot of text but...

BRYN AS HAMID

Yeah.

ALEX

Worth it, absolutely worth it.

BRYN AS HAMID

Yeah, a lot of stuff.

ALEX

Also, gives me the best image ever of let's take a moment and examine what this dinner actually looks like. [cutlery and plate type sound effects] Eating in a well it mausoleum, with a lich at the head of the table who has little to no face, with Babbage in his jar.

BEN AS ZOLF

Which I have put on a like chair and turned the speaker on so he can have a chat with us.

ALEX

Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah.

With everyone else, it's an odd image, I like it, but it is odd.

BEN AS ZOLF

It is a strange tablou.

Ultimate found family.

LYDIA AS CEL

Yeah!

HELEN

For some reason in my head we have Christmas crackers I mean I don't know...

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LYDIA AS CEL

Yes we...

BEN AS ZOLF

YEAH!

(laughter)

LYDIA AS CEL

Can I be cannon?

BEN AS ZOLF

And Geoffrey Chaucer is the only one, but he has a paper Christmas hat on.

(laughter)

HELEN AS AZU

Aww.

ALEX

I will say couple of like detail notes, because I don't think we'll have the time to RP like the entire thing obviously.

BRYN AS HAMID

Yeah, yeah, yeah.

ALEX

Wilde seems a little less ill at ease at this one.

HELEN AS AZU

Aw.

ALEX

Skraak seemingly utterly unabashed by any of it...

BEN AS ZOLF

Oh no! Eight people, I'm sorry I forgot Skraak, eight people.

ALEX

That's fine, I know your spell can count for it so it's all good.

But yeah, in terms of Babbage, Babbage is clearly enjoying the company of new people etc despite the circumstances.

Chaucer has a bit of a hard time at first because anything that he touches immediately begins to rot. So, he starts holding the like knife and fork right at their tippy tops, in order to sort of simulate the eating experience.

BEN AS ZOLF

Yeah.

LYDIA AS CEL

So, sad and so slapstick.

(laughter)

HELEN AS AZU

Aw.

ALEX

He does eventually like as the conversation picks up, he does start to tell a joke, but I won't RP it, because it really is like...

ALEX AS GEOFFREY CHAUCER

There...once...wast...Milner...

(laughter)

...a Milner I knew...long ago...

ALEX

Like that's the pace...

BEN AS ZOLF

Yeah.

ALEX

...and it takes like a good, five minutes, it has a decent punch line, but I am not going to RP it because it goes on and on and it's not even because it's a particularly long joke, it's just he has a max kind of speed.

HELEN AS AZU

He's like an Ent.

ALEX

Yeah, that's a good way of putting it, it's an Ent telling an ever so slightly body joke.

(laughter)

LYDIA AS CEL

I just want to make sure that it's clear that Cel waits right until the punchline is delivered, even if it is obvious what the punchline is, as he's like delivering it slowly...

ALEX

Yeah, yeah.

LYDIA AS CEL

...and absolutely cracks up, like it's not feigned it's just like this is joyous, loving, historical joke.

HELEN AS AZU

Aw.

ALEX

I will say it is a mechanically good joke but goddam, it's like, timing does matter!

(laughter)

LYDIA AS CEL

Yeah.

BEN AS ZOLF

Yeah, no I will join with the like a positive response, because hey, he's trying.

BRYN AS HAMID

Yeah.

HELEN AS AZU

Yeah, absolutely.

LYDIA AS CEL

Yeah.

ALEX

But yeah, if anyone wants to RP any specific conversations amongst party and NPCs that's fine, but I thought I'd give a couple of flavour elements just to sort of layout the kind of vibe.

LYDIA AS CEL

Yeah I'd just say rather than RP'ing it, Cel will partly because it was in the Wikipedia page, that Chaucer poems were some of the most printed for like 400 years or so, the idea that there would have been, like on the chit that Cel's dad came across, and there would have been Shakespeare and Chaucer...

ALEX

Yeah, absolutely.

LYDIA AS CEL

...and so very much like that has shaped Cel's idea of what the UK and England and London might be like, and so...

ALEX

Sure.

LYDIA AS CEL

...like lots of actual references to the stories.

ALEX

Give me, you specifically give me a sense motive.

LYDIA AS CEL

Oh gosh, natural one.

HELEN AS AZU

Aw.

ALEX

That's fine. Honestly that's fine. Chaucer definitely seems interested in what you are saying, it is impossible to read anything on that face.

LYDIA AS CEL

Aw.

ALEX

There's just nothing approaching a facial expression and his body language is turned off as well. He asks the right questions, so it is impossible to tell what is going on behind the eyes.

