

RQG – 1 – Raging Grannies

Content Warnings

- Food
- Animal Death
- Innuendo
- Mentions of: physical violence & death, prisons, drugs, rats
- SFX: background chatter, clinking & hissing, explosion

[Show Theme - Intro]

MADDY

Hello and welcome to Rusty Quill Gaming. I am your gamemaster for today, Maddy Searle. My pronouns are she/her and I am here to introduce you to the team behind Rusty Quill's brand new actual play podcast, Chapter and Multiverse. This podcast will be using a whole range of different game systems to explore the same city, Chapter, across multiple parallel universes and today we're gonna be playing a game called Raging Grannies designed by Alicia Furness which is all about fantasy, fighting grandmas and will give you the opportunity to get to know the team a bit better. But first of all our first player is someone you know very well. It is Alex. Could you please introduce yourself?

ALEX

Sure. I am Alexander J Newall. I am the founder and CEO of Rusty Quill and the one time once host of Rusty Quill Gaming. Pronouns he/him and I'm not a major component in Chapter and Multiverse, I just refuse to leave. I'm just

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that person who's hanging around until someone gives me an elaborate clock so that I'll finally stop coming into the office.

MADDY

Entirely fair. And next up we have Cathy.

CATHY

Hi I'm Cathy. Pronouns are she/her and I am the audio master at Rusty Quill.

MADDY

Wonderful and next we have Nico.

NICO

Hi, I'm Nico. Pronouns he/him and I'm the music composer for Chapter Multiverse.

MADDY

Wonderful. And Tessa.

TESSA

Hello I'm Tessa Vroom. Pronouns she/they and I am going to be doing the sound design for Chapters and Multiverse.

ALEX

Nice!

MADDY

Incredible. Alright. So first up we have to create our characters. It is a very simple character creation system, you have to choose a career background, a fighting style, a hidden talent and then assign your four stats to guts which is how brave and strong you are, stories which is how knowledgeable and personable you are, hustle which is how quick you are on your feet or with your words and grit how much you can take so kind of constitution. So first of all let's just go in the order that we introduced ourselves. So I'm going to ask Alex what career background do you wanna choose or you can also roll if you want to make it random.

ALEX

I've never once tried to put any thought into any special and I'm not gonna start now.

(laughing)

Let's have a look.

MADDY

Leave it to chance!

ALEX

We are the mercenary

MADDY

Fabulous. And what about your fighting style?

ALEX

Here's hoping for something non sensical. We have fists and foreheads. Good.
Good.

CATHY

Nice

MADDY

Classic. And then your hidden talent?

ALEX

My hidden talent is growing strange plants. Well I'm some kind of berserker,
clearly.

(laughing)

MADDY

What do you wanna name your character?

ALEX

Gloucester Worcestershire.

(laughing)

MADDY

Incredible. Perfect. How do you want to assign your stats? So you have -1, 0, 1 and 2 for guts, stories, hustle and grit.

ALEX

I think given that I am clearly some kind of crazed British pronunciation berserker I am going to go with 2 guts. I'm going to go with -1 stories. I'm going to go with 0 hustle and 1 grit.

MADDY

Perfect. Alright. What are Gloucester Worcestershire's pronouns?

ALEX

She/her. She/her/they. There you go.

MADDY

And Cathy, what career background do you want to have?

CATHY

I will...I'll roll for it. Town guard

MADDY

And what is your fighting style?

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CATHY

How about a weapon for any occasion. Ooh.

ALEX

Wait does that mean you have a Christmas weapon and you have an Eid weapon and so on...

(laughing)

Is that what that means?

CATHY

One for every day of the week and then special ones for holidays.

(laughing)

MADDY

Like day of the week underwear but weapons

(laughing)

What's your hidden talent?

CATHY

Oh gosh. Alien landscape painting

ALEX

That's so specific

NICO

Beautiful!

CATHY

So specific! Oh my gosh but I love it. I love it so much. As a town guard you get really bored because there's nobody coming in for long periods of time so just sit back and start painting over other paintings.

ALEX

I feel like painting alien landscapes you're immediately gonna summon some kind of king in yellow Cthulhu thing and then hit with a Christmas cracker. I'm very on board with that.

(laughing)

MADDY

And what do you want to name your character?

CATHY

I'm going to go with Bryony Longfellow.

MADDY

And what do you want to assign your stats to guts, stories, hustle and grit.

CATHY

Let's see. A 2 for hustle, maybe 1 for stories. We're gonna to say 0 for guts, why not. And then -1 for how much we can take.

MADDY

Cool.

CATHY

Bryony is here to take part but can't take a lot of it apparently.

ALEX

So you're here to live fast and die well...older. I was gonna say young but Raging Grannies that doesn't quite scan.

