Dungeons and Daddies

Dungeon Master: Anthony Burch

Glenn Close​: Freddie Wong

Darryl Wilson​: Matt Arnold

Henry Oak​: Will Campos

Ron Stampler​: Beth May

Episode 2— The Ties That Bind

[*theme music*]

**Freddie:** Welcome to *Dungeons and Daddies*, a non-BDSM podcast about daddies, roleplay, and leather goods. Thanks so much, by the way, to everyone who has left iTunes reviews or tweeted at us @dungeonsanddads. It helps get the word out and is very encouraging for a brand new podcast like this one, to see that kind of response from all you folks. So thank you so much for everyone who’s written in in the past couple of weeks. I’m Freddie Wong and I play Glenn Close, a rock and roll cover band dad slash bard. Fun fact about Glenn: Glenn is pretty bummed out that his Wonderwall rendition didn’t work out the way that he hoped it would, ’cause normally it works every time, at least in his life.

**Beth:** It worked for me.

**Matt:** I’m Matt Arnold and I play Darryl Wilson, a stay-at-home sports dad who has come into his own as a barbarian, and he’s beginning to think he might miss his wife more than she misses him.

[*all laugh*]

**Will:** I’m Will Campos, I play Henry Oak, granola-Birk-Bernie-bro-vegan dad. Fun fact about Henry: boy oh boy did he find a use for them condoms! I knew they were going to come in handy. They are on my fingers to protect me from the weird druid stuff that I don’t understand what is happening to me, that is happening by flying out my fingers. So I’ve got condoms on my hands.

**Beth:** Hey, what’s up, I’m Beth May. I play Ron Stampler, emotionally restrained step-father crying internally all the time, sustaining internal damage from cringing emotionally at every moment. Fun fact about Ron: he does not have any leg hair.

[*all laugh*]

**Anthony:** Oh dear.

**Matt:** Medically or by choice?

**Will:** One of each.

**Beth:** See, the left it’s medical, but the right, it’s for fun.

**Anthony:** You gotta even them out. He’s gonna be some kind of pervert with one—

**Beth:** It’s like gluten—free on the right and celiac on the left.

**Anthony:** I’m Anthony Burch; I’m your Daddy Master, and I was 100% certain that we were gonna get kinda gay; I was not 100% certain it would happen in literally the very first episode.

[*music*]

**Freddie:** Welcome to Episode 2: The Ties That Bind.

[*music*]

**Anthony:** Okay, so we’re not going to do traditional exp awards. I’m just gonna do milestone-based leveling, so instead of giving you guys exp for doing the dad jokes I’m gonna instead give you inspiration, which if you don’t know what it is, it means whenever you want you can spend it to get advantage on a roll, which means you roll two dice and take the better rather than the lesser of the two rolls.

**Matt:** I feel like you’re hurting the star student after he gets the A+ in the class, like “well now we’re gonna grade the papers this way.”

**Anthony:** Did you not make a dad joke, spend the thing, and then do another dad joke so you could do it again later in the episode?

**Matt:** Yeah, yeah.

**Beth:** I don’t even— I still don’t know how it works, actually, after hearing that, because I wasn’t paying attention.

**Anthony:** It’s fine. Just do a dad joke, and other people will be harmed around you but you’ll get a benefit later on.

**Beth:** This is great, very method.

**Anthony:** So, you now know where all of your children presumably are. Which one or ones would you like to go for first?

**Henry:** My children. I’m just gonna put that out there. I have two children, so they’re both in the same space. Fractionally, we could rescue the most amount of the children first, which seems like the most efficient, to be completely objective about it.

**Ron:** But, if you lose one, it matters less.

**Darryl:** That’s true. That’s a good idea there, Henry, I just like to think that we won’t go for my kid first, because if we find my kid, I will have to eat his skin.

**Henry:** It seems like we could use a bit more to time to maybe suss out what’s going on there and maybe a way out of the dumb curse that he got us into.

**Glenn:** Yeah, I’m okay with Will’s—

**Henry:** Who’s?

**Glenn:** Sorry—

**Henry:** Who’s Will?

**Glenn:** Henry, I feel like your kids are cool—

**Henry:** I wanna know more about this Will guy. He sounds pretty cool, if you’re willing to rescue his kids.

[*all laugh*]

**Glenn:** I’m just sayin’ that I think my kid’s gonna be just fine, he usually y’know figures stuff out, so I’m not too worried about my boy.

**Ron:** I know for a fact that Terry, Jr. is better off without me.

**Henry:** Terry Jr., that was weird. When you called him he seemed pretty unfazed?

**Ron:** Yeah, but I don’t wanna talk about it. [*deep inhale and then strained*] I don’t wanna talk about feelings.

**Henry:** Okay, well I believe my two beautiful boys, Lark and Sparrow, are in a place called—let me get the list out here again…

**Will:** I pull it out of my pocket.

**Henry:** Neverwinter. Sounds like we should pack our shorts, boys.

**Anthony:** Everybody take a d4 of damage.

**Freddie:** No! You can't do two in a row; you're killing me.

**Matt:** The only thing I would like to say is Darryl Wilson did not take that as a joke, and he instantly opened the back and pulled out—

**Freddie:** Some cargo shorts.

**Matt:** Yeah, some shorts.

**Freddie:** I have 2 hit points, please god.

**Anthony:** Oh, Freddie.

**Matt:** He took 4.

**Freddie:** So, what does this mean?

**Anthony:** Okay, so basically what happens is that as the pure psychic force of the dad joke enters your brain, your brain, in a fit of self preservation, just shuts itself off and you fall unconscious to the ground for a moment.

**Freddie:** Okay.

**Henry:** Oh! I don't know if that was the joke or all the drugs he's been taking since we've been here, but I think Glenn’s down for the count.

**Darryl:** Back away, back away. I know what to do.

**Matt:** Darryl Wilson pulls out a first aid kit.

**Darryl:** Henry, why don't you prop his head up, buddy?

**Will:** I prop his head up.

**Matt:** Do we have healing stuff?

**Anthony:** Yeah, basically because you brought the first aid kit in, we're going to treat that like it's a healing potion, and you can just do a medicine check on him.

**Darryl:** You know what, boys, you know what we should do? We should just sleep for as long as it takes to get all of our HP back.

**Anthony:** You could take a long rest at an inn, yeah, if you want to.

**Henry:** Yeah, I think maybe we should sleep one off. It sounds like old Glenn here’s had one too many. Maybe we can just carry him over to a local inn and we can all tuck in for the night. I'm pretty bushed from all that fighting and kissing I did.

**Ron:** The rooms, are they double rooms or single rooms? How many beds in a room?

**Henry:** Do we have gold— well, we don't have any currency for what this world is—

**Ron:** I’m willing to pay whatever it takes.

**Henry:** I'm assuming they don’t take Discover, which is all I carry. I have my Diners Club card.

**Anthony:** You’re a time traveler from 1997.

**Freddie:** By the way, I love the idea that you guys are like Weekend at Bernie’s-ing me across.

**Will:** This seems like a pretty old timey kind of place, you know back in the day in Earth history, people I don't think really would have been fazed by someone carrying an unconscious man through the streets.

**Matt:** That's fair. What's, uh, what’s around us?

**Anthony:** Around you is—there's a weapon shop to your east, there is what looks to be a group of people just sort of screaming at something on the ground to the west. And then to the north there is pretty clearly what seems to be either a tavern or an inn or something that has a lot of like horses outside of it.

**Will:** I kind of look over at the people screaming.

**Henry:** Hey, what do you think is going on with that screaming over there?

**Darryl:** Hey, Henry, you want to figure that out now or do you want to bring Glenn and revive our nearly dead friend?

**Henry:** I'll catch up with you guys. I'm going to check out this screaming; that sounds like something we should be abreast of. I'll double back and find you though.

**Anthony:** Why don't you roll Perception?

**Will:** Okay. I got a 3.

**Anthony:** You can't tell what it is from here. If you want to see what they’re looking at, you’re gonna have to, like, get in the crowd.

**Darryl:** Ron, do you want to go over with our boy, Henry?

**Henry:** Ron, I bet some really weird and fucked up is going on in this crowd, wanna check it out with me?

**Ron:** Actually I'd like to stay with Glenn, just watching him sleep and thinking “That must be nice.”

**Matt:** I drop the body and I get away from Ron as quickly as possible and I just start heading over with Henry. I just leave Freddie's body.

**Beth:** I saunter up to Glenn and say—

**Ron:** It's just you and me now, buddy.

**Anthony:** Okay, so when your body hits the flo’ as it were, something gets rattled loose in your brain and you come…you cum.

[*all laugh*]

**Anthony:** You regain consciousness. Not enough to get up, but you’re kind of groggy.

**Freddie:** Am I like 1 health?

**Anthony:** You’re 1 health now.

**Freddie:** Okay.

**Anthony:** But you feel something different—something has changed you. You don’t know exactly what it is yet, but you can tell that something has changed.

**Freddie:** Interesting.

**Anthony:** You're conscious enough to speak, but not move.

**Freddie:** Okay.

**Will:** So… I head over to the crowd.

**Matt:** I follow.

**Anthony:** You see a crowd of primarily humans kicking what seems to be nothing, like they’re just—you hear the sound of impact of boot against flesh, but it seems like they're just kicking an invisible—just the air, but you can hear a voice going—

**???:** Stop, stop stop stop stop stop stop, please please please, come on, come on, you guys are being dicks, stop it, stop it, stop it!

**Matt:** Darryl Wilson’s excited, he thinks they're playing a sport. So I just jump into the center and go—

**Darryl:** What’re you boys playing? I want to play, I’m Darryl Wilson. What game is this?

**Anthony:** So when you jump into the center, do you jump in the center of what they’re kicking at or the people?

**Matt:** Right next to them, not where they’re kicking because then I get kicked.

**Anthony:** Okay, sure.

**Matt:** I'm talking to the two people kicking.

**Anthony:** So a guy with a big old wart on his nose says—

**Random NPC:** [*with a British accent*] Fucking neutral-evil creature came into our town, we don't do kindly to people on the neutral-evil alignment scale.

[*all laugh*]

**Darryl:** Henry, this sounds like one of your type of people. Why don’t you come over and talk to them?

**Henry:** So you’re— you're just beating someone? But who are you beating? We don’t see anyone.

**Random NPC:** Oh, you guys must be from Waterdeep

**Darryl:** Yes.

**Henry:** Yes.

**Random NPC:** Yeah, you don’t get at all fairy dragons up in Waterdeep, I assume.

**Henry:** Fairy dragons!?

**Darryl:** Yeah, absolutely not, those are totally normal. We've seen fairy dragons all the time, but not at Waterdeep, where we’re from.

**Random NPC:** So your confusion is then explained by, what. You seem to be very confused about, the cloaked—

**Henry:** I apologize for my friend, he’s low on…glucose. At the moment. We would love to know more about these fairy dragons.

**Anthony:** So as you say that, the thing that they’re kicking, with a shimmer, decloaks and you see what is basically a—if it were standing and not crouched in the fetal position, it would be up to your hip in terms of height. It’s blue and scaly and very bruised, and it’s what is clearly to your eyes: a small dragon. It has these brown bracelets around both wrists and one of its ankles. It looks at you with the closest you can assume to what a dragon could do as sad puppy dog eyes and it goes—

**???:** [*stammering*] Could you get them to stop? The people here are just very rude, please make them stop.

**Darryl:** That ain’t no football!

**Freddie:** That was so astute, Matt.

**Henry:** Ah, yo, uh, Darryl, I think we should— I think we should intervene here. You know, this seems like a kind of mob justice type of thing. And I know we’re trying to get our sons back, but who are we to our sons if we don’t lead by good example and when they’re not around?

**Darryl:** Way ahead of you buddy.

**Matt:** I stand in front of the pimple nose guy or whatever and the dragon.

**Anthony:** Okay.

**Darryl:** Hey, stop.

**Anthony:** Roll Persuasion. Unless, are you trying to be intimidating?

**Matt:** No.

**Beth:** That’s how intimidating he is, not even trying.

**Anthony:** Go ahead and try Persuasion.

**Matt:** That's a 7 plus—minus 1 is 6.

**Random NPC:** No.

**Anthony:** And goes back to kicking him.

**Will:** Can I assist his roll?

**Anthony:** Yeah, you can try again.

**Matt:** You’ll have to start over.

**Anthony:** You’ll have to try a different tactic than what he tried.

**Will:** All right, all right, all right. I come and I say—

**Henry:** I’ll lick any man in this crowd, I’ll beat him to the ground!

**Random NPC:** Are you are you gonna lick us or—

**Henry:** I mean that in an old timey sense of licking, as in fighting, but if I beat you, I’m going to lick your face!

**Anthony:** Alright, roll Intimidation.

**Will:** 13 plus 1, 14.

**Matt:** Can I assist him?

**Anthony:** Yeah, go ahead.

**Darryl:** And you better watch out because his licks are poisonous! He doesn’t have any relatives anymore because he kept licking their faces now they’re all dead, now you’ll be.

**Anthony:** Now you gotta roll Bluff and if you fail, you're gonna hurt his roll.

**Matt:** What's Bluff?

**Will:** Oh great, we’re off to a great start.

**Anthony:** Deception, I think. It might be Deception.

**Matt:** That is a 6 minus 1.

**Darryl:** [*obviously lying*] Yep, total poison!

**Random NPC:** Just off the top of me dome, speaking to you two, it feels like you're good at lying and you're really good at fucking up his lies. So maybe the next time you tried to do something like this you might want to game it a little bit better, but uh no, fuck off.

**Anthony:** The dragon looks at you and goes—

**???:** I have kids, I lost my kids! I came in here looking for my kids and no one will— [*starts crying*].

**Henry:** Gosh darn it. that’s it!

**Will:** And then a feeling comes over me—

**Freddie:** Oh boy.

**Will:** —and I hear words in my head. and my eyes roll back. and my hands slam into the ground. This might be—this is kicking off the episode with a bang, guys, I'm sorry but I can't think of anything else to do to stop these people.

**Anthony:** That's good.

**Will:** I cast Thunderwave.

**Anthony:** Whoa!

**Will:** A wave of thunderous force sweeps out from you. Each creature in a 15 foot cube—that’s the crowd, cause I’m in the middle of the crowd—

**Anthony:** Yeah.

**Will:** Must—

**Matt:** Wait, are you trying to kill everybody?

**Will:** No, I’m trying to knock them away, although they do take a lot of damage. They’re going to take 2d8 damage, I would assume that’s going to kill everybody.

