

RQG – 2 – Raging Grannies

Content Warnings

- Food
- Innuendo
- Physical violence & injury
- Imprisonment
- Undead & zombies
- Discussions of: attempted kidnapping, nausea & emetophobia, rot
- Mentions of: spitting, rats
- SFX: squishing, clanking, continuous growling

[Show Theme - Intro]

MADDY

Hello and welcome back to Rusty Quill Gaming. I am your gamemaster for today, Maddy Searle. My pronouns are she/her and we are continuing our game of Raging Grannies with the behind the scenes team of Chapter and Multiverse. Chapter and Multiverse is a brand new actual play podcast coming from Rusty Quill which will use a whole bunch of different game systems to explore the same city across different parallel universes. We are continuing with Raging Grannies designed by Alicia Furness where we have a wonderful team of grandmothers who are dealing with the possible sabotage at a bake off in the town of Chapter in the county of Blemishworthshire and so we have Alex. Could you please introduce yourself?

ALEX

I am Alexander J Newall. He/him. Victim of Maddy's coup.

MADDY

And who are you playing?

ALEX

I am playing Gloucester Worcestershire. Good luck spelling it. I am a...I forget my exact height. I think it was 6 foot 7, heavily armour plated in full spike plate armour granny who has a particular dislike, it turns out, of all children. They are just adults with all of their good bits stripped out.

MADDY

And Cathy please introduce yourself and your character?

CATHY

I'm Cathy Rinella, she/her. Today I am Bryony Longfellow who is the town guard and enjoys occasionally making the odd painting and a bit of patrolling around town and very distracted by all of the mishappening with our bake off today.

MADDY

Wonderful and Nico

NICO

Hi, I'm Nico. He/him. I'm the music composer for Chapter and Multiverse and I am playing Christine Ankle-Jenkins who currently is trying to make a gigantic sort of bag for the various foods that have fallen out. The kind of clothes Christine is going for now is like a jumper she's knitted herself but is too small and has kind of got holes in it from being too itchy so she's been scratching at it and some lovely biker shorts as well. That's the kind of aesthetic we've got going on.

MADDY

Wonderful. Alright. And Tessa.

TESSA

Hello, I'm Tessa Vroom. She/they and I am playing Patricia Potts, a grandmother who bakes unusual pies but is not part of the baking contest and also is a retired knight who was very fond of backstabbing.

MADDY

Love it so much. So good. Ok and as we come back in to the story you have just witnessed a cake being shrunk to an impossibly small size. I think the Duke is also looking rather pleased with himself.

[SFX: Town Square]

ALEX

'I don't know why they shrank their...their thing so small. That doesn't make much sense. Do you think they're going for a miniature bonus score or something?'

NICO

'I think it's a bit like the cake version of a raisin. So going from a grape to a raisin, maybe they just got a really good heat signature to just really crisp it up and shrink it.'

ALEX

'Oh like a dehydrated cake'

NICO

'Yeah. It's...I'm sure it's all the rage somewhere, not round these parts but maybe down further south or somewhere like that.'

ALEX

'But you wouldn't want to eat it and then have a glass of water, you'd explode!'

NICO

'Well you know it saves on packaging really.'

ALEX

'True, true.'

TESSA

'My grandchildren always tell me the smaller the food, the fancier it is.'

ALEX

'Yeah well grandchildren say a lot of things.'

TESSA

'They do, they do. I believe that there might be something fishy going on at this bake off and unless you're trying one of my pies baking and fish do not belong together. So we should figure out what is happening and where Winterbottom is and what...why there's a rat in the cake.'

CATHY

'Patricia you pointed out this gentleman off to the side somewhere. Somebody new...somebody seemed a little...'

NICO

'Uppity wuppity'

CATHY

'Yes. Over there. The one in the...red hair.'

TESSA

‘Yes the one with the hair.’

ALEX

Unnecessarily loudly – ‘oh is that the one with the chin bones with the legs attached? That one.’

(laughing)

I have a -1 in stories. This is what that looks like.

TESSA

‘Thank you for pointing it out Gloucester.’

CATHY

‘Bryony will start winding their way through the crowd and go up and greet the stranger at the very least as the town guard.’

TESSA

Patricia will follow

NICO

So will Christine Ankle-Jenkins just to see what’s going on.

ALEX

Just checking is this person cooking at the same time or are their loitering near the bakers.

MADDY

Fully loitering.

ALEX

Gloucester will definitely tag along but it's quite difficult to sidle so much as just shovel mounds of people out of the way

TESSA

It's like a ship parting the ocean

(laughing)

ALEX

Yeah you know what, consider me...consider me your ice breaker.

MADDY

Alright so you mosey on over to this stranger. He puts on his best, shiniest Hollywood-est smile, not Paul Hollywood, America Hollywood smile, and...because a Paul Hollywood smile would be very different. And so he says to you – 'oh wonderful, it's great to meet you all. I'm Vernon Green. How are you finding the bake off? It's quite scandalous don't you think?'

CATHY

‘Oh Vernon it’s wonderful to have you here in town. When did you...not seen you around town lately? Are you here for the bake off?’

MADDY

‘Yes. I am a big fan. I always try and make sure I’m right at the front so I can see everything that’s going on. I’m...I’m just mad for those soggy bottoms you know.’

CATHY

‘Really?’

NICO

‘Not being a bit funny like but...’

ALEX

‘Oh! Innuendo!’

(laughing)

NICO

‘But usually a bake off, I just like it just being the baking. I’m not one for all these sorts of special effects and it feels a bit too, you know...bit to happen chance that the one competition where there’s all these do dah whatsits going on, you seem to be here too. Do you have anything to do with all these sort of shrinking cakes and all that?’

MADDY

‘Course not. No. What do you think I am? Some kind of charlatan? Some kind of saboteur?’

ALEX

‘Oh just to be very clear, I think my good friend Christine is saying that you are a fraud and a charlatan and...’