LYDIA AS CEL

That genuinely breaks my heart because I would love to know that like if Chaucer just liked to know.

ALEX

I'm not even going to allow other people to sense motive, it was your conversation but yeah...

LYDIA AS CEL

OH!

(laughter)

ALEX

...this is why we play the game.

(laughter)

HELEN AS AZU

I think a conversation that Azu has, she is going to realise that it has been her birthday at some point.

BEN

Oh no, Helen!

(laughter)

HELEN AS AZU

She thinks it was during the lost time in the planes, but she doesn't mind so much because she's had a present since, and she is having a nice breakfast.

BRYN AS HAMID

Hamid insists that the entire group sing happy birthday to Azu.

(laughter)

ALEX

[whispers] Yes.

LYDIA AS CEL

Absolutely.

BEN AS ZOLF

Yeah, I mean I'll join in.

HELEN AS AZU

Awww. Azu does what... I am feeling all flushed just... it's not even me, it's not even me.

(laughter)

She appreciates it, embarrassedly.

BEN AS ZOLF

For Zolf's part he's not a massive conversationalist but will like just, be a bit less obviously grumpy and exist in the space you know amongst the community.

(laughter)

LYDIA AS CEL

Awww.

ALEX AS OSCAR WILDE

At some point Wilde stands holds a glass and sort of taps it [cutlery tapping glass sound effect] with a fork for a second and, although he stands with a smile, he sort of takes a more sombre expression, a bit more grounded, holds up the glass...

“To absent friends”

BEN AS ZOLF

Absent friends.

BRYN AS HAMID

To absent friends.

ALEX

And then drinks.

LYDIA AS CEL

Yep, absent friends.

ALEX AS OSCAR WILDE

“To the best people I have ever known”

Gestures to everyone.

BEN AS ZOLF

Oh, best... yeah.

BRYN AS HAMID

Likewise.

HELEN AS AZU

[Through tears] To the best people I have ever known.

(laughter)

BRYN AS HAMID

It's been an absolute pleasure to be on this journey with you all despite everything that has happened along the way. I can't imagine what other people that would have been better to be here with, other than those that were here for part of it.

ALEX AS OSCAR WILDE

And then he holds the glass up one last time. There's not much left, there's maybe enough for one more and he just goes...

"To a world that doesn't yet deserve the calibre of heroism that we are about to bring it"

(laughter)

And then necks the entire glass, and that's it.

BRYN AS HAMID

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Hamid will make eye contact with Zolf, raise his glass again and say, “to what comes next”.

HELEN AS AZU

Awww.

LYDIA AS CEL

To what comes next.

HELEN AS AZU

To what comes next.

BEN AS ZOLF

Stole my toast!

(laughter)

LYDIA AS CEL

Oh, heart snaps again like Hamid really trying and Zolf like...

BEN AS ZOLF

No, no, no that was an OC comment...

(laughter)

...like actually Zolf appreciates that.

LYDIA AS CEL

Ah, okay, right, right yeah.

BEN AS ZOLF

It's like we're sitting here thinking "and I'm going to toast to say what comes [laughter/unclear 32:35]..."

(laughter)

BRYN AS HAMID

As the end of the hour is approaching Hamid will turn to Babbage and say, "Sir Charles, I think it's time for the final briefing on a technical level. What exactly is it we're going to do once we get to the top of the tower?"

ALEX AS BABBAGE

Well, would you like the terrible news, the bad news or the good news?

BRYN AS HAMID

Yes.

(laughter)

ALEX AS BABBAGE

Terrible news is that whilst we are working, we are going to be as exposed as it is possible to be in the centre of the most dangerous place I know of.

BEN AS ZOLF

I expected that.

ALEX AS BABBAGE

“The bad news is it is highly likely that our advisories know we are approaching, our bases have been compromised, our plans are most likely known.

The good news is no one knows where we are right now, and in terms of actually activating the device, it is very simple.

We need to reach the very top of the tower, the rooftop no less, to so within might carry complications, we wish to be as exposed to the elements as possible.

Once there, we need to set up this little thingy on my left...”

It’s a, looks like a tripod, it’s sort of built into his thing. It’s effectively a set up tripod, it looks a little bit like a tiny little lightning rod or something.

“We set up that at the top. We then communicate Lovelace and tell her that we’re ready. She will activate the primary device, this assembly will then synchronize and then activate, that will possibly take about one minute, during which time everything connected will know where we are, and what we are doing, because they will feel it. It might incapacitate them, but I’ve learnt not to trust our luck! Which is why we leave nothing to chance!

