Dungeons and Daddies

Dungeon Master: Anthony Burch

Glenn Close​: Freddie Wong

Darryl Wilson​: Matt Arnold

Henry Oak​: Will Campos

Ron Stampler​: Beth May

Episode 38 – Clone Tree Hill

[*sportscast rock plays in background*]

**Sportscaster Freddie:** Time once again for the Phandalin Murder Sports Play of the Day, brought to you by Kenku Chicken. It's summertime, which means that the frosted Gelatinous Cubes are back. Each cube comes with a limited edition engulfed Kenku Chicken key chain. Collect all five for a limited time only at participating Kenku Chickens. See, me, I pair that with their salty slad salad and I know I'm in for a good time.

**Sportscaster Will:** And you can't go wrong with their sizzling Fire Beetle fajitas!

**Sportscaster Freddie:** No sir, you cannot! Today's play comes from Ballsdeep, where the newly renamed Glenn Bowl games have seen some rough attendance numbers, recently. Post-game, Doodler center Darryl Wilson having a huddle with his son, QB Grant Wilson.

**Sportscaster Will:** Some real intense emotions on the field and off the field, here. Darryl tries to bridge the emotional gap between father and son. Tees up his opener, almost stumbles here, when he tries to relate to Grant the similar shared traumatic experience of his own childhood— but, get this, he implies it was easy for him! Rookie mistake!

**Sportscaster Freddie:** Let's go now to the Bullywog's Wog This Way slo-mo cam. Take a look at Grant's face here, as he processes this. Big blunder from the big man himself, not quite achieving the empathetic effect he was going for.

**Sportscaster Will:** Fortunately, Darryl catches his error in the nick of time before it sinks the whole play. He quickly clarifies that his own experience should not be held as the standard to which Grant should judge his own by. Booyah!

**Sportscaster Freddie:** That's right. Some key wisdom dropped here, reminding Grant that we all, as autonomous beings, have our own emotional paths to walk. And he seals the deal here by explaining he draws his emotional strength from his family, and sources outside himself. A powerful reminder that we're not alone in our respective journeys.

**Sportscaster Will:** Dad and lad share some emotional catharsis here in the empty stadium, and Darryl scores some extra Dad Points by embarrassing Grant in front of his unreciprocated crush. What a finish!

**Sportscaster Freddie:** Lucky the refs weren't anywhere near this play, would have thrown the flag for excessive celebration! Am I right?

**Sportscaster Will:** And that's the play of the day. Up next, is Glenn Bowl violent enough? A new study by the Faerun Sports Safety Board says it could use more murder.

[*intro music*]

**Freddie:** Welcome to Dungeons & Daddies, not a BDSM podcast, a loose table top role playing game podcast, about four dads from our world flung into the forgotten realms on a quest to rescue their lost sons.

My name is Freddie Wong, I play Glenn Close, the bard/rock and roll cover band dad of the group. This week's Glenn fact, I'm going to take everybody here on a little bit of a journey through the English language here.

**Will:** Okay.

**Beth:** Okay.

**Matt:** All right. I'm going to go to sleep.

[*Will laughs*]

**Freddie:** Glenn believes nobody should ever wear a mask.

**Beth:** Boo.

**Will:** Boo.

**Freddie:** Unless... they're being recorded potentially doing something that might be considered illegal, depending on the jurisdiction.

**Will:** Mm-hmm...

**Matt:** Mm-hmm...

**Anthony:** Which, in our modern surveillance society—

**Beth:** Is all the time.

**Freddie:** ... Means Glenn thinks people should wear masks all the time. But! Only in public... And in the bedroom. Ayyy!

