Dungeons and Daddies

Dungeon Master:Anthony Burch

Glenn Close:Freddie Wong

Darryl Wilson:Matt Arnold

Henry Oak:Will Campos

Ron Stampler:Beth May

Episode 13 - Terry Jr. and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Dad

[*Radiolab-esque intro music and chuckling*]

**Jad Abumrad:** Jad.

**Robert Krulwich:** Robert.

**Jad Abumrad:** RadioLab.

**Robert Krulwich:** Today, we're going to be doing a bit of exploring.

**Jad Abumrad:** Oh, like sailors on the moon-sea?

**Robert Krulwich:** No, not that kind of exploring. It's something less literal, less physical. We're going to be exploring the planes.

**Jad Abumrad:** Wait, the planes? As in, planes of reality?

**Robert Krulwich:** As in the planes of reality. But not just any plane.

**Dougal Hornbuck:** One, two, three, four, five. Hello, hello.

**Robert Krulwich:** The astral plane.

**Jad Abumrad:** So why don't you start with your name and what you do.

**Dougal Hornbuck:** Sure, I'm Dougal Hornbuck. I'm a Research Magus at the Conclave of Silverymoon.

**Jad Abumrad:** Dougal has spent the last 10 years studying the astral plane. So I guess the first question I have is, what is it? What is the astral plane?

**Dougal Hornbuck:** So yeah. We have an idea. We know it's other-dimensional, that the laws of physics and those sorts of things as we know them don't necessarily apply there. And we know that aside from spells or projection, it's basically physically unreachable from the plane that we inhabit.

**Robert Krulwich:** So let's leave Dougal-

**Jad Abumrad:** But, we just met him!

**Robert Krulwich:** Yes, but just for a moment, and travel all the way to Waterdeep. Shinji is a merchant.

**Shinji:** Yeah, I'm Shinji. I run Shinji's Sundries.

**Robert Krulwich:** Oh wow, look at all this stuff!

**Shinji:** Yeah, I usually sell it to weird perverts and stuff, and fetish play kind of thing. You may have seen my street team out in the Forgotten Realms.

**Robert Krulwich:** I met Shinji at his shop along the waterfront and while he sold all kinds of tools and provisions for travelers and adventurers [crosstalk 00:01:26], I really wanted to ask him about one thing. Tell me about the Fanny Pack of Holding.

**Shinji:** Yeah, so this is an enchanted bag. This one's meant to go around your waist.

**Jad Abumrad:** I don't see what this has to do with the astral plane.

**Robert Krulwich:** Just wait.

**Shinji:** And this model's special because it can carry a lot because the items that you put inside of it get held in the astral plane.

**Jad Abumrad:** Oh.

**Robert Krulwich:** Right, so the question I want to ask Shinji was this, what happens to the items inside that fanny pack if that fanny pack gets destroyed?

**Jad Abumrad:** Whoa.

**Shinji:** Well I guess you'd lose whatever was inside.

**Robert Krulwich:** You'd lose them or are they just in the astral plane?

**Shinji:** You know, I really never thought about that.

**Dougal Hornbuck:** So theoretically-

**Jad Abumrad:** Here's Dougal again.

**Dougal Hornbuck:** Those items are going to be suspended in whatever state they're in, inside the astral plane.

**Jad Abumrad:** What if, say I had my hand in the fanny pack, and I fell and tore a big hole in the bag. Would my hand get cut off?

**Dougal Hornbuck:** Yeah, well, you'd probably have to try it. Magical items are pretty rare and I've never heard of something like that happening.

**Robert Krulwich:** But it has happened.

**Jad Abumrad:** It has?

**Robert Krulwich:** Yes. What would you say if I told you that four dads very recently beheaded a vampire using precisely that technique in the City of Roqueporte while trying to rescue one of their sons?

**Jad Abumrad:** I'd say, ''Tell me more!''

**Robert Krulwich:** And we will, after a quick break.

**Jad Abumrad:** You're listening to Dungeons and Daddies. We'll be right back.

**Freddie:** Welcome to Dungeons and Daddies, sometimes a BDSM podcast, an actual play, a D&D podcast about four dads from our world flung into the Forgotten Realms in the quest to rescue their lost sons. My name is Freddie Wong.

**Matt:** Freddie Wong, that was 10 times more Glenn energy. We're coming back from three weeks.

**Freddie:** That's true. Aw man, hey, what's up, guys? This is Freddie Wong here. I play Glenn Close. I'm a bard and I play Christmas music, and I don't let anyone harsh my vibe. And the Glenn's dad fact today is this. If Glenn was still in the real world, at this moment in time, you bet your ass that he was on that Storm Area 51 Facebook group within the first 100 group of people. He would be the one sending it everyone, be like, ''Guys, finally! Someone's figured it out, you guys. We're going in!''

**Will:** ''They can't stop all of us, man!''

**Freddie:** ''They can't stop all of us. I don't know what this Naruto run is but I'll be there.''

**Will:** I don't think we've mentioned it yet on the podcast, but all of this canonically started on the day of the Area 51 invasion. We planned six months ago that was going to be when the whole thing kicks off.

**Anthony:** We planted the meme seed on 4chan and we waited for it to flourish.

**Will:** So happy actual canon first day of the podcast!

**Anthony:** There we go.

**Matt:** Hello, I'm Matt Arnold and I play Darryl Wilson, stay-at-home coach dad, barbarian in Forgotten Realms, and my dad fact is after the DILF incident, Darryl decided to join crossfit on Wednesday nights.

**Freddie:** No way!

**Will:** Oh whoa!

**Matt:** However, his first night was not a very enjoyable night. He hurt himself very badly and did not feel welcome in that very macho group. But he was too embarrassed to say that he stopped doing it and so instead, right next door, there was a square dancing class. So now he does square dancing. But now he's embarrassed-

**Will:** By himself?

**Matt:** Well, yeah. He goes there by himself. I mean, there's a whole group of people. He's got a whole group of square dancers with him. But now, here's two problems. One, it's a two hour class. So it's about an hour longer than crossfit was supposed to be and Carol's definitely noticing he is not doing two hours worth of crossfit every night. So-

**Freddie:** Is he still paying for crossfit?

**Matt:** Yeah, he's paying for both.

**Freddie:** They got you on that monthly-

**Matt:** He's hoping at some point, he's going to surprise Carol by taking her square dancing, but then he's also going to have to let loose that he has not been losing weight by going to crossfit. But hopefully square dancing [crosstalk 00:05:13].

**Will:** But Carol needs to know that there's steps to square dancing, aren't there?

**Matt:** Yeah. You can't just [crosstalk 00:05:19] come in blind. Yeah.

**Beth:** Or else you wouldn't need a class. You could just square dance.

**Matt:** She'll have a good time. She's going to have a good time when she shows up.

**Will:** What's up everyone? I'm Will Campos and it's been three weeks since I D&D'ed. [crosstalk 00:05:35]

**Matt:** Oh my God.

**Anthony:** Oh God!

**Freddie:** Was that what you were so proud of coming in with?

**Will:** No, that was not.

**Matt:** No, that's just the appetizer, [crosstalk 00:05:40] Freddie.

**Beth:** A teaser.

**Will:** No, it wasn't! [crosstalk 00:05:42] What I really loved was... I play Henry Oak. He's a granola-crunching, Birkenstock-rocking, nature dad slash Druid. Henry Oak's dad fact this week is that Henry has a retainer.

**Anthony:** Still has it?

**Beth:** Yes!

**Anthony:** Oh my God.

**Will:** Henry wears a retainer. And so I want to go into the details a little bit. Henry grew up in a commune and didn't really go to the dentist until he was in his 20s. And then his teeth were really bad and he felt really self conscious about it. For a while, he didn't really do anything about it, but then he decided later on in life, as an adult, to do the braces thing. Finally got the braces off and he's been on that retainer. Now I should say he had a retainer because the first time he turned into a bear, the retainer was still on and he felt something burst in his mouth. And then unfortunately, he swallowed.

**Matt:** Oh no!

**Freddie:** Oh my God.

**Anthony:** Thank you, Beth for reacting the way we are all thinking of reacting.

**Will:** Henry hasn't quite figured out what happened to the retainer yet. And he's getting worried because it hasn't shown up yet. Let's put it that way.

**Freddie:** So Henry's never got the experience of digging through a middle school lunch pin at lunchtime trying to find your fucking retainer, huh?

**Matt:** It's going to be hard to role play not knowing about this ticking time bomb that's happening because it's all I can think about now.

**Anthony:** Hitchcock said surprise is a bomb exploding suddenly. Suspense is someone swallowing a retainer and waiting until it comes out.

**Will:** Henry, every night after everyone else goes to sleep, turns into a bear and sneaks off into the woods to try to pass the retainer.

**Beth:** Oh my God!

**Will:** So far, no luck.

**Anthony:** Holy shit.

**Will:** So that's the energy Henry's bringing.

**Beth** Hi. I'm sorry. Hi, my name is Beth May and I play... Okay, I play Ron Sampler, emotionally detached stepfather slash rogue. My dad fact for Ron this week is a fact that actually Ron only recently learned and it is that Ron needs to watch his cholesterol. Yeah, just a little bit too high, just keep off the bacon.

**Freddie:** What does he do about that? What's his strategy for cholesterol?

**Beth:** I mean, Ron is all about making the bacon. So...

**Matt:** What was his response when he [crosstalk 00:08:05] found out, because I feel like Ron is a pretty thin dude. Was he surprised? Did he just not care? What's up with that?

**Beth:** Yeah. I think he'd think it was a really big compliment. ''Oh is it higher than the other guys? Who has the highest cholesterol? Tell me!''

**Anthony:** I'm Anthony Burch. I'm your Daddy Master.

**Matt:** Hi, Daddy Master.

**Anthony:** My dad fact for today is that Streets of Rogue is a good video game that you might like, if you play video games. I don't know. I don't have anything daddy specific that happened to me today. Actually, I did weirdly get my physical back and my cholesterol is very high.

**Matt:** No!

**Freddie:** Oh no!

**Will:** Dang!

**Anthony:** For the first time I've related very hard to Ron Sampler.

**Beth:** Yeah

**Will:** Dawg, your cholesterol's high? My cholesterol's high too, dawg?

**Beth:** What did you say?

**Anthony:** Yeah, I'm vegetarian though. It's bullshit! Just congenital from my shitty dad.

**Matt:** How am I like you and you put together and my cholesterol's pretty good?

**Freddie:** Well, first of all the HG... Whatever, we don't have to get into it. It's a thing. [crosstalk 00:08:58] Genetics are a big part of it.

**Anthony:** My lipids are the bad lipids. Yeah, because you probably have good lipids.

**Beth:** What did you say when you found out?

**Anthony:** I went, ''Aww.''

**Beth:** That's better than what I-

**Anthony:** Because it was literally a second opinion and I went, "No! All the cookies and things that I like to eat. No!" I became this very small child very quickly.

**Beth:** That's a funnier reaction than I came up with, so-

**Anthony:** Well that's because my life's actually in danger so that's much funnier.

**Beth:** Yeah you got to raise the stakes sometimes.

**Will:** Don't eat steak if you have high cholesterol.

**Anthony:** I have to fucking do cardio. I'm going to have to workout like a human being. It's to be disgusting.

**Matt:** This is the most dad this podcast has ever been.

**Beth:** Can I recommend square dancing?

**Anthony:** Okay, are we ready to deal with the trauma that you inflicted upon a child.

**Will:** Punted that one, didn't we?

**Anthony:** Yeah you killed somebody who was seemingly the father of a child who had watched their dad die before and then we took a three-week break just to sort of chillax after that.