MADDY

Die at a reasonable age.

(laughing)

Fabulous. What are Bryony Longfellow's pronouns?

CATHY

I'm gonna go with she/they.

MADDY

Wonderful. So next up we have Nico. What do you want your career background to be?

NICO

I've got the hunter. So hunter for career. Fighting style will be...have we had...have we already had comically large weapons or is that one...

MADDY

No.

CATHY

That sounds amazing!

TESSA

I love that one.

NICO

Comically large weapons and then my hidden talent, we've had growing strange plants. I'm gonna go again. I want one that we've not had.

ALEX

We can have strange plants together if you want, don't worry about that.

NICO

Ok I'll do strange plants. So my name, because I've been thinking long and hard on this, Christine Ankle-Jenkins. That nice double barrel in there is a right lovely one. It adds a bit of you know mysterious background to it all. What mysteriousness, I don't know but it's there. Pronouns will be she/her. My stats, I'm gonna go kind of like midway 0 guts for how brave and strong I am. Stories I can sort of talk on a bit so whack a 1 there. Me hustle, no I'm not really there for the hustle so do that as a -1 and then I can pretty much take anything you throw my way so whack a 2 on the grit.

MADDY

Perfect. And last but not least, Tessa. What do you want your career background to be?

TESSA

So I was rolling while everyone was talking. My career background is that I'm a knight. I'm the knight. I was the knight and interestingly enough my fighting style is backstabbing which does not seem like a very knightly thing to do so I think I might've been a bit of a scoundrel of a knight.

MADDY

Instant backstory.

TESSA

And then my hidden talent is baking unusual pies.

CATHY

Oh you've got this in the...

ALEX

It's all coming together now.

TESSA

My name is Patricia Potts and the pronouns are she/her and then I took a 2 for grit because I think if I'm baking unusual pies I need to have a pretty powerful stomach, powerful digestive system. I took a 1 for guts because I think...although, no, yeah I took a 1 for guts because I think as a knight you must've been brave and must still be brave and then I took a 0 for hustle because I need to be able to move so I couldn't put a -1 there. Need to be able to dodge around to stab in the back, you know, and then because of that I took a -1 for stories.

ALEX

Wait, wait, what's the highest we have in stories?

NICO

I've got a 1.

ALEX

Ooh good.

(laughing)

We're not solving anything with words.

(laughing)

[sounds of busy town square]

MADDY

Ok as our story begins you have come together in the Chapter town square in the county of Blemishworthshire to enjoy the yearly regional bake off competition. The town is relatively well off and this is *the* event of the year so they've pulled out all the stops in decoration. There's bunting strewn across the buildings made from the hide of an ogre that tried to attack the town a few months ago but it has been painted in lovely pastel shades. Little duck egg blue in there. There's some drew crafted flowers all over the place. There are also plenty of crocheted and knitted cosies for like the post-boxes, the lampposts, the bins, the benches. Someone's read a book on guerrilla knitting apparently.

ALEX

Yes!

MADDY

In the centre of the town square there is this impressive marquee which is made entirely of gingham and held aloft by magic **[twinkle sound]** rather than pulls or ropes and you can see a very red faced wizard in the full on purple robes pointy hat. Just red faced, concentrating super hard, trying to keep this marquee up.

ALEX

Worst job ever!

MADDY

Yeah just they really have not got the economy of...action economy on this. And the drapes are currently covering the marquee entrance so you can't see what's inside yet but you know that it's starting soon. So I would like to check in with each of you, ask you what your character looks like and what you're doing as you're waiting for the event to start. Let's go with Patricia, what is Patricia Potts doing?

TESSA

Yeah Patricia Potts has a stand at the event and has a bunch of pies which do not sell so well because they are quite unusual with fillings like spinach pie, a kale pie, a kale spinach pie – that's her personal favourite but it's not very yummy – sardines...there's a sardine pie.

ALEX

I'd eat all of those.

TESSA

There's also a toothpaste pie because she's like who wouldn't want to have minty, fresh breath and Patricia is quite short. Quite small but...short but very stout. A very sturdy, stout woman with grey hair that's pulled back into a very, very, very, very tight bun. One where you'd like that would cause a headache. She wears these tiny round glasses that make her eyes look very, very small.

NICO

That was beautiful.

MADDY

Brilliant. What is Christine Ankle-Jenkins doing?

