

RQG – 3 – Raging Grannies

Content Warnings

- Undead & zombies
- Imprisonment
- Food
- Physical violence, injury & threats
- Vicarious embarrassment
- Discussions of: cannibalism
- Mentions of: child neglect, emetophobia, mould, loss of consciousness, innuendo, knives
- SFX: dripping, crashing & clanging, background chatter & shouting

[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 I am here with the behind the scenes team for Chapter and Multiverse to play a game of "Raging Grannies". So Chapter and Multiverse is a brand new actual play podcast coming from Rusty Quill where we use a bunch of different game systems to explore the same city - Chapter - in multiple parallel universes. We are playing as I mentioned "Raging Grannies" designed by Alicia Furness which is all about fantasy fighting grandmas. Our intrepid team of grannies has been trying to

Rusty Quill Gaming – 3 – Raging Grannies

work out who is sabotaging the Blemishworthshire Bake-Off Competition and are currently in a dungeon investigating a lead from a small servant boy that someone may be trapped in there. So I would like to introduce each of our players with their names and their characters and their pronouns, starting with Alex.

ALEX

I am Alexander J Newall. He/him. Erstwhile Rusty Quill Gaming host and currently learner that "to nut someone" does not necessarily translate across oceans as a piece of slang as I had hoped. But I'm just gonna double down and that's fine.

(Group laughter)

MADDY

Entirely fair! Who are you playing?

ALEX

Oh, I am of course playing Gloucester Worcestershire, and if any of you can't spell that frankly I have nothing but contempt for you.

MADDY

And Cathy, how about you?

CATHY

I'm Cathy Rinella, I am audio master at Rusty Quill, she/her, and I am playing Bryony Longfellow and finally feeling the rage as the Raging Grannies as we get down into the depths! Ooh yeah!

ALEX

Yes!

MADDY

And Nico?

NICO

Hey, I'm Nico, he/him, I'm the Chapter Multiverse music composer and I am playing a very mush-less Christine Ankle-Jenkins. I will not elaborate on that!

MADDY

Aww!

(Group laughter)

MADDY

And last but not least, Tessa?

TESSA

Hello, I'm Tessa, she/they, and I do sound design for - well I will be doing the sound design for Chapters of Multiverse and probably for this as well, unfortunately.

(Group laughter)

TESSA

And I play - I'm playing Patricia Potts, a backstabbing knight.

MADDY

Brilliant, OK, and yes, where we left off you had just had an altercation with some zombie guards who were reanimated to continue working in these terrible conditions and you are looking around to see if you can spot anyone hidden away in one of the cells and you do indeed see, it's that kind of fashionable that older women have that is just, it's like they have taken the most fashionable stuff from the era when they were young and just kept it, they've just not updated it whatsoever.

[SFX: Dungeon cells, dripping water]

NICO

Nice.

MADDY

So you're like: that is an incredible outfit. It is, like, 30 years out of date but it's still banging!

ALEX

If they stick with it, it'll definitely come back round eventually, right?

MADDY

Yeah, absolutely!

CATHY

Oh yeah!

MADDY

And she's got platinum blonde hair and beautiful kind of costume jewellery, but she is looking terrified and she is crouched in the corner of this cell, absolutely just weeping and hasn't really been able to take in what's been going on around her because it's all just been a weird burst of zombie flesh so she's probably not totally up on what's happening. So what do you want to do?

ALEX (as GLOUCESTER)

RAAAAAAARRGHHH! ZOMBIE LADY, GET HER! RAAAAAARGH! I'm all hopped up on, on, on, on sweets-

MADDY

[giggling]

ALEX (as GLOUCESTER)

RAAAARGH!

ALEX

I'm not, sorry, that's me done, I'm not gonna be particularly helpful I don't think through this social encounter.

(Group laughter)

NICO

I'm in mourning still so I'm just kind of there just sort of scuttling round the back, just going with the crowd but not really, not really knowing what to do with it either.

TESSA

Is this Winterbottom?

MADDY

You would recognise that this is Deirdre Winterbottom indeed. The renowned baker who has won several years in a row.

TESSA

Well then probably go up to the bars and say er:

TESSA (as PATRICIA)

Deirdre Winterbottom, we're going to get you out of here so that you can still compete in the Bake-Off.

MADDY (as DEIRDRE WINTERBOTTOM)

What, what, what's happening? I heard lots of screams and I, I've been stuck down here all, all day and wha- who are you?

CATHY (as BRYONY)

Well I'm Bryony, this is Patricia, the one fuming over there is Gloucester-

ALEX (as GLOUCESTER)

RAAAAARGGH!

CATHY (as BRYONY)

Mm hm. And the one in mourning is Christine.

MADDY (as DEIRDRE WINTERBOTTOM)

It's er, it's delightful to meet you. Well thank you so much for coming to rescue me, could you please let me out of this cell? I don't know if there's a key or if there's any other way.

ALEX

I'd like to wrench the door from its hinges in my berserker sweet-rage.

TESSA

It'll be really funny if you fail this.

(Group laughter)

ALEX

Yes it will, that's why I'm doing it immediately!

MADDY

Yeah, absolutely! Yeah, leave it up to the dice, give me a Guts roll please!

ALEX

Er, what's it called? Does it count as using my fists and foreheads?

MADDY

Yeah, yeah, you're gonna be grabbing with your fists, absolutely.

ALEX

Yay.

MADDY

Get some brute strength.

ALEX

[laughs] **(ROLL)** I rolled a 9 on a D6!

TESSA

Noooooo!

(Group laughter)

ALEX

Ah ha ha!

TESSA

Booooo!

(Group laughter)

MADDY

Please describe to me how you wrench this, this cell door off its hinges!

ALEX

Gloucester cracks the homemade Werther's Original in her teeth, not sucking just CRUNCH! **[SFX: Crunch]** And then goes full pepped up rage, just grabs the bars and just bodily tears it off the hinges, **[SFX: Metallic clangs as the bars are torn off]** and then is just holding it above her head going:

ALEX (as GLOUCESTER)

RAAAAGGGH! GRRRR!