**Will:** Wow, that was a journey.

**Matt:** Yeah.

**Freddie:** Little journey for you.

**Will:** I did a 900. I was like Tony Hawk, doing a 900 on Glenn.

**Beth:** They had this in the first half.

**Matt:** Does he film the bedroom?

**Freddie:** Glenn doesn't kiss and tell.

**Will:** Doesn't kiss anyone, if he's got a mask on in there.

**Beth:** Yeah.

**Freddie:** That's true actually. We got stuff going on in there.

**Will:** All right, that was a good one, Freddie. Freddie started— Here, dear listener, let me part the veil for a moment. Before this podcast, Freddie was like, “Oh, gee whiz, I have to go first. I always have a bad dad fact.” You know, just to set our expectations low, so he can kick the door down with clearly a banger dad fact ready to rock. So, fuck you Freddie.

**Freddie:** That one's on my sticky notes! That's more effort than I've ever done for a dad fact.

**Beth:** You suck Freddie. God dammit.

**Matt:** Get ready for my banger. Yeah. My name's Matt Arnold. I play Darryl Wilson, a stay at home coach dad who becomes a barbarian when he enters the Forgotten Realms. Not a journey, just very simple—

**Will:** [*laughing*] I'm sorry, I was just like, Who becomes a barbarian when he enters his wife.

[*laughter*]

**Beth:** Okay...

**Matt:** First of all, you've got to be a barbarian before anything starts.

**Beth:** Will, you and I are on the same page because I know that you laughed when Freddie paused after saying “a loose D&D podcast.”

[*Will laughs*]

**Matt:** Yeah. Simple dad fact. I was just going to say, Darryl's one of those... This is also my dad's dad fact. Darryl's one of those guys, he takes great pleasure in essentially making his shoes last as long as possible…

[*Beth snickers*]

**Matt:** ...and in fucking his wife.

[*laughter*]

**Freddie:** Will his New Balance's—?

**Will:** He takes great pleasure in making fucking his wife last as long as possible.

**Matt:** As long as possible. With shoes on!

**Freddie:** Does he wear the New Balance's in the bedroom?

**Matt:** No, he does not wear his New Balances in the bedroom.

**Freddie:** Why not?

**Matt:** He wears his dress shoes in the bedroom, baby. Because it's a temple in there.

[*laughter*]

**Beth:** Oh, God.

**Anthony:** And you always wear your dress shoes to temple!

**Matt:** It's a church. That's the next stop.

**Will:** Oh, man. This is a rowdy episode.

**Matt:** It's rowdy. No, let's go. Go on.

**Will:** It's got that energy. I love it. I love it.

**Freddie:** He's got that arch support, you know what I mean?

**Will:** My name is Will Campos. I play Henry Oak, the Birkenstock-rocking, munchy, crunchy, hippie, druid, granola dad of the dad's. And he's a druid, and my dad fact for Henry this week, little themed dad fact for the upcoming release of Rock's Rock, the geology themed rap EP.

**Beth:** Oh yeah.

**Freddie:** Which is imminent.

**Will:** Imminent!

**Freddie:** We're doing final touches on it and it's going through a mixing/mastering stage, and then it's coming out. It's very fucking good. Okay.

**Will:** Fun fact about Henry is that, Rock's Rock is not the first jam that Henry has dropped.

**Freddie:** Oh God.

**Will:** Because Henry makes jam, guys!

**Freddie:** Fuck off.

**Will:** Henry has a line of jam!

**Freddie:** Go fuck yourself.

**Matt:** Nope, nope, nope.

**Will:** Henry has a line of jam called “This Is My Jam,” and he doesn't realize—

**Freddie:** No.

**Will:** ... that that's a pun, because he's never heard the phrase “jam” used for music before.

**Freddie:** What?

**Will:** So, he's like, “This is my jam! This is my jam, and I'm Henry, and this is my jam.” You're probably asking what flavor jam does Henry make?

**Matt:** Nope.

**Freddie:** No. No.

**Will:** And the flavor is just whatever fruits he can find around. He kind of forages, it's whatever's left over in the fridge.