**Matt:** Are you sure this wasn't all a dream?

**Anthony:** Roll to see if it's a dream.

**Matt:** I got two.

**Anthony:** It's not a dream.

**Freddie:** After that cliffhanger, I know there's one thing that I was just on the edge of my seat wondering.

**Anthony:** Oh right, yeah.

**Freddie:** Did we level up? We killed a really hard dude. That's got to be a level up, right?

**Matt:** We're at level nine now.

**Anthony:** You absolutely leveled up.

**Freddie:** Yeah baby!

**Matt:** Do we level up now or we have to wait for a rest?

**Anthony:** Let's wait for a rest so you don't put off this emotional trauma any longer.

**Matt:** Okay.

**Anthony:** Terry, Sr. ambushed you in your house after Terry, Jr. invited him in after Ron attempted to win him over. You successfully shoved Terry, Sr's head into the Bag of Holding and then destroyed it, thus decapitating him and sending his head to the astral plane. And as that was happening, Terry, Jr., in a performance that was so good it lost us a few listeners, said that he cannot handle watching this happen again to his dad and he began to cry. And then Ron-

**Matt:** Ron reacted real maturely, right?

**Anthony:** Yeah.

**Matt:** What did you say, Ron?

**Beth:** Ron said, ''Who's your daddy now?'' Is what he said.

**Matt:** This must be a reflex, really.

**Beth:** Really, it's a rhetorical question in the best sense because there's only one answer.

**Anthony:** So, as-

**Will:** Oh my God!

**Anthony:** So, Terry Jr. looks at you as you say that and you see the anguish on his face disappear. It goes from tragedy to anger in an instant. And then the anger just vanishes from his face. And he's filled with determination. And he starts rummaging through Terry Sr's pockets.

**Will:** Henry's stunned. ''Son, son are you... Son, that's okay, son.'' Henry's going to try to pull him away from the decapitated corpse of his father.

**Anthony:** Okay, go ahead and roll, dexter... Let's say strength with disadvantage.

**Will:** I got a 10.

**Anthony:** Okay, so that's not going to be enough.

**Will:** Okay.

**Anthony:** So you begin to pull him away and he reaches into the coat pocket of what once was Terry, Sr. and pulls out a small glass orb and then he-

**Matt:** Son, you should probably... You got to put that down. And I try to-

**Will:** Terry? Terry?

**Matt:** I try to grab the orb-

**Beth:** Are you going to answer the question?

**Anthony:** So, you try to grab it?

**Will:** Yeah.

**Anthony:** Okay, go ahead and roll a dexterity.

**Matt:** That's a six.

**Anthony:** You try to grab it out of his hand and he quickly moves it out of the way. And then you say, ''You still haven't answered.'' And he looks you dead in the eye and points at headless corpse and he goes, ''Him!'' And he smashes the glass orb on the ground, and this vapor seems to rise out of it-

**Will:** Fucking kids and their vapes, am I right?

**Beth:** This Juul he [inaudible 00:12:27]

**Freddie:** He pulled his spiritual Juul out...

**Anthony:** He fucking dabs. He smashes the orb. This vapor comes out of it and encircles Terry Jr., and then he seems to bind with the mist and become sort of incorporeal and you see him... you see the mist essentially begin to escape through the open door that Terry, Sr. [crosstalk 00:12:50]

**Freddie:** Terry!

**Anthony:** Came through.

**Matt:** Witchlady, can you do something about this?

**Beth:** Come back here, mister. If you don't come back right now, you're grounded, as in you have to be a human person that sits on the ground. You can't be a mist. That's what grounding is.

**Anthony:** So the vapor forms itself into a hand and then the hand raises its middle finger. And then Erin O'Neal peaks out from the top floor hearing the commotion and she goes, ''No, I'm not going to help him. I'm good. I got what I wanted. He's dead. Hell yeah.''

**Matt:** Well... Oh my God.

**Anthony:** You see the mist and it flies toward the very top of the Black Tower that Terry Sr. Used to be into and goes inside the window at the very top where you initially saw them standing on the balcony. So he's presumably in there.

**Freddie:** Glenn narrows his eyes and goes, ''It appears the forces that be will still be having us do this tower section.''

**Matt:** I heard a whisper and it said, ''You're going to play Anthony's dungeon designer whether you like it or not!''

**Beth:** Well, at least I still have other Terry, the small bat, on my shoulder.

**Anthony:** How long has it been since you summoned him?

**Beth:** About a half hour.

**Anthony:** He vanishes. With a little, ''Pop!'' He's gone.

**Beth:** Oh no, Terries!

**Matt:** Darryl puts an arm on Ron's shoulder and is like, ''Look everybody, we did what we had to. He was going to kill us.''

**Freddie:** Yeah, that was self-defense, man, and any court of law will clearly see that that was self defense. It's just important that we all get our story straight and the same, I mean if anyone asks.

**Matt:** I don't think that's really...I mean, you said Terry, Sr. died.

**Beth:** Yeah, we just killed the shit out of him.

**Matt:** I meant the first time, Ron.

**Beth:** Oh yeah.

**Matt:** In our world, he died.

**Beth:** Yeah.

**Matt:** So look there's only two options. Either we're in heaven, which, again, we've already talked about, or hell.

**Beth:** Or we got to kill him again.

**Matt:** In which case, we didn't kill him. We just put him somewhere else. We're already dead. Or we are alive and that wasn't Terry, Sr. So I think we're okay.

**Beth:** Or it was Terry, Sr. and we just still have to kill him a couple more times.

**Matt:** Ron, I think he's dead.

**Freddie:** I'd like to roll perception on the body of Terry, Sr.

**Anthony:** Okay, go ahead.

**Freddie:** That was a 9.

**Anthony:** You can tell that he's-

**Freddie:** I got to search the pockets and stuff.

**Anthony:** Oh sure. So you search the pockets and you come up with 20 gold.

**Freddie:** Hell, yeah.

**Beth:** Nice.

**Matt:** I notice that Glenn is looking at the body and only saw about half of what he should have so I'm also going to roll a perception check. And I get a 16.

**Anthony:** You find an additional 20 gold.

**Matt:** Ooh!

**Will:** Hey!

**Anthony:** You can tell that this person, this body was basically undead, that whatever form vampires take in this world, he is undead. So your hypothesis it can't be Terry, Sr. because Terry, Sr. died in Earth realm as you would call it in Mortal Combat, could not necessarily hold weight. This still could maybe be Terry, Sr. Something could've just happened to bring him back from the dead. You're not really sure, but he's definitely dead dead right now, at least. Or at least the rest of his body is. You don't really know how the decapitation thing works.

**Beth:** Let me roll perception to see if there are business cards.

**Anthony:** Go ahead and roll perception to see if there are business cards.

**Beth:** I got a 10 plus one, 11.

**Anthony:** You see a single business card tucked into his coat pocket and it just says, ''You're welcome.''

**Beth:** Strong formatting. I'll just take this.

**Freddie:** This doesn't seem like we're going to be able to find anything else from this guy. Give him a couple of kicks with the old toe as a sort of gesture and also to make sure he's [crosstalk 00:16:00] fully dead.

**Beth:** The old toe?

**Matt:** Henry, you okay there, buddy?

**Will:** Henry has turned even whiter pale and he's sitting in the corner and his head seems to be spinning a little bit.

**Matt:** Darryl looks for a bowl. Is there a bowl anywhere around?

**Will:** Henry just waves them off. ''Give me a second guys.'' And Henry walks into... Is there another room? Is it just outside?

**Anthony:** Yeah, you can walk outside.

**Will:** Henry walks outside.

**Matt:** [crosstalk 00:16:26] Wait, Henry there's a person-

**Beth:** Wait there's a-

**Anthony:** As he walks outside, you heard the sound of it happening, but now it's confirmed that the little girl vampire that was fighting you guys is just unconscious on the ground. And just as you exit, you can see that the overcast sky that had put a pall over the entire land is beginning to clear. Some of the black fog that had twisted the tree roots is beginning to move away. Life is coming back to the town.

**Will:** Henry checks on the little girl. So she's breathing?

**Anthony:** Yeah, she is unconscious, but breathing.

**Will:** Okay. Henry takes out his phone and Henry is going to call Mercedes Oak-Garcia.

**Anthony:** Oh shit. Okay.

**Freddie:** Oh! Okay.

**Anthony:** Why don't you roll for your phone. You want to get higher than a 2.

**Will:** 17.

**Anthony:** Okay.

Mercedes: Hello?

**Will:** Hi honey. It's Henry.

Mercedes: Hey! Hey what's going on?

**Will:** I have something very, very important I need to tell you, honey.

Mercedes: Oh, okay.

**Will:** Mi amor.

Mercedes: Oh.

**Will:** My lioness.

Mercedes: My lion. My strong, strong lion. Let me get out of where we're currently interviewing Noam Chomsky. I got to get into a broom closet or something a little quieter so I can focus on this conversation.

**Will:** Okay, I'm sorry to bother you at work.

Mercedes: That's fine.

**Will:** Lo siento.

Mercedes: Te amo. No problem.

**Will:** So there's been an incident. How long has it been since I left this morning?

Mercedes: About four hours.

**Will:** Oh my God. Okay. We were on our way to the game and I'm going to tell you something crazy but I know that, like me, you're a kindred spirit who believes in powers beyond the normal and the natural. Who believes in a greater plane of spirituality and so-

Mercedes: Yeah-

**Will:** I'm just going to ask you to take this on faith. We've crossed over into another realm. There seems to be witches and warlocks and we're in a fantastical world. And the boys are missing and I'm looking for them. We've been here for weeks and I didn't call you because this whole time, I was just hoping if I didn't talk about it, it wouldn't really be happening, it wouldn't really be real. And I figured it would just be something that would fix itself. I wouldn't have to deal with the reality of it.

But something happened, and we did something and someone died and I need your strength right now and I'm really scared and I just want you to know that I love you and I'm fighting to get our boys out. And there's something I need to ask you, as well.

**Mercedes:** Okay. Okay. That was a lot. Okay. So first off, thank you for calling me. Thank you for giving me all this information. It takes a lot to reach out. I'm 100% on your side. I do need to ask, Did you get into Glenn's stash?

**Will:** How do you know about Glenn's stash?

**Mercedes:** We did all the research on the other dads before they went on the-

**Will:** She's so smart. Oh I wish you were here.

Mercedes: I just checked it on Facebook on the other dads just to make sure. And he felt like he might be hitting the ganj.

**Will:** It's really happening, babe. It's really like a Narnia situation.

Mercedes: Oh my gosh.

**Will:** And-

Mercedes: Oh no. Oh, that's exciting. But it sounds awful. It sounds awful. So, wait, you needed to ask for something? What's going on?

**Will:** Well, we're fighting our little butts off over here trying to get these boys back, but a strong man admits when he needs help and we need help. So this is going to be a weird request, but I need you to form a coven or something. Or Wicca friends or that girl Cheryl who's really into the crystals? Just get everyone together and see if you can open a portal or something.

Mercedes: Oh!

**Will:** I know it sounds kooky but I would feel stupid if I didn't try.

Mercedes: No, you know what? Absolutely. I will get on Wikipedia. I will bring together all the witches of the north and the south. The ones of the east and west are at conventions so it's probably going to be really hard to get to them but-

**Will:** I think Witch Con is going on later this month. Maybe there's something there. I don't know. You're smarter than me.