MADDY (as DEIRDRE WINTERBOTTOM)

Well that is quite impressive!

ALEX (as GLOUCESTER)

GRRRRRR!

MADDY (as DEIRDRE WINTERBOTTOM)

I hope you, hope you won't be doing anything untoward with that door!

ALEX

At which point Gloucester just slams the gate down on the ground beside her
[SFX: **Metallic clang**] and then starts to sag a little bit as she's clearly just done
way too much, she's like:

ALEX (as GLOUCESTER)

[weakly] Grrr! Grrr...

NICO

[laughs]

MADDY (as DEIRDRE WINTERBOTTOM)

Oh! Oh dear, are you all right?

ALEX (as GLOUCESTER)

Arrrrrrghhh, I'm tired now.

MADDY (as DEIRDRE WINTERBOTTOM)

Oh, oh, of course.

ALEX (as GLOUCESTER)

I'm fine.

MADDY (as DEIRDRE WINTERBOTTOM)

Yes.

CATHY

Bryony is off to the side watching all of this play out, had already been halfway pulling a key out of her pocket as town guard-

(Group laughter)

CATHY

-ready to unlock the door, she's like:

CATHY (as BRYONY)

All right! This is... never mind. [laughs]

(Group laughter)

ALEX (as GLOUCESTER)

[still growling but tiredly and half-heartedly]

MADDY (as DEIRDRE WINTERBOTTOM)

What, what do we do now? Do we, do we - where do we go?

TESSA (as PATRICIA)

Well we get you to the Bake-Off of course!

MADDY (as DEIRDRE WINTERBOTTOM)

Well if you're sure. How, how far into the competition are they? I don't know if I have all, any of my ingredients prepared. Anyway we can discuss this as, as we walk, I suppose.

MADDY

And she kind of gets up off her feet a bit shakily but manages to kind of brush herself off and get ready to leave. **[SFX: Deirdre getting to her feet and patting her clothes]**

TESSA

Patricia Potts is going to look around for the serving boy, and Patricia looks a little bit scary now with the claw marks across the face.

MADDY

Oh yeah!

(Group laughter)

TESSA

And Patricia's just going to like crouch down just a little bit because the serving boy is almost her height and say:

TESSA (as PATRICIA)

You did good coming to get us to find the woman in the, in the dungeon.

MADDY (as SERVING BOY)

Thank you. It's good to know when you've been a good citizen.

TESSA

Patricia's going to reach into her little satchel, pull out a slice of pie and hand it over to the child quite pleased, like quite proudly? **[SFX: Reaching into satchel and pulling out the slice]**

(Group laughter)

ALEX (as GLOUCESTER)

Good idea! Leave no witnesses!

(Group laughter)

MADDY (as SERVING BOY)

Oh thank you so much, I am quite peckish, I only get the leftovers after the Duke's been done with them.

MADDY

Um, and-

CATHY

Oh no! [laughs]

ALEX

The servant boy is adorable!

(Group laughter)

MADDY

So he starts to nibble on this piece of pie and to the surprise and shock of most of you but not to the shock of Patricia, this boy will sit down and is absolutely fine and is like:

MADDY (as SERVING BOY)

That was delicious, thank you so much!

ALEX (as GLOUCESTER)

This castle is a cavalcade of horrors!

Rusty Quill Gaming – 3 – Raging Grannies

(Group laughter)

TESSA

Patricia-

ALEX (as GLOUCESTER)

What have they been doing to the people here?

TESSA

Patricia just pats [SFX: Pat pat] the child on the head very gently and then is like:

TESSA (as PATRICIA)

Come along, we must all go now.

NICO

So does Winterbottom need to source ingredients on the way to the baking competition or - what's the deal there? Because we could be scooping up remnants of zombies and you know...

CATHY

Oh god! [laughs]

TESSA

Oh no!

(Group laughter)

ALEX

Oh no! That took a turn!

CATHY

I was gonna suggest maybe we send the kitchen boy back to the kitchens to get things and bring it to the competition?

ALEX

Zombie viscera pie!

(Group laughter)

MADDY

If you want the servant boy, the nameless servant boy to go and get stuff from the kitchen, for sure you can ask.

NICO

Does Patricia Potts have a sort of underlying motive of sort of preparing the little boy with like, the herbs of the pie that he's just eaten as like a sort of like, you know, you know when you prepare a roast chicken?

TESSA

No! [laughs] No!

(Group laughter)

TESSA

Patricia - Patricia has grandchildren and just is genuinely pleased with the help.
I'm not, not going to cook a child!

NICO

No? OK, I just wanted to check love, I didn't know which way it was gonna go
so that's a good-

(Group laughter)

ALEX

It's - I totally understand Nico, you're just trying to gauge the room, you're
asking questions, you now know where you fit in that, it's like, it's more like
caring granny as opposed to cannibalistic granny and I get, now, now we know,
right?

(Group laughter)

NICO

[unclear 09:23]

TESSA

Oh my gosh!

[SFX: Kitchens, kitchenware clanging together, bags being dragged, food being poured as they thieve]

MADDY

The servant boy leads you to the kitchen and you can manage to snaffle as much flour, eggs, butter, cream-

TESSA

Sugar!

MADDY

Sugar, yeah, absolutely.

ALEX

All of it!

MADDY

All the things, like even just have like a full suckling pig, even though that's not gonna be useful!

(Group laughter)

ALEX

Problematic amounts of theft, that's what we're going for.

MADDY

Yeah.

TESSA

Patricia's going to point at like a pile of pastries and just nudge Christine a little bit like:

TESSA (as PATRICIA)

Hey! Hey look, you can get some more pastries.