**Freddie:** Oh my God, ugh.

**Will:** So it'll be like apple, and blueberry, and a couple old grapes are in there. And then so every jar of jam is a little different, it's a little special jam.

**Matt:** He brings that jam into the bedroom, right?

**Beth:** I was so positive that you were about to say toe jam that anything else that you said was totally forgivable. You could, like—

**Matt:** Oh, God.

[*Freddie groans*]

**Will:** Henry doesn't put toe jam in his jam. He does scrape most of the mold off of it before he…

**Freddie:** Oh, no…

[*Beth makes retching noises*]

**Matt:** And less squirrel, yeah.

**Freddie:** A little LA humor for everybody!

**Will:** A little LA food humor for those in the know, wink, wink.

**Matt:** You might have seen it on Twitter, you know...

**Beth:** We talk about fireworks and jam here in LA.

**Anthony:** We're all depressed!

**Beth:** Oh, yeah. It's showbiz, baby. Hi, I'm Beth May and I play Ron Stampler, emotionally detached stepfather and rogue. Fun fact about Ron this week, is that his favorite class in high school was Shop.

**Will:** That checks out.

**Beth:** Because he would just ditch school and go to the mall, and then he wouldn't buy anything, he would just hang out at the mall.

**Will:** Did he think that that was what Shop was? Or was he just ditching?

**Beth:** Yeah. Well, I think probably both. I think that he probably wanted to take Home Ec., but his dad made him take Shop, because it's Shop, and then shopping should be shopping. And so he went to the mall, but he probably didn't have any money, and so just...

**Matt:** So, did he think he was failing Shop because he's like, “I kept going, but I'm not doing well!”

**Beth:** No, I mean, I think... I mean, he's studying.

**Matt:** Oh, okay.

**Beth:** I think that everything he knows about culture was just in one Westfield mall.

**Freddie:** And business.

**Beth:** Culture and business!

**Will:** Were people like, “Oh, who do you have for Shop?” And he's like, “I have Claire's.”

**Beth: “**I have Spencer's. I have…”

**Will:** “I have Spencer.”

**Matt:** I’ve just realized that Ron is a character from *3rd Rock From The Sun*. I've just finally accepted that's what he is. He's an alien.

**Beth:** I never watched it.

**Will:** It's a good show.

**Anthony:** You don't have to.

**Will:** Does it hold up?

**Beth:** I know.

**Matt:** I have no idea if it holds up.

**Anthony:** Nothing holds up. It's more than five years old and it's a comedy!

**Matt:** Uh, *Frasier*'s sitting here...

**Will:** Is French Stewart, is his character super problematic or something?

**Matt:** I don't know...

**Will:** Why am I asking Anthony? Anthony doesn't know.

**Anthony:** Yeah, I haven't watched that in a while.

**Matt:** It's probably a great show, everybody.

**Anthony:** It's probably hysterical.

**Beth:** I actually just found out about *The Simpsons* hams meme?

**Will:** Oh, the steamed hams meme?

**Beth:** The steamed hams.

**Freddie:** Oh, you're in for a treat.

**Beth:** I was, I was in for a treat. It really gave me almost the joy that I had experiencing *Lost* for the first time.

**Will:** You, Beth, are in for an unforgettable luncheon.

**Beth:** I'm so excited.

[*laughter*]

**Anthony:** God.

**Matt:** Very good.

**Anthony:** Oh, boy. Hey, it's me, it's Anthony Burch. It's your dad.

**Matt:** Hey dad.

**Beth:** Hey dad.

**Anthony:** I realize I don't have a... Like, Freddie was trying to bemoan the fact that, “I got to go first, so I have to come up with a very small bit of improv before anybody else.” I don't have a character, so I just have to come up with things from my life—

**Beth:** Just tell the truth.

**Anthony:** ... and further erode the barrier between artist and audience. So, people know what my torso looks like, now.