NICO

‘That’s it’

ALEX

‘...that you are the reason everything is going wrong.’

NICO

‘That’s exactly it. Thank you so much Gloucester Worcestershire.’

ALEX

‘See I thought I had it right.’

MADDY

‘I mean I have to...I have to deny these accusations. I am a valued member of the community who is simply enjoying a wonderful event.’

TESSA

‘Now, now, now ladies. I am sure that our good guest here has gone through all the proper entry processes as you well know Gloucester.’

ALEX

‘Oh, innuendo!’

(laughing)

NICO

Soundbite of that is gonna end on people’s ringtones.

(laughing)

ALEX

I love low charisma characters! They’re the actual best.

CATHY

‘I’m sure our friend here has checked in with the local guard upon entering our town and made sure to enter our registrar as they came in. For sure they’ve gone through all proper channels of entering our dear town.’

MADDY

‘Oh of course. Please take a look at my references.’ And he pulls out...

ALEX

'Oh, innuendo!'

MADDY

He pulls out some papers and you can see that the Duke's signature is very prominent on all of these as ratifying that this is a "trustworthy" individual.

CATHY

I see. And what do we know about the Duke as members of the town?

MADDY

Yeah you don't know a huge amount because he's not one to come and mingle with the common people. He's very much stay in his castle and there is a castle in the town, Chapter Castle, that he lives in and mostly from what you can tell there are lots of deliveries to the castle, basically daily. So he's presumably redecorating constantly.

NICO

You know when you can look at a sort of person you can tell whether or not they'd probably tuck into a pork pie or whether they're the sort of person to tuck into a watercress sandwich

ALEX

Oh yeah

NICO

Which way do you think our Vernon would go?

MADDY

Yeah I think Vernon's a watercress sandwich kind of guy

NICO

Oh, right, that...I don't know about that. That's a...

(laughing)

MADDY

A bit too svelte for a regular porkpie guy

NICO

Welcome to northern culture Cathy!

(laughing)

CATHY

I've no reference for this!

ALEX

'Bryony do we just put him a sack and deal with him later?'

NICO

‘Shove him in...he won’t touch any of my stuff because there’s no watercress in there. There’s nothing healthy in my big, pouchy sack of foods. It’ll be fine.’
Can we do that? Can we just shove Vernon in there and hope for the best?

MADDY

If you give me a guts roll then you can see if you can wrestle this man into a bag.

ALEX

I think I’m definitely gonna give an attempt to start wrestling him into a sack.

MADDY

Yeah

ALEX

God I hope he’s innocent. I really hope he’s innocent.

NICO

Mine is a 1 so I’m going to put another mark on me which seems...

ALEX

Oh no! I rolled a 1 with a guts of 2 so I got to 3 but with the minimum roll possible.

MADDY

Oh yeah. You can...you can succeed at a cost if you want. So I think you do manage to get him into the bag **[SFX: fabric as he is shoved into bag]** but then he just takes out a wand and just, like in Mission Impossible things where they laser a hole in something, he just lasers a hole in the bag with his wand and then just steps right out again. **[SFX: Laser]**

NICO

‘No! My goods. They’re out again.’

TESSA

Poor Christine. It’s at the cost of Christine’s bag.

ALEX

‘I can’t believe you ruined her bag. Honestly that is unacceptable behaviour.’

MADDY

Well I must say that attempting to put me into a bag is very...

ALEX

‘How dare you! We did not attempt, we succeeded. You just cheated.’

NICO

‘Don’t you forget it.’

MADDY

‘I think that the Duke would be very interested to hear that this altercation happened and that you would all receive the appropriate punishment.’

ALEX

‘Ok now is not the time for innuendo.’

MADDY

‘I’m very confused right now.’

NICO

‘I thought this was an all you can eat establishment going on with the cakes and the baking in front of me. So I thought it was a bit...if you see it, say it, claim it. So that was going through my head at the time. It’s nothing personal. Just a bit peckish.’

ALEX

‘Are you trying to say that you just claimed this young man. It’s not that I don’t approve, I’m just checking it.’

NICO

‘I’m just saying I saw it, fancied it, I claimed it.’

(laughing)

ALEX

Oh god!

NICO

You know when you say things and you don't realise you're saying them and it comes out and it's like what was that?!

(laughing)

MADDY

I've had so many of those moments in tabletop games!

ALEX

Ok, Maddy, out of curiosity we've clearly been occupying this bloke's full attention I feel. Has the competition now been running normally or is it like on fire at this point because we're chasing the wrong person?

MADDY

It seems to be running normally. It seems to...and the Duke is looking a bit flustered because things aren't going the way that he possibly expected.

ALEX

I think this loiterer is suss.

TESSA

I think that Patricia's gently, not so gently, pushing Gloucester to be between Vernon and the stage to completely block his line of sight. **[SFX: pushing Gloucester]**

ALEX

'Stay where I can see you Patricia. I know your games.'

TESSA

'Just get...get...just stand there. Just stay there.'

MADDY

'Listen, I really should get back to watching the event. These things don't...these things only come around once a year. I really want to be looking and seeing what's happening.'

TESSA

'Vernon, right Vernon?'

MADDY

'Yes that's right.'

TESSA

'I have something that might...might interest you quite a bit.'

ALEX

'Oh, innuendo!'

MADDY

'Go on.'

TESSA

'I happen to possess a baking stand and it has very rare and special pies that you might be quite interested in as a connoisseur of baking shows.'

MADDY

'Yes I am a connoisseur of baking shows so I would be interested in pies.'

TESSA

'Could I interest you in a little tour of my pies and I can give you free samples.'

(laughing)

No one say innuendo!

(laughing)

ALEX

I have such a clear image of this conversation. Of Vernon just being mobbed. It's just whoomph. So far all that Vernon's done is stand near the front.