NICO

And I'm just sort of like there trying to like lassoing all the ingredients rather than trying to make a pouch so I've now got like the lasso of... I'm trying to think of something with all the "lasso of food-o" is probably what I'm gonna call this lasso from now on. **[SFX: Lasso swing with a whoosh]**

TESSA

Oh no! [laughs]

(Group laughter)

NICO

It's like a couple of jugs of milk, bit of coriander, like a spiced salami. You never know where this Bake-Off's gonna go, so I'll just bring it all.

MADDY

Sometimes they do do savoury, yeah, it's not all cakes.

ALEX

I mean, I love that we do know what it is because we were watching and they were halfway through, but nonetheless!

NICO and MADDY

[laughing]

ALEX

In case Beef Wellingtons are suddenly like, a halfway pivot-

(Group laughter)

ALEX

We're ready!

[SFX: Outside the Castle, birds singing]

MADDY

Sorted! So as you come up along the drawbridge, the guards are now back in place having had their little incident. They turn around and go:

MADDY (as GUARD)

Oh, um, you weren't supposed to, that, that's not - what are you doing? Why have you got the prisoner?

CATHY (as BRYONY)

That's all right, we're on official business.

CATHY

And just keeps walking right past the guards.

NICO

[laughs]

MADDY

Give me - give me a Hustle roll to see if you can be kind of persuasive enough to just let them leave you be.

(Group laughter)

CATHY

Bryony's just really tired of trying to be polite with everybody. **(ROLL)** Total of 5.

MADDY

Nice. Yeah, they're sufficiently flustered and cowed by their own powerlessness and weakness as guards that they're just like: we've clearly lost this one, there's no point in trying to claw this back.

ALEX

You just saved that two from being shoved into a moat of their own previous, er...

TESSA

Oh no!

(Group laughter)

ALEX

...leavings.

[SFX: Town Square, people chatting, birds singing]

MADDY

Yeah. Yeah. It's for their own good, honestly. And so yeah, you make your way back to the town square with all the wonderful ogre bunting and crocheted benches and of course the marquee. And Vernon has managed to escape from the clutches of Mildred and is back in his customary position and just as you are approaching the dwarf woman's beautiful brioche that she has been preparing suddenly just instantly disintegrates into mould and bursts into

Rusty Quill Gaming – 3 – Raging Grannies

spores all over her. **[SFX: Brioche bursting, spray of spores, crowd crying out in shock]**

TESSA

[gasps] No!

MADDY

And she's just shaking with rage.

ALEX (as GLOUCESTER)

Deirdre, before we go in - er, it occurs to me, who locked you up?

MADDY (as DEIRDRE WINTERBOTTOM)

It was the Duke's guards, they, they did this. I thought there must be some kind of reason for it but I haven't done anything wrong.

ALEX (as GLOUCESTER)

Understood. Understood. Everybody - I've got a plan.

NICO

[gasps]

TESSA

Oh this'll be good.

CATHY

Uh-oh.

(Group laughter)

ALEX

Gloucester would like to charge in the entrance of the tent and just bodily tackle the Duke.

NICO

That's a good plan. That's a good plan.

TESSA

Oh no...

MADDY

Incredible.

CATHY

That's not a plan!

(Group laughter)

MADDY

Give me a Guts roll please.

ALEX

The only roll you need!

(Group laughter)

TESSA

I like the image of: I've got a plan! And then just turns and just barrels away!

ALEX

Raaaaargh! [imitates crashing and exploding sound effects]

(Group laughter)

TESSA

Oh it's a bad one.

CATHY

Oh no.

ALEX

No, it's another 9! Nice!

(Group laughter)

MADDY

Amazing!

ALEX

[still laughing]

MADDY

All right, so you absolutely rocket into the marquee [**SFX: Stomping**] aiming straight for the Duke and just plough into him [**SFX: Impact of crashing into the Duke**] and you knock him on his bum and he's just like:

MADDY (as DUKE)

Oh excuse me, what are you doing? What is happening? Oh!

CATHY

[laughing]

ALEX

At which point Gloucester sort of looks out through the open tent flaps at everyone else and goes - like gives that gesture of like: that's all I've got! Come on! Like -

(Group laughter)

ALEX

This is it! This, this was the plan!

MADDY

Yes, Squall Follywood and Sue Creef are looking scandalised and are motioning for like security to come.

TESSA

Patricia Potts is going to push Deirdre Winterbottom onto stage and push all of the ingredients out and just be like: **[SFX: Pushing Diedre and cheers from crowd]**

TESSA (as PATRICIA)

Go go go go go! It's your turn, it's your turn!

(Group laughter)

ALEX

She just slides on stage with a mountain of food!

(Group laughter)

MADDY (as DEIRDRE WINTERBOTTOM)

Oh this isn't what I expected, um...

ALEX and CATHY

[still laughing]

MADDY (as DEIRDRE WINTERBOTTOM)

I suppose now I'm here I'd better start baking I suppose...

MADDY

And she very nervously starts like sifting some flour...

(Group laughter)

MADDY

She's looking up at the judges like:

MADDY (as DEIRDRE WINTERBOTTOM)

I'm sorry, this wasn't my idea!

NICO

Christine noticing a redemption arc coming realises that Squall Follywood's eyes are on Gloucester, and realises I could probably entice Squall Follywood into falling in love with me, so sort of like lassos onto like, the pole bearings of the whole thing and kind of like Indiana Jones-es it into the centre and drops down between Gloucester on one side and Squall on the other side and pats herself down in her sort of woolly jumper with holes in and her biker shorts and just tries to woo Squall so that Winterbottom won't be noticed. **[SFX: Lasso swing onto pole bearing, thud as she drops, then patting fabric down]**

MADDY

OK, give me a Stories roll, see if you can seduce Squall Follywood!

(Group laughter)

TESSA

Oh no!

NICO

Please, I've never wanted anything more than this!

ALEX

You've got this, you've got this!

TESSA

It's bad!

NICO

(ROLL) It's 2! It's a 2!

ALL

Ohhh noooo!

NICO

Another mark!

TESSA

Is that your fifth penalty?