**Freddie:** That's the point, Anthony. You have to be the hot, sexy one that everyone lusts after on the podcast—

**Beth:** With a scarred torso.

**Will:** You're our Matt Mercer, you gotta do it.

**Anthony:** No, I refuse.

**Freddie:** Does Matt Mercer have—

**Beth:** A C-section scar?

**Freddie:** ... fan art of himself?

**Anthony:** Oh, absolutely.

**Freddie:** Hold on, hold on. Let me just check WikiFeet for Matt Mercer really quick. Just hold on one second... Nothing! No search results. Is there no dudes on WikiFeet?

**Anthony:** I'd say there are precious few dudes on WikiFeet.

**Matt:** Your dad fact should just be about how hot you are, Anthony.

**Anthony:** No, it's Hot Glenn Summer.

**Will:** Anthony's dad fact is just about how hot Matt Mercer is.

**Anthony:** Yeah, Anthony's dad fact— Honestly, when I met Matt I was like, “That's not fair.” It's—

**Beth:** I've never seen him. I want to look him up.

**Anthony:** He's very, very handsome. He's got a Michael Fassbender face.

**Beth:** Matt...

**Freddie:** This is a good use of the top of our podcast, is just Googling how hot other D&D hosts are.

**Anthony:** If you like D&D podcasts where the host is hot, definitely don't listen to this one. Listen to *Critical Role* and maybe *NADDPOD*. I don't know what that guy looks like. What's a fun Anthony fact? *The Last Jedi* is my second favorite Star Wars movie.

**Freddie:** What's your first favorite?

**Anthony:** My first favorite is A New Hope.

**Freddie:** Oh, cool.

**Will:** Wow.

**Matt:** Wow. Well, I don't care.

[*laughter*]

**Anthony:** It wasn't just for you! I don't exist to please you!

**Will:** Oh my God!

**Matt:** I couldn't even pretend to be interested.

**Anthony:** Is that the fucking rubric for whether or not a dad fact is good? Is if Master Arnold thinks it's okay?

**Will:** Anthony, you're not talking your way out of this one. Matt just blew you out of the fucking sky, dude.

**Anthony:** God. All right, fantasy world bullshit.

[*intro music ends*]

**Anthony:** When last we left you all, you'd found the anchor in Ballsdeep, but basically decided, knowing that its destruction would bring back all of the memories of Darryl's father, Frank, into Paeden...

**Matt:** Yep.

**Anthony:** You are carrying it with you. And, so, it's just sort of a thing that you have now.

**Will:** And it's full of Gatorade of different flavors.

**Anthony:** Yes, it is full of one or two drinks worth of many different potions that I probably should have balanced better, but forgot to, that are now—

**Freddie:** Yeah, but we only got a couple of drinks, that's the balancing.

**Beth:** That's the Supper Bowl?

**Anthony:** Yes, the Supper Bowl. That is the anchor, you have it with you. Everyone is, including Paeden, is now aware that he is a homunculus with the soul of Darryl's father in it. And, I'm presuming that you headed back to Walter, to grab some more kids, to get on the next leg of the journey.

**Matt:** Yeah.

**Anthony:** Because there is—

**Beth:** Switch them out.

**Freddie:** Trade some kids!

**Matt:** Do we have to roll for encounters to see if we fight some wolves on the way?

**Anthony:** [*laughs*] No. Absolutely not— If you want to, yes. Yeah.

**Matt:** Okay.

**Anthony:** Go ahead, roll.

**Freddie:** Yeah, I wanna— This is a valuable part of D&D!

**Matt:** ...I got a natty 1, Anthony!

[*cries of dismay from the players*]

**Freddie:** Oh no!

**Will:** God dammit!

**Beth:** Oh, gosh, Matt...

**Will:** Are we... all right.

**Anthony:** Okay.

**Freddie:** I want to experience all aspects of D&D! Let's experience this.

**Anthony:** Alright, give me a sec.

**Beth:** I don't want... I like wolves.

**Anthony:** Because literally, if you had rolled anything other than a 1, I would have said, “Ha ha, some wolves show up and you kill them.” But now that you rolled an actual 1, I feel like something needs to happen.