**Anthony:** Not necessarily.

**Will:** It pushes everyone away, 10 feet away.

**Anthony:** Okay, that’s fine.

**Will:** All right, fuck it, I’m doing it. I don't understand my powers yet.

**Matt:** That’s fair.

**Will:** I cast Thunderwave and uh, so basically, everyone in the crowd has to make a saving throw or they take 2d8 thunder damage and they get shoved 10 feet away.

**Freddie:** Now is this mitigated by the condoms on your hands?

**Will:** I pulled the condoms—

**Anthony:** That’s how you know shit’s getting real.

**Will:** No, I think maybe they just blast off when I do it and they were—

**Freddie:** Like a child walking by just gets a condom in the face.

**Anthony:** With a horribly wet slap, ten condoms— the first thing that hits the crowd is ten condoms, the second thing that hits is pure biological lightning that hits all of them—

**Beth:** Wait, in the condoms? Is that what we’re calling it now?

**Anthony:** What?

**Beth:** Biological lightning?

**Anthony:** That’s a good— that’s a good brand name, I gotta say. That’s pretty good.

**Beth:** Oh no, it’s from the—

**Anthony:** From his hands, from his fingers.

**Freddie:** But if you wanna start a brand of condoms called Biological Lightning…

**Beth:** No, I want to start a brand of semen called Biological Lightning.

[*all laugh*]

**Anthony:** In your local freezer section. So yeah, they get hit with the lightning, and it blasts the crowd, basically— not apart in terms of them dying, but the crowd just scatters and sort of tumbles backward, and hits the ground, and the guy with the wart looks up at you and goes—

**Random NPC:** [*whispering*] Woah, what are you?

**Henry:** [*also whispering*] I don’t know!

**Darryl:** Yeah, who’s lying now, mister!? I'm Darryl Wilson, and this is Henry Oak. Like I said, his licks are twice as poisonous as his lightning is. Sparky.

**Random NPC:** That’s distinctly not what you said.

**Will:** Did Darryl make a saving throw to avoid my lightning blast?

**Matt:** Or was I behind him?

**Anthony:** I assumed you were behind him.

**Matt:** Yeah, I— when I saw you pull those condoms off, I definitely knew that—

**Will:** You knew that shit was going down.

**Anthony:** Okay, so they run and they scatter, and the fairy dragon looks up at and goes—

**???:** Thank you so much, wow.

**Matt:** I step in front of Henry, say—

**Darryl:** You're welcome.

**Matt:** And I pick up— how big is this dragon?

**Anthony:** You pick him up?

**Matt:** Yeah, how big is he?

**Anthony:** He’s like hip height, so he’s like a 6-year-old.

**Matt:** I help them up, because I'm assuming he's kind of beat down on the ground.

**???:** Thanks so much, thanks. I guess I'll be on my way then, thanks for saving me. I don't know what you did that for, but that was nice of you.

**Darryl:** Well, wait one second there, you said you’re from a little town called Waterdeep.

**???:** No, they said you were from Waterdeep.

**Darryl:** Oh, yes, that's what I meant. I’m from Waterdeep. Where are you from?

[*all laugh*]

**Darryl:** I’m Darryl Wilson by the way.

**Matt:** And I put my hand out.

**Anthony:** He looks at your hand not quite knowing what to—

**Darryl:** Just put your hand out too, little buddy.

**Anthony:** He puts the same hand, like the wrong side’s hand out.

**Matt:** I smile and I switch hands.

**Anthony:** He switches with you.

[*all laugh*]

**Matt:** I grab his hand with both my hands—

**Anthony:** Okay.

**Matt:** And I shake, I say—

**Darryl:** This is how we say hello where we're from.

**???:** Waterdeep?

**Darryl:** Waterdeep, exactly.

**???:** Okay. I’ve never been to Waterdeep.

**Darryl:** So what's uh, what's your name?

**Gartok:** Oh, my name is Gartok.

**Darryl:** Gartok?

**Henry:** Gartok.

**Darryl:** That’s a nice name.

**Gartok:** Yeah. Gartok.

**Darryl:** So, uh, Henry, you have any questions for Gartok?

**Freddie:** Matt’s in over his head instantly.

**Gartok:** Here’s what I'll say: one of you seems to be a very powerful warrior. Do you think you could help me find my children?

**Matt:** I stand tall when he says that, like, ‘Thanks’.

**Anthony:** He’s trying to look around you and make eye contact with Henry.

**Henry:** You know, Gartok, I think maybe we can. We're actually looking for our children as well.

**Gartok:** Oh, wow!

**Henry:** Were your kids taken by The Lance?

**Gartok:** Oh no, no, my kids just ran.

**Henry:** Oh, um, well sure we could— you know as fathers ourselves we’re forsworn to protect all children of all… alignments I guess.

**Gartok:** Oh man, is that how fatherhood works? I’ve been doing this wrong.

**Henry:** You know it, sort of like, fathers, I think, have an obligation to all the children of whatever plane of existence they may be in. But perhaps if it aligns with our quest we can help you on yours as well.

**Gartok:** Oh, what’s your— what's your quest?

**Henry:** We're trying to get our kids back.

**Gartok:** Oh, where are you going?

**Henry:** We are—you know they said something about you being neutral—evil?

**Gartok:** Yeah, yeah, they did. That's a weird kinda racist thing that people around these parts tend to say. Humans primarily, if they see something they don’t understand they “ahh he’s evil” and sometimes they really specific about it’s neutral or chaotic, it’s kinda just your disposition.

**Henry:** Oh, it's like a bigotry disguised as science—

**Gartok:** That’s exactly—

**Henry:** We have a thing called phrenology in our land, it sounds similar.

**Gartok:** It's very similar.

**Henry:** Well you wouldn’t know that it's similar because—

**Gartok:** I’m just agreeing with you, that's just how conversations work.

**Henry:** Well, uh, we're gonna— why don't we go introduce our friend Gartok here to the rest of the boys back at the inn?

**Darryl:** Yeah, well they're not— I mean, they're just standing in the street. What did Ron think— [*yelling*] Hey, hey, Ron!

**Ron:** Yea?

**Henry:** [*yelling*] Ron, this is Gartok. He’s gonna come with us on our journey.

**Gartok:** I’m Gartok.

**Ron:** Okay, hey Gartok.

**Freddie:** I'm just coming to, I’m like—

**Glenn:** What the fuck is that!?

**Darryl:** Hey, Gartok, you know a good place to sleep around here? Our buddy Glenn there, he’s mighty hurt. Is there a place we can recover? That we can all talk, maybe find a way to get all of our kids back?

**Gartok:** Oh, yeah, yeah. There's the Wispy Woods Inn to the north, over there. We could probably— I mean you could go in, I can't.

**Darryl:** Why not?

**Gartok:** The town does not like me; I don't think they’ll let me stay—

**Darryl:** Why were you invisible?

**Gartok:** Because that’s a defense mechanism.

**Darryl:** So buddy, just turn invisible; we’ll bring you right in!

**Gartok:** That’s a really good idea! Okay, yeah, I’ll do that!

**Darryl:** Alright, cool!

**Matt:** So I pick him up, I don’t know how big he is, even if he doesn't want me to, I pick him up. He feels like a dog to me so I just pick him up. And I'm like—

**Darryl:** Hey guys, let’s go to this inn. We got an invisible dragon, how rad is this?

**Henry:** Okay, you walk in holding an invisible dog and we’ll be right behind you, let’s go.

[*Fire crackling*]

**Anthony:** He turns invisible. Okay, so you enter the Wispy Woods Inn, and it is pretty sleepy. There's a drunk guy passed out in the corner, there’s a couple people playing what seems to be some sort of version of cards, and a woman with a bandana behind the bar just sort of wiping it down with—not even a towel, just her hand, just kind of doing it idly to waste her time.

**Henry:** [*whispering*] Gartok.

**Gartok:** [*whispering*] Yeah, what’s up?

**Henry:** Is there is there perhaps a review system for the inns in this town? And if so, if that review system had a way of grading places, like say by a series of stars—

**Glenn:** Celestial objects, perhaps.

**Henry:** Celestial objects. How many stars out of five stars do you think this establishment would get?

**Gartok:** I mean, if I'm looking at this? There’s no one dead and no one’s screaming and it's quiet, so I probably says this looks to be a four celestial bodies establishment.

**Henry:** Okay, do you think they take Discover?

**Gartok:** Like the act of learning something? I don’t think they trade in, like knowledge.

**Henry:** Okay.

**Gartok:** There are some hotels that do.

**Darryl:** Gartok, this is gonna sound like a weird question because we totally know the answer, but just as a refresher, what do you use for money here?

**Gartok:** Uhh.

**Darryl:** It’s just a little quiz.

**Gartok:** Okay, I’ll play along!

**Darryl:** Yeah!

**Gartok:** It’s fun, we’re having fun!

**Darryl:** Yeah!

**Gartok:** Are we in the inn right now?

**Darryl:** Yeah we’re in the inn. We're talking right here in the threshold.

**Anthony:** The bartender is looking at you very quizzically.

**Matt:** I kind of turned my back the bartender so they can't see and I’m just whispering—

**Darryl:** So like, money, what is it?

**Anthony:** She's sort of shakes her head and goes back to wiping the bar with her hand. She licks her hand and goes back to cleaning the bar.

**Gartok:** I mean, there’s copper, there’s silver, there’s gold, precious metals, some places work on the barter system, depending on— not this place because this is fairly podunk, but some places operate on information or secret exchange, or knowledge exchange, or experience exchange— not in terms of experience points, but like “I'll give you a new experience.”

**Darryl:** Like music? Maybe?

**Gartok:** Yeah, some places, probably not this place I don’t know, I haven’t spent very long here.

**Will:** Do we have money?

**Anthony:** You have whatever American money you have on you.

**Will:** Oh, okay.

**Darryl:** Hey, Ron, um, I'm holding this dragon.

**Ron:** Yeah.

**Darryl:** You wanna go and see if you can get us a room?

**Henry:** This seems like a job for Ron, I gotta say, I’m no good when it comes to charming.

**Glenn:** Wheeling and dealing?

**Ron:** They do call me Ron the Room Getter.

**Beth:** Yeah, I'm gonna to go up to the— is there a front desk here?

**Anthony:** There's the— there's the girl at the bar.

**Beth:** Actually—

**Anthony:** There's also a staircase leading up to what seems to be rooms.

**Beth:** I want to talk to the girl at the bar. I want to roll and see if I can sense how lonely she is. The look in her eyes, I feel as though I’ve seen it before.

**Anthony:** Roll Investigation.

**Beth:** This is a 6.

**Anthony:** All you see is your own misery reflected back at you. And she begins to go like—

**Bartender:** [*with a British accent*] Are you okay, love?

**Freddie:** You miss every shot you don’t take baby.

**Beth:** I ask her if I can make her a drink.

**Bartender:** You want to make me a drink?

**Ron:** Yeah, my, uh… I used to make all my dad’s drinks.

**Freddie:** Interesting tact.

**Bartender:** You’ve had a few already, haven’t you?

**Ron:** No, no. It’s just that I'm so used to making drinks for other people.

**Anthony:** Why don't you go ahead and roll Persuasion?

**Beth:** 8.

**Ron:** I can see you're still on the fence about it.

**Bartender:** It’s not really how this works… Do you want a drink? I’ll get you a drink?

**Matt:** Darryl Wilson is totally getting what Ron’s trying to throw down, and I take my last of the six pack of my pale ale, and I slowly slip it to Ron from behind, giving her a drink that she— that *he* can pass on.

**Beth:** In front of the bar?

**Matt:** Yeah, I’m trying to hand you my pale ale.

**Beth:** And then Ron's like—

**Ron:** Yeah, you have a bar, but do you have this bottle of pale ale?

**Bartender:** Oh, you want me to buy— oh, you're a brewer?

**Ron:** Uh… yeah.

**Beth:** Can I roll Persuasion again?

**Anthony:** Yeah, go ahead. It’s a new lie so yeah.

**Beth:** 13.

**Bartender:** Okay, generally the way we go about this is you pop the top off, you take a drink, so it’s not poison, and then I'll take a drink and then we’ll sort of see.

**Ron:** Okay.

**Beth:** I wink at Darryl—

**Matt:** I’m very excited to see if they like it.

**Beth:** —as if to say “it’s not poison, right?” I don’t know that it is a twist off.

**Matt:** It is.

**Beth:** I struggle with key chains and then try to do the thing with my teeth and stuff. I'm in a great deal of pain by the time I finally get this beer open.

**Bartender:** I think it’s a twist off.

**Ron:** No, no, no, no, no, I've drank these before sweetheart, I know. It’s the gentleman’s job to open the beer for the woman. You could never possibly twist it off by yourself. I got this bad boy open— actually, Darryl could you open this? I would ask her, but—

**Darryl:** Yeah, yeah, of course.

**Matt:** I slowly pass the imaginary dragon to Henry. I try to stretch like it’s really nothing going on.

**Will:** I forget that the dragon is there, and I'm like—

**Glenn:** What are you doing?

**Henry:** Oh, the dragon!

**Bartender:** Dragon!? What, where?

**Darryl:** Nothing!

**Glenn:** It's just— we’ve been we've been dragging our feet and getting you these drink; here you go!

**Anthony:** Roll Persuasion with advantage because that was a good pun.

**Freddie:** 2 plus— 12.

**Anthony:** Okay, you're fine.

**Darryl:** Yeah, here, let me just twist this off for you. This is actually the best beer in Waterdeep.

**Matt:** And I twist it off—

**Ron:** Oh, it’s a twist off! Man, you brewski brewers, just like I am, I’m a brewer.

**Beth:** I take a sip and then it tastes bad to me because I don’t even like Bud Light. Ron can't even handle a regular beer— but then I’m like—

**Ron:** Oh, that’s a good brew.

**Anthony:** Yeah, okay. So you pass it to her and she takes a swig. So you’re gonna roll— this is a big moment because we’re going to determine how good your beer is for the people of the D&D realm. So you’re gonna have to roll— when it says you can like, brew stuff on your character sheet, does it say “you get a plus to blah blah blah”? What does that mean?

**Matt:** I just have a Brewers Supply. So I feel like that would be—

**Freddie:** Just like assorted yeasts.

**Matt:** Maybe medicine would be close?

**Anthony:** Let's roll medicine. Remember, you have inspiration.

**Matt:** I am gonna use my inspiration. I was inspired. That's a 15 plus 1 so 16…and I will keep that 16.

**Anthony:** Okay, so she goes—

**Bartender:** This is pretty bloody good. This is not bad. How much can you sell?

**Ron:** Um, let me— look, Darryl, I know you don't know that much about brewing, but if you just had to guess, how much…

**Darryl:** Oh, we could uh, we got a whole bunch of barrels.

**Henry:** [*whispering*] Dad huddle, dad huddle, dad huddle.

**Darryl:** One sec, we gotta do a little brew huddle here and talk. We’ll be right back.

**Bartender:** Okay.

**Henry:** Brew Bros, here's what I’m thinking. We’ve got a whole mess of beer coming in tomorrow, we’ll give her a good rate on it, in exchange she lets us stay the night.