NICO

That's my fourth penalty, we're getting close.

TESSA

Oh OK.

ALEX

You know what it is, it's 'cos you've exhausted your mush pouch. If you hadn't-

CATHY

Yeah.

ALEX

- you'd have been able to, you'd have been able to pull it off I think.

NICO

It all comes back to the mush! [sighs]

ALEX

[laughs]

MADDY

You look up into Squall Follywood's eyes expectantly waiting to see the love blossom and unfortunately just sheer confusion and honestly slight disgust comes across his face.

TESSA

Aww!

NICO (as CHRISTINE)

No, Squall! Please, forgive me!

TESSA

Crushing!

MADDY

There are members of the event security team coming in, these are more poorly paid wizards-

(Group laughter)

MADDY

Just kind of with ill-fitting uniforms with their wands out going-

MADDY (as SECURITY)

Um excuse me, er, you're not meant to be on the stage, what's happening, why are you here?

CATHY

Bryony walks to the front of the stage and addresses the audience.

TESSA (as PATRICIA)

Go Bryony!

CATHY

While everybody else is, while all of this cacophony is happening in the background.

ALEX

Save us from ourselves, Bryony! Make it better!

(Group laughter)

CATHY (as BRYONY)

We're very sorry for the disturbance but it seems that one of the contestants who had gone missing found themselves for some reason ...

CATHY

Looks over very suspiciously at the Duke, very pointedly at the Duke.

CATHY (as BRYONY)

Was wrongfully imprisoned and unable to get to this competition, so while we apologise for the stop and the disturbance, we just wanted to make sure that one of the contestants was able to at least resume the rest of the competition so we thank you very much for your patience and patronage.

CATHY

And looks over at the Duke and - what's happening with the Duke after being tackled by Gloucester?

MADDY

I put that question to Gloucester: is Gloucester continuing to pin him down or?

ALEX

I think Gloucester is currently like straddling the Duke.

(Group laughter)

ALEX

Just dead-eye staring him and then is just, you know, flexing two fists and just goes:

ALEX (as GLOUCESTER)

I promise I'm gonna treat you with love-

ALEX

And holds up her one arm and gauntlet with the word "love" written on it.

ALEX (as GLOUCESTER)

-and care.

ALEX

Rusty Quill Gaming – 3 – Raging Grannies

On the other one.

(Group laughter)

ALEX (as GLOUCESTER)

We're all friends here aren't we Duke? Friendly competition!

ALEX

CLANK-CLANK, bashing her fists together. [SFX: Metal CLANK CLANK!]

MADDY

I would like Gloucester to please make me a Guts roll to intimidate the Duke into possibly confessing.

ALEX

(ROLL) Oh no, guys, it's less than 9, it's a mere - OK, am I allowed my fists or not for this?

MADDY

Yeah, yeah, if you're - yeah.

ALEX

It's a mere 6.

CATHY

Ohh!

MADDY

A paltry 6! No, the Duke is absolutely terrified and is like:

MADDY (as DUKE)

I may have been a bit unsportsmanlike in my, er, conduct. My, my associate Mr Vernon Green has been assisting me. It was all his idea! It was all his idea! I, I just went along with it!

ALEX (as GLOUCESTER)

No one likes a tattler!

ALEX

- realising herself for a moment -

ALEX (as GLOUCESTER)

Er, Duke.

(Group laughter)

ALEX

Picks him up and props him on his feet again. **[SFX: Picking him up and setting him on his feet]**

ALEX (as GLOUCESTER)

Say it so everyone can hear!

MADDY (as DUKE)

Mmmm... yes. I, I was sabotaging the competition.

ALL

[gasps]

ALEX

Holding him by the ear:

ALEX (as GLOUCESTER)

And why?

(Group giggling)

MADDY (as DUKE)

Because... mummy never loved me!

ALEX (as GLOUCESTER)

And so what do we say?

MADDY (as DUKE)

Sorry....?

ALEX (as GLOUCESTER)

Louder, mean it!

MADDY (as DUKE)

Sorry!

ALEX (as GLOUCESTER)

Right.

ALEX

Now you're just left with Gloucester just stood in the middle of the Bake-Off, full spiked body armour, now at a complete loss of what to do. Just - Gloucester has no stage presence, does not have that charisma, is just like... I don't, just looking around for help at this point.

TESSA

Patricia's gonna gesture from the side of the stage like - come, come, come here! Come here! And try to get Gloucester to come and help Patricia find out where Vernon Green is because clearly he's back in the audience if he's sabotaging the show again.

MADDY

Whoever wants to keep a lookout for Vernon Green, give me a Stories roll.

TESSA

(ROLL) Ugh! I got zero.

ALEX

Gloucester's definitely using this opportunity to just sort of sidle sheepishly off having not really thought this far ahead.

CATHY

Can I also lookout?

MADDY

Absolutely.

ALEX

I'd rather just rely on Tessa's zero, honestly.

(Group laughter)

CATHY

(ROLL) OK, so that's a 4.

MADDY

You don't see him, but you do see that there is a kind of ripple in the crowd as someone is clearly forcing their way through, but yeah, you don't know exactly if it's him but you strongly suspect that it's him.

CATHY

Are they leaving or are they going?

MADDY

Yeah, they're leaving out the back of the crowd.

CATHY

I'm gonna jump off the stage and start following whoever's trying to leave.

[SFX: Thud as she jumps off the stage]

MADDY

Great, yeah. Give me a Hustle roll for - anyone who wants to try and follow and try and catch this villain.

TESSA

(ROLL) I got 3.

CATHY

(ROLL) I got a 6.

TESSA

Nice!

NICO

(ROLL) I got a zero and that's my fifth, thingammybob.

ALL

Oh no!

TESSA

Poor Christine, you've just like lost your mush-bag, your-

MADDY

Aww!

(Group laughter)

TESSA

Squall Follywood didn't like you back!

NICO

I'm just like-

CATHY

Everything's going wrong!