(laughing)

MADDY

Tessa can you please give me a hustle roll to see if you can persuade Vernon to come over to the pie stand.

TESSA

That is a 2!

MADDY

‘Oh no! He says – well I am a connoisseur of baking and I would very much like to sample your pies but perhaps after the event.’

CATHY

‘Perhaps to persuade you I happen to have a sample of one of Patricia’s pies.’

TESSA

Oh no!

CATHY

Bryony stopped by earlier to pick up some samples so Bryony’s got the toothpaste pie and hands it over to Vernon **[SFX: pie being handed over]** and expectantly looks at them as if you should really try this.

Rusty Quill Gaming – 2 – Raging Grannies

MADDY

Give me a hustle roll as well please

CATHY

2 + 2 so I get 4.

MADDY

Nice

TESSA

If Vernon's asked to try this he needs to make a grit roll

(laughing)

MADDY

So you can succeed at a cost. I'm going to say he's definitely gonna take it, yeah he turns to you and says 'well if I'm having some then you...it's only polite to let you have some too.'

CATHY

'Of course.' Bryony's built up an immunity to Patricia's pies.

TESSA

'See this one is one of my special creations.'

ALEX

‘Don’t do it Bryony! It’s not worth dying over. It’s not it!’

(laughing)

NICO

‘I’d like to know amongst all the abundance of food I have, I don’t even have one of Patricia’s pies in my piehole.’

ALEX

Woah!

(laughing)

NICO

Just putting cards on the table.

MADDY

Cathy could you please make me a grit roll and I will also make a grit roll

CATHY

Oh my gosh this is a -1 for me. So that’s a 2 for me.

MADDY

Oh no!

ALEX

Oh Tessa you've killed Cathy!

(laughing)

TESSA

Patricia killed Cathy

ALEX

Sure, yeah!

MADDY

Bryony do remember to make personal sleight when you get a 1 or a 2 as well. And Vernon got a 5. I'm not going to give him any modifiers but he got a 5 so he takes a bite and you can see the look in his eye of what on earth did I just put in my mouth and he swallows it. You can see the wheels turning in his head of this is possibly the worst thing I've put in my body but I have to pretend like I'm enjoying it and then he does the most half hearted mmm and rubs his stomach in a very performative way. That's delicious.

TESSA

'See Gloucester, everyone likes my pies except you. You're wrong!'

ALEX

'No! If there was ever proof of someone being a liar this is it. Before I was suspicious of you sir, now I am certain!'

MADDY

And meanwhile how is this pie having an ill effect on you?

CATHY

Well Bryony is a bit overconfident in tasting Patricia's pies so they took a fairly big bite thinking that they'd probably be able to stomach anything that they bit into and weren't prepared for the full minty onslaught of gooey toothpaste pie-ness. She makes a face. Pretends to cough and turns off to the side and while coughing a little more as if something's stuck in her throat just kind of spits it out without Patricia seeing.

TESSA

I was about to say because you rolled a 2, Patricia notices and is very offended

CATHY

No! No! It's a pie that I know is meant to be savoured in small bites so I just got ahead of myself. In the meantime she tries to put on her best face and turns back to Vernon and says 'I'm very glad you enjoyed our delicacies. You do look a little under the weather like something's not agreeing. Is it...perhaps we should find you the First Aid tent or take you somewhere you can have a little bit of a sit down or lie down because this is...'

ALEX

'Oh, innuendo!'

MADDY

'Oh no, I'm perfectly fine, thank you for asking.' Could you also...could you do me another hustle roll to see if you can persuade.

ALEX

I love how interfering we are still. This is all during...this is front row of Bake Off and we're just like this is what's happening.

NICO

It's like the granny version of a mosh pit going on right now

TESSA

We've all surrounded this poor man.

CATHY

I got a 4.

MADDY

A 4. 'Alright. I do have a little bit of a chesty cough at the moment but otherwise I am absolutely fine so I will remain here if that's alright.'

CATHY

Is he like clenching his stomach? Is his stomach upset?

MADDY

Yeah he's trying to play it off as if he's adjusting his very fancy green robe but actually you can tell that he's trying to massage his stomach somewhat. **[SFX: Fabric noises]**

CATHY

Bryony is very discretely just going to try and punch him in the stomach to make it worse!

TESSA

Ooh!

ALEX

Ooh. Wait. Wait, discretely so that no one else notices or discretely so that he doesn't notice and it's a really bad stomach pain because one of those is a lot more ambitious than the other. I'm on board with both but I'm very curious of what you're aiming for here apart from his spleen

CATHY

I mean I would love it if he didn't notice but I was going for not causing a scene.

ALEX

Understood, understood.

TESSA

I mean Bryony is a member of the guard and punching someone, a poor civilian in public might not be so good for the image.

ALEX

Oh god! Oh god!

MADDY

Can you give me a guts roll please

CATHY

Well that's a 1.

MADDY

Oh no!

(laughing)

Alright, I'm gonna give you a choice. Either you completely miss and you can try and play it off with another roll or you manage to do it but you attract a lot of attention and a mob starts.

CATHY

As fun as that would be I'm gonna miss and I'm gonna pass it off as just like patting him reassuringly on the stomach. Oh you poor thing.

ALEX

Pat! [SFX: pat pat pat]

CATHY

I hope you feel better.

MADDY

Can you give me a hustle roll to see if this is convincing

ALEX

Just pat, pat, thud!

CATHY

It's a 4 with a 2. Yes! I got a 6.

MADDY

Nice.

TESSA

Finally!

NICO

Out of all of the things a stranger could do to you, gently patting you in the stomach has got to be way up there in the list of creepy stranger danger vibes.

CATHY

Ok let's back up. We just stuffed this guy in your...in that sack you've been carrying around

(laughing)

I feel like we've breached the amount of proprietary there's supposed to be here.

ALEX

I was going to say this isn't really an escalation is it. Not from where we started.