**Ron:** From where? Where are we getting the beer?

**Henry:** From Waterdeep, where we’re definitely from.

**Darryl:** That’s a good idea.

**Ron:** Oh, yeah, okay, alright, I can do this.

**Darryl:** Close the deal there, Ron.

**Henry:** Okay, hands in the middle everybody.

**Darryl:** Well no, you're holding the dragon so you can’t put your hand in.

**Henry:** Shit, that’s right.

**Darryl:** Ron, why don’t we just shake hands?

**Glenn:** Go for it, go on Ron, close it, close the deal, Ron.

**Ron:** Wow, wow! I feel like something's changed within me too.

**Darryl:** Good, do it.

**Ron:** Listen, sweetheart, we got a whole load of beer. You ain't never seen beer like this before. Tomorrow, you’re gonna drown in beer.

**Bartender:** So a number of barrels would be lovely, if you could give me—

**Ron:** 15 barrels.

[*all laugh*]

**Freddie:** That is so many barrels!

**Bartender:** Fantastic! What’s your asking price?

**Ron:** Where…is…—can we do another dad huddle? Just real quick.

[*all laugh*]

**Darryl:** One second, we’ll get right with you. We’ve got another shipment to another—

**Ron:** Yeah, these shipments are popping off.

**Henry:** All right, dad huddle. Gartok, how much is a barrel of beer around here?

**Gartok:** A barrel of beer would probably be around five… eight silver?

**Henry:** Okay, someone else, what is eight times 15?

**Freddie:** I'm gonna burn some of the battery on my cell phone. As I pull out this magical device in the corner, the self—illuminating device, and I tap into my calculator eight times 15. 120.

**Anthony:** Roll a d20, if you get anything other than a 1, you’re good on battery.

**Freddie:** Okay, 4.

**Anthony:** Okay, so what we're going to do is every time you use your phone, you’re gonna roll and the number is going to get higher—

**Freddie:** Ah, perfect.

**Darryl:** Look, I think since it is pretty damn good beer I think we should say probably like 10 a barrel. I think it’s fair for my beer.

**Henry:** Okay, that’s fine. Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, this beer that doesn’t exist that we’re ripping this lady off. Yeah, let's say—

**Glenn:** I don’t think we should say 10, I think we should probably go on the low end a little bit and try and get a room cause I’d like to sleep.

**Darryl:** Yeah, but she’s not gonna buy it, she tasted that beer, she knew that beer was amazing. If we give it a low price she’s gonna be like “well that’s not true,” she might think this is twice as much as a normal—

**Ron:** Ah, that sounds like a good business decision, Darryl.

**Gartok:** She might also think you guys are really bad negotiators. Because you’ve had two huddles in a while, you can make her feel like she’s getting one over on you or something.

**Darryl:** You’re right, this is taking a while.

**Henry:** Ron, it’s your call.

**Darryl:** Yeah, eight a barrel. Just say eight a barrel.

**Ron:** We’re gonna give you the Darryl Barrel Special, that’s eight a barrel.

**Bartender:** Eight a barrel? Very fair, very fair. Um… well obviously I’m not gonna pay you until it’s here, so…

**Darryl:** Oh, that’s a problem.

**Ron:** You know part of the Darryl Barrel Special is that you give it to Darryl before he gives you the barrel.

**Bartender:** I’ll give you an advance of two silver, if you want.

**Ron:** How about five?

**Bartender:** How ‘bout three?

**Ron:** How ‘bout—

**Darryl:** [*whispering*] Room! The room!

**Ron:** How ‘bout— How ‘bout— Yes! Three and the room?

**Bartender:** You got yourself a deal.

[*cheering*]

**Beth:** Guys, we did it! I mean—

**Bartender:** Why did you say that?

[*all laugh*]

**Bartender:** That’s an odd thing to say after a business deal.

**Darryl:** It’s a little strange story. Ron here is a new, a new member of—

**Bartender:** I never would’ve thought that.

**Darryl:** Yeah, a new member so this was actually his first, uh, sales pitch.

**Bartender:** Oh! Congratulations, Ron!

**Ron:** It wasn’t my first sales pitch, I’m a businessman, lifelong businessman, entrepreneur. Swipe right, sweetheart.

**Anthony:** So she, she like, like, with her hands, swipes right on the bar, like swipes to the right direction.

**Ron:** No, no, don’t worry about that, I’m just really glad to be doing business with you…

**Bartender:** Yeah, no problem.

**Anthony:** So she—

**Ron:** Seriously.

**Bartender:** Yeah, no I, yeah— Are you alright?

**Ron:** [*strangled noise*]

[*all laugh*]

**Ron:** Where’s the room?

**Anthony:** So she reaches into her apron and pulls out a, a bronze key, throws it on the table, the key has the, the number 7 on it. And also throws out 2 very dirty, sort of greasy, silver coins that she like slides up across the bar at you and they slide a little bit too easily and there’s like a liquid trail behind them.

**Freddie:** We’re saying 3 though.

**Anthony:** Oh, 3, sorry.

**Matt:** Alright. Well, let’s go to the room.

**Will:** Okay, yeah, let’s go ahead, let’s go check out this room at the inn.

**Anthony:** Okay. Basically you go up to your room, and it’s a normal ass, but not great, tavern inn room. It’s, there’s, there’s two beds, who’s sleeping with who?

**Beth:** I can be persuaded…

[*all laugh*]

**Henry:** Someone might’ve seen that Darryl and I were married, so we should probably share the same bed.

**Beth:** I think that Ron will sleep in the bathtub, where water will blend in with his tears of loneliness. Assuming that this also has a bathroom in it?

**Anthony:** It does now.

**Beth:** Yeah, welcome to Embassy suites.

[*all laugh*]

**Darryl:** Alright! Well, this is a hell of a day so far, everybody.

**Henry:** Yeah, I guess we should hit the hay, go to Neverwinter in the morning.

**Darryl:** Well, I like where your head’s at Henry, uh, two questions. Gartok, if you wanna chime in that’s good too. Where is Neverwinter? And two, we did promise a lot of beer to this lady downstairs. So… maybe we gotta leave a little early? And get outta here?

**Gartok:** Sure, sure.

**Darryl:** But it would be nice to know what we’re up to.

**Gartok:** Ah, well, vis-à-vis my whole thing, with my children being gone, that’s actually on the road to Neverwinter, so that’s good to know. So it’s to the north across the mountains— but yeah, we should probably leave early, I assume you didn’t tell her when the beer would be coming in though, so.

**Beth:** Is she expecting a homebrew situation or…?

**Freddie:** Unclear.

**Matt:** She’s expecting professional, incredibly tasting, pale ale with a nice foamy top like she just had.

**Will:** What floor are we on, are we on the second floor?

**Anthony:** You’re on the second floor.

**Henry:** Maybe we can sneak out the ol’ window, I’ve got some rope, maybe we just peace out of here. Once we have a little rest we can just move on down the road.

**Ron:** Why can’t we just walk out through the front?

**Henry:** I guess we could, I think she would be suspicious if all of us left—

**Glenn:** At the same time.

**Henry:** At the same time with all of our stuff.

**Glenn:** Dining and dashing at it were, yeah. I like the rope idea. Let’s all take a rest, and then let’s sneak out of here at the crack of dawn and make our way over to Neverwinter.

**Darryl:** Sounds like a plan. And uh, Gartok, before we go to bed, you may have noticed that we’re not exactly from around here—

**Gartok:** Yeah, Waterdeep, you said Waterdeep.

**Darryl:** Oh, yeah. So none of this is suspicious to you at all?

**Gartok:** I mean I’ve never been to Waterdeep, I’ve heard people are weird there.

**Darryl:** We are, and this is weird. So uh, yeah!

**Glenn:** The rumors are true.

**Darryl:** You help us find our way to Neverwinter, and we’ll help you find your kids as well, right?

**Gartok:** That sounds like a great idea! Absolutely!

**Darryl:** Alright, let’s go to bed then.

**Ron:** Oh, his kids are missing? Alright, good night!

[*all laugh*]

**Ron:** Good night, guys.

[*crickets chirping*]

**Anthony:** So you all take a long rest, which means you get up to your max health, everybody’s fully healed now.

**Matt:** Yaaay.

**Freddie:** Thank god.

**Will:** Noice.

**Anthony:** And in the night all of you share a dream.

**All but Anthony:** Oooh!

**Anthony:** All of you are standing on the lip of a great crater and beneath it you see someone in a bright purple cloak pointing at the sky with one hand and pointing at all of you with the other. And when they speak, it’s a booming voice that is horrible and yet somehow familiar and you all wake up with a start. Fully healed, but you didn’t feel great.

**Will:** Do we hear what the voice said?

**Anthony:** No, it begins to say something, you can’t remember what it said.

**Darryl:** Carol! [*sighs*] That was a weird dream.

**Henry:** [*yawning*] You had a weird dream too?

**Darryl:** Yeah.

**Henry:** I had a dream about this weird purple robed guy who was pointing at the sky, and then pointing at me, and I think you guys were there…also I didn’t have any clothes on, uh, and all my teeth fell out.

**Glenn:** I was naked— yeah, same. I was just stark-raving naked.

**Henry:** We were in kinda this place, but it was also my childhood elementary school, but then they pointed at the sky and said something weird, and then I woke up. So you guys all had that dream? I mean, we all have *that* dream at some point in our life, but you guys all had that dream last night?

**Ron:** Yeah, I saw a man wearing my father’s bright purple cloak.

**Freddie:** His bathrobe.

**Ron:** His bright purple bathrobe that he always wore.

**Henry:** Wow, so we all saw Ron’s dad.

**Glenn:** Gartok, did you dream about Ron’s dad?

**Gartok:** No, I did not.

**Ron:** Consider yourself lucky.

**Darryl:** Do dragons dream, Gartok?

**Gartok:** Mmhmm, of course.

**Glenn:** What’s a typical dragon dream like?

**Gartok:** There’s a lot of, you know, you’re flying, but one of your wings stops flapping properly, and you’re sort of falling like at an angle, and it’s weird, and you’re like “aah!” You don’t want to hit the ground before you wake up.

**Henry:** That’s probably a metaphor for your career. What do you do? Usually dreams like that are about where you wanna go in life.

**Gartok:** Oh. I’m a private business owner, I own a labor company— construction company.

**Henry:** Oh, labor! Uh, do you pay your laborers?

**Gartok:** Oh God no.

**Henry:** That seems like that is kind of a thing in this world, the slavery.

**Ron:** Gartok if you ever wanna network or anything, like, hit me up for coffee, uh…yup.

[*all laugh*]

**Darryl:** So we should probably—

**Henry:** We should probably sneak out of here, I can see daybreak.

**Matt:** Can we roll Perception before we open the door to get a sense of—

**Freddie:** The window.

**Anthony:** Are you going window or door?

**Freddie:** Window.

**Matt:** I lock the door— I just double check and I lock the door, and then I wanna do a Perception check out the window.

**Anthony:** Okay, go ahead and do that.

**Matt:** That’s a 4.

**Freddie:** Good god.

**Darryl:** Guys, there’s outside out there!

[*all laugh*]

**Will:** Uhhh, Perception—Oh! This is where I’m a trooper! 17.

**Anthony:** Oh, okay. So you can see that there is one person walking around the perimeter of the tavern.

[*Birds chirping, dogs barking*]

**Matt:** So there’s guards?

**Anthony:** There’s *a* guard.

**Henry:** Okay, so we need to slip past this guard.

**Glenn:** Hey, Bartock, can you fly over there and freak that dude out?

**Henry:** His name’s not Bartock, it’s Cartock.

**Glenn:** Oh, like the NPR show!

**Henry:** Like *Click and Clack, the Tappet Brothers*. Do you know of the Brothers Tappet in this dimension?

**Gartok:** What are you talking about, no, what?

**Henry:** Nevermind.

**Gartok:** *Gartok*, with a G, with a hard G, what are you—

**Henry:** Yeah, Cartock!

**Glenn:** Cartalk!

**Gartok:** *Gartok*.

**Ron:** Get the Carfax!

**Matt:** I lean over to Gartok and I go—

**Darryl:** They’re liberals.

[*all laugh*]

**Glenn:** Cartock, can you go over there and—

**Gartok:** Gartok.

**Glenn:** —flip your wings and stuff and freak that guy out, get him out of the way?

**Gartok:** I guess I could, but then he’d probably scream dragon and everybody would try to kill me. Hmm.

**Ron:** Hey, Glenn!

**Glenn:** Yeah?

**Ron:** You know what I like to listen to in the morning, when I’m a guard? Is some sick tunes.

**Henry:** I thought you were gonna say some Guard—tock.

[*all snickering*]

**Anthony:** Everybody take a d4 of damage.

**Matt:** We just healed.

**Freddie:** We just healed— Will, fucking 2 damage.

**Anthony:** Glenn Close, as the dad joke enters your brain, it’s almost as if your brain has developed some sort of hard resilience to it and it BING, and it bounces off and you only take half damage from it. And you feel like some part of you has come to terms with the fact that you are a dad and your life will be dad jokes.

**Freddie:** I only took 1 damage y’all. You know what it is? I kinda twitch a little bit and then I look over at Henry and go—

**Glenn:** That was a pretty good one.

**Henry:** [*gasps*]

**Beth:** Oh my god, I took 4 damage.

[*all laugh*]

**Henry:** Sorry to interrupt. I interrupted you with a stupid joke, I’ve been trying to do that less lately.

**Glenn:** What if we threw a rock? And made him go over to where the rock sound was?

**Ron:** I thought you were the rocker?

**Will:** [*yells*]

**Anthony:** Everybody you know what to do.

**Beth:** This is great, this is great guys, this is great.

**Anthony:** You know what to do.

**Matt:** That’s 4 damage!

**Beth:** It’s such an honor to be here.

**Freddie:** 2 damage there for me, Jesus Christ.

**Matt:** Darryl is upset and he opens the window. He goes—

**Darryl:** Good morning there buddy!

**Matt:**

And I snap my fingers at Ron to get the silver.