Mercedes: Well, the thing is if I wait a couple of months, then-

**Will:** It'll be about 20 years, so-

Mercedes: Yeah time is dilating-

**Will:** Yeah, okay.

Mercedes: Okay. Okay. Are our boys okay?

**Will:** The boys, it's complicated, but I'm working on it and I need you to trust me that I'm going to do everything I can. And I love you Mercedes.

Mercedes: I love you too, so much. We are going to get through this together. On the one hand, it's very validating to be proven right about all our fantasy bullshit that we've been saying for years. Oh boy. Okay. All right. fuck Noam Chomsky. I'm going to peace out. I'm going to-

**Will:** Noam might be able to help. Tell Noam. Okay, I love you. I got to go back to figuring this shit out. I'll be in touch.

Mercedes: All right, I love you. Bye.

**Freddie:** Incidentally, by the way, Wiccanpedia doesn't exist.

**Anthony:** Witchipedia does though right?

**Freddie:** No.

**Anthony:** It doesn't?

**Freddie:** It's being squatted by some dirty cheater.

**Anthony:** Oh that's bullshit, we should have that.

**Beth:** Damn.

**Matt:** While he was talking, Daryl walks over and checks in on Paeden. Hey there paeden. How are you doing? Pretty rough right?

**Anthony:** Paeden is shadow boxing.

**Matt:** What are you doing there Paeden?

**Paeden:** I'm fighting the greatest enemy there is. Myself!

**Matt:** So you're okay about everything that just happened?

**Paeden:** I got no problems with it. It was a bad man tried to kill us, we put the hurt on him.

**Matt:** Paeden, I appreciate you being there for us little buddy. I know that was rough and I think your dad... Do you have a dad?

**Anthony:** Yeah, no. I fucking hate him.

**Matt:** Oh.

**Anthony:** He's the one who dropped me off at the UFC in the first place. He left me for dead.

**Matt:** Oh, well-

**Anthony:** I ended up liking the fighting, but I still resent the abandonment stuff.

**Matt:** Well, screw that guy. I'm proud of you paeden. Good job.

**Anthony:** Hey you know what? I'm proud of you.

**Matt:** Darryl turns away to hide the tears forming in his eyes. Yeah, all right.

**Will:** Henry re-enters.

**Henry:** Gentlemen, I needed to... It was a lot, and this is a lot, and we may have just done permanent emotional damage to Ron's stepson. So, tomorrow's another day. We got to keep going and this team is going to keep going, and if there's-

**Matt:** Hell yeah.

**Will:** And if there's something to be done for your poor sweet step boy, Ron, we're going to do everything we can for him, okay?

**Beth:** Ron looks at the body of the former Terry Sr. and says, '

**Ron:** I just can't figure out what he had that I didn't.'' I mean I have a head now, and he still prefers his headless dad.

**Will:** We're going to get through it. We're going to sort through that with Terry Jr.

**Beth:** Oh, I don't want to do anything with Terry. I'm mad. I'm mad as hell. I risked my life to protect him and he didn't even want to be protected. But he needed to be protected because all children need to be protected, and here's the thing. I'm pissed the fuck off at my stepson. I wasn't a stepdad, I was the dad that stepped up, and he stepped me two steps down. So-

**Freddie:** Well maybe it's important to try and see it from your kid's point of view, Ron. From his point of view, you killed his dad again. Well I guess we all did, but I mean since they blame you for it-

**Anthony:** Blames you, primarily it looked like.

**Beth:** Yeah, I hear what you're saying and I'm pissed the hell off, because that guy was going to kill us. I mean he may have made me a cool vampire, which would have been awesome and I could have called my friend Beth in Los Angeles and talk to her about it. I could have been like, ''Beth, I'm a vampire.'' But he tried to hurt us real bad, and I just-

**Will:** I mean no one's doubting that we did what we had to do.

**Matt:** Yeah, we had to do what we had to do Ron. But-

**Beth:** It's almost as if you can do whatever you can to get somebody to love you, and they still might not love you, and that's just ridiculous.

**Will:** That's true Ron.

**Matt:** Ron have you ever lost anybody before that you really cared about?

**Beth:** [Wobbily] Next question.

**Matt:** What's going on with Terry right now? Just remember, he lost his dad and he's going through a lot, and you were there for him. Like you said, you stepped up. But whatever happened, whoever this guy actually was, if it was Terry or not, he, for a moment, felt like he got his dad back, and I don't think you can take everything he just said... Don't take it to heart. You're going to have to work on this. It's going to be difficult, but he's going through a lot right now. He just got somebody back that he thought he lost, and now he lost him again, and I agree. Hey everybody, we did what we had to do. We all were going to die.

**Anthony:** Yeah, so it was an act of self-defense again. [crosstalk 00:24:49]

**Matt:** No regret, and we're going to fix this bud. [inaudible 00:24:51], you frankly said some more hurtful, well a lot more hurtful stuff as well. But I understand. You're going through a tough thing too. But you are... He is too, and we're going to get him back and we're going to fix this.

**Will:** I'll say this, Ron, sometimes my beautiful boys, Lark and Sparrow, gives me what I like to call the business.

**Beth:** The business you say?

**Will:** They like to give-

**Beth:** I'm a business man myself.

**Will:** You're a business man, so I think you'll understand that sometimes they don't want to eat food that's healthier for them than the food they want to eat. Sometimes they want to have processed meat and I think that they should stick to a soy alternative, and-

**Matt:** Are we talking about your kids or me here, Henry?

**Will:** They throw a big stink sometimes, and they say stuff like, ''I hate you dad. Fuck you!,'' and, ''That really stinks you old butthole,'' and it's tough.

**Freddie:** Really? Those words, huh?

**Will:** And sometimes I get madder than a whole nest of hornets about it. But you know what? Being a dad sometimes means doing things that your kid is not going to like. Like feeding him and a nice soy burger instead of a beef burger. Or-

**Beth:** Or killing his biological father again!

**Will:** If he happens to be attacking you and you have to do something in self-defense. But the important thing is that it's okay for your kid to feel angry. You got to try to help them express in a healthy way, but they're not going to like everything you do, and part of being a dad is doing what's right for them anyway. And-

**Beth:** Oh yeah.

**Will:** Glenn's furrowing his brow like, ''What a weird thing for someone to say.''

**Freddie:** What a dumb ass.

**Will:** That's completely against my thing, but I'll keep quiet I guess.

**Freddie:** It's for hippies, right?

**Matt:** I'll say one other thing for you Ron. You mentioned that sometimes you can love and love and love someone, and no matter what you do, they don't love you back. Well sometimes, you can love and love and love someone who isn't good to you, and no matter how bad they are, you still love them, and maybe that's what Terry has going on with his dad.

**Beth:** Yeah.

**Matt:** And that can be really complicated. So I think the important thing is, you screw up sometimes, but you power through, you move on from the severed head and you go re-unsevere your relationship with you stepson. You don't love somebody because they're going to love you back. You love them because you love them, and that's the reason you do it. Doesn't matter if it's your son, or you've been married for 20 years, or whatever it is. I mean you love somebody because that's what you're supposed to do.

**Beth:** It's almost like-

**Will:** It's not an obligation, but it's what you want.

**Anthony:** Yeah. It sounds like handcuffs. It seems like not fun.

**Beth:** It's almost like maybe love is hard.

**Will:** It is like that.

**Matt:** I mean it's always hard, right? It's never easy.

**Beth:** But, a dad's got to do what a dad's got a dad.

**Will:** I love that. You know what, hands in the middle everyone.

**Freddie:** So confused, but okay. Sure.

**Matt:** Let's stop this talk and let's get back in the game gentlemen.

**Will:** All right.

**Matt:** Let's do this thing.

**Will:** Dad's got to do what dad's got a dad.

**Beth:** A dad's got a doodler what a doodler dad did.

**Matt:** Doodler dad, dude.

**Anthony:** What the fuck did he just say?

**Matt:** Hands in the middle Paeden.

**Anthony:** All right.

**Beth:** Go doodlers on three. One, two, three. [crosstalk 00:27:55] Doodlers!

**Anthony:** What are we doing?

**Freddie:** What's a doodler?

**Matt:** What happened to that kid that was in the van, tearing up your van?

**Will:** Oh good news. She's out there. She's taking a little nap. Seems like she's okay. It's sunny outside again guys. It's our beautiful bird.

**Anthony:** I like to suggest we all walk outside. So, you all walk outside and-

**Matt:** Role perception.

**Anthony:** If you want to.

**Matt:** 20.

**Anthony:** Wow, okay.

**Matt:** I wasted that 20. What do I see daddy master? What do my daddy eyes witness?

**Anthony:** You see that at the top of the tower, you see that the mist that Terry Jr. took the form of, that window that he slunk into, lights are intermittently flashing from within. Blue, then green, then red, then white, on a seemingly irregular kind of cadence. Something is happening in the top room of that tower.

**Will:** I think there's a Wifi router up there.

**Matt:** Fricking kid playing Nintendo.

**Will:** Looks like he vaped and now he's listening to EDM.

**Anthony:** You can also hear around you the trees surrounding this little town of Roqueport beginning to creak and moan, and you can see Erin O'Neill on the roof of our house, punching the air being like, ''Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. It's happening. It's happening. It's happening.'' So, yeah.

**Beth:** Are the trees saying anything?

**Anthony:** The trees are not currently saying anything.

**Beth:** They're just moaning?

**Anthony:** They're creaking [crosstalk 00:29:11]. They're beginning to pull their roots out of the ground. [inaudible 00:29:15]

**Beth:** Wow. Okay.

**Matt:** Whispering so the witch doesn't hear us. Hey-

**Freddie:** Are you sure she can't hear through the grass and stuff? Is that-

**Matt:** Speak really weird and quietly.

**Will:** We have to speak-

**Beth:** Be very quiet.

**Freddie:** Everyone, use your best accents and impressions.

**Matt:** Do we think we're going to have to kill this witch?

**Freddie:** You're talking like somebody from the black lodge.

**Matt:** Maybe it's hard to hear through the grass. Shall we kill this witch before she gets too powerful?

**Beth:** Darryl, you got to be better about disguising your voice.

**Anthony:** Paeden is blown away. It's like you guys became different people.

**Beth:** Otherwise people might hear you.

**Anthony:** Who are these magicians in front of me?

**Will:** Hold on. Oh boy! Are we all doing our Jimmy Stewart impressions?

**Beth:** Oh [inaudible 00:30:13] it looks like that.

**Will:** Darryl, why are you talking all goofy?

**Matt:** All right, because one of you said that she might be able to hear us. I'm trying to say, shall we kill this witch? [inaudible 00:30:24] Hey man! It sounds like we did something great here, didn't we?

**Will:** Yeah! You killed the fucking vampire, thanks man!

**Matt:** So that as step one. What's step two of your plan?

**Anthony:** I was going to bring all my children up from the forest then we take this village for ourself and drive off the humans.

**Matt:** I'm approximately... Give me a range. How long do you think that's going to take?

**Anthony:** Probably a couple of hours. Get the kinks out of their tree branches and all that stuff.

**Matt:** What happens to the people who don't want to leave?

**Anthony:** I mean, they'll want to leave.

**Matt:** Gosh, I was like [inaudible 00:31:02]. Kill her in a surprise attack.

**Will:** Hey Darryl! Maybe we don't have to solve every problem by killing someone. Seems like we just learned maybe a valuable lesson about the emotional trauma of violence, and it seems like we're already talking about killing people again.