NICO

That's fair, that. I'll give you that one.

ALEX

If anything all we've done is we've dropped from full blown kidnapping into just assault.

NICO

Just a nice little pat, pat. There you go. Bit for your troubles, that's what you get. Don't...call your mates now, tell you what we'll call your mates. Me being the hunter sort of class and what not, I start to scan around and see if it really is this Vernon or...my eyes on that Squal Follywood and I'm kind of thinking how many seasons has it been now? 20? 30 seasons? Something like that. Maybe this is Squal Follywood's way of ending the show and getting out of his contract.

MADDY

That is a very good theory. Could you please give me a stories roll to kind of size him up.

ALEX

But Squal Follywood is eternal. With the piercing blue eyes of the lich that is Squal Follywood.

(laughing)

NICO

I get a total of a 3.

MADDY

Looks pretty suspicious to you. Looks pretty suspicious.

CATHY

Oh no!

ALEX

They say his handshake sucks out your soul!

(laughing)

MADDY

Those piercing blue eyes look like they could pierce a heart.

NICO

It's like written in ink please help me SOS and hopefully when he gives someone a handshake they'll read their hand later and see SOS written on their hand and go, oh that Paul...that Squal...there's no Pauls in this. There's no Pauls. Don't...none of that. That Squal is in a bit of trouble here. Being a bit suspicious is kind of like I'm not sure if he's being suspicious of the actual baking event or he's just being suspicious that in fact there is a little granny mosh pit going on in front of the stage and he doesn't know whether the cameras are picking this up or not. Whether the people are picking it up. So he's kind of flustering about, maybe a bead of sweat has come in but nothing really suspicious enough that makes me think that's our lad. That's the one who's getting all these special effects going on.

ALEX

Maddy, how many contestants currently stand a chance and don't have either a live rat in their food or have miniaturised food or any combination thereof?

MADDY

The people who are still in the running are Millicent Forgton who is the dwarf, Penelope Muffin who is part of the ratpack grannies and the Duke.

ALEX

'Right. At this point it might be easier if each of us just protects a different contestant. You know just loom reassuringly. What do we think?'

NICO

'I think that's quite a good idea. I'm gonna go to that Penelope Muffin because I quite like a bit of muffins me so maybe surname Muffin, chance of a muffin being around them, quite high. I'll take that one.' Don't question it!

CATHY

Bryony will take...will lead Vernon backstage to meet Mildred and hopefully at least continue to keep Vernon out of eyesight of the duke.

TESSA

Patricia's kind of constantly following directly behind Vernon and ready just in case.

(laughing)

ALEX

‘In that case then I guess I’ll split my attentions between the Duke and Millicent. Subtle like.’ At which point I think Gloucester starts subtly thudding back and forth across the front row splitting attention. **[SFX: armoured stomping back and forth]** So there’s just this armoured...from the wizard cameraman’s angle, there’s just this spiked helm just [thudding noise] through the camera occasionally.

MADDY

Yeah I think one of the wizard cameramen gestures to an assistant and sends them forward and this poor little runner who looks no older than 18 or 19 is like – ‘erm excuse me, Miss, could you please stop running in front of the cameras’

(laughing)

ALEX

‘I’m afraid not. [thudding noise]’

MADDY

And then this poor...poor assistant just walks off looking very dejected and clearly not up to the...up to messing with you.

ALEX

Gloucester’s the worst. Gloucester’s just a bad day for everyone.

MADDY

Cathy could you please give me a hustle roll to see if you can get Vernon to come with you back stage.

ALEX

You've got this Cathy. You've got this.

CATHY

I got a 4. Total.

TESSA

Should I also give a hustle roll because I'm helping bring up the rear and prodding a little bit with my finger in the back. **[SFX: prodding back]**

MADDY

Absolutely.

ALEX

Honourably offering a shanking incentive

(laughing)

TESSA

That is 3 flat.

MADDY

You manage to get him on the way to the backstage but you're still within eye sight of the bake off but you're pulling him away but not quite managing to get him there. He's putting up quite a big fuss and is like 'excuse me, I really must get back to the performance. It is most imperative.' So yeah, and I think there are people who are giving you the side eye and why are these grannies harassing this poor man?

(laughing)

Meanwhile what is Christine doing with the other contestants? Which contestant are you shadowing?

NICO

So I've got my eyes on that there Penelope Muffin

MADDY

Penelope Muffin, alright.

NICO

Correct me if I'm wrong, Penelope Muffin is from the sort of rival gang of ours, the scuttlers as we like to call them

MADDY

Yeah the scuttling grans.

NICO

The scuttlers. I'm on the fence that they've been cheating their way through this competition for years because none of us lovely grannies, Raging Grannies...lovely raging grannies of us have ever managed to get to the show and I'm starting to suspiciously think that Penelope Muffin, one) doesn't really like muffins on the get go so that's immediately a red flag as it goes. Two) I think they're using things like instant custard powder, instant mashed potato, you know all the cheats. They say it's a bit of flour, they say it's a bit of sugar but it's actually just whack it in, get a bit of water in there, get a bit of milk in, bob's your uncle and all that, there's your cake. So I'm starting to sort of eye up and wonder if there's any suspicious movements or tools or gadgets on that there Penelope Muffin. I'm thinking maybe she's got something to do with this.

MADDY

Alright, give me a stories roll

ALEX

But again I love that because the conspiracy nut thing. It's not like they could get magical help. No, someone had a rat in a can.

(laughing)

NICO

And I get 6 + 1 so I get a 7. So it's got to be rat in the can

(laughing)

MADDY

You, with laser focus, look at Penelope Muffin's full set up. Examine every, single ingredient. You manage to work out which shop they're all from and there is nothing unusual about this poor woman's set up.