**Matt:** I swear to God. I'm screenshotting this.

**Anthony:** Oh, boy. Okay, okay, okay, okay.

**Matt:** I'm sorry, guys.

**Beth:** Yeah.

**Matt:** I'm just trying to learn how to play Dungeons and Dragons. We've been doing this for about a year or so.

[*Will laughs*]

**Anthony:** I'm trying to think...

**Beth:** First you're mean to Anthony, now you do this to all of us?

**Anthony:** Now you actually want to play Dungeons and Dragons? Who the fuck are you?

**Freddie:** Oh, hold on, I got a random encounter generator...

**Anthony:** Yeah, but that's not the same.

**Beth:** [*laughing*] Is that a sex thing?

**Matt:** Yeah...

**Freddie:** Oh, sorry, this is a dating site. Oh, I'm sorry guys!

**Beth:** Like, chat dating?

**Will:** Hot wolves in your area want to hook up with you!

**Beth:**  Awooga!

**Anthony:** Oh, no. I know exactly what to do... Everything's fine.

**Will:** Everything's fine?

**Beth:** Oh, that's so scary!

**Will:** So, nothing happens?

**Matt:** All right, so are we just—

**Anthony:** As far as you can tell... nothing happens.

**Beth:** All right, wait. Can I roll Insight?

**Will:** So, I don't even get to roll, because we are not even aware that we went into a—

**Beth:** Oh, yeah, yeah, yeah. We're not even aware.

**Anthony:** Okay, if everybody wants to, you can roll Perception with disadvantage. If—

**Will:** Well, I have disadvantage anyway, motherfucker, because you ruined my character!

**Anthony:** And if half of you fail, then all of you fail.

**Matt:** That's probably going to...

**Will:** I got a…

**Matt:** I got a 2.

**Beth:** I got a 1.

**Freddie:** That's one failure.

**Will:** You got a 1, Beth?

**Beth:** I got a 1.

**Freddie:** I also rolled a 1, so...

**Will:** All right.

**Matt:** Oh my God!

**Anthony:** Get them all out of your system now. Because trust me, once this shit kicks off you're going to be very happy to not roll ones. Okay—

**Freddie:** Anthony, not how probability works. Everybody, that's not how probability works.

**Anthony:** Yeah, no, I know. It is.

**Beth:** No, yeah, we already did it...

**Matt:** If I had another baby, it would be a boy. That's how it works.

[*laughter*]

**Anthony:** Okay, so yeah, what happened was, on the way back to Walter, you all just took a rest for the night and… you had great sleep. You've woke up feeling refreshed and everything is… fine.

**Freddie:** Just good bowel movements all around for everybody.

**Will:** Henry had a really solid PMBM, if you know what I mean.

**Freddie:** [*laughing*] PMBM?

**Beth:** Oh, God.

**Freddie:** PMBM!

**Anthony:** What a shame. What a shame.

**Matt:** All right, so we heading to Walt—

**Freddie:** Wait, wait, so then his morning ones are AMBMs?

**Will:** Yes, he's got the AMBM, and the PMBM. And then he's done for the day.

**Anthony:** How regular is he? That feels unhealthy!

**Matt:** Anthony, did we level up when we slept?

**Anthony:** Yeah. I told you, you leveled up as soon as you left the thing…

**Freddie:** Fuck yeah.

**Beth:** Ooh!

**Matt:** Oh, yeah.

**Will:** *[hums* Final Fantasy *victory music] ...*Should have done this before the podcast started to record...

**Anthony:** That's how they get a fucking break in this fucking thing!

**Freddie:** About time we get a fucking break in this game!

**Anthony:** What, you're level 8 now?

**Freddie:** Yeah.

**Beth:** Wow!

**Will:** Manage levels...

**Anthony:** Congratulations on reaching level 8! You feel, as you all were eating on the field of Ballsdeep and having fun, and making fun of Grant, and having a good old time, you could feel just a little surge of daddy magic within all of your hearts as Darryl's relationship to his son got closer, and I don't feel like individually making you level up on a different rate, so you all level up when any of you has a good relationship to one of your kids.