**Matt:** All right Mr. Bear cutting off heads and everything. This is a witch that's going to kill this entire town if we don't do something.

**Anthony:** I can almost hear what he's saying. It's too close to a normal voice.

**Beth:** Hey, I'm just saying maybe we should take it one tower at a time.

**Will:** I have a question. Hello, Erin O'Neill?

**Anthony:** Yes.

**Will:** Hi. Here would be my idea. Could you not take over the village? Is that an option?

**Anthony:** I mean I guess I could, but they took it from me in the first place.

**Will:** Did they? I don't remember hearing about that.

**Anthony:** This belonged to nature and then they came in and built their little town, and then they attracted the vampires. It's all their fault that my baby's dying.

**Will:** I have a follow-up question.

**Anthony:** Yeah.

**Will:** Are you nature?

**Anthony:** No.

**Will:** Well then [crosstalk 00:32:02] they took anything from you.

**Anthony:** Well are you your kid?

**Will:** No. But I-

**Anthony:** Well then if somebody took your kid-

**Will:** Are you responsible for all of nature?

**Anthony:** Yeah. I feel like it. That's the burden I've taken upon myself as a garden witch.

**Will:** Well that's not... I mean-

**Freddie:** Hey Henry. You're being remarkably intolerant of other religions and other cultures right now.

**Beth:** It's a classic nature/nurture debate.

**Matt:** Ron here is a businessman. Is there anything we could do to maybe at least stop you from doing this? Or some sort of deal, or maybe just delay it while we go-

**Anthony:** Why do you want to stop me?

**Beth:** I have several business cards.

**Matt:** It just seems like these people went through a lot. They lost their kids and everything. It just feels like a shame that they-

**Anthony:** They went through a lot. My kids went through even more. [crosstalk 00:32:44]

**Matt:** I just want to clarify that these aren't your children.

**Anthony:** They're my children in a sense. [crosstalk 00:32:49]

**Matt:** The planet is a lot older than you are.

**Anthony:** Mm-hmm (affirmative).

**Matt:** I feel like a hypocrite saying, because back where I'm from I consider myself something of an environmentalist. I voted for Dennis Kucinich. But I feel-

**Anthony:** She says, ''You know of Kucinich? The Grand Druid of the Nine Realms?'' Kucinich is a good fantasy name.

**Matt:** Wait, I'm confused. Wait Henry, you don't have children?

**Will:** Does she mean the trees and stuff are-

**Matt:** Wait. So you're talking about trees?

**Will:** Yes. Trees-

**Matt:** This tree?

**Will:** Yes, with-

**Matt:** I throw my ax into the tree.

**Will:** Holy shit! That's a tree!

**Anthony:** Go ahead and roll an attack.

**Beth:** The sea was a bad idea.

**Matt:** You're all sitting here like nothing... This lady is going to kill these people because of a bunch of fricking trees. Look I get it Henry. I respect you. I'm all for nature. We all got to breathe good air, but I'll eat that thing. That's a tree goddammit! Oh sorry.

**Will:** You'll eat the tree? Calm down!

**Anthony:** Okay so-

**Will:** Calm down.

**Anthony:** So-

**Will:** We got triage. We got-

**Anthony:** As you throw the ax-

**Beth:** Triage?

**Anthony:** Into the tree.

**Will:** God!

**Anthony:** You hear-

**Beth:** Triage!

**Anthony:** You hear a... Oh God. Also, okay. So, here's what happened when Terry Jr. reacted with such agony at, ''Who's your daddy now?'' It shifted the polarity of your brains and dad jokes are no longer something that doesn't do damage to you. We're just straight back at them just doing a D4 damage, because that was always funnier.

**Freddie:** Oh okay.

**Anthony:** So we're just going to do that from now on. So everybody take a D4 damage. [inaudible 00:34:17]

**Matt:** You deserve it!

**Beth:** One.

**Anthony:** All right. I'm down to 15 hit points guys. So I hope we don't get into a fight with this witch right now. So the tree that you threw the ax into, you see a bead of sap form on the blade of your ax, and it runs own in irregular... And then-

**Matt:** Let's have some waffles motherfucker! Hell yeah!

**Anthony:** Slowly, the branches above it bend at, what would be an elbow if it were humanoid, and push don into the ground in massive tree root legs come out of it. So what did you throw? Did you throw the Ward Cleaver?

**Matt:** No. No. I threw my normal, the great ax I normally have.

**Anthony:** Oh okay.

**Matt:** Oh, when you said tree you meant tree. I'm sorry. Where we come from, a tree is a rock. Total misunderstanding. Yeah, you should totally take over this village.

**Anthony:** Okay, why don't you roll persuasion.

**Matt:** That’s a one.

**Anthony:** Dammit. Okay. So, she looks at you-

**Matt:** I'm sorry.

**Anthony:** Sees an almost complete lack of true remorse on your face.

**Matt:** An accurate read.

**Anthony:** And then raises her arm. Then she says, ''Children of the forest. Destroy them!''

**Matt:** No!

**Anthony:** And the forest around you, you hear every tree begin to yank itself out of the ground around you. And-

**Beth:** These are some big ass children.

**Anthony:** Yeah. Every shrub, every flower. Everything with stems begins to pull itself out of the ground and slowly amble towards you.

**Matt:** I put my hand in my pocket, and I click the buttons to the side doors of an open.

**Will:** Go, go, go! I'm running for the van. I barely survived the last fucking thing and that was bunch of trees. Henry is furious.

**Beth:** As Ron is running, he says, ''Now my doctor told me to eat less meat, but I will eat more meat and less vegetables. Less anything with a plant in it. Less trees..''

**Anthony:** Roll persuasion.

**Beth:** 14.

**Anthony:** So you see one of the trees that's slowly ambling towards you extends a branchy hand, and it gives you a thumbs up. But just for you.

**Beth:** I give him finger guns and I wink.

**Anthony:** It now has advantage on charisma checks.

**Will:** Henry sees this and shouts at the trees, ''Ive been a vegetarian since I was 10!''

**Anthony:** All right, go ahead and roll.

**Will:** I got a 13.

**Beth:** Won't that have the opposite?

**Will:** Yeah.

**Anthony:** Oh no. Roll again with disadvantage.

**Will:** What are you doing?

**Anthony:** Roll again with disadvantage.

**Will:** Fuck! I got a 19.

**Anthony:** So yeah. I guess they're coming after you now.

**Beth:** Intimidation.

**Anthony:** So all them were splayed out and going for each of you individually, and then they hear, ''I was vegetarian for the last three years,'' and they all stop. And trees don't have faces, but you can swear they all in unison turn to you, and then they start fucking sprinting.

**Matt:** Henry no! Irony is dead! I regret nothing.

**Freddie:** I'm going to try to cast charm person on Erin.

**Anthony:** Okay.

**Will:** Is she fighting us?

**Anthony:** Yeah, I would say so.

**Glenn:** So that's going to be an advantage for a 13 wisdom saving throw. In character, I'm going to basically say, ''Carnivore diet for life, baby! Yeah non-stop protein and meat, I love it!''

**Anthony:** All right. So she hears that and she goes, ''You, I like.''

**Will:** Hell yeah! I threw the horns up.

**Anthony:** Just you I like.

**Will:** Okay, I'm running-

**Anthony:** So basically, everybody, you can get one action before they're on top of you.

**Will:** How far away is the tower?

**Anthony:** So the tower is basically... So when [crosstalk 00:37:56].

**Will:** Is it one action away?

**Anthony:** It would be a little bit of a drive to get from here to the tower. So basically, once you're in the van, you can either speed out of the town or you can drive to the tower. But the tower is a cul de sac, so once you drive there, the trees are going to be - basically they’re gonna block you in.

**Will:** Okay. I think we should go for the tower. This vampire's probably got something in there that can help us fight these trees, and then we can stop this forever. We just speed up. The trees just don't get to rip apart the tower.

**Matt:** Yeah we got to save this town.

**Will:** Yeah, and Terry! Terry's still up there. [crosstalk 00:38:25] To the tower!

**Matt:** Darryl, as he runs, he picks up the girl.

**Anthony:** Okay.

**Matt:** That's his action if I-

**Anthony:** No, it's great. It's great.

**Matt:** Okay. I pick her up and I throw her in the... Well, I throw her into the van gently. I mean I try not to hurt her, but I put her in the van as quickly as I can and get into the front seat.

**Will:** Yeah. Henry's action is to try to do a Dukes of Hazzard slide across the hood of his minivan and hop inside.

**Freddie:** Ooh, that's a roll. That's got to be a roll.

**Will:** Goddammit. Fucking got a two.

**Anthony:** So you do this slide but it ends up more like a Barenaked Ladies' One Week music video slide, where you get halfway across and then you just fall off the side, and it looks more embarrassing than if you had completely face planted. You're just standing in front of the hood.

**Will:** It's just humiliating. Just-

**Anthony:** It's just awkward.

**Will:** I clamber into the minivan.

**Beth:** Cool move Henry.

**Will:** Thanks Ron.

**Matt:** Buckle up. Roll call Paeden.

**Anthony:** paeden is here. I feel like I could take one of these trees if you [crosstalk 00:39:13].

**Matt:** paeden hold on!

**Freddie:** So as Erin is charmed by me, she's going to regard me as a friendly acquaintance. So I'm going to watch everybody clamber into the minivan, I'm going to look up and shout at Erin, ''Hey! Sorry I left my guitar in there. Can you just hold of these guys while I just grab my guitar from inside?''

**Anthony:** They'll let you go through if that's fine.

**Freddie:** Yeah, cool thanks.

**Anthony:** All the trees gesture toward the house with their big branch arms, but they're still [crosstalk 00:39:36].

**Freddie:** For one of the [inaudible 00:39:39].

**Anthony:** Sorry, what?

**Freddie:** I go for a fist bump for the tree.

**Anthony:** Oh yeah, they're like...

**Freddie:** Nice. Check that one off your old bucket list.

**Anthony:** That's the sound of a fist bump. canonically from the trees [inaudible 00:39:49]

**Freddie:** So how much time do I have? Do I have a time for one action inside?

**Anthony:** Yes.

**Matt:** Dude just trust me here. Give me 10 seconds. Leave the door open! I turn on the engine, I'm revving dirt back into the faces of the trees.

**Beth:** All right guys. What are we going to listen to?

**Matt:** Put on whatever you want Ron!

**Will:** I put on Rush's... What's the tree song?

**Freddie:** Oh God, yes.

**Matt:** The Trees, I believe.

**Will:** There is unrest in the forest. That one?

**Freddie:** There's trouble with the trees. [crosstalk 00:40:17]

**Will:** We're listening to the trees right now.

**Freddie:** Okay. So, while I'm inside, I want to do something that's a little bit of a secret, and not reveal what it is until later. So how can we resolve that?

**Anthony:** You can just make a roll. I'll take it on faith depending on what the outcome of that roll is, if what you wanted to do happens or not, and then you could explain it to the group in canon.

**Freddie:** Okay. So, I'm going to burn an advantage on this one. Okay. I have a base roll of 14, but depending on, I don't know what the modifier will be, but we'll just say 14 for now.

**Will:** I am on the edge of my fucking seat right now.

**Freddie:** So I disappear into the house for a second, and then moments later, I'm going to reemerge guitar in hand, and I'm like,'' Go, go, go!''