NICO

So Christine has managed the arts of getting a coat with the biggest amount of pockets. So if you think of someone who usually brings Tupperware to events, think that but like pockets out the wazoo to kind of store things in. Christine doesn't really like talking about their age but what they kind of do hair wise is they kind of coat their greys. Not with any hair dye but shoe polish kind of does the job. So just a good bit of gunk of shoe polish just all the way around. General murkiness of biscuit crumbs and other gunk on this really long, overworn coat. Odd trainers. Their trainers don't match colours but you know, you need trainers to get about the day to make yourself comfortable and it's just going around the stalls, talking to the people, seeing if you can get

a free taste of any of the pies, the cakes, the biscuits, what have you and just store some in their pockets for later.

MADDY

Fantastic. Ok. And what is Bryony Longfellow doing?

CATHY

Bryony has lucked out in getting their shift off for today so instead of being positioned out in front of the town she set up a spot where she can see the stalls and they can have a good look at what the unveiling is going to be and is just taking their time, doing little bits of painting. **[paint brush on canvas]** Got a leather smock on, with various... a full painting set out. Today they decided to bring specialty painting cavasses for the event today with brushes that can be doubled as stabbing utensils. So very, very sharp on the end.

(laughing)

Just keeping that on hand just in case. Again for the special occasion of today but doesn't intend on using them unless needs to do a little bit of inscription work here and there. Bryony is without her regular town guard uniform. She's in a leather painting smock and she's got really frizzy grey hair. It's just kind of messy after spending so much time under that large guard's helmet. Just can't do anything with it.

MADDY

Oh yeah. Helmet hair's the worst. And what is Gloucester Worcestershire doing?

ALEX

So I get an almost fairground vibe from this. So I think Gloucester is currently stood in front of those strong arm competitions with the hammer and the bell and so on and I think she's probably in a blazing row with the person running it because they haven't put a limit on how many times you can do it so she's been hustling it and I think she's been causing some trouble which is quite an intimidating sight. She's there – 'I told you...you didn't put a limit and I can keep going all day' – 6'5/6'6, full head to bottom spiked plate metal with a pair of bolt on spectacles that go on the outside of the helmet because inside they'll fall down and so on. And she's just...I think she's just in a row with a really really, really quite patient stand operator who's like I can't just keep ringing the bell over and over again.

MADDY

Yeah you're giving us really good advertising and you've paid a lot to be able to do this but also there's a queue going around the corner of people who want to be able to do this.

ALEX

'I understand that but you didn't say I couldn't. So, you know.'

MADDY

‘Well I’m saying that now.’

ALEX

‘And I’m saying I can hit it again so that leaves us at quite the impasse.’

MADDY

I see. I also have a couple of questions for each of you. I would like to know which granny in the group have you known the longest and how you met and also which granny made a faux pas that you cannot let go of and what was it. So for Gloucester Worcestershire, who’s your bezzie mate and who’s your nemesis?

ALEX

I think I’ve probably known Bryony Longfellow the most by virtue of there’s only so many times you can put in lock up before you end up on first name terms with the person who holds the keys.

MADDY

Fair

ALEX

And in terms of the slight, my guess would probably be Patricia Potts just by virtue of, I kind of get the impression that Gloucester Worcestershire is a bit of a combat beast but likes to nut things head on and that just doesn’t blend well with Patricia Potts bravely shanking people from behind chivalrously. I feel like

they might've had quite a few falling outs as opposed to what's the correct way to massacre a creature for bunting, that kind of thing.

MADDY

Makes sense. Bryony, who's in your good books, who's in your bad books?

CATHY

I'm going to say that Bryony is in good books with Patricia. Mostly in her wanderings around town and her walks, she's probably chatted with Patricia in her baking escapades and probably in the course of a lot of conversations has ended up trying a few pies. For better or for worse.

(laughing)

TESSA

You loved them, you loved them

CATHY

Yeah, yeah, yeah. Some of them makes Bryony cringe but deep down she appreciates the ingenuity. I'm gonna say I'm out for Christine because in one of Bryony's many breaks, she has to pack a lunch, and they brought their food out there and found one day that Christine had nicked their biscuits and that's unforgiveable.

NICO

I mean that's quite fair.

(laughing)

ALEX

Honing on in the biscuits specifically. That is like low. That's low.

MADDY

And Christine, in response, who's your best mate and who's skating on thin ice?

NICO

I'd probably say Gloucester Worcestershire's my best mate. Simple thing, picture the scene, we're in a charity shop. **[sound of a windy day outside]** Cold day, blustery outside, your neck's getting a bit nippy and you see right in front of you the accessory aisle. **[fabric noises]** You've got your gloves, you've got your scarves, you've got your hats and you just see the perfect scarf there and you both reach for it and you both get the opposite ends and it's a bit like Lady and the Tramp but purely platonic like and you roll it out and I'm one end, Gloucester's on the other end and Gloucester's like, no love, you look like you need it more than me and just handed me the scarf there and then. **[scarf being exchanged with a rustle of fabric]** So that's why I've known Gloucester the most and that's why Gloucester's in my good books. In my bad books I'd say it's probably that Bryony Longfellow. Now I know my biscuits like the back of my hand and that great debate, Jaffa Cake, is it biscuit, is it cake? Now most people don't really know this but it's actually a cake because...you know it's a cake because when it goes off it goes hard and if it's a biscuit it goes soft. But

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Bryony didn't know this. Got a Jaffa Cake, dunked it in the tea, all that tea got sucked up in the sponge...