NICO

'You've survived this one Penelope Muffin but I've got both my eyes on you, watching you' and then I sort of scuttle a little bit away. Around to the back of the canvas tent what have you and try and patch up the hole that Vernon's put in my pouch **[SFX: fabric noises]**

ALEX

Oh I pity the production team for this festival. This is...I've been at Edinburgh gigs that felt like this.

(laughing)

I don't wish us on anyone!

MADDY

Let's go back to what's happening with Vernon. It's just the rolls have not been in your favour. I feel so bad.

(laughing)

TESSA

Patricia would love to ask Vernon – ‘Vernon, do you happen to know someone by the last name of Winterbottom?’

MADDY

Mm, give me a stories roll to see if you can detect any micro expressions.

TESSA

I don’t know why I keep trying to go for story type actions when my stories is -
1. I got 0.

ALEX

That makes sense. You’re stood directly behind him.

(laughing)

MADDY

Yeah the back of his head is looking very suspicious. ‘I don’t believe I know anyone by that name. Do you know anything about them?’

TESSA

‘Well you see they’re the number one winner of this baking competition every year and they’re not here.’

MADDY

‘Oh I see. Yes. As a baking aficionado I should’ve known that shouldn’t I?’

TESSA

‘Yes you should’ve known...

(laughing)

...who Winterbottom is.’

ALEX

So suss!

MADDY

Yeah I think just from the question you asked he kind of acquiesces for a moment and goes, ‘alright, fine I will come with you backstage if you insist but just I really want you to just leave me alone.’

TESSA

‘We do insist’

ALEX

You’re being so reasonable in just the most unfair...like this guy probably queued for a day to get those front row seats, immediately gets bagged and tagged and dragged off.

MADDY

As you get backstage what do you say to Mildred as you bring this gentleman in?

[SFX: Backstage]

CATHY

‘Mildred hello.’

MADDY

‘Oh hello dear’

CATHY

‘We’ve been looking into how things are going outside and this respectable visitor that we have here, Vernon, we thought that since they are a guest of the Duke – apparently – that they would like to get the full experience of the bake off and the production backstage. See where all the inner workings of this event are happening. While we continue to make sure that everything is hopefully going smoothly outside on the other side. How have things been with you?’

MADDY

‘Things have been alright actually. The last few minutes have been relatively calm so whatever you’re doing is doing wonders. Thank you very much.’ She turns to look at Vernon properly for a second and goes – ‘oh you’re a very handsome young man you know.’ And just goes off on a massive older lady

absolutely fawning over a beautiful young man. ‘Ooh, yes where did you get your robes? Ah, wonderful.’

ALEX

For some reason I’ve decided Vernon’s Benedict Cumberbatch played by Benedict Cumberbatch

(laughing)

I’ve just locked that image in my head now.

MADDY

That makes sense. That makes complete sense. Wearing a massive red wig Benedict Cumberbatch. And so as Vernon is being laid upon by Mildred we shall have a small break so we shall see you very soon.

And welcome back. Where we left off was Vernon being pet by Mildred and probably stroking his beautiful hair and just absolutely fawning over him. **[SFX: petting]** Meanwhile...

ALEX

[Laughing] He’s having such a bad day. It’s all escalating so quickly and in so many different directions.

NICO

His only claim is that he looks like he eats a watercress sandwich and...

(laughing)

MADDY

You have seen him making eyes at the Duke. You don't know what that's about. You don't know what that's about.

ALEX

He could just like the Duke. He could just be a friend.

MADDY

He could just...yeah, you don't know. You don't know. But yes, as we come back into the game a small servant boy in an impeccable uniform walks up towards Gloucester and says – 'excuse me. Excuse me ma'am can I have your attention for a moment.'

[SFX: Town Square]

ALEX

I'd like to do a sort of cinematic thing for a moment and can we get...can we POV from servant boy's thing of this like...I know the height keeps changing, 6 foot 6 spiked armour monstrosity just leaning, looming down right up in their face **[SFX: intense music swells]** – 'what?'

MADDY

'You look big and strong and I think there's someone in danger at the castle.'

ALEX

'I'm torn! On the one hand legitimate rescues, on the other you are a small child and thus can't be trusted.'

(laughing)

'Lead on but be afraid child.'

MADDY

'Well I heard some sad noises from the dungeon and the jail keeper told me that there wasn't meant to be anyone in there but there was.'

ALEX

At that point I'd say that Gloucester just bodily picks up the servant boy [**SFX: picking up boy**] – explain on the way – and just starts thundering out towards the castle whilst yelling, mid competition, just yelling straight across all of it to Christine – 'out on a rescue [thudding noise]' [**SFX: stomping**]

NICO

Christine looks up, looks at the pouch, realises that she could probably take it with her and then looks around the room, notices there's not really any suspicious people in that room as of the moment and kind of trundles off with them. With the pouch.

ALEX

I really hope now it just bursts into flames immediately.

(laughing)

MADDY

And as Bryony and Patricia are exiting the backstage you definitely hear the yelling that's going on and see your companions stomping off in the direction of the castle.

CATHY

I will go join this because would like to know what's going on.

TESSA

I don't trust Gloucester to not get us all into trouble.

CATHY

I'd like to know why Gloucester's carrying a small child.

TESSA

I believe we might be witnessing our second kidnapping of the day

NICO

Just the mental image of Gloucester either like carrying or threatening this young child and me with a massive bag just dragging it along with us. **[SFX: dragging bag]**

TESSA

And like little pieces slipping out of the hole in it.

ALEX

This is starting to give such a Home Alone vibe.

NICO

There's not a kidnapping, trust me. No kidnapping here.

(laughing)

ALEX

We didn't kidnap him.

MADDY

'And thank you for heeding my call but my neck is getting a bit sore with you holding up my collar like that.'

ALEX

'Well then finish explaining quicker...' **[SFX: thudding feet]**

MADDY

'Well I've pretty much said all there is to say. There was some crying coming from the dungeon and there wasn't meant to be anyone in the dungeon and I think it might be a lady.'