ALEX

[unclear 19:54] my normal roll in a game of just consistent failure, I feel like I've just sucked all of the luck out of your side of the room!

(Group laughter)

NICO

I'm gonna make my -1 Hustle into a -2 because you might as well go all-in. So-

CATHY

Aw!

ALEX

Yes!

MADDY

Do it!

ALEX

Good!

NICO

I'm just wiggling in front of Squall Follywood, cameras are starting to get panned on me and I'm just like-

ALEX

[laughing]

MADDY

Lots of very red faced wizards are like: this is gonna be in all the award ceremonies for reality TV!

(Group laughter)

MADDY

This is gonna get us the Emmy!

(Group laughter)

ALEX

You're just doubling down!

NICO (as CHRISTINE)

Forgive me!

ALEX

I can feel myself cringing inwards at this.

(Group laughter)

MADDY

And so Bryony is absolutely legging it after Vernon and you do see him kind of pop out of the, of the back of the crowd and you're probably about six feet away from him and you're keeping pace, so can you give me another Hustle roll please to see if you can catch up to him.

CATHY

(ROLL) That is an 8.

MADDY

Amazing! Yep, please describe to me how you, how you catch him.

[SFX: Alleyway, bustle from the Town Square is muffled]

CATHY

I see him attempt to duck down an alleyway and I know the back ways of this town like the back of my hand. So he steps down an alleyway, I take a different one and come around the corner to cut him off. And he comes running out of the entryway, I stop him holding out an arm and just kind of clothesline him and it knocks him out flat on the ground. **[SFX: Clotheslining him and knocking him down with a thud]**

MADDY

Incredible. You absolutely have him cornered just as we come to this alleyway, I think it is time perhaps for a short break, and we'll be right back.

[BREAK]

MADDY

And we're back. We have Bryony in an alleyway confronting Vernon Green, the one who is behind the terrible sabotage, well according to the Duke. So what are you gonna do with this seemingly cornered man?

CATHY

I'm going to grab him by his coat and just hoist him up and attempt him to take him off to, back to the dungeon!

(Group laughter)

CATHY

He can go stay in the cell that Winterbottom was in!

TESSA

Well no he can't because that door is broken, that door is gone.

CATHY

Well choose another one!

(Group laughter)

ALEX

I was hoping, I was really hoping you wouldn't realise!

(Group laughter)

MADDY

I would like you to make a Hustle roll as, as you reach out to grab him he's gonna push a hand forward and try and shoot a bolt of magic right at you.

ALL

Whoa!

CATHY

(ROLL) That is an 8.

MADDY

Whoa, you absolutely, you manage to dodge out the way as this jet of neon-green energy just shoots out of his hands [**SFX: Magic Zap**] , but because of the blast of magic you haven't been able to get close and grab him, and at this point I think this is when your companions kind of run up, possibly out of breath, behind you in the alleyway and witness this confrontation happening. So Vernon is gonna say:

MADDY (as VERNON)

Well I just can't have you carting me off to jail after the Duke sold me down the river so er, we'll just, we're gonna beat up some grannies today why don't we?

ALL

[gasps and laughter]

MADDY

So. Vernon is gonna go into what he thinks is a really cool fighting stance with like one hand outstretched and one hand behind his head but it looks rather silly, preparing to attack whoever comes forward. So who's gonna try their luck first at attacking Vernon?

NICO

I think Christine in the mad despair of what this day has entailed has just got no shred of dignity left!

ALL

Awww!

(Group laughter)

NICO

No weapons, her lasso is still stuck in the ceiling-

ALEX

You got this! You got this!

NICO

And just launches fisticuffs at Vernon, just full-on sort of like running and then leap up in the air - I say "leap", they're 4 foot 8 so kind of like [grunts] and then just kind of like tries to bodyslam him.

ALEX

[laughs]

ALEX (as GLOUCESTER)

Get him Christine!

MADDY

All right, yeah, give me a Guts roll please.

NICO

(ROLL) Ooh, 6!

ALL

[loud cheering] Wooo! Yeah!

MADDY

Incredible! All right. This isn't gonna down him, but it is gonna severely hurt him, please tell me exactly how you pummel this, this man.

NICO

Up in the air, side-bodyslams him, and he kind of takes a step back. **[SFX: Slam]** The physics makes Christine sort of bounce back, but in the bounceback she kind of digs his, digs her claws into him so there's like two gashes on his sort of ribcage as she kind of bounces back. **[SFX: Claw slash]** And goes like:

NICO (as CHRISTINE)

THIS ONE'S FOR THE MUSH!

NICO

Even though Vernon had nothing to do with the mush.

(Group laughter)

MADDY

He clutches at his side and is like:

MADDY (as VERNON)

Oh no! My beautiful robe!

(Group laughter)

MADDY

I think following that Vernon is gonna try and get back at you. So please make a Hustle roll to see if you can dodge his attack.

(Group laughter)

TESSA

Oh no!

NICO

Oh this is not gonna go well at all!

ALEX

[laughing]

CATHY

Nooooo!

NICO

(ROLL) Oh - zero! Definitely not gone well!

MADDY

[gasps] Oh no!

CATHY

Oh no!

MADDY

He says:

MADDY (as VERNON)

Well I don't know about your mush but this is for the robe!

MADDY

And shoots his neon green jet of energy right at you, and it ricochets into your shoulder and you've now got this gaping wound on your shoulder that is just stinging like crazy. **[SFX: Magic Zap striking shoulder]**

TESSA

Oh no!

NICO

That was uncalled-for! And like, my hair! From the like, the shoe-polish black, the black shoe polish just kind of sponges out and it's kind of just electrocuted, just hair standing on end- **[SFX: Electric static]**

ALEX and TESSA

Aww!

NICO

It's just like, complete state of a Christine right now. I don't know what else to say. Just, just, it's just gone from worse to catastrophic.

MADDY

[laughs] Oh no! Who wants to take a try at Vernon next?