ALEX

Oh you don't dunk a Jaffa

NICO

Absolute mess. Absolute nightmare. What are you doing? You've just ruined a perfectly good cup of tea. So since then we've just never been on real speaking terms. I mean we'll get by because we have to for this but it's just been a bit wobbly.

MADDY

Very fair. Patricia, who's your favourite and who's not so much your favourite?

TESSA

My favourite person is Christine Ankle-Jenkins because I love the unusual plants. I want them for my recipes and so I...we have a bit of a business between us where I'll come and get unusual plants to put into my unusual pies in exchange for unusual pies and so it...

ALEX

Does Christine grow a lot of edible plants because you said your pies are quite edible. Lots of edible pies.

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TESSA

Well I don't know how edible my pies are...

NICO

Define edible.

MADDY

They're works of art. You don't necessarily need to eat them.

TESSA

Yes. Beautiful, beautiful pies. I imagine that the person who is in my bad books is Gloucester. Gloucester.

ALEX

Good!

TESSA

Because again our fighting styles are just so different and I can feel the judgment radiating off of you and I do not appreciate it.

ALEX

That might just be the armour, it's very smelly.

TESSA

Oh no.

ALEX

Difficult to do your own latches. When you live alone, end of a long day, sometimes you're like, you know what, I'll sleep in it. No one will notice.

TESSA

Everyone notices. Everyone notices.

ALEX

Everyone notices. But you're all too scared

(laughing)

[sounds of busy town square resume]

MADDY

As you are all in your own little separate parts of the square there is a tannoy going off **[tannoy chimes]** and it is the red faced wizard who is holding up the marquee who has also been handed a magical megaphone and he's going **[grainy as if speaking through a loudspeaker]** – 'urgh...the bake off's going to start in five minutes.' And so you all start to congregate in the audience area and you all start to intersect and join up with each other. Is there anything you wanna chat about just as you're waiting for the show to start?

ALEX

'Patricia'

TESSA

‘Gloucester’

ALEX

‘I see you deigned us with your presence.’

TESSA

‘I see you’re as shiny as ever.’

ALEX

‘All the better to see your reflection as you stand in front of me.’

TESSA

‘Good thing I don’t block your line of sight then.’

ALEX

‘Ooh. What a cutting, cutting burn.’

CATHY

‘Now, now ladies. Gloucester. Patricia. I hope that we can both get along for now while we have a lovely little event today. I’d hate to have to you know take anybody anywhere. Reprimand anybody.’

NICO

‘Dunk a bit of cake in tea.’

ALEX

‘Well if hopes were coins I’d be rich but here we are.’

MADDY

And as you are waiting for the event to start a gaggle of grannies from the neighbouring town Volume, are scuttling up

[footsteps as the gaggle of grannies approach]

ALEX

Oh god. Sorry a gaggle of grannies are scuttling up. This is such a specific image and I love it.

MADDY

You know them to be Matilda Crumpet, Josephine Scone, Kathleen Teacake and Penelope Muffin.

NICO

Do you think those are their birth names or do you think that’s their cult names?

MADDY

Maybe they're a gang and those are like their gang names. Matilda Crumpet is super buff, just absolutely bulging with muscles but the wrinkles are kind of falling around the muscles and it's all very disconcerting.

ALEX

'Game respects game.'

MADDY

Yeah. And Josephine Scone is like a fashion granny. She's got a beautifully tailored skirt suit on and oversized pearls. Kathleen Teacake is cat lady. She doesn't have one of those more modern backpacks with a window in for your cat, she's rigged one up by getting a pane of glass from a window and putting it in a satchel and cutting a hole.

ALEX

So dangerous! Oh god!

MADDY

So this cat is trapped in this death trap

[cat meows]

(laughing)

And then there's also Penelope Muffin who you know generally competes in the bake off but has always got bronze or silver but has never got gold. And so Matilda comes up and says – 'did you hear the gossip about Deidre Winterbottom' – you'd all know that Deidre Winterbottom always wins, just every single year always wins. 'Deidre Winterbottom no one's seen her. She's not...she's not turned up.'

ALEX

'Oh she'll be doing one of her grand entrances I'm sure. It was all fun and games last time until that palanquin came up. It'll just be a thing. You know it will be.'