ALEX

‘Fine.’ At which point Gloucester just hangs the servant boy off a hook but carries on running towards the castle. **[SFX: hanging boy by collar]**

TESSA

That’s still going to be pulling on the collar. Poor child.

MADDY

They’re just like being dragged along. Have you seen the bit in, I think it’s A Close Shave, Wallace and Gromit A Close Shave where the sheep is bouncing on the trampoline going [funny noises]

(laughing)

It’s very much like that. So as you rocket towards the castle it is a very picturesque looking castle and it has beautiful round towers with crenulations and the arrow slit holes and beautiful....terrible for the architecture but lovely for the scenery, ivy growing up the sides. Beautiful flowers in the grounds and first of all, as you come up you can see that there is a drawbridge and there are a couple of guards standing at the front of the drawbridge waiting to see if anyone’s going to try and get in.

CATHY

Bryony will walk up to both the guards – ‘hey.’

MADDY

‘Hey, hey Bryony how’s it going?’

CATHY

‘Not too bad. Just gonna take a quick jot over the bridge there.’

MADDY

‘Why’s that? What’s your business?’

CATHY

‘Doing some investigating.’

MADDY

‘Mmm investigating what?’

CATHY

‘Well there was some concern in the castle we’re gonna go look into. We’ve been asked to check in on so...’

MADDY

‘You’re saying that the castle guards don’t know no business? We can’t handle castle business.’

CATHY

‘Not at all. Not at all. I know, as a guard, you don’t always...you’re in charge of what’s outside here obviously but we heard there was something going on in the dungeons and I wanted to go investigate and my friends are coming along to assist.’

ALEX

Is the drawbridge down and is the gate open or is it locked up tight? What are we looking at here?

MADDY

The drawbridge is down and it is all open but they’re just a couple of guards in the way

ALEX

Understood. Understood.

NICO

So I’d like to think this is Christine’s time to shine. So Christine does what she does best and she can kind of...you know when you can look at someone and tell what their favourite food is without even asking them. So she looks at the guards, **[SFX: Squelch]** she digs deep into the pile of what’s probably a mish mash mush of like a food ball and peels two ham sandwiches and gives them to the guards and says **[SFX: handing over sandwiches]** – ‘these could fill your bits if you just look the other way whilst me and my friends here just taddle on it. What do you think?’

CATHY

Oh no!

ALEX

I can't believe you've resorted to biological warfare here

(laughing)

MADDY

Alright, give me a hustle roll please

NICO

5.

MADDY

Excellent, wonderful. Ok. The guards both look and they're like 'oh yeah, this is my favourite sandwich. You can't go wrong with just a good bit of ham can you.'

NICO

'I told you. I told you, I've got the knack for it. You take care lads.'

MADDY

Alright. And I'm not even...

ALEX

'Take note Patricia!'

MADDY

I'm not even going to do a grit roll for them, they're not expecting it. They don't know that these ham sandwiches have probably been in that bag for god knows how long

NICO

Oh yeah a couple of years. There's sort of added flavour from the coat, little bit of fuzziness in there, little cotton balls and what now

CATHY

Interesting texture.

MADDY

And so immediately they get a...their faces go bright green and they rush off to...'excuse me I've just got some urgent business to deal with over here' and they both go over to further along the moat and just start being sick into the moat essentially.

TESSA

Into the moat. Oh no!

MADDY

And there's some poor ducks down there who are just having a lovely time amongst some water lilies. **[SFX: ducks quacking happily]** This is a very decorative moat, this is not a...it is not a functional moat.

ALEX

It is now

NICO

This is now my legacy and I'll happily take it.

ALEX

It will sit on the feed forever Nico!

(laughing)

MADDY

The internet is forever. And so do you make your way across the drawbridge and into the castle?

ALEX

Oh absolutely.

MADDY

Fantastic. Ok you make your way inside and find the nearest set of stairs heading down. As you make your way further down the stairs...

ALEX

I'd like to think my servant boy is just like a glorified Satnav. 'Turn left. Turn right'

MADDY

'Down the corridor. Round the roundabout, first exit.'

ALEX

'U turn. U turn!'

MADDY

And yeah, the little servant boy is definitely giving you directions and you make your way into the dungeon and can I get you all to make a stories roll please?

[SFX: Dungeon]

NICO

I got 5

TESSA

I got 4

CATHY

I got 6

ALEX

How is everyone so good at stories consistently? I got 3. We're really good at this and we shouldn't be.

(laughing)

MADDY

Bryony you're the first to notice that there are pressure plates on the ground as you enter this dungeon

CATHY

Oh jeez

MADDY

And they are generally in a Skyrim dungeon. There's one and it's pretty easy to see but you can tell that they've gone to a lot of effort to try and make these pressure plates blend in with the décor that's already there. So you've managed to recognise one of them but you don't know exactly where all of them are because they very much are the same pattern of tile as the rest of the tiles. Just because one of them is slightly lifted up you've managed to notice it but yeah, there could be any number of horrible traps in here.

CATHY

‘Oh goodness. Got the traps laid out again. Urgh. I feel like there should be a panel somewhere where we could just turn it off. There should be a place where you can just turn it off.’

ALEX

Do you tell the rest of us that you’ve seen traps. Or is it like a [slamming noise] set off the trap

CATHY

I’ll drop my painting box down on the tile. I’ll have everyone stand back

(laughing)

‘Just hold on a minute.’ Drops the painting kit onto the tile. **[SFX: thud]**

MADDY

A spike immediately comes up and pierces the stack of paintings. **[SFX: spike springs up and pierces painting]**

CATHY

‘[Sighs] that’s my favourite. Alright well there’s bound to be more of these in this room so if we don’t have an easy way to turn it off we will have to make a way around it.’