**Matt:** All right!

**Freddie:** Well, it’s because we're learning from each other, as a community of dads.

**Anthony:** Exactly.

**Beth:** That's beautiful.

**Will:** Wow.

**Anthony:** The real Dungeons and Daddies is the friend that you made along the way.

**Freddie:** Oh shit, I can do a feat or an ability score improvement.

[*Beth laughs*]

**Will:** Why don't you go look up one on WikiFeet?

**Beth:** Yeah, yeah!

[*Freddie laughs*]

**Matt:** Nice. Yeah, should we do... The feat options are really boring, they just have Grappler...

**Anthony:** Yeah, it turns out when you actually play D&D, normal things happen in the mechanics. They want you to do normal-ass stuff.

**Freddie:** There's a couple of feats here that really made me— For example, there's one called Tower of Iron Will, and this makes me think that just Glenn got a DVD about—

**Beth:** Of *Iron Will*.

**Freddie:** ...this guy named Iron Will, and he's just teaching you how to do pushups.

**Beth:** No, it's teaching you how to race dog sleds. *Iron Will*, great Disney movie from 1997, about a kid who runs the—

**Freddie:** Whoa, is this—

**Beth:** No, it's totally real! Look it up.

**Will:** Oh, I remember this movie!

**Beth:** It's really heartwarming.

**Will:** Because the kid was named Will, and I was named Will.

**Beth:** Yeah. And it's a really heartwarming movie. Got a lot of great action. Unfortunately, has Kevin Spacey, but you can ignore him. And yeah, just a real Disney heart dog winner.

**Freddie:** I'm going to get a feat called Tower of Iron Will, and this is what it is now, canonically, is Glenn remembers fondly this Disney movie, which is basically his mind palace movie.

And what this allows me to do is, it says— My mind's defenses are formidable. After you or another creature you see within 30 feet, fails a saving throw, you can use your reaction to roll Psionic Talent die and add the number to the saving roll, potentially causing it to succeed. So, now, I need to watch this movie so I can throw inspirational stuff at my companions to help them out, in case bad stuff happens.

**Will:** Wow, from your favorite movie *Iron Will*.

**Freddie:** Is this on Disney Plus?

**Beth:** Yes. Yeah, it is.

**Freddie:** Yes it is. Ooh, okay, all right. That's what old Glenn's doing.

**Anthony:** It's no *Balto*.

**Beth:** It's no *Balto. Balto* is like, my first Disney crush, is like the dog Balto. Voiced by Kevin Bacon.

**Anthony:** I have bad news. I don't think that's a Disney movie.

**Beth:** No, wait—

**Anthony:** You're in love with a bootleg ass *Robin Hood*—

**Beth:** No, it's a Don Bluth movie. *Robin Hood* is Disney, but *Balto* is Don Bluth. Don Bluth is sacred in my house, even though he's an asshole.

**Anthony:** Okay. You've all leveled up. Does anyone else want to talk about fun things that you get from leveling up?

[*Beth and Will laugh*]

**Beth:** You're so mean!

**Matt:** I am going to do Grapple, because it feels like it's a “come on in for a hug,” like a dad hug thing. Because, essentially, now, when I Grapple, I can roll for another Grapple check, and then I pin the creature, and then both are restrained until the Grapple ends. So, it's like a big bear... It's a big dad hug.

**Freddie:** Hot. That's so in line with our BDSM podcast.

**Matt:** Oh my God.

**Beth:** Nice. I chose ability score improvement, and so I improved my constitution and my dexterity.

**Matt:** Nice.

**Will:** [*nerd voice*] I chose ability score improvement and I decided to improve Wisdom twice, since I have fucking disadvantage now, *Anthony*.