TESSA

'Winterbottom always comes by my stand and she did not so I am sceptical that she is here.'

ALEX

'Well it's not that farfetched that someone would choose not to go to your stall Patricia.'

TESSA

'I'll have you know I sold three pies today.'

NICO

'With the plants that they're using in them I don't understand why no one would like one of those pies. They're top quality pies. Best pies around these parts.'

TESSA

‘Exactly.’

ALEX

‘In my experience whenever I eat one of your edible pies I’m certainly hungry again afterwards.’

TESSA

‘Well I never claimed that they’re filling but they are good.’

(laughing)

MADDY

Penelope Muffin looks over at your stall curiously and then catches...from about 30 feet catches a whiff of the pies and then just instantly shivers and withdraws and is like – ‘oh, oh, oh lovely. That is just delightful. Great. Alright, I’d better be getting along. I’m sure it’s starting soon but lovely to see you all’ – and she trots off. She’s got her best apron on. Absolutely spotless.

TESSA

‘Good luck, Muffin!’

MADDY

‘Thank you very much’

MADDY

And you see that not long after Penelope Muffin has entered the marquee, the drapes are drawn to the side and you can see inside for the first time. **[crowd gasps and shushes]** There are cooking stations set up inside the marquee, each one with a woodburning stove and kitchen equipment. The contestants you can see are obviously Penelope Muffin and you can also see a fairy man using levitation **[whoosh]** to lift a huge jar of sugar onto the side **[thud]** and there's a cat folk who's licking her paws which is probably not sanitary when you're just about to start baking and there's a human person who just has the best waistcoat, just perfectly ordinary person, just amazing waistcoat and there's also a dwarf woman who is flexing and looking as though she's ready to knead. On the stage at the back you can see the famous judges who have flown in from the capital. It is Squall Follywood who is a grey haired half orc whose body seems to be entirely composed of squares and Sue Creeth who is an elderly gnome lady with just the largest and most obscenely colourful jewellery. It looks like someone's taken some children's building blocks and put them on a string and tied it around her neck. Squall Follywood struts up to the front of the stage and he opens the event. And just before we jump in, let's take a little break.

And we're back. Squall Follywood is taking his place centre stage kind of edging out to Creeth a little bit. **[as if using a microphone]** 'He says welcome to the Blemishworth Bake Off. You are all here to witness the most talented bakers in the county competing for the title of best baker and I am joined by my wonderful co-host Sue Creeth' and she's like – **[as if using a microphone]** 'yes I'm really glad to be here.' They start to introduce all of the contestants and there's a late addition to the contestants as well. There's someone who

you didn't see initially and who kind of rushes in from backstage looking a bit flushed. This is the Duke of Blemishworthshire, Duke Lionel Gruntwhistle. He is a thin sickly looking human man with blonde hair, admittedly incredible cheekbones but also paired with very spindly limbs who is kind of trying to play off his tardiness with a smug smile. This is his first time competing. You haven't had many dealings with him but at first glance you don't think that he's probably going to be super granny friendly.

ALEX

'Although that is interesting isn't it. Duke Lionel instead of Deidre Winterbottom. It's anybody's game.'

MADDY

You see that they start their baking, they're beating up the batters [**sound of beating batter**] and they're pouring the sugars [**sound of sugar and flour pouring into a bowl**] and the flours and doing all the general things and I would like everyone to please make me a...I'm going to say stories roll.

ALEX

I feel like Gloucester's a really bad audience member for this kind of competition. I think as they're beating it's like – 'yeah, give it some welly. Get in. Yeah! Beat that down! Yeah!'

(laughing)

'Use the chair!'

(laughing)

CATHY

Put your back into it.

MADDY

Yeah I think the dwarf woman is really quite enjoying that and is properly kneading this dough with aplomb.

ALEX

'Use two plombs! It's quicker!'

(laughing)

MADDY

Alright, what's peoples' results on the stories roll?

NICO

So I got a 6 + 1 so 7.

TESSA

I got a 6 – 1 so 5.

CATHY

3 + 1 so 4.

ALEX

And I got a 6 – 1 bringing us to a 5. That's a really strong start!

MADDY

That's solid, yeah

ALEX

That's super strong!