**Matt:** Okay, so you're running towards the van now?

**Freddie:** Yes.

**Matt:** So then seeing Glenn run towards the van, I'm going to pop open the... The Odyssey has an automatic-

**Freddie:** Yeah. It's a little button on the left.

**Matt:** All right. Cool. So I press the automatic. So the trunk starts opening up and as it's opening, I'm peeling out and spinning so that the back of the car faces Glenn, giving him a nice little place to hop into. Right? So you're going to hop in?

**Freddie:** Yeah, I'm going to try and hop in and toss everything into the open truck.

**Matt:** Sweet.

**Anthony:** Okay.

**Freddie:** [inaudible 00:41:21]

**Will:** Yeah, sounds great!

**Anthony:** Yeah, that sounds good.

**Freddie:** That's a... Athletics maybe?

**Anthony:** Yeah.

**Freddie:** 12.

**Anthony:** 12 will get you in the car. Yeah.

**Freddie:** So we have in our van, heading towards the tower, everyone. Me hanging out the back a little bit-

**Anthony:** Including an unconscious kid.

**Freddie:** And including an unconscious kid. Okay.

**Matt:** Because I'm driving as fast as I can to the tower.

**Freddie:** Okay great. So Paeden's like, ''So what happened back there?'' Insurance baby.

**Matt:** Glenn, what the hell was that? What did you get?

**Anthony:** What happened?

**Freddie:** Well she said that she checked out a lot of books from the library. So I wanted to bust in and just steal a book, so that the library will take care of her and fix this problem ourselves.

**Anthony:** Oh wow.

**Matt:** Oh shit!

**Anthony:** That's really good.

**Freddie:** I wanted to bust in and while I was looking around, grab a book and be like, ''Woo! We out'' And it's like, ''Hey, this problem solves itself guys.''

**Anthony:** So what book do you think you grabbed?

**Freddie:** Ooh, it will probably be some-

**Anthony:** Did you have time to pick a book?

**Matt:** Or did you just pick a random one?

**Freddie:** I picked a random one. [crosstalk 00:42:14]

**Anthony:** I'll tell you what you did. You got Grand Druid Kucinich's...

**Will:** It should literally just be whatever his book that he wrote was.

**Anthony:** Oh, did he write a book?

**Will:** I'm sure he wrote a book.

**Matt:** I'm sure more than one.

**Anthony:** Oh okay. So it's a prayer for the Forgotten Realms. By Grand Druid Kucinich.

**Will:** You know, Dennis Kucinich wasn't really what America needed, but he sure was what we need right now.

**Beth:** He was the hero we wanted. But... Dot, dot, dot.

**Matt:** Is there anything stopping us from driving full speed to this-

**Anthony:** Nope. You may get to the dark tower.

**Matt:** What does the door look like?

**Anthony:** The door is basically the size of a six-foot tall man. It's big enough for a tall guy to go through, it's not big enough for the van to fit through.

**Matt:** Okay. I do that power slide again to try to get the-

**Anthony:** Perfectly flush?

**Matt:** Yeah. Try to get perfectly flush.

**Anthony:** Okay, roll your car driving skill.

**Will:** God, you're going to wreck your fucking van.

**Matt:** It's a 15.

**Anthony:** All right cool. Yeah, you do it perfectly. Just...

**Freddie:** Yeah. You practiced that one, huh Darryl?

**Matt:** Yeah. I mean I got 13 on my minivan stats. [crosstalk 00:43:20] That's the score you get when you get the special licensing for a minivan.

**Will:** Oh, on your test?

**Matt:** Yeah.

**Will:** I see. There's a game called Dungeons and Dragons, where they have point values assigned to things. I thought it might have been an oblique reference to that.

**Matt:** No, no. I don't play that shit.

**Anthony:** So the tower is... It looks like it's about 20 stories tall, but you can tell from the angle of the windows and the way that they're dotted around the tower, as it goes upward that. A lot of that is probably just stairs.

**Freddie:** Just poor use of space. Fucking bad architects.

**Anthony:** It's almost as if somebody tried to design a dungeon but didn't want to put that many rooms inside of it.

**Freddie:** A linear, stair-based-

**Anthony:** Yeah. A linear one-way, that's it. No real exploration. Thought it would be better for an audio podcast because you can't really see the map, kind of thing.

**Freddie:** I'm like, ''Well I'm going to get my steps in today at least.''

**Matt:** Do you have map? Even if it's a straight line, I would like a map. Just helps me-

**Anthony:** Yeah. I'll give you a map.

**Freddie:** Anthony is raising his middle finger directly at Matt.

**Matt:** It's a straight line. [crosstalk 00:44:17]

**Anthony:** This tower looks like it's spraying up. So just in the center of the forest. You can see trees that are there that are just bisected vertically as if the tower want there, and then just, ''Boom!'' Suddenly it was. It doesn't feel like it was built brick by brick. It just, ''Boom!'' Just appeared. Other trees are just trying to wilt away from it. The ones that still have some of the black mist inside of it are still a little bit gnarled and curly, but you can sense that some of the life is coming back into them. The tower, despite the fact that it no longer has that necrotic fog around it, it's still a very intimidating structure, and just looking at it chills you a little bit.

**Freddie:** What's it made out of?

**Anthony:** It's made out of black stone. It's almost shiny. It feels smooth to the touch if you wanted to touch it.

**Matt:** Hey, Henry. Is this obsidian?

**Will:** Golly gee willikers. I do a geology roll.

**Anthony:** Mm-hmm (affirmative).

**Freddie:** God, loving this rock.

**Will:** Fuck! Oh wait, I'm going to use inspiration. I cannot whiff a geology roll.

**Freddie:** You cannot whiff a geology roll.

**Will:** What would I add to that? Perception?

**Anthony:** Yeah. Perception.

**Will:** All right, I got a 14.

**Anthony:** Yeah. 14... Yeah, it is definitely obsidian.

**Will:** It's obsidian.

**Freddie:** What's obsidian, Henry?

**Will:** It's a company that makes really great, underrated role playing games.

**Freddie:** Aah.

**Will:** Finally, I get to share some rock knowledge! I'm so excited someone asked about the rocks! Obsidian is a naturally occurring-

**Freddie:** Is there a little rock knowledge little theme song, maybe, underneath this?

**Will:** Yeah. Can we get a little drum beat? In a little bit of... A little... Yeah.

**Beth:** Rocks rock!

**Will:** Obsidian is a naturally occurring volcanic glass formed as an extrusive igneous rock. You don't have to be an ignoramus to know that obsidian is one cool piece of stone that is produced when [inaudible 00:45:56] lava extrudes from a volcano, and cools rapidly with minimal crystal growth. Sounds to me that this may have erupted from the mantle of the Forgotten Realms' earth crust.

**Freddie:** Fascinating.

**Beth:** Earth crust.

**Will:** And you can definitely see where Henry's knowledge tapered into Will's knowledge at the end of that sentence.

**Anthony:** Obsidian tower, a beautiful brown oak door, do you want to go in?

**Freddie:** How long before those trees catch up to us?

**Anthony:** So the trees will catch up to you and it looks like, at the rate that they're going, since they're big, slow, dumb trees-

**Freddie:** The camera zooms in on them doing the mathematical [crosstalk 00:46:29].

**Anthony:** Pythagorean theorem equals mc2.

**Freddie:** Just math equations that have nothing to do with rate of travel which is all this is.

**Anthony:** Yeah. Looks like you probably got about 20/30 minutes until they get here.

**Beth:** Ron would like to try something that he tried a couple episodes ago. I mean a couple hours ago. So he looks up and he says, ''Rapunzel, Rapunzel. Let down your hair.''

**Anthony:** You hear a voice go, ''Fuck you!'' And you recognize it as the voice of Terry Jr.

**Beth:** Terry Jr. Terry Jr. Let down your hair. I don't know if your hair is growing out since I saw you-

**Matt:** Five minutes ago?

**Anthony:** Five minutes ago when you killed my dad?

**Beth:** Yeah.

**Anthony:** Leave. Just go.

**Will:** Wait this is good, you're starting a dialogue.

**Beth:** Yeah. Hey, we're starting a dialogue.

**Anthony:** You see and then you hear a lightning bolt shoot out of the window, and then a loud crack that echoes and no response from Terry Jr.

**Matt:** Hey Terry, can you just come down here. It's easier if you just come down and talk to us like last time, rather than us going all the way up there.

**Anthony:** He does. He just comes down. You don't have to do the tower at all.

**Beth:** Maybe he left and he's not here anymore. Maybe he did the mist thing again, but with lightning.

**Will:** Terry, are you still up there?

**Anthony:** No answer.

**Will:** No answer. Well, I think he's giving you the silent treatment. I've seen this a lot with my boys when they stomp up to their room, when they don't want to have their overnight oats for dessert. [crosstalk 00:47:54]

**Freddie:** What?

**Anthony:** Holy shit.

**Will:** Overnight oats! You go to enjoy them. They're a treat.

**Anthony:** Oh no.

**Freddie:** Freddie and Glenn are both completely unfamiliar with this.

**Will:** In the Oak household, it's a tradition to have your overnight oats right before you have an overnight sleep. And you have overnight oats for dessert.

**Freddie:** You've seen me buy overnight oats and eat them.

**Will:** Do you know what overnight oats are?

**Freddie:** No I don't.

**Beth:** I've never-

**Anthony:** Oh is that a real thing? I thought you were just making up the idea of oats as dessert.

**Will:** Oh okay. I was, but overnight oats are a real thing. Hey folks, Will Campos and Henry Oak here to tell you about overnight oats.

**Beth:** Healthy snacks.

**Will:** Overnight oats is when you out oats and then you soak them in a little milk, or some almond milk, overnight, and they soak up. It's like cold oatmeal, and you have them with a banana and some raspberries in the morning. It's really good guys.

**Matt:** It's like healthy rice pudding.

**Will:** Mix some peanut butter in there next time, why don't you.

**Beth:** Healthy.

**Anthony:** I can feel my cholesterol lowering already.

**Matt:** Yeah, we should get in here with the... The reason I power slid the van was to block the door so that nobody else can come in.

**Will:** Anthony is losing his fucking mind right now.

**Anthony:** I'm looking at bullet point list of things that'll happen once you get in the fucking tower.

**Matt:** All right. Quick dad huddle. Here are the two options.

**Anthony:** You sack of human refuse.

**Matt:** Either everybody can get in the tower, or how much...we have about 20 minutes to maybe think of a way that we can get Terry Jr. Out of the tower.

**Beth:** So you're saying we could either-

**Matt:** What do you dads thinks we should do?

**Beth:** We can either go in the tower or we could not go in the tower?

**Freddie:** Oh my God.

**Anthony:** There's a storm and a flood comes.

**Matt:** I'm just saying, my vote is we should go in the tower. That's why I drove here.

**Will:** Well, I want to make sure we check all our options. We could try to light the tower on fire to smoke out Terry Jr.

**Matt:** That might kill him. [crosstalk 00:49:43]

**Beth:** We could try all the things we've tried before to avoid previous things-

**Will:** [crosstalk 00:49:48] rolling for each.

**Freddie:** I want to poke the unconscious girl in the car and see if she wakes up. Hey, hey wake up.

**Anthony:** Get in the tower!

**Matt:** Hey first of all. How are you doing? Are you okay?

**Anthony:** Yeah. No I'm... Oh God. Oh I'm fine. Oh the light's really bright.

**Beth:** Oh, your neck has a gnarly scar.

**Anthony:** Oh God. Oh-

**Matt:** No. It's cool looking though.

**Anthony:** Oh, okay cool. Cool. Cool I guess.

**Matt:** What's your name little girl?

**Anthony:** She says, ''My name is Clementine [inaudible 00:50:13].'' And that was sent to us by Valerie Wagner. Thank you so much.