**Ron:** Let me check the bathtub.

**Darryl:** Hey buddy! Good morning!

**Ron:** Oh, I’ve got it, I’ve got it, I’ve got it—here’s silver!

**Darryl:** Oh, thanks. Sir! Good morning!

**Guard:** Hey.

**Darryl:** Hey, uh—

**Guard:** Is this a bribe?

**Darryl:** Oh no! Just wondering is there a good place to some—

**Guard:** Cause I’m down for being bribed.

**Darryl:** Oh, cool, okay! Well that makes this easy, do you mind if we leave through the window here?

**Guard:** Yeah, how much you got?

**Darryl:** Two silver—

**Ron:** One silver! One silver.

**Anthony:** Both of you roll Persuasion, you with disadvantage, Beth.

**Matt:** I got 13.

**Beth:** I got 11.

**Anthony:** You just got 13?

**Matt:** Yeah.

**Guard:** So you probably got a little bit more than two?

**Darryl:** Yeah we got— honest to god, sir, we got three.

**Guard:** I’ll take three.

**Darryl:** Everybody?

**Henry:** Alright, that’s fine with me.

**Glenn:** Sure. Easy come, easy go, baby.

**Anthony:** Do you toss it down?

**Darryl:** We’ll give it to you when we get down there.

**Guard:** Are you telling the truth?

**Matt:** I toss one down to him—

**Darryl:** There’s one buddy, we’re all gonna get down and once we get down here we’ll give you the other two. Just wanna make sure everything’s up to—

**Guard:** Are you telling the truth?

**Darryl:** Oh absolutely, I’m telling the truth.

**Guard:** Alright, that seems fine.

**Darryl:** Let’s go, guys.

**Matt:** I climb down and then I look at him and say—

**Darryl:** You promise you’re not going to say anything?

**Guard:** No.

**Darryl:** No what?

**Guard:** I might.

**Henry:** I think maybe we were kinda on wrong terms about what the terms of this bribe work, because the bribe was to not say anything. What’d you think the bribe was for?

**Guard:** That I wouldn’t attack you.

**Everyone:** Oohh.

**Ron:** Yikes, I am so embarrassed.

**Darryl:** Well here’s the thing, there are four of us and we do have a dragon—

**Guard:** [*yelling angrily*] You have a dragon!?

[*all laugh*]

**Guard:** [*yelling in alarm*] Dragon! Dragon!

**Freddie:** Knock him out, knock him out, knock him out, I try and knock him out.

**Anthony:** Roll an attack with— I guess you have surprise—

**Freddie:** Jesus Christ, man. 11.

**Anthony:** Alright, so you hit him. What do you hit him with?

**Freddie:** I hit him with the blunt end— the dagger but not the sharp, pointy bit, the pommel.

**Anthony:** Roll damage for that.

**Freddie:** So mine says 1d4 plus 3, for the—

**Anthony:** Okay, that’ll be fine, that’ll be enough. So, you hit him, but not quite in time for him to not say “dragon.” So he hits the ground hard—

**Freddie:** Yeah.

**Anthony:** —and you see a bunch of sort of bleary—eyed drunks turning to look at you and who’s holding Gartok?

**Matt:** I would’ve been holding him since—

**Will:** I guess, we don’t need to hold him anymore, do we? He’s invisible.

**All:** Yeah.

**Freddie:** He’s just there.

**Anthony:** Yeah, okay I guess he would just be there.

**Freddie:** He’s invisible.

**Will:** I don’t know why we were even holding him to begin with, to be honest.

[*all laugh*]

**Matt:** He just reminds me of my dog.

**Beth:** But I’m glad that we did.

**Anthony:** So they sort of look at you, they see you knock the guy out—

**Darryl:** Whoo! Guy drank too much, am I right?

**Henry:** Yeah!

**Darryl:** Yeah.

**Anthony:** And they just kinda shrug and go about their day.

**Henry:** I think it’s time to go.

**Darryl:** Yeah

**Ron:** Wait, does he have one of our coins still?

**Henry:** Oh yeah—

**Freddie:** We loot the shit out of this motherfucker.

**Matt:** We loot the shit out of him.

**Anthony:** Alright, so you get your three silver back, and you get four more silver that he just had on him. He’s also got a sword and some nice boots. I dunno if you wanna strip this guy naked, but in terms of immediately obvious things to take it’s just the money—

**Freddie:** We’ll take the money and the weapons.

**Beth:** I’m gonna take the boots.

**Anthony:** Okay.

**Matt:** Ron takes the boots.

**Anthony:** Alright. Uh, they are definitely too big for you.

**Darryl:** Hey Ron, those boots look pretty big for you.

**Ron:** No, my feet are big, I have big man feet.

[*all laugh*]

**Ron:** My feet are as large and as manly as I am.

**Darryl:** Alright.

**Freddie:** Okay.

**Anthony:** Okay! So do you guys just head back to the van?

**Freddie:** Yeah we’re heading straight back to the van.

**Will:** Yeah, fo’ sho’.

**Matt:** I am still holding Gartok, by the way, and as we approach the minivan, I say—

**Darryl:** Gartok, buddy, if you were impressed with my beer wait ‘til you get—you were, right?

**Freddie:** God.

**Gartok:** I didn’t drink it.

**Darryl:** But you saw the nice label and… anyways get ready to get a load of what we got over here at Waterdeep.

**Matt:** And I brush aside some trees and reveal the minivan.

**Gartok:** Whoa! What is that?!

**Freddie:** The Beast.

**Darryl:** It’s mine, buddy. And you know what, we’re gonna let you sit in the front!

**Gartok:** What?!

**Darryl:** Let’s all get in.

**Ron:** What the fuck?

**Darryl:** What?

**Ron:** I just, he didn’t call shotgun or anything.

**Gartok:** It’s like a horse?

**Darryl:** Yeah, no.

**Gartok:** What is this?

**Glenn:** It’s a big metal cart.

**Henry:** It’s a big metal horse that you climb inside of.

**Gartok:** Oh.

**Darryl:** And it’s mine and I drive it.

**Henry:** And there’s chairs inside of its stomach.

**Gartok:** Oh, that sounds convenient.

**Matt:** Yeah, I put Gartok in the front seat.

**Darryl:** This is where the coolest person sits, usually where my son sits but you can sit here for now.

**Anthony:** When you get into the van, Gartok says—

**Gartok:** We’re doing my thing first, right? The kids, my thing?

**Henry:** It’s on the way…

**Glenn:** It’s on the way…sure, yeah.

**Gartok:** I mean, it feels reasonable. I helped you guys out a little bit—

**Darryl:** It would be weird for us to go, then have to come all the way back, so yeah.

**Gartok:** They’re on the road to Neverwinter. I’m not sure exactly but my guess is they’re probably gonna be at a spooky cave or a weird forest—are any of you good at tracking, can you find, like are you good at picking up on stuff like that?

**Henry:** Yes, I think I’m good at that stuff. You know, I’m a geologist by trade, and I know my way around many a rock and brook and creek.

**Will:** That would be like survival, right?

**Anthony:** Yeah, that would absolutely be survival.

**Henry:** Yeah, uh, yeah I can do that stuff.

**Gartok:** Perfect, perfect.

**Henry:** Gartok, what happened to your kids again? They got kidnapped?

**Gartok:** No, they ran.

**Henry:** They ran, that’s right.

**Ron:** And why?

**Gartok:** I don’t know.

**Henry:** Do you…mmm…

**Will:** I’m gonna roll.

**Anthony:** Yeah.

**Will:** What is that, Investigation?

**Anthony:** Yes.

**Will:** I got a 4.

**Anthony:** Seems like he’s on the level.

**Henry:** Wow, he really doesn’t know. You know, maybe that’s why your kids ran off, because you weren’t involved in their lives enough.

**Gartok:** [*mumbling*] Kinda fucking judgy, but okay.

**Will:** Is anyone else gonna try to suss this out?

**Darryl:** Come on Henry, let go of Gartok—

**Glenn:** I think he seems fine, the coolest dragon, man, like… let’s just uh, let’s just hit the road.

**Ron:** Wait, I wanna ask, Gartok, what’s your favorite thing about each child that you have?

**Gartok:** Like individually? My favorite thing about each one of them?

**Ron:** Yes.

**Gartok:** Well I like that Drakon listens to what I tell him to do. I like that Sylvan will always make sure that the other two are paying attention when I speak. And that Reese will always fight anyone I ask him to fight if they are trying to hurt me. Or if I don’t like them. Or if they’re around. Or if they’re not around and I’m just kinda am bored.

**Darryl:** Gartok, the way you said that felt like maybe we all should’ve taken notes on the exact thing each of your kids do, but yeah it’s pretty interesting.

**Henry:** I think I’ve got it up here.

**Ron:** It sounds like Gartok’s kids do a lot for him, but what does he do for his kids?

**Henry:** Did you try asking Drakon, who listens to everything you say, to not run away?

**Gartok:** Oh yeah, I wanted to, but they sort of— they’re clever, they take after their ol’ dad— they found a way to sort of bugger off where I couldn’t— you know what? I’m done talking about this! Why don’t we just go find my kids?

**Henry:** Whoa, I’m getting a weird energy off of Gartok.

**Darryl:** Henry, Gartok’s helped us out man. He’s a great guy.

**Henry:** You know? That’s true, that’s true.

**Darryl:** Yeah.

**Henry:** It’s been a long night and a long couple of days. You know what, I’m just gonna put blind faith in this strange, invisible dragon who everyone said was evil, that we just met.

**Ron:** I’m gonna be real suspicious, but be quiet about it.

**Darryl:** Alright Gartok, where should we head?

**Gartok:** Let’s head north!

**Matt:** Alright, as everyone’s in the minivan, really quick I look at Gartok before I start the engine, and I go—

**Darryl:** Hey buddy, you a little hungry? You want a little treat?

**Gartok:** Sure, I could—yeah, yeah.

**Matt:** I look around and I double check to make sure that nobody else is—

**Darryl:** Hey! Buckle your seat belts!

**Anthony:** Oh, oh, good point.

**Matt:** As they’re buckling their seat belts I go to my secret stash.

**Anthony:** Okay.

**Matt:** And I grab one of my secret stash, and I unwrap a piece of my secret stash, and I hand it over to Gartok. I say—

**Darryl:** Take a chew of that.

**Anthony:** Okay. He puts it in his maw and it’s like [*chewing noises*], he’s like—

**Gartok:** When is this done?

[*all laugh*]

**Gartok:** It just kinda keeps going.

**Matt:** I put one in my mouth and I smile and watch him chew his. I just go—

**Darryl:** Yeah, it’s pretty good, right?

**Matt:** And I start the engine.

**Gartok:** It’s kinda—it’s like a challenge, this [*gnawing noises*].

**Will:** I can hear them talking, right?

**Anthony:** Yeah.

**Will:** Okay.

**Henry:** Oh, can I have some of that Charleston Chew?

[*all laugh loudly*]

**Darryl:** [*startled*] What? What are you talking about? What?

**Henry:** You guys are eating that Charleston Chew up there, the one you were eating earlier?

**Matt:** I turn on the radio as loud as possible and start the car.

**Freddie:** Which would be static, right?

**Anthony:** Yeah, it’s just static.

[*the sound of static fades in and overlays the other sounds*]

**Darryl:** No, not at all, ha ha, anyways—

[*static fades out*]

**Gartok:** Oh, there’s snakes inside this beast?

**Darryl:** Yeah. Alright, let’s start the car! [*honks the horn*]

**Freddie:** It’s powered by snakes.

**Gartok:** There’s snakes and a very large bell.

**Darryl:** Yup.

**Matt:** And we start heading south. Or north. Which way—

**Darryl:** Hey, Gartok, where are we going?

**Gartok:** North.

**Darryl:** Alright.

**Gartok:** Alright.

**Freddie:** Thankfully for you, the ol’ Honda Odyssey has a built—in compass so you can actually discern which direction is which.

**Beth:** Oh my god, this is just a long commercial for Honda Odyssey.

[*all laugh*]

**Matt:** I glare at Henry the whole time.

**Will:** I go—

**Henry:** What?

**Anthony:** Okay, so you drive north for about an hour, half hour, forty-five minutes— time kind of passes differently for you because everything’s so new, because you’re seeing the sun kind of— it doesn’t just move in a straight line, it kind of sashays across the sky like back and forth in a curve—

**Freddie:** Funky.

**Anthony:** You see the opposite of what you might see on Earth, where there’s snow on a mountain and the rest of it’s all brown, there’s just snow on the bottom of the mountain but not on the top in the distance, and Gartok is sort of bouncing up and down, anxious to get back to his kids. But eventually, Henry notices a rock outcropping that could very well hide something behind it. Could be like a cave, could be something…

**Freddie:** Suspicious rocks, eh?

**Henry:** Look yonder, gentlemen! What manner of strange rocks are these?

**Gartok:** Ooh, ooh, ooh! This is about half a day’s walk from where I lost my kids, that could be where they are. If you wouldn’t mind stopping and going in and leaving me here.

**Henry:** Leaving you here?

**Gartok:** I can’t go in to get my kids.

**Darryl:** Okay, why?

**Henry:** Why not?

**Glenn:** Why not?

**Gartok:** [*humming*] I can’t…do it.

**Ron:** Is it that you can’t or you *can’t*?

**Gartok:** I, like, can’t. I like, physically cannot.

**Glenn:** Hey, Gartok, man, if you want our help man you need to level with us fellow dads, otherwise I’m not exactly sure what we’re walking into, my man.

**Henry:** Gartok, this is a judgement—free, safe space.

**Gartok:** No, I would love to expla—

**Anthony:** As he says explain, one of the leather bracelets on his arm seizes up and fire sort of erupts from it and burns him.

**Gartok:** [*hisses in pain*] Ah, ah, ah, ah, ah!

**Henry:** Whoa nellie!

**Gartok:** I-I just can’t! Just can’t.

**Darryl:** So what’s up with that bracelet there, Gartok?

**Glenn:** He’s not gonna talk about it.

**Gartok:** [*aggravated*] Don’t know!

**Darryl:** Oh.

**Will:** I inspect the bracelet.

**Anthony:** So, on the bracelet you see—you can’t decipher it, obviously, but it looks like some sort of runes, some sort of etching, that’d been etched into it with a blade that go all around it. If you look at the other bracelets—the one on his other wrist and the one on his ankle—they also have etchings on them, but they’re different rune etchings.

**Will:** So he’s got different runes on the shackles?

**Anthony:** On the three bracelets, yeah.

**Will:** And it’s a language that I don’t know.

**Anthony:** Correct.

**Darryl:** Hey Gartok, I know you can’t explain, but can you answer yes or no questions?

**Gartok:** Depends on the question.

**Henry:** Could you nod or not nod?

**Gartok:** I guess we’ll find out.

**Darryl:** Is somebody controlling you?

**Gartok:** Uh…that’s just a difficult one to answer, regardless of the situation—

**Glenn:** Yeah man, cause if you think about it, there’s so many systems of control, ya know? Like society itself offers one layer, but that’s just one of many ways that our lives are not free, you know what I mean?