MADDY

As a group, apart from Bryony who's a little distracted by the fairy man just absolutely deadlifting a pot of jam and it's incredible. I think he's showboating because he generally levitates things but at this point he's just lifting it above his head and just absolutely lapping up the applause. **[applause and cheers from crowd]** But what the rest of your notice is that there is a man kind of loitering just outside the marquee who's got flowing red hair, green robes. He looks quite handsome. He seems to be exchanging glances with the Duke and meanwhile the Duke is talking a big game and is like – 'oh I know that I'm going to be the best baker this year. You have been deprived of my talents for far too long.' And the other bakers are looking a bit peeved about that. In between his barbs you can see that they're exchanging glances and the Duke also does a quick hand gesture and not long after that the man in the corner seems to mutter something under this breath and a rat starts to climb out of

someone's cake batter. **[squelch as a rat climbs out of the batter, the crowd gasps and cries out in horror]**

NICO

Oh 'eck. That's not on, that. Oh 'eck

CATHY

Sabotage!

MADDY

Yeah and it's the...it's the fairy man who's just like, this rat that's the same size as him has just climbed out of his cake batter and he's just absolutely going to town on it, stabbing it to death. **[stabbing impacts on the rat]**

ALEX

'Oh look Patricia, I think she stole one of your recipes!'

TESSA

'Hey now, I have never cooked a live rat before except once by accident.'

ALEX

'I never claimed that you cook the rats you put in your pies.'

NICO

I like to think that Christine is none the wiser and just think it's because the contestants are just using basic non-branded flour and eggs and it's just like that what you get when you skimp on ingredients.

(laughing)

ALEX

What it's like a weevil in the flour! Whole rat!

CATHY

Is the rest of the audience noticing this as well, that Bryony might be taking more stock of what's happening to the crowd.

MADDY

Yeah I think it's very much one of those things where it's like car crash tele and everyone's like oh my god and sort of outraged but loving it. **[chattering of shocked and excited crowd]**

TESSA

'That's not sanitary but I'd still eat it!'

NICO

'Bit of protein that. Can't knock that.'

ALEX

'You see everyone says that I give you a hard time but then you say things like that Patricia and it all just brings it back into perspective doesn't it really.'

TESSA

'I've got guts of steel and I need to maintain those.'

ALEX

'I know but the problem is you keep putting them in those damn pies.'

CATHY

'Patricia you have a lovely sense of taste and don't let anyone tell you otherwise.'

TESSA

'I mean I must say Gloucester I feel like it's two against one here where everyone here likes my pie except you so I think you must be the one who has a bad sense of taste.'

ALEX

'Two against one, I like those odds. Tell me when it's 10 against one and then we'll have a problem.'

NICO

‘Meanwhile Christine is just like checking people’s pockets for biscuits and cakes whilst you’re all arguing with each other.’

(laughing)

MADDY

‘This is the place to do it, yeah. Just before we move on I would like for Christine to do a hustle roll to see if you can nick some cakes and biscuits without being spotted.’

NICO

I love this! 3 – 1 so I got a 2.

ALEX

Ohhhh! That’s what you get for making it all about biscuits Nico. Don’t think I don’t see what you’re doing

NICO

Oh ‘eck

MADDY

Yeah so when you mark a personal sleight, you’ve got five of them, you have to reduce one of your stats by 1. So when you try and snaffle lovely looking, not French Fancy because...Finesian Fancy from someone’s pocket there’s this very

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grumpy looking elderly orc man who just kind of turns around and just like –
'what the heck are you doing mate?'

NICO

'No, no I was just checking the interior pockets. It's a lovely design, honestly. I
don't mean no harm. Not me, no.'

MADDY

'I'm not sure I believe you. Can you give me a stories roll?'

ALEX

Pocket inspector, don't mind me.

(laughing)

NICO

Oh it's not good. 1 +...oh I got a 2. That's not good.

ALEX

Good. Good.

MADDY

This elderly orc man who isn't super strong but is just gonna give you a shove.
[impact of the orc man shoving Christine]

NICO

'Oh, no, I can't...my biscuits! No!'

MADDY

Yep you drop all of your various confectionaries all over the ground.

NICO

All this seems to give way all at once and it's like a tsunami of sandwiches and teacakes and nonstop... **[seams of coat ripping and whoosh of food falling from pockets]**

MADDY

Well this is quite the situation we have there. Well I'll leave you to it I guess and he just runs off as fast as his legs can carry him.

NICO

'My hidden shame. No these are mine. Stand back. I've counted all of them. Don't you get your grubby paws near my mountain of food please.'

ALEX

Such a snack hoarder. I feel like half of them are gonna be beyond their sell by date.

(laughing)

It's like Oreos from the 60s and stuff like that.

MADDY

As this is going on, I would like everyone to make another stories roll please.

CATHY

This time I got a 3 total

TESSA

I got a 2 total. Ouch.

MADDY

Mark a personal sleight.

TESSA

Yeah. Dang

NICO

I got a 5. Thankfully.

ALEX

You guys are rubbish. Minus...oh no wait, wait, sorry, my bad. Zero!