**Matt:** Very good name.

**Anthony:** Did I die? Am I dead?

**Matt:** I think-

**Anthony:** And she's feeling for a pulse, and she's like-

**Beth:** Actually not sure.

**Anthony:** ''I think I'm alive.'' And she holds out her hand for one of you to check her pulse.

**Will and Beth:** I give her a high five.

**Matt:** Hey, Darryl Wilson. Nice to meet you. I put my hand over her handshake.

**Anthony:** So you just grab her hand and start shaking it?

**Will:** So two men high five her hand and then another clamps over their hands with a handshake. This is what just happens.

**Anthony:** So she's just like, ''So I am dead. This doesn't make any sense.''

**Will:** This is hell [crosstalk 00:50:44].

**Matt:** Well the handshake is this, so you might as well be dead little girl.

**Anthony:** Yeah, you really dunked on me there.

**Matt:** So, can you tell us a little bit about what happened to you?

**Anthony:** Oh God. The French guy came into to town and he sang, and a bunch of us came to his tower and I don't remember anything. But, the pain on my neck makes me think that he definitely turned me into a vampire or something. Was I vampire? I was a vampire?

**Freddie:** Yeah, you were a vampire.

**Beth:** You were a hell of a vampire.

**Anthony:** Fuck. Did I kill anybody?

**Freddie:** Unknown.

**Matt:** Unknown.

**Beth:** Yeah, no idea.

**Matt:** You tried to kill us and failed.

**Beth:** I was really mad at you actually.

**Anthony:** Well I'm glad you didn't kill me. Thank you for not killing me.

**Beth:** I mean we tried.

**Matt:** Yeah.

**Will:** We did stop though.

**Anthony:** I mean I appreciate it.

**Beth:** Yeah. We killed somebody else instead.

**Anthony:** Okay, some stuff's coming back. The other kids he took-

**Freddie:** How many other kids are there?

**Anthony:** If it was five or six, somebody else had a bunch of them as his guards and stuff like that. The ones that I was with, they might still be waking up. They might still be in the basement. We should probably go get them..

**Will:** Oh my gosh. In the basement of the tower?

**Anthony:** Yeah, I guess.

**Will:** Okay, what else can you tell us about this tower? Do you remember anything?

**Anthony:** That the front door is fucking unlocked.

[*Laughter*]

**Matt:** Whoa girl, you don't need to use that language with us.

**Anthony:** So the tower as far as I can remember, the French guy lived on the upper floor and God. It felt horrible. He would always... When he sucked from our necks, it didn't feel like he was taking just blood. It felt like he was taking something more that I can't really put my finger on.

**Matt:** Bone marrow? Or-

**Beth:** White blood cells?

**Anthony:** No, something from my mind. Something that you might find out if you went inside the tower.

**Matt:** Good manners, the way you're talking.

**Anthony:** Well I'm sorry if I feel crusty after waking up, having almost killed people with two big holes in my neck that apparently look badass but I can't tell, because I don't have a mirror.

**Freddie:** Oh, these work for you now, and I pull down the little side mirror thing.

**Anthony:** She goes, ''Oh cool.''

**Will:** Okay. Well we're going to go in there. I can understand how it might be scary for you to go back in there, considering all the bad stuff that happened.

**Anthony:** Yeah. I'd prefer not too.

**Will:** Okay. There are a bunch of killer trees outside. So-

**Anthony:** Oh shit!

**Will:** It might be safer in there-

**Anthony:** Yeah, never mind. I'm coming with you. Never mind.

**Freddie:** Okay. Let's go inside.

**Matt:** Hey. Two adults in front, the kids in the middle, two adults behind.

**Will:** That sounds great.

**Anthony:** Paeden hears that then immediately goes behind. It's like, ''Yeah. It's a good plan.''

**Beth:** Ron hears that and immediately goes to the middle.

**Matt:** Darryl looks and nods. That's probably bright.

**Will:** Good enough. Let's go.

**Anthony:** So you enter the tower. God, what do you call the room when you enter a fucking house?

**Freddie:** A foyer?

**Anthony:** Is it foyer or foyay? I've never known that.

**Will:** It's foyay.

**Freddie:** Nope.

**Will:** Is it not?

**Freddie:** It is a foyer. [crosstalk 00:53:08]

**Anthony:** So you enter the foyer. You see a bat perched on top of the tapestry depicting Terry Sr., and it opens it's mouth and without it's lips or it's jaw moving, you hear the voice of Terry Sr. Come out, and you hear it say, ''Welcome to the foyer of my home.''

**Freddie:** A little Borat.

**Anthony:** For my wife.

**Will:** Wait. So Terry Sr. Recorded his voice into a bat? [crosstalk 00:53:35]

**Anthony:** A bat with it's mouth still opens goes, ''This is one of my many mocking bats. I've recorded information to pass onto any visitors who might wish to enter.''

**Beth:** Ron doesn't like it, but he sure as hell respects it.

**Matt:** Do these bats respond to our questions like Alexa?

**Anthony:** Are you asking Terry Jr. this?

**Matt:** No. Terry Sr. I'm talking to the bat.

**Anthony:** Oh. [crosstalk 00:53:58]

**Will:** You got to say, ''Hey Terry.''

**Matt:** Hey Terry.

**Anthony:** So the bat, with it's mouth still open, you hear the voice go, ''Do not try to communicate with the bats. These have been prerecorded things I've said into their mouths, which they only have the power to repeat word for word by opening their own larynxes for my beautiful voice.

**Will:** Environmental story telling through audio logs? This truly is an Obsidian tower.

**Anthony:** Goddammit.

**Matt:** Goddammit.

**Anthony:** All right, take a D4 fucking damage. That's really good though. Holy shit, that's really good.

**Freddie:** One.

**Matt:** Four damage. You're going to kill me.

**Beth:** One.

**Anthony:** That's great.

**Beth:** Hey Terry. Fuck you.

**Anthony:** Thank you so much for coming into my home. You've clearly been invited because otherwise you'd be dead.

**Will:** He's slowly turning into Mario.

**Anthony:** Yeah.

**Will:** Thank you so much for playing my game.

**Matt:** All right. All right.

**Freddie:** Does the intro look like that this is... In my head, right now, just a black obsidian version of the Mario tower from Mario 64.

**Anthony:** Yeah, pretty much exactly.

**Freddie:** So big old staircase.

**Anthony:** Yeah. It's the fucking... The [inaudible 00:54:53] that goes up. It's a straight shot up to the right of just this staircase. It doesn't even make euclidean sense. It feels like it's going straight in one direction. Not curving around the tower to your right, and to your left, you can see a-

**Matt:** Big painting of Bob-omb?

**Anthony:** You can see candlesticks mounted on the wall going downward, presumably into some basement that gets darker and darker as it curves around the tower.

**Matt:** Hey fellow dads. I don't know about you, but I'm feeling pretty 14 out of 45 HP right now. Hey this is Matt talking instead of Darryl. What's all our HP?

**Will:** I can cast some spells.

**Freddie:** I'm full.

**Beth:** I'm 21 out of 27.

**Freddie:** Well we got this potion of healing which will give us-

**Will:** We should use up my spells first though.

**Matt:** I got an idea. Let's take that potion. I pull out one of my Darryl pale ales.

**Will:** I don't think we should-

**Matt:** And let's mix this bad boy up. Alcohol helps increases the effects of Tylenol and stuff. Probably tastes okay.

**Will:** What?

**Matt:** We should all take a sip of it.

**Will:** I don't... Okay. You're not supposed to mix alcohol with Tylenol.

**Matt:** No, I know.

**Beth:** It's dangerous, because you could feel too good.

[*laughter*]

**Matt:** Hey, Glenn. Can you toss that potion over? I really need about 34 HP.

**Freddie:** I think you should just drink this on its own, but sure.

**Will:** I cast cure wounds on Darryl.

**Anthony:** All right. Go ahead and roll for that healing.

**Will:** 13 plus three. You just got healed for 16 HP my friend.

**Matt:** I'm about to pour the potion into the beer. I'm like, ''Feel pretty good.''

**Will:** Maybe it's like a placebo effect. They say reaching for a cold beer is actually what makes you feel better, and the beer, you don't even need to drink it. So maybe we don't need to mix alcohol and medicine.

**Matt:** I pour the potion-

**Freddie:** Listen dear listeners.

**Matt:** I pour the potion into the beer and then I put the twist off back on it. I'll just save this bad boy for later.

**Will:** Okay, we'll find out what that is. I heal myself for eight.

**Anthony:** Great.

**Beth:** Could I also get a little bit of that.

**Matt:** Sure. I toss my bottle over to you.

**Beth:** I drink it. [crosstalk 00:56:44]

**Anthony:** All right. Roll a constitution saving throw.

**Beth:** Natural 20.

**Freddie:** I'm going to do a statistical analysis on our rolls now.

**Matt:** Anthony went and checked it.

**Anthony:** I did. It was absolutely a natural 20. So it turns out, unfortunately for everyone, that the combination of hard drugs and beer goes great, and you get the healing of two healing potions in that one drink.

**Matt:** Oh.

**Beth:** Wow.

**Anthony:** So you roll four, D4, plus four. It will probably heal you all the way up considering you only had six.

**Beth:** Yeah.

**Anthony:** You were losing, right? Yeah, actually, no matter what you'll fully heal.

**Beth:** Okay, cool.

**Will:** All right.

**Matt:** All right.

**Will:** That was some quality D&D action right there.

**Matt:** Good stuff.

**Will:** So I do think we should take Clementine's advice and check out the basement and see if there are any more kids down there.

**Matt:** Yes, absolutely. We've been pretty, I would say loose, with how much we should let the kids be involved and what's been going on.

**Will:** That's a good point.

**Matt:** So do you think we should bring our little buddy over there and his new-

**Will:** Well, I don't want to leave them alone in the tower.

**Beth:** Well if there are kids trapped in the basement, then we can trap those kids down there too, and then just hold them all there.

**Matt:** I mean they could be safe down there.

**Beth:** Yeah.

**Will:** Let's go down and find out, but before we enter any room, I think the adults should look to see if it's PG or maybe PG-13, before letting the kids look.

**Matt:** Okay.

**Will:** So Paeden and Clementine, you guys hang out back here okay?

**Anthony:** Okay. You head downstairs. Basically you're in a basement and you see three things simultaneously. All of equal importance. First on your right, you see that half of the room has basically been bisected and half of it is just a jail essentially, with these cell bars separating you from the inmates, and within the holding cell, there are six unconscious kids with bite marks on their necks. Guarding the cell are two very well armored kids who are also unconscious, and across from them, on the opposite side of the room are three treasure chests with a pool of blood that's smeared all around and in front of them.