It is my intent that we start Lovelace synchronizing and expose ourselves as late as possible, but once the device activates fully, we are in uncharted territory. I would expect large distortions of reality, potential distortions of people’s interior mental architecture; and most likely we will, to put it bluntly, have a weird time of it!

(laughter)

All going well, at the end of that, I will temporarily be in a position to relinquish control and will do so. Once I've done so our failsafe, thanks to your good selves, will trigger, I shall be disconnected and all going well we shall have dealt with our problem.

Ultimately, our goal is very simple, a void being overwhelmed whilst we are exposed and ensure that no matter what the cost we are able to complete the activation. After that point there is nothing further that any of you can do and we are hoping there is something I can do.

There is one other thing to mention, I am not an arrogant man but if anything were to happen to me things get more complicated and we may need to improvise, this is ill advised, does everyone understand?

Any questions?"

BEN AS ZOLF

What does improvising mean? [sighs] Cutting one of our own heads open and popping us in?

ALEX AS BABBAGE

Improvising is a very polite way of me saying I don't know, I'll have to think on it.

BEN AS ZOLF

Fair enough.

ALEX AS BABBAGE

I apologise it's just; I am in rather prestigious company and thought I would rise to the occasion, I am not very practiced at this.

BEN AS ZOLF

You're doing fine. Like...

ALEX AS BABBAGE

Thank you, what a lovely thing to say.

LYDIA AS CEL

I thought it was a great speech.

ALEX AS BABBAGE

Oh, thank you!

BRYN AS HAMID

It... look it can't be more than about 500 feet from the roof of this Abbey to the top of the tower, as the crow flies. I think that's how we should do it. If we get up onto the roof ready to fly, we could reach the top of the tower before anyone has figured out, that way we don't trip any alarms on the way, they might spot us, but if we're moving fast enough, we can start before they've got a chance to be in place.

BEN AS ZOLF

I can seal the stairway up.

(gasps!)

There's got to be a... it's a tower right, there's gonna be a doorway or summit I can create a wall that will stop them at least, we've only got a minute you know, even if it takes them 20 seconds, that's a lot.

BRYN AS HAMID

Yeah.

LYDIA AS CEL

I hate to make assumptions but, Zolf you have done some spells related to storms before, can you create any kind of mist, fog, clouds as we're 500 foot doesn't sound like very far, but if you're being shot at with lightening and monsters...

BEN AS ZOLF

Ironically, in an old life yes, but no.

I can protect us from certain sort of forms of energy, but I don't know what they're gonna throw at us, so I... you know, I've got to make a call when I cast it so I need to...

Once they've done it, I can go oh I can protect from this, but yeah...

LYDIA AS CEL

Yeah.

ALEX AS OSCAR WILDE

Wilde pipes up “well, seems to be that our options are try and be stealthy for a very, very long time which isn’t something we are particularly excellent at, though we’re doing better I’ll you that!”

(laughter)

“Ooorrr, I think there’s probably going to be a mad dash element here”.

BEN AS ZOLF

Yeah.

ALEX AS OSCAR WILDE

And off the roof, if nothing else it’s a bucket list item dealt with.

(laughter)

BEN AS ZOLF

Right, so, it sounds great. I mean obviously so Cel you can fly, Hamid you can fly.

BRYN AS HAMID

Yeee- yes, and I can cast a spell on anyone who, who doesn’t have another way to do so.

BEN AS ZOLF

Yeah, but ain't we gonna muck it up right like, don't you need to know how to do it?

HELEN AS AZU

I think that Topaz might be able to help me out.

(gasps!)

BEN AS ZOLF

Wait, really?!

HELEN AS AZU

Yes.

BEN AS ZOLF

Oh, wow, okay should... she couldn't also carry me could she with Babbage and you know, I'm a boot so any... I can't go?

HELEN AS AZU

That's a good question, Alex her strength modifier is plus seven.

ALEX

Uh, yeah it should be fine.

LYDIA AS CEL

And Wilde?

BRYN AS HAMID

Well, the flying spell does help you do so as well if you're not too you know constricted by what you're wearing, then I think if I cast the spell on you Oscar you can probably be okay, and if Topaz can carry Azu and Zolf.

BEN AS ZOLF

And Skraak you can glide can't you so?

BRYN AS HAMID

Well, I'll cast a spell on Skraak as well and with Skraak's natural ability put together he should be fine too.

BEN AS ZOLF

Oh, that sounds like a plan. [Overtalking 39:45] plan.

ALEX AS BABBAGE

Babbage at this point is like...