(laughing)

MADDY

Ooh. Personal sleight. Ironically everyone apart from Christine is very distracted by what's just happened with Christine

(laughing)

And you're just trying to stop people from standing in her cakes and getting jam all over them

ALEX

Oh I think Gloucester's wildly escalating this situation immediately. It's just like getting very ugly, very quickly and unnecessarily.

CATHY

Bryony is very torn between letting Gloucester build this up because of being so frustrated with Christine's biscuit nabbing and at the same knowing that we should probably stop the scene from happening in the middle of the town square. I suppose we could help you out.

ALEX

'No! No I don't excuse you! I'll excuse you with my face.'

MADDY

Yeah there's a bunch of small children who are just snaffling all the biscuits and sweeties that they can and you're like no!

NICO

‘Get away! No, green is a natural colour of jam. The furry bits just add a bit of texture but they’re mine, not yours. Get away.’

MADDY

Something, Christine, catches the corner of your eye and you see that the man in green with the red hair is muttering to himself again and immediately afterwards the cat folk, the cake batter that she is working on just explodes everywhere, all over her fur. **[explosion, splatters, crowd gasps and begins to chatter in discontent and confusion]** And this is probably not as big a deal for her as it would be for someone else because she can just lick it off but there has been splatter going on, the neighbouring contestants and even Squall Follywood has got a glob of cake batter on his cheek and he’s just looking absolutely furious and the crowd is kind of diverted between cake rampage in the marquee and cake rampage in the audience.

CATHY

Bryony is probably looking up on the stage wondering what’s going on and after all these...it’s a very lively competition. Has it been this lively in the past?

MADDY

This is very unusual. Normally it’s very genteel and very polite and everyone’s just kind of giving each other tips and not being very competitive at all. This is very unusual.

CATHY

Does Bryony know the event organiser?

MADDY

I think you would know that Matilda Crumpet's sister, Mildred Crumpet, is the one who generally organises these things.

CATHY

I see and is Mildred anywhere nearby?

MADDY

Mildred will be backstage in the marquee so there's some kind of drapes of closing off the back part of the marquee behind the stage and you think that she'd probably be in there.

CATHY

Ok. I think Bryony is going to, as Christine is continuing to gather up all of the biscuits, Bryony is going to shoo away some of the kids, all the people trying to grab the less than savoury biscuits that have been dropped on the ground.

NICO

'Thanks very much'

ALEX

I think by this point Gloucester is covered head to toe in children, just picking a fight with them

(laughing)

Spikes are very easily climbed and it's just this mass of young children like rampaging though the audience. **[screams and laughter from children]** 'Argh! Argh, I'll have you! No one likes you. Secretly everyone hates children! Urgh!'

(laughing)

CATHY

Somehow Bryony doesn't see this as a problem. So it seems like another Wednesday

(laughing)

So Bryony's gonna proceed to dart backstage and see if she can find Mildred to double check that everything's alright.

MADDY

With your uniform, even if you're not technically supposed to be backstage I think the guards who are looking after it are just like, yeah we know you, you can go through. **[crowd quietens as they move backstage]** Mildred, similarly, pretty buff is kind of watching. There's another wizard there staring red faced

Rusty Quill Gaming – 1 – Raging Grannies

at this piece of glass and projecting an image of what's going on out in the front onto it and is just looking so tired. **[magic twinkle and a sound like the resonance of a finger running over a wine glass]** This is now a running theme in this roleplay.

(laughing)

ALEX

This is not a sustainable society. There is an underclass of wizards here.

MADDY

She's looking pretty worried and upset about what's going on and she's – 'oh hello dear, is there anything wrong? Can I help?'

CATHY

'No, I came to ask you the same thing. It seems very lively on stage this year.'

[muffled screams and laughter of children]

ALEX

[muffled] 'Oh I'll have you lot!'

CATHY

'Goodness. Is there anything I can help you with?'

MADDY

‘Oh, yes that would be actually marvellous. I have no idea what’s going on out there. It’s...it’s quite...quite unseemly. Do you have any idea who might be responsible for this?’

CATHY

Bryony has probably not seen the man in the corner but we’ve seen that the Duke is still acting a little uppity so Bryony’s probably going to be like – ‘well it seems that ever since the Duke came out on stage it caused quite a stir and there’s some concern about...it seems that Winterbottom being missing is kind of the lead to start to a whole bunch of unsettling behaviour. Do you happen to know where...why the change in attendance happened?’

[muffled screams and laughter of children]

ALEX

[muffled] Get off my face!

(laughing)

MADDY

‘There was meant to be a soundcheck and rehearsal before the event started and Deidre just didn’t turn up and the Duke very kindly offered to take her place.’

CATHY

‘Interesting.’