**Freddie:** Yeah. Let's not touch that. That seems gross.

**Anthony:** To touch the treasure chest?

**Freddie:** Yeah, no thank you.

**Anthony:** Are they explodey treasure chests, do you think?

**Freddie:** Glenn's just not a fan of bodily fluids on stuff. He's not going to just wade in there.

**Matt:** And we should open up the treasure chest at some point.

**Freddie:** Let's wake up these kids first and foremost.

**Matt:** But wait, some of them look pretty armed and the other ones are pretty-

**Freddie:** Well let's take their weapons. Let's kick their weapons away like in a cool cop movie.

**Matt:** Good idea. Darryl goes to start disarming [crosstalk 00:59:07].

**Will:** Make sure they don't have an ankle sword.

**Matt:** Darryl goes and starts disarming the kids.

**Anthony:** So as you do so, they begin to wake up and you quickly realize this is not going to be an issue, because the kids are like, ''Mom, dad! Oh my God, what's going on?'' They're feeling their necks and they're all freaking out, and then the kids within the cells begin to wake up and they're freaking out too. And Clementine looks and goes, ''We're fine. I think they killed French guy.'' And they're like, ''Yeah!'' All of them are pretty psyched about it.

**Beth:** That was me actually. Ron Stampler.

**Matt:** We all did it.

**Anthony:** Ron. Ron. Ron.

**Matt:** That's right. Ron and all of his friends. We all worked together and did it. This is Henry. My name's Darryl Wilson everybody. Towards the closest kid I put my hand out. Nice to meet you.

**Anthony:** I'm shaking my head. We got to leave the room man. The kids still going, ''Ron. Ron. Ron.'' High fives your hand.

**Matt:** All right, and this is Glenn.

**Freddie:** Hey. How do you get you kids out of here?

**Anthony:** One of the kids with the armor on him has a keyring on his belt and he goes, ''Oh, I think probably one of these,'' and then he just opens up the prison.

**Matt:** Hey toss me that keyring bud.

**Anthony:** He does

**Matt:** Nice. I catch it and I'm looking and I'm like, ''How many keys are on this thing. Do we have a lot of doors that are locked? Or this the only thing on it?''

**Anthony:** There's basically two keys on it. One that unlocked the jail door, and the other one that you can't tell what it unlocks yet.

**Matt:** All right.

**Beth:** What's the deal with these treasure chest things?

**Anthony:** So one of the kids, the armor kid, was like, ''I got this stuff that I was wearing from one of them. I don't remember which. I think it's a trap. There's a trap involved.''

**Matt:** Do you know where that blood came from?

**Anthony:** Probably somebody trying to come in here and free... There are other people that came in and tried to free us. Oh no! One was my dad! Yeah. Some of our parents tried to come here for my dad, and it slowly dawns on him. But, yeah. They came in and I'm not sure how, but they died.

**Matt:** Side note. We're going to start a support group for all these kids before we leave. I think we should do that.

**Anthony:** Okay. Yeah.

**Beth:** We should start a foundation.

**Anthony:** A foundation.

**Matt:** How do we roll to see if we can tell what the trap is? Perception or-

**Anthony:** You can roll perception.

**Matt:** What's a trap everybody?, because I rolled a two.

**Freddie:** Trap is a kind of music Darryl, and it's played in a lot of clubs. It's a dance music genre.

**Matt:** Where does that term come from? Trap?

**Freddie:** What does it come from actually? I don't know.

**Matt:** It's a name for the house where they... It's a dance club where they sell drugs.

**Freddie:** Oh it's a trap house. It's a place where you can get drugs and stuff, and I guess they also play music.

**Matt:** For everybody who thinks that I'm not as cool as Freddie, even I know what trap was.

**Will:** No one thinks either of you are cool right now.

**Beth:** Trap is a muscle.

**Will:** Two fucking guys trying to figure what trap music means on their Dungeons and Dragons podcast, is about a magnetic south from Coolsville.

**Matt:** I knew what it meant, was trying to find the words to express it.

**Anthony:** In your mind, just to be clear, somebody's listening to this going, ''I want to fuck Freddie as much, but that Matt...''

**Matt:** Someday.

**Will:** I got a 14 on my perception.

**Anthony:** Okay. So you can tell that two of these chests are not chest. They are, in some way, alive.

**Will:** Can I tell which ones?

**Anthony:** No, you can't. You're going to have to do other shit. If this is one of the things I don't like about D&D is like, ''The roll should just allow me to solve thing.'' But the more fun version is if in real life there were three chests in front of us, and we had to figure out which one of them was not a living thing, what would we do?

**Matt:** Yeah.

**Anthony:** So that's the puzzle here.

**Will:** Okay. So-

**Matt:** First step. Let's get these kids out of the area of the room.

**Will:** True enough.

**Matt:** Because I see blood but I don't see body parts, which makes me think-

**Will:** Something got eaten.

**Matt:** It was bad. So let's get them out of here.

**Will:** If I see a lot of syrup on the ground and there's no waffle on the plate-

**Matt:** Darryl was there.

**Will:** Darryl was... Sure.

**Freddie:** Could really use that bat right now.

**Matt:** Oh that's a good... All right kids. You need to leave this room.

**Freddie:** You kids need to leave right now. [crosstalk 01:02:54]

**Matt:** Hey paeden, you're in charge buddy.

**Anthony:** Yeah I got them.

**Matt:** All right. Get those kids out and don't go too far.

**Freddie:** How hardcore do these kids respect the beast that is paeden.

**Anthony:** These kids initially are like, ''Why are we listening to you?'' And then paeden's like, ''Because they said you should have an adult in the room. I'm the line leader.'' Do you guys ever have line leaders in kindergarten?

**Freddie:** No. Lion leaders?

**Anthony:** When we all stood in line, if you were good-

**Freddie:** Oh line leaders.

**Anthony:** Yeah. If you were a good student, you got to be the person in the front of the line for when we went anywhere around the campus.

**Will:** So the narc?

**Anthony:** So the narc. Yeah. I was line leader, more than a few times.

**Beth:** Nice.

**Will:** Freddie, that means narcotics officer, which are usually not welcome at a trap.

**Beth:** A lot of people were like, ''Ooh I want to fuck Matt.'' But then they heard that Anthony was a line leader.

**Anthony:** He basically flexes at the kids really hard, and they're like, ''Jesus. Okay, you really care about this, huh?'' And so they follow him into the stairwell, and he's like, ''Cool. We're just going to stand here in the stairwell where we can't see anything, but I can hear you. Is that fair?”

**Matt:** Yeah.

**Anthony:** Cool.

**Matt:** All right. Hey, so maybe we want to throw some of those animals that only live for a certain amount of time as it is.

**Beth:** What about frogs? They're less cute than bats and I wouldn't feel as bad about sacrificing them.

**Freddie:** Why don't you just spin up some frogs and we'll at least get rid of some of the uncertainty in this situation before us.

**Matt:** Yeah. Henry can talk to them and tell them that each of those chests are wonderful candies. We're going to be safe forever.

**Beth:** Okay.

**Freddie:** There's flies in them, or something.

**Beth:** Okay.

**Will:** Henry doesn't want to do this.

**Beth:** I take out the Hat of Vermin and I say, ''Hat of Vermin. Hat of Vermin. I would like three frogs please.''

**Matt:** Well we only needed two, but I guess we can just keep one for fun.

**Anthony:** Okay, so-

**Beth:** I would like one for fun.

**Matt:** Okay, that's fair Ron. I get it.

**Anthony:** So-

**Beth:** I'll call him the fun frog.

**Anthony:** Two regular frogs appear, and then one frog shows up and goes, ''A trap house is when you put in two drugs and you listen to cool music.''

**Beth:** This frog isn't fun at all!

**Freddie:** Real quick, you should only be able to pull two.

**Will:** I was like, ''I want to fuck those other frogs.''

**Freddie:** Because you already pulled a bat earlier.

**Beth:** Oh yeah, and I haven't rested. Okay.

**Freddie:** It hasn't been a day. It's every day.

**Beth:** Oh yeah, okay. So yeah. Two frogs nicks the fun frog.

**Anthony:** He goes, ''Well I guess that's me. It's a living,'' and he just disappears. It is a comedy cheat, but there will literally never be anything funnier than me, than a Flintstones appliance shrugging and saying, ''It's a living.'' Everything we did in comedy after that joke was a waste of fucking time.

**Will:** Oh you mean the pterodactyl that lives in their sink and eats their garbage?

**Anthony:** ''It's a living!'' That's literally the funniest thing that comedy has ever invented.

**Freddie:** So hey-

**Will:** Oh man.

**Freddie:** Throw these fucking frogs at these-

**Will:** Why are you guys looking at me to do it? I'm not going to do it, I'm a vegetarian!

**Matt:** Well that's fair. I pick up one of the frogs and I chuck it at the left most-

**Anthony:** Roll attack. Just want to see how hard you threw this frog.

**Matt:** I chucked it [crosstalk 01:05:44]. I just chucked it to the left most chest. [crosstalk 01:05:52]

**Freddie:** Roll a D3 baby.

**Anthony:** To do that, you take a D6 and you halve it.

**Matt:** I want to fuck you Anthony.

**Anthony:** Now everyone wants to fuck me again.

**Matt:** Line leader and you know how to roll a D3.

**Anthony:** The frog, as he goes, he goes, ''Ah.'' And with a splotch, it smacks dead into the center of the chest, and just squeaks off it and then hits the ground, and then starts hopping around.

**Matt:** I pick up the other frog and-

**Will:** Henry closes his eyes. He can't look, this is awful.

**Matt:** We got to see if the ones that are bad do anything.

**Freddie:** That's true. That's control, right Henry? Right Henry? In science, you got to do a control.

**Matt:** Sorry buddy, and I toss it to the middle one.

**Anthony:** Okay. So, ''Ah,'' and the second it hits, instead of sliding down it just sticks there, and then you see the wood around the lock begin to...fucking finger tendrils come out of it.

**Matt:** Run little frog, run!

**Anthony:** And it goes, ''Ah,'' and it can't move. Its legs are kicking. It's the shoe from Who Framed Roger Rabbit getting dipped in the...

**Matt:** No.

**Anthony:** It's that level sad. Now I'm thinking about that.

**Matt:** That's the saddest thing in movies.

**Anthony:** It's literally the worst thing that's ever happened.

**Matt:** It still scars me.

**Anthony:** I still have to skip that part if I'm re-watching that movie. It's literally immoral I think that that is in that movie. The top of the chest opens up, a massive tongue comes out with teeth lining the lid of the chest, and the tongue flicks open and grabs the-

**Will:** Is it like the Rolling Stones tongue?

**Anthony:** Sure. Sure. It's like that.

**Will:** All I'm picturing is that big Rolling Stones tongue.

**Anthony:** ''Feed me Seymour.'' It's like that. The Rolling Stones tongue comes out, licks the frog into it. It drags it inside and then there's a crunch. A little bit of blood squirts out of the top of the chest and it slams shut.

**Matt:** The frog that hit the left most one, does it hop back towards us?

**Anthony:** No. It was busy watching the other one get eaten and its eyes are very big.

**Matt:** All right.

**Will:** I think we know which one the normal one is. I think we can confidently say that's probably the treasure chest that doesn't eat the frogs.

**Matt:** That's fair.

**Will:** Since it didn't eat the frog.

**Matt:** Darryl walks towards the left most treasure chest and tries to open it.

**Anthony:** So you open it. It is a normal ass treasure chest and within it, you see... Does Darryl watch professional wrestling?

**Matt:** Absolutely.

**Anthony:** So Darryl immediately recognizes what's inside as a professional wrestling championship belt that doesn't have a specific logo attached to it. But it is an item created by Adam Soma and it is called The Belt. It is a replica wrestling championship that grants a dad advantage on persuasion or intimidation, but only if you phrase your attempt as a classic wrestling promo.

**Matt:** Darryl reaches down, picks it up and holds it above his head, and he's smiling like a 10 year old kid. He's like, ''Oh my God. Look what was in here!''