"In principle that all sounds very feasible. I would ask has anyone apart from myself, seen Westminster in its current state?"

BEN AS ZOLF

Oh right, it's going to be a giant bloody plant innit!

HELEN AS AZU

OH!

BEN AS ZOLF

I was gonna say we could smash through the clock face, but is it even there anymore?

ALEX AS BABBAGE

Now, I think you have an excellent plan, and goodness knows should the opportunity present for us to just hop, skip and jump to our destination, we absolutely should. I merely suggest it might not be that simple. The airspace can be quite busy so...

BEN AS ZOLF

Oh, blimey.

ALEX AS BABBAGE

...it will depend on what's going on in the city.

HELEN AS AZU

Busy? Are there flying things outside?

ALEX AS BABBAGE

We may need to entertain the possibility, that Guivres may be in vicinity.

BEN AS ZOLF

Oh, bloody hell!

HELEN AS AZU

Oh!

A dragon?!

BEN AS ZOLF

Well, that would be a problem regardless, so I guess we'll just make a dash for it.

ALEX AS BABBAGE

My point exactly!

BEN AS ZOLF

Actually, hang on a minute, Hamid, you can make us inv- can you?

BRYN AS HAMID

Mm.

BEN AS ZOLF

Can you cover everyone?

Could you get Topaz as well?

BRYN AS HAMID

I might be able to yes.

BEN AS ZOLF

If that avoids a fight with a dragon, I think that's probably useful I know obviously that will limit your options later but...

BRYN AS HAMID

It's going to burn through a lot of my ability to cast spells, but might be our best option, nonetheless.

BEN AS ZOLF

Well, we'll get up there, if we see Guivres then we could pivot.

BRYN AS HAMID

We can make the final call when we've got a view over the surrounding area, yeah.

Depending...

BEN AS ZOLF

Right.

ALEX AS BABBAGE

Sounds like an excellent plan, it's better than anything we'd have had!

BEN AS ZOLF

And also, it lasts long enough, we could maybe set up and contact Lovelace while...

BRYN AS HAMID

We're still invisible?

BEN AS ZOLF

Yeah, because if Babbage is still invisible, if we're protecting Babbage, well if they can't see Babbage...great!

BRYN AS HAMID

Remember invisibility isn't flawless, some things can just see through it.

BEN AS ZOLF

It gives us a better... oh god...

BRYN AS HAMID

Guivres is quite likely to be in that category.

LYDIA AS CEL

Some of us can distract her.

BRYN AS HAMID

I think we might have to.

BEN AS ZOLF

Alright well...

LYDIA AS CEL

I can be very distracting.

HELEN AS AZU

So, can I.

(laughter)

BEN AS ZOLF

Ah, well if actually...

ALEX AS GEOFFREY CHAUCER

At which point Chaucer just looks at Cel, pardon the pun, 'dead in the eye' and just goes...

"Me thinks I might be able to distract many people"

LYDIA AS CEL

Excellent!

ALEX

And I think I'll end the episode there.

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LYDIA AS CEL

Oh, we have got a friend, what a good friend!

BEN AS ZOLF

That's yeah...

HELEN AS AZU

Awww, I'm glad we didn't kill Chaucer.

ALEX

I think we have an actual feasible plan!

BEN

Yeah, that is a... yeah, blimey!

ALEX

I didn't expect one!

(laughter)

Can't account for it, but here we are.

BRYN

And just the fact that yeah, as Lyd was saying like, just our new bestie is a lich who...

LYIDA AND HELEN

YAY!!!

BRYN

What a helpful man!

LYDIA

Did you even look at your CRs and be like “oh dear, this is too hard, better give them a friend!”

(laughter)

BRYN

The lich can fight the elder dragon while the rest of us deal with everything else.

(laughter)

BEN

That’s balance.

LYDIA

Yes, this is like when you are playing Skyrim and you get that assassin’s horse...

(laughter)

...and you just like set um on each other and wander off, and it sorts itself out.

BEN

Yeah.

Well, it turns out we were the B plot all along, and the finale is actually just lich versus dragon.

(laughter)

LYDIA

Yeah.

Love it.

(laughter)

ALEX

With that, I am gonna wrap it up there and we'll all be back next week for the newest episode of Geoff Chaucer, Dragon Slayer!

(laughter)

BEN

No, Geoff Corpser, Dragon Slayer.

ALEX

Oh, Geoff Corpser, Dragon Slayer

(laughter)

BRYN

I think you mean, Slayor of the Dragons.

(laughter)

ALEX

By All.

EVERYONE

Bye!

[Show Theme - Outro]

ALEX

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