MADDY

'Are you suggesting that he might have something to do with this?'

CATHY

'Oh I have no idea but there's certainly a bit of a scuttlebutt happening out in the audience.'

[muffled screams and laughter of children]

ALEX

[muffled] Who gave you rope?

NICO

[muffled] Get your grubby paws away from my Battenberg please, thank you.

CATHY

'I'll just leave you to it. I'll go see what else is happening out in the audience.'
And Bryony decides to go back to the group because it's a bit much more commotion that maybe she needs to pay attention to now.

ALEX

Anyone else getting that meme from Community coming with the pizza boxes...there's fire, everyone's screaming and running around

(laughing)

MADDY

Absolutely. Before you head off, Mildred just touches your shoulder briefly and – honestly if you could do anything to help. I'm somewhat stuck back here because I need to supervise everything but if you could go and investigate what's going on then that would be marvellous. And then kind of shoos you off and lets you go back to the group.

CATHY

Bryony comes back around stage, out to re-join the group and finds...

ALEX

I mean Gloucester's clearly been tied up by this point. Just overwhelmed by children

(laughing)

Just thrashing around

TESSA

Patricia Potts was helping shovel pastries back into Christine's torn jacket but is now just watching the show again very intently.

NICO

Christine's making a gigantic sort of pocket bag out of the remains of the jacket to try and figure out a way of making a satchel to carry all the food still. **[fabric noises]**

ALEX

You're clearly prioritising your biscuit hoard over clothing at this point. I love it!

(laughing)

Do you have shoes? No but I have three fairy cakes.

NICO

And a pork pie. Don't ask me when the expiry date is. That's been me and god.

(laughing)

CATHY

Bryony will go over to help Gloucester out of their predicament. 'Oh dear you keep getting in these situations.' **[cutting through rope]**

ALEX

'They started it.'

CATHY

‘Uh huh, yes’

ALEX

‘Coming in here with their little faces and their big eyes. No one likes them.’

CATHY

‘Well I just spoke with Mildred who seems a little concerned about what’s happening on stage but they haven’t been able to see what’s going on. Do you...have any of you seen anything unusual?’

TESSA

‘Well yeah there’s that weird man over there. He’s weird. I’ve never seen him before.’

CATHY

‘Who?’

TESSA

‘The one with the...the one with the hair. The one who was...the one with the hair over there.’

NICO

‘The one I’d let him dunk his toasted teacakes into my tea if you know what I mean? That one.’

(laughing)

Sorry, I'm cringing at myself! Sorry!

(laughing)

MADDY

It wouldn't be a bake off themed one shot without some innuendo in there.
I'm very pleased that that happened.

NICO

Because this is a fantasy sort of setting I'd like to think Christine's this version of a conspiracy theorist where she just doesn't believe in magic or anything like at all so she just thinks it's sort of like illusions and it's probably Squall Follywood just shoving rats in places and what not.

ALEX

So we're in an entire magical marquee and you're like, no it's sleight of hand.

NICO

It's just tricks innit. It's not real.

CATHY

Oh goodness!

(laughing)

ALEX

Sorry I'm just...I'm glad that I am playing Gloucester because otherwise I'd just sit down there immediately with Christine and be like I want you to explain to me how you think the world works.

(laughing)

Is it just...is it just tent pegs all the way down? Yeah, is it? And the moving pictures projected onto the glass...oh yeah that's just really quick painting is it?

MADDY

I think now because the stage is more kind of a focus of your attention because Bryony's directed you to it, you see that suddenly the human person with the amazing waistcoat, their entire beautifully baked fruitcake just shrinks to a miniscule size right in front of their eyes. **[magic twinkle and shocked cries]** They're just gazing traumatised at all their hard work just gone in two seconds flat.

ALEX

So it's just shrunk into nonexistence.

MADDY

Yeah it's still there but it's about the size of a thumb...like a thumb joint.

TESSA

I bet it's harder than a rock now.

CATHY

It's like a little dollhouse cake.

TESSA

Patricia's going to immediately look at the stranger who's been doing the muttering with the hair and see if there's anything happening there between the Duke and him.

MADDY

Give me a stories roll

TESSA

Another one! I got a 3.

TESSA

You think that he's looking a bit smug but there's nothing definitive that you can spot. As the mystery of the shrinking cakes deepens why don't we close the episode for now and come back to you next time for more Raging Grannies. I would like to say thank you so much for listening and we shall see you very soon. So it's to take on the mantle of Helen Gould from Enthusiasm it's goodbye from me. Goodbye. And it's goodbye from everyone else, would you like to say goodbye?

NICO

Take care, see you soon.

EVERYONE

Bye!

ALEX

'Don't trust children!'

[Show Theme - Outro]

MADDY

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