**Will:** What is that? Henry's never seen professional wrestling-

**Matt:** Are you kidding? You don't know what this is?

**Will:** It seems to be some sort of fashionable belt. It doesn't look very practical.

**Matt:** It's a wrestling belt. It's going to be the thing that makes Matt study, for the next two weeks, wrestling phrases so he can know what he's talking about, because Matt does not watch wrestling.

**Will:** All right. Well that was worth the traumatic death of a frog, I guess.

**Freddie:** Let's get back upstairs guys.

**Matt:** Is that it? Glenn this is a belt! What does it do?

**Freddie:** It looks like a... Cool belt man.

**Anthony:** So I mean you can roll intimidation with advantage.

**Matt:** Why aren't you thinking this belt's awesome everybody? It's a 15.

**Anthony:** I think that will do.

**Matt:** Okay.

**Anthony:** Just for a casual intimidation. So everybody hearing that is all of a sudden, ''Darryl seems much more masculine and intimidating than he did before.''

**Will:** Whoa.

**Freddie:** Whoa. That's a good belt.

**Will:** That was really intense. Was that the belt?

**Matt:** No. I put it on. Is it cool if I have this guys?

**Freddie:** Yeah, go for it.

**Will:** Go ahead.

**Anthony:** You just have a wrestling belt every-

**Matt:** My polo shirt.

**Will:** Polo shirt.

**Anthony:** And then a wrestling belt and then some fucking cargo pants.

**Matt:** Yeah. A wrestling belt.

**Freddie:** Yeah. It doesn't appear to be doing anything vis-a-vis holding up your pants. But, it's pretty cool.

**Matt:** I take off the wrestling belt, then I take off my normal belt, because it feels stupid to have two belts on.

**Freddie:** Good point.

**Matt:** And then I put the wrestling belt on. But now the pants are definitely sliding... it's not really doing a job of a belt. But he's not going to let anybody know that. But definitely, Darryl's constantly holding his pants up from now on.

**Anthony:** You have disadvantage on all two headed weapon attacks.

**Beth:** Oh my God. Oh my God.

**Freddie:** Well no. Here's what you can do. Here's what you can do. You have disadvantage on all two [inaudible 01:10:12] attacks. You can choose to let your pants fall down at any point to gain advantage again. However, from that point on-

**Matt:** The pants might go to my ankles.

**Freddie:** Exactly. And then you would be unable to move.

**Anthony:** Yeah, then you're grappled by your own pants.

**Freddie:** All right.

**Matt:** Darryl just-

**Beth:** Ron wonders when he can get a belt of his very own.

**Anthony:** It is not the only belt that was offered by our fan base, in our big list of suggestions, which you can add to if you're a Patreon subscriber.

**Matt:** Darryl just runs to the door, ''paeden! Check out the belt!''

**Anthony:** paeden's like, ''Oh! That's so fucking sick. [inaudible 01:10:43] my fight for the UFC.''

**Matt:** You want to try it on buddy?

**Anthony:** Desperately!

**Matt:** I throw it at paeden.

**Anthony:** He wears it, and he goes, ''Oh, yeah!'' And he points at the little kids. He's like, ''Look at me. Look at me and tell me I'm intimidating,'' and they're like, ''Jesus Christ. Yes. Oh my God, you're so intimidating.'' ''Ah! I'm never giving this back!''

**Matt:** Darryl walks back and he puts on his normal belt. I think you should wear that paeden.

**Anthony:** paeden's like, ''[inaudible 01:11:07] I got to earn it. Anybody who watches professional wrestling knows it's all about the chase. It's not about getting it. So you should have it,'' and he takes it off and he goes, ''I know I'm intimidating. The real intimidation is inside me all along.''

**Matt:** Hell yeah paeden. I take my belt off and he's like, ''You, you can have this one.'' I chuck him my belt.

**Anthony:** He's like, ''I don't really want that one.''

**Matt:** No put it on buddy! Your pants seem a little loose.

**Anthony:** All right.

**Freddie:** Yeah, this gigantic man-sized belt-

**Anthony:** He puts it around and there are not enough holes for... The holes are all on the end. You can't-

**Matt:** Hey, what you got that knife for man? Put a hole in there.

**Anthony:** Okay sure. So it wraps around him twice.

**Will:** Are we really going to sit here and say that Darryl's belt isn't one of those dad belts that's braided leather, that you don't need the hole in? Do you know what I mean?

**Anthony:** Oh shit.

**Freddie:** Oh that's very good.

**Anthony:** Let's wreck on that.

**Matt:** No, because he would wear a church belt. In fact, it's probably reversible. It's brown on one side and black on the other.

**Will:** I forgot long ago that they even sell non-reversible belts. So... We were here for something. Oh Terry!

**Matt:** We got to save Terry! Let's do this!

**Freddie:** Yeah, let's head back upstairs.

**Anthony:** So you head back upstairs past all the kids. paeden's like, ''What do I do with them? Are we cool? Are we good? Shall we keep following you guys?''

**Matt:** Why don't you guys hang out down here in the lobby?

**Will:** Yeah.

**Matt:** I don't know that we want to be responsible for traumatizing even more children today.

**Will:** No.

**Anthony:** Okay.

**Matt:** All right kiddos. Well, paeden here will take care of you and we'll be right back.

**Anthony:** So-

**Matt:** Play with another kiddo.

**Anthony:** Shall we go downstairs? I'm going to head downstairs. Ooh! Three chests! Hell yeah!

**Matt:** No! No! No!

**Anthony:** Wait what, don't do it?

**Matt:** No. Don't go downstairs.

**Anthony:** All right.

**Matt:** And those chests are very, very bad. They will kill you.

**Will:** Those chests will eat you.

**Matt:** Yeah.

**Will:** So don't. And they're really boring to fight. So don't fight them.

**Anthony:** All right. Well now you got me [crosstalk 01:12:38]. You were definitely going to hear the sound of me fighting a chest if you hadn't said something about them being boring, so good on you.

**Will:** Okay.

**Freddie:** paeden, you're in charge. If something goes south, something feels like it's going off, take the kids and just get a safe distance away from here, all right man?

**Anthony:** All right. Just run or do you want me to get in the van? Or-

**Matt:** In the van and drive it.

**Freddie:** No, no, no. Leave the van for us. You guys get out of here. Go on foot.

**Will:** Do you guys going to allow a bunch of kids-

**Matt:** I toss them my keys-

**Will:** What?

**Anthony:** paeden catches and says, ''Hell yeah!''

**Matt:** paeden's not going to drive without us. He's not like somebody, Glenn.

**Anthony:** I better stay here [crosstalk 01:13:09].

**Freddie:** Whoa, damn.

**Anthony:** I'll stay until you tell me to leave. Until I hear you yell, ''paeden floor it,'' I will stay here with you guys.

**Matt:** Perfect.

**Beth:** If something goes wrong. Tell our story and make me sound really, really cool.

**Anthony:** Those are mutually exclusive. You guys are talking and you begin to notice that your voices are echoing through the halls of this tower, and you can hear them echoing upwards, and you hear Terry Jr's voice boom down, and he goes, ''Goddammit. I told you to leave. I told you to just leave me alone. All I want to do is get to the goddamn astral plane so I can be with my fucking dad. And I will open this portal if it kills you and every single other person in this town. Now get the fuck out!''

**Beth:** I'm not leaving mister, even if you don't like it. I'm here to save you.

**Anthony:** So the tower begins to shake around you, and between all of you, you can see a tear open up in the Fabric of Reality. And through it, for a brief second you see... Oh my God. This is what we saw when we split the Fanny Pack of Holding in half, and the tear, just as soon as it opened, seals back up. And you hear Terry Jr's voice from above echoing down saying, ''It's working. It's working! I'm going to see my fucking dad again, and nobody, especially not my stupid goddamn stepdad Ron, is going to stop me.'' [inaudible 01:14:58]

**Freddie:** Dungeons and Daddies, as Matt Arnold, as Darryl Wilson, Anthony Burch as our DM, Will Campos as Henry Oak, Beth May as Ron Stampler, and myself, Freddie Wong as Glenn Close. Themes song and outro is Alright by Maxton Waller. Additional voices this week by Jimmy Wong and some ambiences from Sword Coast Soundscapes. Thanks this week to Adam [inaudible 01:15:19], for Laurie Wagner and Harry [inaudible 01:15:21] for submitting character names that we used in this episode. You folks represent a [inaudible 01:15:25] of supporters of this podcast via Patreon. Fine folks like David Dee, Charles Martin [inaudible 01:15:30] Luxe, Ray [inaudible 01:15:32], and Joel who doesn't need a last name because believe it or not, he's the only one. These folks have all taken upon themselves the solemn duty of financially chipping in to help make this podcast possible.

**Freddie:** You too can experience cool perks and a deep sense of emotional fulfillment that can only come from putting the team on your back, by visiting Patreon.com/dungeonsanddads, where you can select from a number of levels of support, gaining access to everything from the ability to submit characters and items, all the way to uncut episodes with annotations and editing notes, monthly bonus content, and most recently a PDF newsletter called Daddy Issues where you can read in character columns written about topics near and dear to the dad's hearts. All that and more at Patreon.com/dungeonsanddads.

**Freddie:** In other news, we're undertaking a group transcription project to transcribe the episodes of Dungeons and Daddies for people who like to read along, or search for stuff, or who can't listen to podcasts. Code name, the Dungeons and Daddies group undertaking for transcriptions, or project Dad Gut for short. If you'd like to lend your lightning fast typing skills to this project, you can find a link to the Discord by visiting bit.ly/DADGUT. All caps. D A D G U T. All capital letters. Find us on Twitter and Dungeons and Dads, Facebook at bit.ly/dungeondad, subreddit at r/dungeonsanddaddies. We're on Spotify and iTunes and we always appreciate when folks tell a friend about the podcast, or leave a review on iTunes which always helps get the word around and helps this podcast grow.

**Freddie:** Speaking of podcasts, our other podcast Story Break is shaking things up. Instead of breaking a new story every episode, we're going to start writing a whole new scene every episode for on of the fan favorite movies we wrote Heaven Heist, and now is the time to get on that train, because starting next week, we're going to be writing that script one scene at a time. Story Break is a podcast. If you're listening tot his, you know how to find podcasts Finally thanks to all of you listening out there for your patience these past couple of weeks, if a bunch of us were traveling or sick, or recovering from sickness, which made wrangling all five of us pretty difficult. So thanks for sticking around while we got better, and we hope that you enjoyed this episode. Next one's coming at you August 6th, so until then drink plenty of fluids because that's [inaudible 01:17:27] good advice. [inaudible 01:17:32]

**Will:** Just give me five of those, and then Freddie, layer them in.

**Freddie:** Oh yeah. Yeah.

**Beth:** Rocks rock! Rocks rock. Rocks fucking rock. Rocks rock. Rocks rock!

**Anthony:** Okay. No Freddie, don't do any of the layering. Just play those back to back.

**Beth:** Rocks!

Radio Host 1:Right. So the question I want to ask Shinji was this:What happens to the items inside that fanny pack if that fanny pack gets destroyed?

[Explosion]

[Shinji chuckles]

Shinji:Well, I guess you you lose whatever was inside.

Radio Host 2:You’re listening to Dungeons and Daddies. We’ll be right back

[*theme song*]

fit on Wednesday nights.

[Various reactions from Freddie and Will]

[Will laughs]

Matt:-so now he does square dancing. But now he's embarrassed.