**Ron:** That’s a really good point, Glenn. Uh, I think I would ask Bar—Gartok, uh, um, could we try on your bracelets? Lemme try to—lemme just try it on. Lemme just try to take it off of you, you know, if it’s not controlling you…

**Gartok:** [*makes noises like something is preventing him from speaking*]

**Anthony:** He sorta makes noises and his eyes are trying to like communicate something, but they’re just very big and he’s a dragon so you’re having a hard time seeing what that is meant to impart.

**Henry:** Maybe we should—should we try to take ‘em off?

**Ron:** Yeah, I wanna—

**Henry:** I think Ron wants to take ‘em off.

**Ron:** I wanna take ‘em off.

**Darryl:** Alright.

**Anthony:** Okay. So which one do you want to take off first? There’s one on his left arm, right arm, and then there’s one on his leg.

**Beth:** Let’s do the leg one, maybe I can put it in my boot or something.

**Anthony:** Okay, as you begin to reach down to sort of grab it, his eyes are getting bigger and he’s sort of beginning to shake, and you tug it off, and it comes off super easily, like it was just a piece of clothing.

**Ron:** I must be very strong.

**Henry:** [*gasps*] Uh oh! Uh oh, I think we just killed one of his kids.

**Ron:** Oh.

**Henry:** Did we kill one of your kids?

**Gartok:** Ah—

**Darryl:** Ooooh.

**Henry:** Oh, dang!

**Ron:** Yikes…

**Glenn:** Hey, maybe just put it back on! Just put it back on!

[*all talk over each other*]

**Beth:** I put it back on.

[*all laughing as they speak*]

**Anthony:** He starts to cry.

**Matt:** Oh ho ho, no…

**Freddie:** Hey, this is awkward.

**Beth:** I take it off and then put it on the other foot.

**Anthony:** He just like gesturing at it like—

**Gartok:** [*sobbing*] That doesn’t make a difference…

**Glenn:** Hey, hey, sorry, buddy.

**Henry:** Sorry, buddy.

**Matt:** I hold Gartok and I hug him. I put on my sunglasses to hide the tears coming out of my eyes as well.

**Darryl:** Sorry there, Gartok.

**Glenn:** So what is it that you wanted us to do, again?

[*all laugh*]

**Gartok:** [*still sobbing*] Save my children!

**Glenn:** So, what do you want us to do? Do you just want us to drop you off here, or…

**Gartok:** Just leave me in the car, and you find them, and you bring *both of them* back!

[*all laugh*]

**Darryl:** Alright.

**Ron:** I’m just gonna hang onto this.

**Beth:** I take the bracelet like “hey, I’m just gonna hang onto this.”

**Anthony:** Do you put it on?

**Freddie:** No!

**Beth:** That’s a big risk, a responsibility.

**Freddie:** No, after seeing all of that? No way.

**Henry:** Maybe if you put it on it’ll bring his kid back to life!

**Glenn:** That seems like a pretty weird—ass fucking thing to say, Henry.

**Henry:** I dunno! It seems pretty weird that a bracelet will kill his kid!

**Glenn:** But there’s like an internal magical logic to it, you know what I mean?

**Ron:** Wait, I’m a step-father. It is my job to take other people’s children, and then have them be a burden on me. I’m gonna put on the bracelet.

**Anthony:** Okay.

[*all laugh*]

**Freddie:** Jesus Christ.

**Anthony:** So you put on the bracelet—

**Beth:** Yeah?

**Anthony:** And he says—

**Gartok:** [*disgusted*] Kill yourself.

**Anthony:** And as he does, you feel like more than anything you’ve ever wanted in your entire life, is to kill yourself.

**Beth:** Oh my god!

**Anthony:** So, what’re you—

**Will:** Wait, the dragon says kill yourself!?

**Anthony:** Yeah. He says it to you and you *have* to try to do it.

**Freddie:** Ohhhhh…what weapons do you have on you?

**Beth:** I have my very sharp business cards?

**Anthony:** Okay, so you just pull one out— you watch yourself pull one out—

**Matt:** Do we hear him say that?

**Anthony:** Yeah, you hear him say it— and you begin to drag it across your neck—

**Matt:** I jump at Ron, I try to pin Ron down.

**Anthony:** Okay, do a dexterity check.

**Matt:** That’s a nat 20.

**Anthony:** Wow!

**All but Matt:** Ooh!

**Matt:** Plus 1, so 21.

**Anthony:** Okay, so you don’t just tackle him, you tackle him so well that the bracelet comes off. So, POOF, you feel like, okay, you’re free of whatever the fuck that was.

**Darryl:** [*yelling*] What the hell, Gartok!? What the hell!?

**Glenn:** What the fuck!?

**Gartok:** [*also yelling*] You killed my k— AAH!

**Anthony:** And the other bracelet, the first one that started burning, burns really hard again and he starts screaming.

**Darryl:** Are you okay, Ron?

**Ron:** Yes, thank you, Darryl.

**Henry:** Whoa.

**Darryl:** Gartok, that’s not cool.

**Gartok:** [*yelling*] I’m aware, but he just killed my kid! Ow!

**Darryl:** That was an accident though, we didn’t know!

**Gartok:** [*still yelling*] You saw— I was doing face things!

**Glenn:** You know, Gartok, you just gotta—

**Gartok:** Do you just do things you don’t know what the consequences will be!?

**Glenn:** Listen, Gartok, man, it’s hard to read dragon faces. And I’m not saying that from a species superiority standpoint, but there is a chasm of understanding between your kind and what appears to be our kind—point is, sorry about that, are you gonna be cool? I want you to stay cool, because if you don’t we’ll take those other two bracelets right off of you, so stay cool.

**Henry:** [*yelling*] Whoa, whoa, whoa, whoa, whoa!

**Anthony:** So that is Intimidation fo’ sho’, so roll that.

**Freddie:** It’s not Persuasion?

**Anthony:** No, if you’re threatening to kill his other two kids, that’s Intimidation.

**Freddie:** Luckily for you…12 plus 3, 15.

**Anthony:** So, his… he continues to shake with what seems to be a mixture of grief and anger, but he tries to make himself smaller and make himself less fucking furious at you.

**Darryl:** Gartok, we’re a team and you joined this team, and sometimes your teammates make mistakes, but you don’t fight your own team!

**Gartok:** [*hoarse and angry*] How would you feel if I went into your weird horse made of metal and took out one of the snakes and then made the snake bite your son? How would that feel?

**Darryl:** I’d be pretty p-ed off and I know that you’re p-ed off, but right now we gotta work together. We’re gonna, you know what? I’m pissed at you. We’re gonna save your kids, but just because your kids are probably - hopefully - innocent.

**Henry:** What?

**Gartok:** I don’t know why I’m the dick in this scenario.

**Henry:** Okay gentleman, gentleman, gentleman, I think—

**Glenn:** Maybe we just need to get Ron to apologize.

**Henry:** I think we all need to cool off—

**Ron:** Actually, I wanna say thank you, Gartok. Because I didn’t know that I wanted to live until I wanted to die, and now I have no fear of death whatsoever.

**Gartok:** [*quiet and angry*] You’re welcome.

**Henry:** Okay, here’s what I’m suggesting: we let Gartok cool off a little bit and process the death of his son— or daughter, I don’t know what the gender was of the one—

**Gartok**: [*through clenched teeth*] Son! Only soooon!

**Henry:** Yeah, Gartok, I think we are all a bit in shock by what we did by accident, so please don’t take any of our insensitivity to heart, because we’re all, in our own way, traumatized by what just happened. Obviously not as much as the trauma you’re feeling, I’m sure—

**Glenn:** But it’s like a shared trauma.

**Ron:** Yeah.

**Gartok:** [*yelling through clenched teeth*] Stop talking!

**Ron:** I don’t see it as a trauma, but a freedom. I hope you’ll agree.

[*all laugh*]

**Gartok:** Stop talking!

**Henry:** Alright, we’re gonna let ya cool off! Let’s go!

**Darryl:** Let’s go!

**Matt:** So we all, are we getting out of the minivan?

**Will:** By the way, which way to the rocks?

**Anthony:** You’re going to the cave.

**Will:** Holy shit.

**Freddie:** Holy shit.

**Matt:** Okay, real quick, this is really important to me. I stay behind for a second and I grab my box of Charleston Chews, and I look at Gartok and I say—

**Darryl:** Sorry, buddy.

**Matt:** —and I give him a few. And then I say—

**Darryl:** Hey, Henry, do you mind—

**Anthony:** Well, when you give Gartok the Charleston Chews, he takes them and he just crushes them in his hands and the caramel spreads between them and he goes—

**Gartok:** These don’t taste good!

**Matt:** I put my glasses back on. And I get out, and I say, uh…

[*all laugh*]

**Darryl:** Hey, Henry, can I talk to you really quick?

**Henry:** Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah.

**Darryl:** Just mano e mano in the back of the van?

**Henry:** What’s up?

**Darryl:** So I noticed that you saw my little dirty secret…the box of Charleston Chews.

**Henry:** Oh, I thought you meant the fact that we just killed someone’s son.

**Darryl:** Yeah, that’s pretty tough too but uh—

**Henry:** But you’re more worried about the fact that I saw your candy bars than the murder we just did?

**Darryl:** Look, man, I’ve really been… I told Carol I was gonna lose weight and I’m not supposed to be having these—

**Gartok:** [*yelling in the distance*] Just go!

**Darryl:** But here’s the thing, these were my dad’s favorite candy and—

**Henry:** That’s complex.

[*all laugh*]

**Darryl:** I want you to take them because I don’t want to disappoint Carol, but I don’t want you to throw them away. Will you just give me one whenever, I don’t know, whenever I do something you think my dad would be proud of, maybe you could give me one of these Charleston Chews.

**Freddie:** Jesus Christ.

**Henry:** You know what? I think your dad would be very proud of you right now, so here’s a Charleston Chew.

**Freddie:** God.

**Gartok:** [*screaming in the distance*] You killed my son!

**Henry:** Shit! Yeah we did, we gotta go. I’m still in shock about the son-death, we need to keep moving on.

**Matt:** As he leaves I definitely stay behind and I eat that Charleston Chew, tears in my eyes.

[*all laugh*]

**Anthony:** Are you looking at the van or are you looking away from the van?

**Matt:** I’m looking away from the van.

**Anthony:** Good, because if you turned around you would see he’s just staring daggers at you, watching you eat candy after you killed his kid.

[*all laugh*]

**Matt:** Alright, I walk back to everybody, enjoying my Charleston Chew.

**Anthony:** Okay, so, um, in the cave you see there is basically a big ol’ door and a torch on either side of it, if you look closely at the door you can see, almost like a doggy-door like, on the bottom of the— there’s no other way to say door— of the door, there’s a smaller door inlaid within it, with its own doorknob.

**Freddie:** So a door within a door scenario?

**Anthony:** Yes, there’s a big doorknob that’s around your hand hand-height and then there’s a smaller one around ankle-height.

**Will:** Do you think there’s a trap on these doors? Should we, you know, look at it?

**Freddie:** I’m gonna roll Investigation on the door.

**Anthony:** Okay.

**Freddie:** That’s a—oh my god, I’m burning these dumb natty 20 right now—that’s a natty 20, 21.

**Anthony:** Jesus, okay, well you just straight up see that there is some sort of mechanism connected to the door that is at human—height, that is not connected to the door that is at knee—height. In fact, it doesn’t even seem to be connected to any hinges, the big door, with your 20 you can see the fucking big door is a trap.

**Matt:** Okay.

**Henry:** Let’s take that little door.

**Darryl:** Are you sure you wanna open any parts of this, shouldn’t we maybe check—

**Glenn:** I have a good feelin’ about this door, I looked at it *really hard* and I seem to get like a real amount of knowledge from it, just from the looking. Like, a lotta knowledge. Way more knowledge than I get on average when I look at doors, like I have a far greater feeling about this door than any other door, arguably, probably in my entire life.

**Ron:** Well, call him Jim Morrison—

[*all laugh*]

**Will:** Oh my goooooooooood!

**Freddie:** No, no, no! That’s not a dad joke, that’s not a dad joke…that’s just “call him Jim Morrison.”

**Beth:** Yeah, because he knows the Doors…

**Will:** [*yells*]

**Freddie:** 1 damage.

**Matt:** 3. I’ve only taken damage from dad jokes.

[*all laugh*]

**Will:** That’s another 1 damage for Henry Oak.

**Anthony:** So now, Beth, you also get an Inspiration for telling a dad joke. So whenever you want, you can spend that Inspiration and it’ll give you advantage on any die roll.

**Beth:** Wow, it's great.

**Freddie:** All right, I’m gonna try to open the small door.

**Anthony:** So you do and it swings open with no problem, revealing just to you I guess, another antechamber that is completely bare except for, again a torch, and a very slightly raised platform in the middle of the room that stands in front of another door.

**Henry:** Sounds like another trap ‘situash’ over here. Sounds like maybe there's a sequence of traps leading to, you know, maybe, hopefully these kids.

**Ron:** That's fatherhood though. It's a bunch of traps…

**Glenn:** With an indeterminate end.

**Ron:** Yes.

**Henry:** So my guess is either this raised plate, if we step on it, it will open the door or it'll kill us.

**Darryl:** One second everybody.

**Matt:** I go ahead and I pull out my emergency kit, which I brought in the minivan, and I pull one those shake flashlights out and I start shaking it up, I say—

**Darryl:** Let's take a look at what's around here!

**Anthony:** Do investigation with advantage.

**Matt:** 5 and 14.

**Anthony:** Okay. So you can basically see that apart from the torches, the door, and the pressure plate, there's seemingly nothing else at least immediately obvious in the room. Like, you can't see any holes for like poison darts to come out of or any stuff like that. There could be something else— there's clearly something else going on because all you can see is the plate, you don't know what it’s connected to.

**Glenn:** What if we just throw something on the plate?

**Ron:** Yeah, we should do that, yeah.

**Henry:** Yeah.

**Darryl:** Maybe we all step outside the room, I’m a little afraid that if we hit this pressure plate, it's gonna…kill us, so maybe we just throw something from outside the small door onto the pressure plate.

**Henry:** Yeah let's do that. What do we have that's heavy?

**Matt:** I find like, a football sized rock.

**Anthony:** All right.

**Matt:** So it’s probably like 20 pounds? I go—

**Darryl:** [*grunting*] Darryl Wilson.

**Matt:** And I throw it.

[*all laugh*]

**Freddie:** It’s like “I need someone to hike this to me. I can't throw it unless someone hikes it to me.”

**Anthony:** Okay, so it lands on the pressure plate—I could make you roll, but that's boring—so it lands on the pressure plate and you hear one click as the pressure plate goes down a little bit.

**Darryl:** All right everybody, just keep finding me some more football sized rocks and we'll just keep doing this thing.