TESSA

Patricia wants to try to sneak around through another alley to one that connects back behind this and come in from behind.

MADDY

Give me a Hustle roll to see if you can find an advantageous point of ingress.

ALEX (as GLOUCESTER)

INNUENDO!

TESSA

(ROLL) That's a 6! Yay!

ALEX

Whoa! 6! Nice!

MADDY

Amazing! Yeah, since you got a 6 I'm gonna combine that into your backstab as well, so yeah.

TESSA

Oh yay.

MADDY

Please describe to me exactly how you manage to sneak up on this unsuspecting sorcerer.

ALEX

[laughing] As an honourable knight!

(Group laughter)

MADDY

As an honourable knight indeed.

TESSA

Oh yeah, I guess I should have made it a 7 because of backstabbing, oooh.

ALEX

Ohhh, nice!

TESSA

So Patricia is going to go over to the next alley and tip-toe-tip-toe-tip-toe even though really she doesn't need to tip-toe, it's not like you can hear so easily from one alley to the next. And come around behind, er pulling out this wicked-looking knife [**SFX: Knife being pulled out**] just like a real, it's one that she uses to cut vegetables and meats and other -

ALEX

[laughs] Oh god!

TESSA

-unidentifiable objects for her pies. She pulls it out and she sneaks close, and she makes direct eye contact with Gloucester and is just like: this is how you do it. This is how you do it.

(Group laughter)

TESSA

And just, and does a good shoulder, just a good shoulder shank because we don't go for the mortal wounding here. [**SFX: Stabbing**]

MADDY

For sure, absolutely, yeah. And he gasps in shock and pain and grabs at his shoulder [**SFX: Hand on shoulder, clothing noises**] and is like:

MADDY (as VERNON)

Ugghhh!

MADDY

And yeah is looking really, really beat up at this point. You think by looking at him that one more, one more successful blow will take him down.

CATHY

Bryony is going to grab Vernon again, as he reacts to Patricia's attack and he's reeling back, Bryony's gonna shoot forward, grab into her pouch and pull out a really hefty, heavy painter's brush. **[SFX: Pulling hefty brush out of bag]** But it's gonna be the kind of brush that, you know, you've used a million times in art class so - and nobody cleaned it. So it's like really crusted over-

ALEX

Oh it's like more paint than brush?

CATHY

Yeah, it's like a brick consistency.

ALEX

Yeah.

TESSA

It's a blunt - it's a blunt weapon.

CATHY

Yeah, exactly. Bryony's gonna take this brush and just start smacking Vernon across the face repeatedly, going:

(Group laughter)

CATHY (as BRYONY)

YOU! DO! NOT! HIT! GRANNIES! HERE! [SFX: Repeated smacking]

(Group laughter)

MADDY

Beautiful. OK. Give me a Guts roll please.

CATHY

(ROLL) Oh, that's a 2.

MADDY

You do get your bonus for your alien landscape painting for using a paintbrush, so-

CATHY

OK, yeah, so-

ALEX

For painting his fate offensively!

(Group laughter)

MADDY

So you do manage to get a few good smacks in with this absolutely disgusting brush, but in return he manages to get his wand right up against your stomach and blasts you back with a force of kinetic energy. **[SFX: Magic Zap]**

CATHY

[gasps]

MADDY

And so you slam against the, the wall of the neighbouring building and slump down at the, at the bottom. **[SFX: Slamming into and sliding down wall]**

CATHY

Ohh...

MADDY

You are severely shaken and you know you're gonna be super bruised tomorrow but you don't think that anything's broken, I think it's just more your pride that has been injured than necessarily your body. So, there is another opening for you to attack, who's gonna do it?

TESSA

Well I think Gloucester might have to one-up the backstab.

(Group laughter)

ALEX

Yeah, in which case then sort of Gloucester's been using a little moment, you know the sort of neck-crick and the limbering and so on. Reaches into the bag of forbidden Werther's, I think takes two for this one. **[SFX: Pulling sweet out of bag]**

(Group laughter)

ALEX (as GLOUCESTER)

[CRUNCHING SOUNDS] RARGH! [SFX: Crunch crunch of sweets]

ALEX

Then proceeds to just charge and then tries to basically spear him with love and care.

MADDY

Beautiful, OK. Guts! Guts baby!

ALEX

(ROLL) 6.

NICO

Nice.

TESSA

Oh!

MADDY

Perfect.

CATHY

Niiiiice!

MADDY

OK, yeah. Which body parts are you spearing with your-?

ALEX

Well specifically I'm thinking if, if Patricia's hitting sort of shoulder, like, Patricia will have had to have been low and stabbing like up and down. So I'm thinking like, you know the sort of American Football like lacrosse spear where it's like one person's down low and the other and you're just like - croak! So you know, hitting them up high and they're just like bent over them-

(Group laughter)

ALEX

-just completely totalled with them. Like, OK, the more mundane British one is like you know when one of your mates like, makes a ball behind someone and

Rusty Quill Gaming – 3 – Raging Grannies

then you just lightly tap them on the front and they go over like a sack of potatoes?

(Group laughter)

ALEX

That, but with, you know, a 6 foot 6, heavily-armoured granny.

MADDY

Incredible. And yeah, as you charge forward he's like:

MADDY (as VERNON)

No-no-no-no-no-no-no-no-no! **[SFX: Approaching stomps]**

(Group laughter)

MADDY

And just anticipating, knowing what's coming, and then is completely, just falls back and cracks his head off the concrete below and yeah, is unconscious.

[SFX: Vernon falling to the ground with a thud]

ALEX

And I definitely think Gloucester probably follows because you don't, you're not meant to take two Werther's at once, that's not what they're for. **[SFX: Thud as Gloucester also falls]**

MADDY

Mm, yeah.

NICO

[laughs]

ALEX

Like that is, that is abuse of strange chemicals. I think Gloucester at that point is just sort of on the ground twitching vaguely.