TESSA

Patricia's going to go around Gloucester's back to the serving boy and say – 'do you know a way through all of this? How do you normally get down to the dungeons? Do you go down to the dungeons?'

MADDY

'I'm a kitchen boy. I don't know nothing.'

TESSA

I'm starting to agree with Gloucester, children are useless.

ALEX

'Yes, this is what...'

CATHY

'How did you know there was somebody down in the dungeons that wasn't supposed to be there? Is there a different way to get down there from the kitchens?'

MADDY

'No I was exploring. I know I wasn't meant to. It was...I usually get a telling off from the cook if I go wandering but this time I just needed...I needed some space.'

ALEX

I think Gloucester at this point reaches over her shoulder, plucks servant boy – not going to ask their name – plucks servant boy off her back, **[SFX: fabric noises]** wield him from the leg like a hock of ham or something just holding his head up to her and goes – ‘and what have we learnt about doing what we’re told little boy?’

MADDY

‘We do it.’

ALEX

‘Yeah.’ Just sort of chucks the servant boy back towards Patricia. **[SFX: throwing child]**

TESSA

Patricia just kind of gets bowled over. **[SFX: Patricia is knocked over, thud]**

ALEX

‘If there’s one thing I know about spikes it’s that you can beat them with spikes.’

NICO

‘Play them at their own game. I see that, yeah.’

ALEX

At which point Gloucester's just gonna deliberately stomp down the corridor trying to set off every trap banking on spiked armour. Spikes beat spike. That's how that works right. If you do rock, paper, scissors and you both pick rock you go again. It's the same with spikes, right?

MADDY

Nice, yeah. Give me a grit roll to see you if you can withstand the spikes?

ALEX

7

MADDY

Incredible!

TESSA

Thank goodness!

ALEX

Spike beats spike.

MADDY

Like a ball in a pinball machine you just rocket around from left to right covering all of the tiles and spikes just shooting up left, right and centre and soon you have revealed every single trap in this room. **[SFX: like a ball in a**

pinball machine, spikes and ricocheting] So you can now gingerly make your way through the forest of spikes spotting the gaps in the floor where it is safe to tread.

ALEX

'I hope you were all paying attention. I'm not doing that again.'

NICO

Christine's not gonna take any chances and kind of uses the mush pouch as a ball and walks on top of the ball so he won't hit any of the spikes. **[SFX: squelching]**

ALEX

Sorry the mush pouch? I love that you now have a specific inventory slot called "mush pouch"

(laughing)

TESSA

I mean it's your weapon of unusual size

(laughing)

MADDY

It all comes together. Can I get everyone who isn't Gloucester to make a hustle roll to see if you can navigate the spikes?

NICO

I got a 5

TESSA

I got 5

CATHY

I got 8

MADDY

Incredible!

ALEX

Go team! Wow! Wow!

MADDY

Bryony is just absolutely...

ALEX

We're all so skilled but also so bad at deciding what to do with it.

(laughing)

MADDY

Bryony is just acrobatting her way across this room. It's incredible to watch. I think possibly some of you turn and look at just how elegantly Bryony is managing to do this and you reach the other side of the room and there's a large wooden door. Do you open it?

CATHY

Yeah

TESSA

Yes!

MADDY

Good **[SFX: Wooden door squeaks open]**

(laughing)

You open the door. It has one of those beautiful, haunted house squeaks as it swings open

ALEX

Yes!

MADDY

And on the other side you can see that there are several cells in poor condition, very damp, very dank and dark **[SFX: dark and damp cell room,**

dripping water] and before you can get a look at who may be in any of these cells you hear a groan coming from in the room and you just hear rrrrr, as three figures start to shamle forward and you can see that they are wearing the same uniform as the guards who were at the drawbridge but they are emaciated corpses that have been reanimated to guard the dungeons and they are shuffling forward towards you. **[SFX: zombie groans]** So what would you like to do?

ALEX

Yell – ‘the working conditions here look awful!’

MADDY

Fair, legit.

TESSA

Patricia’s going to try to stab one of them in the back

MADDY

Great, yes! Do it. Alright.

ALEX

[Singing] Brave, noble knight. Shank, shank, shank, shank, shank, shank

MADDY

Give me a guts roll please

TESSA

That's 4

MADDY

Ooh I think you do manage to get a good backstab in. You swiftly run around the back and manage to shank one of these zombies **[SFX: stab]** but unfortunately it claws at you on your way past **[SFX: claw swiping face]** and so you've got this...you've got these six scars across your face of these zombie claws just raking across your face.

CATHY

Oh no!

TESSA

It's ok. It's only a flesh wound

(cheering)

CATHY

Bryony will step forward and attempt to assist with tripod that she had been using for painting, **[SFX: whoosh]** she whips it around and uses the pointy ends to try and smack these zombies into the ground.

MADDY

Brilliant, alright. I will say that you can, if you're doing it in a strength-y kind of way you can use guts, if you're doing it in a dextrous kind of way you can use hustle.

CATHY

Gonna try and be dextrous with it. So that's a 4 total

MADDY

You manage to whack one of the zombies in the head [**SFX: thud and groans from zombie**] and it looks somewhat dazed but then it turns its attention on you and just starts pulling at one of your arms and you can just feel that it's trying to yank the arm out of the socket. [**SFX: yanking arm**] It's not managed to do it yet but it's feeling very painful.

CATHY

Do I recognise the zombies? Are they old buddies that just happen to have turned lately?

MADDY

Yeah this is Alan, Jake and Dave

CATHY

Oh Dave, buddy, what are you doing? Come on, get off. Dave

MADDY

Yeah you haven't seen them for a while and this is castle policy when they die they get reanimated and keep working

(laughing)

CATHY

How very American

ALEX

They need a Union so bad!

MADDY

Yeah there's a lot of bad working conditions in this world I'm starting to realise. Wizards, guards...