**Will:** Okay, I go rock scrounging.

**Anthony:** Okay, if you just keep adding—

**Matt:** Every time they toss me one I go, “hike!” and I throw it.

**Freddie:** Are you calling plays like every single time?

**Matt:** Yeah, yeah.

**Freddie:** Beautiful.

**Anthony:** Once you get three rocks on there, three clicks, the door just opens.

**Henry:** Wow, good job, guys, we disarmed the trap.

**Glenn:** We disarmed it with football!

**Darryl:** Go Doodlers!

**Matt:** I put my hands in—

**Darryl:** Doodlers!

**Henry and Glenn:** Doodlers!

**Ron:** [*late*] Doodlers!

**Darryl:** Woo!

**Anthony:** So as soon as you walk past the pressure plate—

**Matt:** I step on it.

**Anthony:** Really?

**Matt:** No.

**Anthony:** Okay—

[laughter]

**Anthony:** You can feel some heat rising from it.

**Matt:** Ooh

**Freddie:** It's a hot plate, gotta be careful.

**Anthony:** Basically I started you out with some baby ass puzzles but yeah if you like put your full adult weight onto it, it would have just, like, gone into the lava, it’s like floating on lava.

**Glenn:** Wait, guys! I think there's that there's a theme here. I think these are all traps that would keep adults out.

**All:** [*in agreement*] Ohhhhhhh

**Glenn:** Right, like with the door… I think there's maybe a theme here guys! This might be, like, a kid hideout.

**Will:** Wow! that was pretty good.

**Matt:** I think it’s because Anthony said the word adult weight.

**Matt:** All right, well good to know.

**Anthony:** Why show when you can tell?

**Ron:** Do you guys think it's creepy that us four, full grown, large men are going into a… just a kid's only place? No, just me? Okay.

**Darryl:** Don’t worry about it, don't worry about it, Ron.

**Ron:** Let's uh… keep going.

**Matt:** I put my arm around Ron… start walking.

**Anthony:** Okay, so the door opens to a darkened hallway… at the end of the hallway you can see a light sort of flickering from another room and you can hear from the end of that room two female voices, two young female voices one of whom is just—

**Beth:** Man I love female voices!

**Freddie:** Oh no, oh no.

**Anthony:** One of whom is just sobbing.

**Freddie:** Oh no.

**Matt:** Oh jeez.

**Anthony:** And the other one is like—

**???:** You have to focus up! He's gonna— he’s coming for us! Apparently he doesn't care about the restriction and I guess he's coming for us. You have to get your head in the game. I'm sad too but we can't— we can't focus on that right now, okay?

**Matt:** Okay so do we see—?

**Freddie:** We hear that.

**Glenn:** All right. I'm gonna call a dad huddle real quick.

**Henry:** Dad huddle, dad huddle.

**Glenn:** Hey, um, just to be clear, let's get our story straight. Like now, before we go in there, about why their brother is dead.

**Henry:** I'll be honest, me, Henry Oak, I cannot… I’m bad at lying, especially when I have a guilty conscience, so I think we should just give it to them straight between the eyes… we killed their brother.

**Darryl:** I think we shouldn’t let them know until we're in a safe place.

**Ron:** Agreed! I think until then we should gaslight them, and tell them that their brother is not dead.

**Darryl:** Oh they know the brother is dead.

**Ron:** No I think— Hey hey honey honey. They’re crying.

**Darryl:** It sure sounds like they're crying.

**Ron:** Yeah. And why do women cry? Because they don't know that their brother is probably still alive.

[All laugh]

**Darryl:** Alright I hear you Ron. Really quick, do you think maybe we could put that bracelet in a safe spot where they don't see it?

**Ron:** Yeah yeah. I'm going to put it in my boot.

**Henry:** Okay. I'm just going to— I think I'm going to have to go ahead and make some sort of saving throw for, like, every minute we're in here— to not break down and confess that I killed their brother.

**Anthony:** That sounds great.

**Freddie:** That makes sense.

**Will:** So I don't know what that saving throw would be.

**Anthony:** It'll be Wisdom.

**Will:** Oh okay.

**Freddie:** Cause you're fighting your own wisdom.

**Will:** I got a lot of Wisdom.

**Anthony:** It is wise to keep your mouth shut now. So if you— if you fail that, then you're just gonna open your mouth.

**Matt:** I’m gonna try to— I try to kind of invigorate Henry, I go—

**Darryl:** Henry. Henry you want to save these kids right? That's the least we could do.

**Henry:** [*straining to keep mouth shut*] Mmmhmm.

**Darryl:** Okay. Now, I know you can't lie, son. I know that. But the thing you wanna do is save these two dragons, right?

**Henry:** Yes, that’s true.

**Darryl:** You don't want to upset them.

**Henry:** That's also true.

**Darryl:** So we got— I know it's tough but you gotta do— you gotta do the right thing. You gotta not lie, I mean you gotta lie and you gotta just not… You gotta do this to help save their lives. And then you'll let them know. And I know you're gonna be there for them, you're gonna help them through this. We'll take as much time as we need to help these dragons grieve.

**Henry:** Oh god, but we killed their brother though…

**Darryl:** I know, I know. But! Here's the thing. If you do the wrong thing you're gonna be responsible for their deaths, too.

**Ron:** Yikes.

**Henry:** Why, what, are we gonna kill them?

**Darryl:** No! But when we get out of this dangerous place who knows what's gonna happen.

**Henry:** Okay. I'm just not gonna say anything and they should… They better not… If they ask me any question I can't be held responsible for what comes out of my mouth. So I'm just going to try to be quiet.

**Matt:** I go over to Glenn, I go—

**Darryl:** Don’t worry, I took care of Henry. He'll be alright.

**Glenn:** Oh, okay.

**Freddie:** I look I look at Henry and go—

**Glenn:** Remember—

**Freddie:** And so Ron does not hear—

**Glenn:** [*whispering*] *Ron* killed their brother. Not you! You're good, dawg.

[all laughing]

**Glenn:** [*still whispering*] Listen there's a little thing we do when we're on tour. It's called ‘what happens by your bandmates, whatever they do, that's on them.’ You know, if Chico gets picked up with an eight ball of coke you had nothing to do with it. That was his problem. That's the way you got to think now.

**Henry:** [*whispering*] Okay okay okay okay okay.

**Beth:** Ron’s over by himself like,

**Ron:** We are all in this together.

[laughing]

**Glenn:** But I do want to get our story straight before we go in there.

**Darryl:** Let's just say we're travelers and we heard some children crying. Yeah we heard people in need and we came to check it out.

**Glenn:** Yes, yes, yeah, damn.

**Anthony:** So how do you reveal yourselves, or do you reveal yourselves? Because they don’t—

**Matt:** We walk very slowly.

**Anthony:** As you walk slowly you can also see that the door that you just came through was connected to, sort of, a pulley system that had some, like, little shards of metal on it, presumably some sort of rudimentary alarm. They don't know you're here.

**Henry:** Hey kids?

**Darryl:** Hello?

[*shushing noises*]

**Darryl:** Hey does anybody need help over there? We heard some crying and we're just wondering if everything's okay.

**Glenn:** We're not armed or anything. We're just— just passing by and— what sounded like someone was in trouble here.

**Darryl:** It’s a pretty scary place; there's traps and stuff. We hope you're okay.

**Anthony:** So you hear, um—

**???:** [*whispering*] Get the crossbow. Sh— sh— get the crossbow.

**Darryl:** Hey, we, we, uh, heard you say get the crossbow and— and— and I'm really trying to— we're being honest here. We're just four friendly travelers that heard some kids crying. We wanna make sure you—

**???**: You’re four friendly travelers who got past our alarm?

**Darryl:** Yeah, I mean, we're pretty smart. We're smart travelers.

**Ron:** We're the whole package.

[chuckles]

**???:** You just broke into our home. We clearly didn't want other people— Who sent you?—

**Darryl:** We heard you crying.

**???:** Who sent you? Gartok sent you. Gartok sent you.

**Ron:** Who— uh—

**Will:** Alright, uh, I do a saving throw for my— Ah shit, I got a natural 20. All right. I'm like—

**Henry:** [*muffled pained whining*]

**Anthony:** So that works for your next saving— You get advantage on your next saving throw.

**Darryl:** Who's— who's Gartok?

**Anthony:** Roll Deception.

**Darryl:** [*obviously lying*] Hey, Who— Who's, uh, Gartok? We don't know any Gartok.

**Matt:** I got 4.

[*laughter*]

**Freddie:** That's the sound of 4 Deception coming out of Matt.

**???:** He hired you to come find us. Leave. Leave or we'll kill you. It's that simple. Leave or we'll kill you.

**Ron:** Oh, Gartok!

**???:** What did he pay you? What did he pay you? We can— we can do better.

**Glenn:** You know? Kinda— A little jacked up. He didn't pay us anything.

**Ron:** Yeah.

**Glenn:** We're— we’re dads too.

**???:** You wouldn't have gotten here without knowing some information about us. You wouldn't be able to get information about us unless it was from Gartok. And the fact that my fucking brother is dead in this corner means that apparently he doesn't care about the bindings we put on him. I know you're here to kill us. If you want to come in and get us, then bring it the fuck on.

**Glenn:** Do you not like your dad?

**???:** Yeah! No, is that what you're getting from this?

**Ron:** Yeah.

**Glenn:** 'Cus he kind of sucks too, man.

**???:** Who killed him? Who killed our brother?

**Will:** [*rolls*] Okay, that's a 5—

**Freddie:** Plus, uh—

**Will:** But I get it advantage, right?

**Anthony:** Yeah, roll again.

**Will:** So 5 plus 5 is 10, and another natural 20!

**Freddie:** Oh my god, what is with your dice?

**Will:** This is insane. Alright, I'm biting my tongue. Oh, I say—

**Henry:** Gartok took off the bracelet himself. He killed them.

**???:** [*growls*] I knew it. I— I fucking knew it. I knew it, I knew it.

**Anthony:** And the crying voice is like—

**???:** We shouldn’t never— we shouldn't've done it— we—

**Darryl:** Hey hey hey, kids. Kids. Look, you caught us in a lie, I admit. But we're in over our heads. We're just four dads who've lost our kids and Gartok helped us out. He helped us out, because he said he would tell us how to get to Neverwinter.

**Glenn:** Yeah, a bunch of guys were kicking the shit out of him and he was looking for you.

**Darryl:** And we were asking about the kids but he couldn't even tell us.

**???:** Of course he couldn't tell you, we fucking made sure of that.

**Will:** Ohhhhh…

**???:** But you— the guy said 'I'll take you to Neverwinter' and in exchange for that, you thought, 'I'll help him take two kids who didn't want to be with him—'

**Darryl:** Wait, you just said—

**???:** You could have bought a map! You could have asked anybody!

**Glenn:** We're kinda new here.

**Darryl:** Hey kid, as you just said, you put something on. That means he couldn't tell us stuff. We don't know the whole story, we just— we just thought he was a guy looking for his kids like we were.

**???:** He's a dragon! You're supposed to do the thing that backwater assholes do in this area! You're supposed to try to kill him.

**Darryl:** Um, some people were trying to kill him; we actually saved him.

**Ron:** Yeah.

**Darryl:** 'Cus we're good people!

**???:** [*yelling*] Are you?

**Ron:** Yeah, we're helpers.

**Darryl:** Look, you have all the power here, alright? And if you don't want our help, we'll go ahead and we'll walk away. But if you need help, we're here for you.

**???:** You'll help us.

**Darryl:** We'll help you.

**???:** The way that you can help us, if you actually do want to, now that you've abetted in the murder of our brother? Is you can kill Gartok.

**Henry:** Guys, dad huddle. Dad huddle, dad huddle.

**Darryl:** Dad huddle.

[*Freddie laughs*]

**Henry:** Alright, Gartok seems like bad news. I'm just gonna— Not to judge another dad but I… It seems like these kids got one up on— Did we find out why they're mad at him?

**Darryl:** Alright Ron, you give it a shot, 'cus they didn't answer.

**Beth:** I'm actually going to try persuasion on this. And I'm going to say—

**Ron:** I thought that nobody could help me before I went on this soccer field trip. You don't know what a soccer field trip is. But I thought I was a lone wolf, and a lone dragon, and uh… I thought I was all alone. But I'm not, and you're not either, because you have your one remaining sibling— and then also us. And we are here to help. So—

**Henry:** Ask them what happened with their dad.

**Ron:** Did Gartok do something to you to trap you here?

**Anthony:** Alright, go on and roll.

**Beth:** 11. Plus 1.

**Will:** You can use—

**Anthony:** 11 plus 1 is fine. That'll do it.

**???:** How much did Gartok tell you about what he does for a living?

**Glenn:** He said that he was—

**Henry:** Something about slave labor, I believe.

**Glenn:** Slave labor, yeah.

**???:** [*sarcastically*] Ding ding ding! Is the thing that we say— it's a dragon saying.

**Freddie:** It's dragon tongue for 'Absolutely.'

**???:** Yeah. The wisest dragon ever lived was named Ding, so we say his name three times.

**Freddie:** Ah.

**Beth May:** Wow.

**Darryl:** So are you—

**Glenn:** There's so much culture here.

**Darryl:** Are you his slaves, or his children?

**???:** We were, until we decided to leave. We are his children, but we're also his slaves. He doesn't think of us as slaves. He thinks he's just being a good father by forcing us to do the things that he wants us to do. He's— he says— he always says the goal of a father is to make their child the best version of themselves they can be. And because he's so experienced, he thinks he can make us do that with those fucking bracelets.

**Henry:** What did he want you to do?

**???:** He wanted us to, coincidentally, do a lot of things that benefited him: do a lot of hard labor when we didn't feel like it, be cruel to people to make our hearts harder, hurt his enemies, be flirty with— with cute ladies at the bars so that he could bring them home. It was bad.

**Ron:** I was— I was in a similar situation with my father, who wanted me to be a good fisherman and I— I wasn't. And, you know, what I wanted, more than anything, was for him to be proud of me. But he wasn't. And maybe your father might not ever be proud of you, but that doesn't mean that you're not good dragons.

**???:** We know we're good.

[*laughter*]

**???:** He enslaved us. We were never really worried about whether he liked us or not.

**Ron:** Oh.

**???:** Sounds like you've got some stuff.

**Ron:** Yeah. Yeah, I've got some stuff. I've got some stuff. Um—

**Glenn:** Wait, so, can I ask then: what was your plan here, in terms of keeping them away from you guys?

**???:** The plan was— we've— we found, by pure happenstance, a creature in a purple cloak allowed us to draw from a deck of many things.