ALEX (as GLOUCESTER)

[quietly] Grrrr! Argh! Nnnnggggg...

ALEX

But definitely is just out for the count.

MADDY

[laughs]

TESSA

So we've got three quite injured or incapacitated grandmothers-

ALEX

[laughs]

TESSA

-and then Patricia...

(Group laughter)

ALEX

Now's the time you tell the whole town that you single-handedly solved the problem!

TESSA

That'll be a boom for the pie business! You know!

(Group laughter)

MADDY

Yeah, rebranding might be in order! So yeah, Patricia, what do you, what do you want to do about this situation?

TESSA

Patricia's going to look around at everyone and be like - someone else'll come along and help them out or they'll help each other. And is instead going to just like, grab Vernon's ankle and start to drag him back to the centre square. **[SFX: Dragging]** Because Patricia is just like: I don't think bringing the man who was helping the Duke back to the Duke's palace jail cells will do a lot for keeping him under, under wraps. So instead I'm gonna put him with like the town

Rusty Quill Gaming – 3 – Raging Grannies

guard. And so just is bringing him back, and also wants to catch the end of the Bake-Off, so um.

ALEX

Yeah!

TESSA

So is going to drag Vernon back to the centre square and possibly send Crumpet, Scone and Teacake to go help Gloucester and Bryony and Christine back in the alley.

ALEX

This town has a, like a granny militia! I love it!

(Group laughter)

MADDY

Well maybe, maybe they've got an ageing population and they've worked out the best way to deal with it is to, is to get them on it!

ALEX

Absolutely, great! Go for it!

MADDY

The remainders of the granny gang come and start to patch you all up and make, get you back on your feet and luckily in this fantasy world there's a lot of healing magic around, there's a lot of potions, it's not too long until you're back up to fighting fit.

NICO

Christine doesn't really believe in any of that-

(Group laughter)

NICO

-so she kind of reaches her hand into her biker shorts and pulls out a quite soggy yet still quite tasty Yorkshire Pudding and munches on that. **[SFX: Pulling out the mushy pudding]**

(Group laughter)

ALEX

Christine, you're the magical equivalent of an antivaxxer!

(Group laughter)

ALEX

You're just there going like - ohh, just accept the help! Come on, it's right there! We know it works!

(Group laughter)

NICO

There's nowt a Yorkshire Pudding can't fix!

(Group laughter)

MADDY

Give me a Grit roll to see if this Yorkshire Pudding helps or hinders you.

TESSA

No!

NICO

(ROLL) I've got a 5.

ALEX

Whoa!

MADDY

Oh wow!

TESSA

Yay!

CATHY

Yeah!

ALEX

I stand corrected!

NICO

[laughing]

MADDY

It fortifies you! You still have a gaping shoulder wound.

NICO

[laughs] Brush it off! Just walk it off, it'll be fine!

(Group laughter)

MADDY

Just a scratch! And um, you all make it back to the audience of the Bake-Off.

[SFX: Town Square]

ALEX

[laughing] We must look such a sight!

(Group laughter)

MADDY

Yeah, this is like, there's like people with families and small children just kind of looking at these absolutely trashed grannies just walking through the crowd.

(Group laughter)

ALEX

It's that comedy trope of like you know, you come in and then everyone goes quiet and you just hear in the distance the little baby... waaaaa! **[SFX: Crowd hushes, a baby cries]**

(Group laughter)

MADDY

Yeah, absolutely! For sure! And so basically the only two that are still in the running for this Bake-Off are Deirdre and Penelope. Is there anything you wanna do to influence the outcome of this Bake-Off or do you wanna just let things run its natural course. Because basically I'm just gonna give each of them a roll and see who gets the higher one to see who wins, but if you wanna, if you wanna do something in particular, if you think Penelope or Deirdre a more deserving winner then you can always manipulate things in their favour.

ALEX

I don't think Gloucester's gonna manipulate anything but Gloucester's very like clearly pro-, like, Deirdre Winterbottom and is just sort of like:

ALEX (as GLOUCESTER)

Yeah! Come on, yeah!

TESSA

Patricia is very pro-Penelope Muffin, mostly to go against Gloucester-

(Group laughter)

TESSA

But also because it just is a real bummer to always be the second place baker, it's a real bummer.

MADDY

Aww!

ALEX (as GLOUCESTER)

I've got 6 dubloons on you Winterbottom, you've got this!

TESSA (as PATRICIA)

Penelope! You can do it, Penelope!

(Group laughter)

MADDY

I'm gonna ask each of you to give me a Stories roll to see how personable you can be and how encouraging you can be to them.

TESSA

(ROLL) [gasps] I got a 5!

ALEX

Rusty Quill Gaming – 3 – Raging Grannies

(ROLL) I think I might actively hinder! [laughs] 2.

MADDY

Aww!

NICO

[laughs]

MADDY

Yeah, unfortunately your seeming screams of encouragement are taken more as threatening by Deirdre Winterbottom!

(Group laughter)

ALEX (as GLOUCESTER)

GO ON, YEAH! GO ON!

MADDY

And she's just dropping eggs left, right and centre and it's just- **[SFX: Eggs cracking on the floor]**

(Group laughter)

MADDY

Giving her the fright of her life, whereas Patricia is a lot more kind of calm and gentle with Penelope Muffin and Penelope seems to be taking it to heart and

Rusty Quill Gaming – 3 – Raging Grannies

enjoying this, this bit of attention. So I am gonna roll with advantage for Penelope and just one die for Deirdre, so-

TESSA (as PATRICIA)

[chanting] Penelope! Penelope!

ALEX

Ohh, come on! I mean ultimately, I don't know about the rest of you but this is by far the most exciting bit of this entire, this entire thing.

(Group laughter)

CATHY

Oh yeah!

ALEX

I'm extremely invested in this fictional baking show.

TESSA

It's the moment we've all been waiting for.

MADDY

So this is Deirdre's roll. **(ROLL)** Deirdre got a 4.