ALEX

Such an exploitative class system in this world

(laughing)

MADDY

Yeah it all seems...all seems idyllic at the start with the tea cosies and stuff but when you look down at it, yeah capitalism is bad no matter what world you're in.

NICO

Christine being the conspiracy theorist and all that doesn't really believe in zombies and just assume it's some ill attempted get up just to get the mush pouch and so puts on her big girl voice and says – 'go on, get' – and tries to fan them away. Looking over them, even though Christine's only 4 foot 8 and just make a really good, powerful figure and try and scare them away.

MADDY

You could probably use guts for that because this is quite a brave and intimidating thing to do.

NICO

Oh I got a 3. Oh that's a bit bad that.

MADDY

Oh dear. Unfortunately these zombies are just undeterred and keep marching towards you and one of them makes to snatch your mush snack.

NICO

'Not me mush! No!'

MADDY

And is just...yeah, as it's reaching for it we will cut to someone else. So what's Gloucester doing in this situation?

ALEX

I think Gloucester at this point would just yell – ‘respect your elders.’ Because we have the weird plants thing, pop a homemade berserker Werther’s Original and then try to nut one of them into next week **[SFX: unwrap sweet]**

(laughing)

MADDY

Incredible

ALEX

With her spiked helmet of course.

MADDY

Wonderful. So, yeah, you can add a +1 for the weird plants and yeah please do me a guts roll

ALEX

7 on a 6 sided dice

MADDY

Fabulous. So yeah please describe to me how you completely obliterate this head of this zombie with your helmet

ALEX

I think she again holds the lapels [**SFX: grab lapels**] and just says – ‘be nice’ – crunch and then just nuts the head out of existence because spiked horn helmets will do that. [**SFX: headbutting zombie head with spiked helmet**]

MADDY

Brilliant. Yeah you just...

ALEX

Nutting slang for headbutt of course.

MADDY

And yeah there are just fragments of decayed flesh just flying across the room. So we’re one zombie down, two left. [**SFX: zombie flesh flying everywhere**]

TESSA

Well I think Patricia’s probably going to try to take another stab at the zombie that’s holding on to Bryony’s arm because that zombie seems more distracted and so more easy to backstab.

MADDY

Nice. You can give me a guts roll or a hustle roll depending on which is better for you.

TESSA

It's a 3

MADDY

Yeah unfortunately you just try and make a stab and then the zombie [SFX: **swipe**] just does a weird limbo motion and just sways out of the way and you're mesmerised by this weird supple zombie. Bryony, what are you doing?

CATHY

Is it Dave who has a grip on me? Is that what I remember correctly?

MADDY

Yeah Dave has got hold of one of your arms and is trying to yank it.

CATHY

Oh, Dave. Bryony reaches in to their pouch and pulls out their speciality festival day painting brush with the pointy tips and slams it into Dave's arm to try and wrench it away.

MADDY

Sweet. Alright. Give me a guts roll.

CATHY

That is a 3

MADDY

And I think also...wait, what's your fighting style?

CATHY

My fighting style is a weapon for any occasion. So when we started it was kind of suggested that the weapons match the day of the week or the festival of the time or the celebration of the day.

MADDY

So if you've got a +1 from your painting and if you can find a way to make that fit the theme I can give you a +1 and you can succeed on the roll

(laughing)

CATHY

Bryony takes the paintbrush, slams it into Dave's arm **[SFX: stab]**, gore, ichor comes splurting out **[SFX: blood spurting]** and in a quick move she turns the paintbrush to swipe some of it **[SFX: swipe]** and splatters it across Dave's face to blind Dave with their own ichor with the paint brush. **[SFX: splatters, zombie groans]**

ALEX

If this was a TV show it's had such a tonal shift

(laughing)

MADDY

You've got the rage and you've got the grannies. So yeah, I'm gonna say that Dave is down. The only one that's left is Jake. Alan was the one that was nutted by Gloucester.

CATHY

I'm so glad you're keeping track!

NICO

So Christine has lost the mush and just has the tattered rags of the pouch and looks at Jake, looks back at the pouch and kind of wrangles a comically large lasso and just launches it at Jake. **[SFX: fabric noises, lasso swing]**

MADDY

Brilliant. Give me guts or hustle.

NICO

I got a 6

ALEX

Oooohh!

TESSA

Nice

MADDY

Incredible. Ok please tell me how you take down Jake with this incredible lasso

NICO

So I kind of stare him down and – ‘this one’s for the mush that I never got to give to that there Squal Follywood which was my lifelong dream of feeding Squal Follywood my mush pouch’ – and yoinks...

ALEX

‘Innuendo!’

NICO

...the...

(laughing)

Weren’t thinking that. Going to power through. **[SFX: lasso swing]** Just yeets the oversized lasso that way, gets it on her leg, proper tightens it and swings behind herself and you just see Jake yeet into the distance. **[SFX: zombie thrown]**

MADDY

Brilliant. Yeah Jake absolutely slams...

NICO

‘For the mush!’

MADDY

...into one of the dungeon walls and is splattered against it and slides down in a very comical way **[SFX: zombie splatters against wall and wetly slides down]**

ALEX

Clipping through the scenery.

MADDY

And so just before you get a chance to properly investigate this dungeon and see if there is anyone in here we are going to wrap up for this episode. Thank you so much for listening and look forward to seeing you in the final episode next week. It's goodbye from me, stealing Helen Gould's schtick once again, goodbye. And it's goodbye from everyone else. Could you please say goodbye.

EVERYONE

Bye!

ALEX

'Crazed granny scream. Argh!'

[Show Theme - Outro]

MADDY

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 Maddy Searle and produced by Natasha Johnston and Lauren Thompson. To subscribe, buy merchandise, or join our Patron, visit rustyquill.com. Rate and review us online. Tweet us @therustyquill, visit us on Facebook, or email us at mail@rustyquill.com
Thanks for listening.