**Glenn:** Purple cloak?

**???:** And we were capable of changing one fact from our past. And we took that moment to change it, so that when our father put the bracelets on us, we changed it so instead he put them on himself. We couldn't change the inscriptions on the bracelets, but we could at least change who they went on.

**Henry:** Oh, so it was like a— ohhh…

**???:** And he — because he's an asshole! — one bracelet was attached to Drakkon, and that was 'if any of these bracelets leave, then I die.' He was, he was using our love of each other to keep us in line.

**Darryl:** So don't— can't you control your dad right now?

**???:** No. He's the one who etched the thing. So he's the only one who has any— He's the arbiter of the etchings.

**Darryl:** You kids are in a tough spot.

**Henry:** I think we should kill their dad. I'm going to put that out there. I’ve— I've crossed the line. I think I'm ready to kill this guy. Okay. What's— okay. Tell us about your dad. Does he have any like, big glowing weak spots? That if he exposes them—

**Glenn:** A giant enemy crab, kinda—

**Henry:** —once, it'll be two minutes in a looping pattern?

**Ron:** Does he have any food allergies?

[Anthony laughs]

**Darryl:** Can I just ask them two more questions, before we just kill— look, we're a team, and if you three want to kill the dragon, we'll kill the dragon.

**Henry:** Okay. What's— what did you want to ask? What do you want to ask?

**Darryl:** Hey kids, can I ask two questions?

**???:** Yeah.

**Darryl:** First, for your species. Dragons. Is what your dad doing pretty normal? Like is it pretty cool? Like is this— like is that— I just wanna make sure we're not stepping on some cul— know you— I just want to know if like—

**Glenn:** Cultural sensitivity.

**Darryl:** Is he a pretty normal dad, dragon—wise?

**???:** Yeah. He is.

**Darryl:** [*makes affirming noise*]

**???:** But if your version of morality is that 'if enough people do it it's fine—'

[*laughter*]

**???: —**then maybe we should be rethinking about who's neutral evil in this situation.

**Darryl:** Now wait, wait, my second question is: What is it you want to do when you grow up?

**???:** We want to… Jesus— Sorry.

**Henry:** Who's Jesus? You guys have Jesus?

**???:** Yes. Jesus. Jesus is also the name of another dragon—

[*laughter*]

**Henry:** Oh, okay!

**???:** —who was constantly stymied by really good questions.

**Ron:** Oh man.

**???:** So when we can't think of what to say immediately, we invoke his name. His name was spelled C—H—Y—Y—Z—U—apostrophe—S.

**Ron:** Oh my god.

**Darryl:** I was wondering, like, you know— if you had kids of your own, how would you treat them? What would you want to do?

**???:** Uh, I'd never thought— had you ever thought about that, Reese?

**Anthony:** And she—

**Reese:** [*sniffles*] Just not— just not this. Just would not do what he did to us. I feel like I would make the restrictions on the collars a lot vaguer—

[*laughter*]

**Reese:** So they could do more things. And I would not have them do as much, like, manual, like physical labor.

**Darryl:** But you'd probably, like, still want to own slaves and…

**Reese:** [*teary voice*] I mean, what else are we supposed to do?

**Darryl:** Okay. All right Dad. Dad huddle. Dad huddle.

**Henry:** So what you're getting at is: he was just trying to make them do their chores, and then they— they rebelled against him. Is kind of what you're suggesting here?

**Darryl:** Look, I have no problem killing the dragon. I'm not— I'm not pro—slavery, so we could kill this dragon. I'm more looking at, Henry, here, I'm just wondering— I mean, if we kill Gartok, it feels like the kids are going to go do the same thing. So like, maybe we just kill—

**Glenn:** Ah, the ‘sins of the father’ thing.

**Ron:** Yeah, we should have asked if it's— if he was a good dragon, dad—wise, instead of a good dad, dragon—wise.

[*laughter*]

**Darryl:** I guess my real question… I guess my real question is, it feels like we should either save all three of them or—

**Henry:** It's too late for that.

**Darryl:** — Or kill all three of them. Because they seem pretty equal, in terms of what they might end up doing.

**Henry:** What if. Because I— you know— this— you know, one of my favorite shows is Star Trek. I don't know if you guys like Star Trek, but they always talk about the Prime Directive on Star Trek and not interfering with civilizations that are like pre—warp. Like, you know, if warp is the minivan for us maybe we should—What if we do this: what have we— [*to the children*] Hey, do you kids think you could take your dad in a fight?

**???:** No. That's why we ran.

**Henry:** Okay. Well, what— what would we need to make it a fair fight between you and your dad?

**Freddie:** Oh my god.

**???:** You wanna pit us against each other?

**Henry:** No, but here's what I'm saying, is like, look, you know, we don't know, but we could pit them against each other on, like, a level playing field and let them sort it out—

**Glenn:** Yeah! Dad huddle, Dad huddle, Dad huddle. So we’re letting them— so you’re letting street justice sort them out?

**Darryl:** Here's what I'm— I'm thinking. Is there a way we can use those bracelets?

**Ron:** Yeah. Yeah.

**Darryl:** Maybe if we can change the runes to say 'be a good dad.'

**Henry:** Oh, and 'forget about your brother.'

**Darryl:** If we can change the runes, maybe we can make them say 'Be a good family' for each of them, and put them together. And maybe we can make them not enslave people anymore, and become a happy family.

**Ron:** They're a slave to their own happiness.

**Darryl:** Just like me and Carol and my son were, once.

**Henry:** And Darnell.

**Darryl:** And Darn… [*exhales evenly*]

**Henry:** Oh, I'm sorry. I thought you had another son, Darnell. I picked up the name Darnell somewhere, I can't remember where.

**Matt:** I put my hand out to Henry, requesting a Charleston Chew.

[*laughter*]

**Henry:** No, I don't think your dad's proud of you right now.

**Glenn:** But wait. This is not a bad idea.

**Henry:** I like this idea. Hey—

**Will:** I ask the kids—

**Henry:** What happens if we take the other two bracelets off your dad? Do you both die?

**???:** No. The sacrificial lamb was— was our brother.

**Henry:** Well, but what happens with the other two?

**???:** Well, you would be releasing him from the constraints of the other two bracelets, which were: he couldn't tell anybody about our situation and that he couldn't physically raise a hand against himself.

**Glenn:** So he'd probably come and find you guys, though, and kill you or something. Right?

**???:** He would come and get us, yeah.

**Glenn:** Yeah.

**Darryl:** Could you, like, change those bracelets to do something else?

**???:** We couldn't. But he could, because he's the one who crafted them.

**All:** Hmmmmm….

**Ron:** Is there something, uh, we could tell him to maybe convince him to change the bracelet? If, say, we were in an awkward situation of killing one of his children?

**???:** Sorry, what?

**Will:** Alright, I gotta do saving throw. Where's my dice.

[*Anthony laughs*]

**Matt:** Don't they already know? Oh no, they don't.

**Anthony:** No, you nat—y 20'd, so they thought it was just their dad.

**Will:** I did 12 crits in a row.

**Beth May:** It was. It was just—

**Will:** Alright, I'm fine. I got a 17.

**Darryl:** Hey kids we're going to be— we're going to be right back. We're gonna go talk to, uh, we're going to go kill your dad, okay? Like you want.

**???:** Sounds great.

**Darryl:** So we'll be back.

**???:** Sounds great. We'll be here.

**Glenn:** Guys let's go.

**???:** Don't come back in without throwing his severed head through the hallway toward us.

**Darryl:** Cool. So guys, here's an idea. You know, kind of like, when, um— when in those movies were, like, you know— a kid is, like, trying to get, like, his old dad to, like, sign a contract and he, like, switches it?

**Glenn:** Yeah, yeah yeah yeah.

**Darryl:** Maybe we could kind of, like, convinced Gartok to teach us dragon language for a second, and rewrite the bracelets.

**Glenn:** Ohhhhhhhh!

**Darryl:** Sounds a little complicated, and I'm hoping our DM will kind of let it happen.

**Ron:** Yeah.

**Henry:** Let's check. Let's do it.

**Darryl:** Okay.

**Henry:** Let's get over there.

**Darryl:** Let's go back to Gartok.

**Anthony:** Okay.

**Will:** We go back to Gartok.

**Anthony:** He's still crying.

**Freddie:** [*laughs*]

**Matt**: We open the door.

**Henry:** Hey Gartok, we're less sad that we made you sad by killing your kid, but we're sad that we killed their brother.

**Gartok:** [*teary*] what does that mean?

**Henry:** We're just not sad for you, but we're still sad about the action. Because we've heard some shit from your kids.

**Gartok:** Right, because your opinion of me is real important to me right now. Where are my kids? Did you get them or not?

**Darryl:** Hey Gartok? We, uh, we found your kids and it seems like you guys are all having a little bit of a— little bit of a family fight.

**Glenn:** Lil' family spat.

**Darryl:** They're a little mad at you.

**Gartok:** I'm aware of that.

**Darryl:** Okay. Well that's good to know. We're all on the same page—

**Glenn:** Two thirds of them are pretty mad at you.

**Gartok:** Oh. Ohhh.

[l*aughter*]

**Anthony:** He takes some damage.

**Darryl:** Gartok, what do you most want with your kids back? What is it— Why? Why do you want your kids back?

**Gartok:** Because they were a great asset to my bus—

[*shocked sound from all*]

**Anthony:** And he takes some more damage. One of— the bracelet on his right wrist flares up.

**Henry:** Oh, okay. That's the one that's stopping him from talking. Well, let's take that one off.

**Darryl:** Alright.

**Will:** We take it off.

**Gartok:** [*exclamation of relief*] Why couldn't you have start started with that one and not the one on my leg?

**Ron:** It just looked cool!

**Gartok:** Ah, you had a one in three chance and you chose the wrong one.

**Ron:** I prefer anklets to bracelets.

**Gartok:** What do you want to know?

**Glenn:** That's kind of a weird Ron thing.

[laughter]

**Gartok:** What do you want to know?

**Darryl:** Dad huddle. I don't know, the moral implications of this whole thing is blowing my brain right now.

**Glenn:** It's pretty spicy. Pretty spicy.

**Darryl:** So if we gave— if we gave the kids, like, bracelets that said 'be good kid,' are we just putting them in slavery again?

**Glenn:** That's true. It is another kind of form of slavery.

**Henry:** That's why I'm saying we should just cut one of his legs off and then let him fight the— fight against them.

**Freddie:** [*laughs*]

**Henry:** They're dragons! They're pretty hard core! I think we should even up the fight and then be like, 'look we don't know what's going on,' or we could just walk away right now.

**Ron:** Yeah, can't we just, like, leave?

**Henry:** Maybe— maybe the dad lesson that this journey is teaching us is that you should butt out of other people's parenting styles. Because you don't know who you're gonna hurt, and you don't want to mess up and get involved a family thing and cause more trouble than good. If they want— I'm not doing their dirty work. If they want to kill their dad, they can kill their dad. He can't hurt them, right?

**Darryl:** That's fair.

**Ron:** That does seem fair. And—

**Darryl:** Okay—

**Ron:** But now he can talk about it.

**Darryl:** Okay.

**Ron:** And talking can hurt people too.

**Henry:** Oh, I know what we're going to do. I know what we're going to do because we're going to— here's— Okay. Alright. I've learned the lesson. I've solved the riddle.

**Anthony:** [*laughs*] The moral puzzle.

**Henry:** He's a shitty dad.

**Darryl:** Yes.

**Henry:** Right? But it's—

**Glenn:** And the whole species is a little questionable.

**Henry:** The whole species is a little questionable. But here's what we do. We tie him up, right? We bring the kids out. We give one of them the knife and we say, 'you can kill him but then you'll be just as bad as he is.' And then we give them the— it's like, just like I say with my boys Sparrow and Lark. You know? I try to give them choices, right? You don't, uh, let them think. Right. So to me then what that is is like they're like okay. They know the dad's never getting out. But then for them they get the chance to separate but not you don't get down to his level you know and that could bring them closure. They can walk away and then he still can't hurt them.

**Darryl:** Maybe I'm just— maybe I'm just a sap, but let's try to give our pal Gartok, who helped us out, the best chance possible.

[*Freddie, Will, Anthony talk simultaneously*]

**Anthony:** You keep saying he helped you out. He never helped you out!

**Freddie:** He did not help us out!

**Will:** I wanna review, just for a second.

**Matt:** Hey DM, Hey DM. Darryl Wilson is talking, and he—

**Will:** I do— point of order from Henry Oak.

**Henry:** Uh, he hasn't done anything for us. We saved him from a mob of street justice.

**Freddie:** But—

**Henry:** And then we brought him to his kids.

**Freddie:** But Will, don't forget that Darryl Wilson disproportionately likes people who like his beer, clearly.

[*laughter*]

**Henry:** I will say this, Darryl—

**Darryl:** I just want to say this, Henry: when we picked up your kids, they were punching a tree and punching you. And Glenn, your kid was… I won’t even want to say what he was doing, but you know. You know—

**Glenn:** Smoking it. Smoking the doob.

**Anthony:** The dankest.

**Darryl:** —you know what he was doing. And Ron, you couldn't even talk to him. None of us are perfect dads, and I'm not— I'm not saying we were as bad as a slave owner or anything. I'm just saying that he's a dad like us and he's just trying to make do. So this is what I'm suggesting—

**Henry:** Darryl—

**Darryl:** I suggest that we do what you say. But let's use the other two bracelets and do a little dad brainstorm, and come up with two things that we think are the most important value for a dad. And we put those bracelets on him and we give him the best shot possible to convince his kids not to kill him. We still let them make the ultimate choice, but maybe we come up with two values that we think is important as dads—

[*all laugh*]

**Darryl:** —And put those bracelets on him. And then we see what happens.

[*laughter continues*]

**Henry:** Okay. Okay. Okay.

**Darryl:** So we keep the one that says he can't hurt anybody.

**Henry:** Mhm.

**Darryl:** And then—

**Henry:** But the other one says, like— like: 'be a good dad.'

**Darryl:** But that's too vague, like— like: 'Respect your kids' dreams' or something. That's why we gotta do a— we gotta do a brainstorm, come with two values that we think are good.

**Henry:** Okay. Okay. Alright. What do you guys— Well, I don't know— You know for me, you know, honesty is important with my kids. But also respect your kids.