ALL

[sharp intake of breath]

ALEX

It's not terrible!

MADDY

Um, and this is Penelope. **(ROLL)** Penelope got a 3 and 2 so Deirdre takes it!

ALEX (as GLOUCESTER)

[cheering]

TESSA (as PATRICIA)

Noooo!

(Group laughter)

ALEX (as GLOUCESTER)

YES, DEIRDRE, YES!

TESSA

Nooo! Second place baker!

MADDY

The status quo has been restored and everything is as it should be.

ALEX (as GLOUCESTER)

Tea for everyone-

MADDY

The best baker is best, the second best baker is second best.

ALEX (as GLOUCESTER)

-except Patricia! Yes!

(Group laughter)

TESSA (as PATRICIA)

Screw you, Gloucester Worcestershire!

(Group laughter)

MADDY

All right and er, just as the award ceremony is getting all set up and Squall Follywood and Sue Creef are gathering the customary cake stand and flowers to give to the winner, you hear a cry from the crowd of:

MADDY (FRENCH ACCENT)

(As if through a microphone) Excuse me! I think that er, there must be a mistake!

MADDY

And you see that the former judge of the Bake-Off before Sue Creef, Marie Beret, comes out of the crowd.

(Group laughter)

MADDY

Yeah, impeccably dressed, beautifully slicked back blonde hair, the epitome of granny elegance.

MADDY (as MARIE BERET)

I must er, I must insist that this whole arrangement is stopped right away, this judge is a fraud!

MADDY

Sue Creef is just like:

MADDY (as SUE CREEF)

(As if through a microphone) No, no! I'm the rightful judge of this Bake-Off.

MADDY

And Squall Follywood is like:

MADDY (as SQUALL HOLLYWOOD)

(As if through a microphone) Get her out of there, she's overworked! This doesn't work in that context but that's the only thing I can say in a Paul Hollywood voice!

(Group laughter)

MADDY

There is a little bit of a tiff between Marie Beret and Sue Creef. Is there, is there anything you wanna do about this or just wanna sit back and watch?

TESSA

I'm very happy to sit back and watch, I'm actually quite put out by the fact that Penelope Muffin did not win.

(Group laughter)

TESSA

And that I feel like Gloucester beat me.

MADDY

[giggles]

ALEX

I think Gloucester at this point then is just like, you know, I'll be mother. Just from, from clearly like in a tent like this there is a tea set, is just doling out tea

Rusty Quill Gaming – 3 – Raging Grannies

to everyone you know, naturally apart from Patricia, just with, from Gloucester's idea, just the intent of: oh, it's nice to watch someone else have a fight now. **[SFX: Pouring tea]** And just sort of like having a sit with a cup of tea and just watching the judges go at it.

(Group laughter)

MADDY

Wonderful.

ALEX

Can't speak for everyone else but Gloucester's actually quite happy. It's the best bit!

TESSA

[giggling]

MADDY

Great! What are Bryony and Christine doing at this point?

NICO

Christine has literally no dignity or anything left and is completely just-

(Group laughter)

NICO

-placeboed - placeboed? That's not even the right word! Completely potatoed in a corner, not moving, trying to not make any noise, just kind of waiting for the whole thing to go out so they can just return back home, get a bit of tea and wait for it all to blow over.

ALL

Aww! [laughter]

MADDY

I think at this point Matilda, the sister of Mildred comes over, puts a, like a big beefy arm around you and is like **[SFX: Clothing noises as an arm is put around her shoulder]** :

MADDY (as MATILDA)

It's all right darling, we all have days like this, why don't we go and, why don't we go and do a jigsaw back at my place after this?

NICO (as CHRISTINE)

Sounds proper lovely that, I'll do that with you. Fanks very much.

MADDY

[laughs] And what's Bryony doing?

CATHY

Bryony thinks about having a cup of tea and then looks over to off-stage. Is that wizard still holding the entire set-up? **[SFX: Magical twinkles]**

MADDY

Yep, yep.

ALEX

[laughs]

CATHY

Still completely red in the face?

MADDY

Yeah, it's gone to sort of a puce now, a mauve.

TESSA

Aww!

(Group laughter)

MADDY

Almost a purple.

CATHY

Frustrated with this whole ordeal at this point, Bryony is gonna go over to the wizard and just start tickling him.

ALL

[gasps and laughter]

CATHY

-to break his concentration.

TESSA

This poor wizard!

MADDY

Incredible. And yeah, he just, he tries to hold it all together and then just absolutely, in fits of giggles just completely collapses on the ground [**SFX: Thud**], and as he collapses so too the marquee collapses with the judges and the remaining contestants inside. So - and that is where we're gonna end this session! [**SFX: Marquee collapsing, cries from the crowd**]

(Group laughter)

ALEX

Love it! Love it!

MADDY

Thank you so much for listening and thank you to our wonderful players for playing. This has been the behind-the-scenes crew of Chapter and Multiverse. It is of course a brand new actual play podcast coming from Rusty Quill very, very soon. And er, yeah, if you want more chaos, if you want the incredible talents of these folks from behind the scenes and if you want perhaps more grannies, who knows? You can come over to Chapter and Multiverse and you will be very welcome.

ALEX

We don't care where you go but you can't stay here!

(Group laughter)

MADDY

Absolutely, because yeah, isn't this the last thing that's going out on the feed?

ALEX

It is, it is. This, as far as I'm aware this is the last bit before the Rusty Quill Gaming feed goes dark, but again, if you're interested in your TTRPG stuff and you're wanting more RPG goodness and a lot more of Maddy amongst others then yeah, I would say bounce across to the Chapter and Multiverse feed, it's gonna be a lot of familiar voices and a lot of new voices as well. It'll be quite fun.

MADDY

Absolutely. So yes, thank you again for listening and we shall see you in the next Rusty Quill thing we appear in. So goodbye!

EVERYONE

Goodbye!

ALEX

Goodbye everyone...

[Show Theme - Outro]

MADDY

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