**Matt:** All right. I'm pulling out. I'm pulling out a piece of paper from my pack. I'm like—

**Darryl:** Good, good, good. Keep brainstorming! 'Honesty.'

**Henry:** So, respect your kids. Don't hurt them. Take good care of them. Love your children.

**Darryl:** Love your children.

**Henry:** But not physically.

**Freddie:** [*laughs*]

**Darryl:** N— Okay.

**Anthony:** Oh god.

**Darryl:** Okay.

**Henry:** But show them physical affection, but not— whatever is inappropriate physical affection for dragons.

**Darryl:** Ron, what's— Ron, what's—

**Glenn:** Good, it's probably not gonna fit in one bracelet, but that’s a good one.

**Darryl:** Ron, what would do you trying to do for Terry? What's— what's the most important thing for you, as a dad?

**Ron:** Uh… Just… Try not to make Terry feel the way I felt when I was Terry's age.

**Darryl:** I like that. I'm trying to think of how we say that—

**Glenn:** That's kinda specific.

**Henry:** That seems like that could blow sideways [*laughs*] on us, pretty quick.

**Darryl:** That's true. Glenn, Glenn. How about you?

**Glenn:** You know, I think it's important to let your kids make their own decisions—

**Darryl:** Ah.

**Glenn:** You know what I mean? Like, because that's really the best teacher, is School of Hard Knocks. So that's where I kind of let him do his thing and he'll come around… eventually.

**Darryl:** Okay. How about "let your kids make their own decisions, within a certain boundary?"

**Glenn:** Okay, I don't know about what those—

**Henry:** Until they're dragon adults.

**Darryl:** Until they're adults, okay. I think it's a pretty good one: "…until they're adults." That's number one. How about number two? Honesty, respect your kids—?

**Henry:** I feel like, "love." I think there's something about love, right? Like, you know—

**Glenn:** Unconditional love

**Henry:** —Unconditional love, for your kids.

**Glenn:** That, like, Woodstock Free Love unconditional.

**Ron:** But we're, like, literally giving them conditions on these bracelets.

[*all laugh*]

**Darryl:** Oh treat— Let's go back to the Good Book. Treat your kids like you would want to be treated.

**Henry:** That could go sideways too though.

**Ron:** Yeah.

**Darryl:** But that’s, but, you know—

**Henry:** But it can't hurt them physically, right?

**Darryl:** I can't judge them. And again the kids might kill them anyways. I'm just trying to— I feel— the Golden Rule’s a good rule, right everybody? Golden Rule’s a good rule?

**Glenn:** Yeah, sure.

**Ron:** Yeah.

**Henry:** Treat others as you would like them to treat you.

**Darryl:** So we got treat your kids like you’d wanna be treated and let your kids make their own decisions, within a certain boundary, until they're dragon adult age.

**Ron:** I feel like we need more practical values. Like there are some things that you should not buy store brand for—

[*Matt laughs*]

**Ron:** Toilet paper, um—

[*laughter*]

**Ron:** Mac and cheese.

**Glenn:** That's true actually.

**Darryl:** Okay.

**Glenn:** You can probably add that to one of those, right?

**Darryl:** Hey, uh— hey. Are we good with those two?

**Ron:** Yeah. Yeah, yeah, yeah.

**Henry:** Yeah, we’re good with those two.

**Darryl:** Hey, Gartok.

**Gartok:** Yeah.

**Henry:** How do you say—

**Darryl:** Can you do me a favor? Could you, uh— Could you write down these two sentences, uh, in Dragon on these bracelets?

**Gartok:** [*whining*]Why?

**Darryl:** Because, look, we're gonna give you your kids back but, uh—

**Glenn:** This was a condition.

**Darryl:** This was a condition.

**Glenn:** This was a condition for— for— for them seeing you again. We're just trying to be the middleman, we're tryin’ to be negotiators, we’re tryin’ to just ease this process— help your family through this spat.

**Matt:** And I pull up the ax and I say:

**Darryl:** And the other option is we kill you.

**Anthony:** All right. You roll Persuasion, you roll Intimidation, both of you with advantage.

**Freddie:** Urgh, Persuasion gets me 13.

**Matt:** 14.

**Gartok:** [*tearfully*] Alright, fine. I don't care anymore. I just want this to be over.

**Darryl:** Here you go. Here's the two bracelets.

**Gartok:** I just want [*with emphasis*]this feeling… to stop. So if you do kill me, fine.[*tearfully*] I don't even give a shit anymore I had to watch you slowly kill one of my kids who now probably—

**Ron:** It wasn’t that slow.

[*laughter*]

**Anthony:** All right. So, he flicks open a talon and then sort of scritches out what was there on the— on the bracelet.

**Freddie:** It’s very dense.

**Anthony:** The translation’s very, very complicated and dense.

[*snickering*]

**Anthony:** Etches the shit on there and goes:

**Gartok:** Cool, so you're gonna get that— You’re gonna give these to them.

**Darryl:** No. We're putting them on you bitch.

**Glenn:** On you bitch!

**Gartok:** [*panicked*] Woah! Woah! Woah!

**Freddie:** We put them on.

[*laughter*]

**Darryl:** How you feel, Gartok?

**Gartok:** [*despairingly*] What's mac and cheese?

**Glenn:** Here, go ahead and get in the back of this—

**Freddie:** And we start backing the van up towards the entrance with the trunk open.

**Anthony:** Okay. He's just very shaken he's just like:

**Gartok:** What have I done? What do I do?

**Darryl:** All right, buddy, this is gonna be— [*exhales*] look, uh, you know, when you make a mistake it’s always tough as a dad to admit to your kids you’ve made a mistake but we're gonna— we're gonna have you meet your kids and, um, well, we'll see what happens.

**Freddie:** So, we pull up to the— I feel like, we pull up to the cave and Matt— Matt, I feel like you’re honking, like:“Hey kids! Come meet your dad!” [*laughs]*

**Will:** I think— we sh— we don’t have to bring him in. Maybe they can come out and meet him, right?

**Matt:** Yeah. I pick up Gartok and I— I—

[*laughter]*

**Gartok:** What is this feeling?!

**Matt:** I give him a little pet. He just reminds me of my dog. And I put him down from the door. I go:

**Darryl:** Hey, uh— Hey kids your— your dad's here and, uh, he's not going to hurt you. He wants to talk to you. Whatever— whatever you wanna do it's— it's— it's up to you it’s not, you know, we're not your family— it's a family matter.

**Matt:** And I stand back and I watch to see what Anthony does. [*laughs*]

**Anthony:** Okay. There's nothing I love more in roleplaying than when I have to do a conversation where I'm both people.

**Will:** All three people, Anthony.

**Anthony:** Oh, yeah, f—

[*laughter*]

**Anthony:** Yeah. Okay.

**Freddie:** [*laughs*]

**Anthony:** Okay. So you see Reese and… uh—

**Beth:** Sylvan.

**Anthony:** Sylvan coming out. Sylvan has a dagger and, uh, and the other one has a crossbow. And they come out and they see their dad, Gartok, just sort of sitting there. And, immediately, uh, Sylvan is like you:

**Sylvan:** You killed our fucking brother.

**Anthony:** And runs at him with a dagger.

**Will:** I can't I— I get in the way to block Sylvan.

**Anthony:** So she stops for a second and goes:

**Sylvan:** What are you doing? What is this?

**Henry:** So… hear me out. [*Beth laughs*]

**Henry:** We, uh—

**Freddie**: Oh god.

**Henry:** We— Sylvan, you have a lot of reason to be upset with your father. But you should know, we turned those braces around and now, not only can he not hurt you, but the bracelets say that he has to treat you the way he would want to be treated. And also, he has to let you make your own decisions, uh, until—

**Ron:** And also—

**Henry:** —with guidance and, you know, until you’re dragon adults.

**Ron:** And also—

**Henry:** And also, yeah—

**Ron:** Try to avoid store brand toilet paper and mac and cheese.

**Henry:** So. Knowing all that, we just— we wanted to maybe, you know we feel like we really goofed this one up. We feel like we kind of came in here with our values and we kind of maybe didn't really understand what was going on dragon style. But we wanted to give, like, a fresh slate, maybe a chance for this relationship to grow again anew. Now I'm going to step out of your way and if you want to kill him there's nothing that can stop you because he can't hurt you anymore. But I'm hoping you'll be the bigger pers— the bigger dragon and you won't succumb to your old dad's level and you'll maybe hear the new your dad out.

**Anthony:** Hold on, I feel like you're definitely having to roll your— roll from lying again. Because you’re still lying, right?

**Will:** Oh shit, yeah. Let me— let me rip through like three of these, uh, saving throws.

**Matt:** Wait, why is he lying though? He’s telling the truth.

**Freddie:** Because he’s— he’s lying by omission not mentioning that— that we killed them.

**Will:** Okay, uh, I rolled a 3, plus 5 is an 8.

**Henry:** And also we killed your brother.

**Freddie:** [*laughs*]

**Anthony:** She immediately tries to take a swipe at you.

**Henry:** No, no, no, wait! If you attack me you're just as bad as him.

**Sylvan:** No, because I didn't kill my brother!

**Ron:** Well let me put it this way: we won't be mad. We'll be disappointed.

[*laughter*]

**Henry:** [*hurriedly*] We’re going to get out of the way and let your dad take it away okay. Take it away, Dad.

**Anthony:** So what are you going to do to make her stop trying to stab you. Because you just said you killed her brother.

**Will:** I say:

**Henry:** Dad, help!

**Matt:** Darryl steps in between Henry and the dragon.

**Anthony:** [*through laughter*] So it's like a fucking line, four people deep, of people standing in front of each other?

**Darryl:** Look this was all an accident. If you wanna fight us you'll fight us but first let's just let Gartok and—

**Henry:** It was Ron. Ron did it.

**Freddie:** [*laughs*]

**Sylvan:** [*furiously*] Which one’s Ron?

**Henry:** That one! That one! That one!

**Darryl:** No, I'm Ron!

**Ron:** [*gasps*] What?!

**Darryl:** And I did it and I didn't know I did it and it was an accident and we've done everything we can to help him. Maybe, if we can heal this family it won't be worth— you'll never get your brother back but it's— it's something so if you gotta kill me you can kill me but why don’t you talk to Gartok first?

**Anthony:** As you say that one of them— the— the— one with the crossbow fires at you.

**Matt:** Yeah.

**Anthony:** So it does 2 damage to you.

**Matt:** Okay.

**Anthony:** And then— the bolt sticks in your shoulder and, as it hits you, Gartok goes:

**Gartok:** Wait! Wait wait wait wait wait wait. They didn't kill your brother. I did that.

[*everyone except Anthony* *gasps*]

**Gartok:** The second I put that bracelet around his— his arm. I knew that was a possibility. And, if I were you, I would want my dad to tell me what he was feeling and what the true— his motivations were. And I— I didn't think of you as real kids. I just thought of you as extensions of labor, as extensions of my own will, and I was lying to myself and telling myself that— that by doing what I told you I was making you stronger people but that wasn't the case. So I'm gonna let you guys make your own decisions, within a certain boundary, until you're adults, parentheses, and don’t buy store brand toilet paper and mac and cheese.

[*laughter*]

**Gartok:** So whatever you want to do I'm fine with it because I would also want to have that— that kind of choice in my life.

**Anthony:** And, um, Sylvan and Reese kind of exchange glances and they go:

**Sylvan and Reese:** You're a very, very, very bad person. It's only because Drakkon— he's the reason why we put those bracelets on you instead of just slitting your throat. So it's only because he's dead that you get to live. And if we ever see you again we are going to kill you. And that goes for all you assholes too.

**Darryl:** I get it and I forgive you for shooting me, by the way.

**Sylvan:** I'm not sorry. You killed our brother!

**Henry:** Very quickly. Here are the places we're gonna be going to get our kids so, uh, just that— just know that that's where we're going and we do have to go there so if we see you by accident we'll just pretend we don't see you but like we might be there. It's kind of like running into an ex at a party or something like that, you don’t have to talk to us or kill us.

**Ron:** Yeah, we can't all be invisible dragons, Gartok.

**Sylvan:** Fine, fine. I don't know what we're gonna do with our goddamn lives we can't—

**Henry:** I do have one follow up question. You mentioned something about a person in a purple robe?

[*laughter*]

**Henry:** We all— we all kind of had a shared dream last night about a person—

**Sylvan:** [*forcefully*]Leave. Leave or I'm going to kill you right now.

**Darryl:** Okay.

**Henry:** Okay, we’re pushing it, we’ll go.

**Sylvan:** Just go.

**Henry:** We’ll go. Good luck with your lives. Sorry about your brother. Uh, Gartok, seems like you got what you deserved. Let’s go.

**Matt:** I go up to Gartok and say:

**Darryl:** Thanks again for all the help. And, uh—

[*laughter*]

**Darryl:** Good luck.

**Matt:** And I— I opened up the minivan and, uh.

**Darryl:** Alright guys, let's get in and, I guess, head to Neverwinter.

**Glenn:** Hey guys, how d’you think that one went?

**Henry:** I felt like that went pretty well. I think we should head to Neverwinter and maybe— maybe— wait. What did you guys all learn today? I think I learned to, uh, maybe look before I leap a little bit more.

**Glenn:** Next time we see a dragon let's just kill them all. [*laughs*]

**Darryl:** I wish I had— I think you three would have been good dads to talk to and— when I was first raising my boy.

**Ron:** Um, I think I learned that sometimes it's okay to let another dad save you. Thank you, Darryl.

**Darryl:** You’re— [*sniffs*]

**Matt:** I start— I turn on the radio and I start—

[*static plays*]

**Freddie:** [*laughing*] The sound of static drowns out your tears as we drive off.

**Anthony:** So you guys continue to drive as you, sort of, think about the day that you had. And after a couple of hours you eventually come upon the city of Neverwinter. So you see a drawbridge and on the drawbridge you can see that there used to be a, what seemed to be like a red and gold flag but it's behind what is currently there which is a very large, very lovingly rendered illustration of the Doodler. The mascot of West Rock—

**Freddie:** Oh shit!

**Anthony:** — Elementary School.

**Henry:** Guys—

**Freddie:** [*laughing*] What?

**Henry: —** are you seeing what I'm seeing? I told you those Montessori art lessons were gonna pay off.

[*outro music*]

**Freddie:** Dungeons and Daddies is Anthony Burch, Beth May, Matt Arnold, Will Campos, and myself, Freddie Wong. Theme song by Maxton Waller. Special thanks this week to Chad Ellis, creator of the Station Blue podcast, for some editing advice. You can find us on Twitter @dungeonsanddaddies and on Facebook: bit.ly/dungeondads. This is the number one spot on Facebook to discuss both this podcast and Honda Odyssey minivan owners, like, tips and tricks and stuff like that. That’s where we gather. We're up now on Spotify and Google Play so for people who are not using the iTunes podcast app you can hear us anywhere and everywhere now so do spread the word. If you like what you heard let someone else know. Tweet at us or, uh, even better leave a review for us on iTunes. All of those things helps get this podcast out there and supports what we do. Thank you all so much for joining us this week. We'll be back in two weeks. Next episode February 26. We'll see you then.

[*outro music*]