**Matt:** Sorry for the detour.

**Anthony:** No, it's fine. This is that crunchy stat stuff that people love so much.

**Will:** Yes. That's what people come to this podcast for.

**Anthony:** So, you head back to find Walter the Immoral at the predetermined location.

**Freddie:** Ooh, what is it? What's our predetermined location?

**Anthony:** I don't know, you get to decide. I guess.

**Freddie:** Oh, we could make it—

**Matt:** Are we going back to his home? I think that's where all the kids are.

**Freddie:** No, Matt, they're fugitives from our dads! You're going to go right back to their house?

**Anthony:** Yeah, they're driving around on that motorcycle.

**Matt:** Oh, shit.

**Freddie:** They're like a cool road gang! They got to ride! They got to be free! They got to feel free, to do the things!

**Anthony:** Before you guys headed to Ballsdeep, I presume you were like “Hey, in seven days, meet us at this rendezvous.”

**Freddie:** Yeah, meet us at— What's our cool rendezvous point?

**Matt:** I think Walter picked it, because he knows the area.

**Anthony:** Oh, you coward.

**Matt:** What?

**Anthony:** The smallest amount of world building I put onto your plate, and you flick it back at me!

**Freddie:** Hey I got it, I got it. We meet him behind this waterfall that we saw, because I've always wanted to have a scene behind a waterfall.

**Anthony:** Oh, cool. Okay.

**Will:** Oh, no, wait, wait, wait. Can I plus one that? What if this is—

**Matt:** It's called Ass Sweat.

[*Anthony laughs*]

**Beth:** Oh my goodness

**Matt:** It's called the Ass Sweat Falls, next to Balls Deep.

**Freddie:** It's very close to Balls Deep.

**Will:** Ass Sweat Falls, by Balls Deep. I was going to say, it's the one waterfall in this fantasy world that doesn't have a secret cave full of treasure behind it.

**Freddie:** Yeah, it's just a regular cave behind it.

**Anthony:** It's a normal waterfall, that not actually has a lot of space behind the waterfall, so you're constantly getting pelted with water.

**Will:** They're just camped out next to the waterfall, because no one ever comes to this waterfall, because there's no cool treasure kit.

**Freddie:** But we said meet behind it, because no one comes to this waterfall. Because I want to play that. I want to play that.

**Will:** Oh, okay, so we're all just squeezed in behind the waterfall.

**Anthony:** It's like in *The Lost World* when they're hiding from the T-Rex.

[*waterfall sounds, birds chirping*]

**Anthony:** So, as you sidle up behind the waterfall, you see all the kids are—

**Freddie:** Soaking wet?

**Anthony:** Soaking wet. Terry Jr. and Lark and Sparrow are playing Ninja, the hand game, the slap each other's hands thing.

**Beth:** Oh man.

**Matt:** Mm-hmm [*affirmative*].

**Will:** Classic.

**Anthony:** And you see a lot of bruises on Terry Jr's hands, and Lark and Sparrow are basically unmarked. You can also see... actually Henry, roll Perception.

**Will:** Oh, great. Might as well tell me to just fucking shit in my hand here. I got a 15.

**Anthony:** So, you can immediately see that, A) Walter has a beard now, and—

**Will:** Whoa, frogs grow beards?

**Anthony:** Yeah, to show that time has passed. And, B) Lark and Sparrow have tattoos on their arms.

**Will:** Excuse me!?

**Beth:** That's so fucking metal.

**Will:** I-

**Anthony:** One of them has a tattoo that has “Sparrow” and one of them has a tattoo that says “Lark.”

**Will:** Okay. Can I tell—?

**Beth:** And they're the reverse. They're absolutely reversed.

**Will:** Yes. Yeah, fucking right. Do I need to roll another Perception to tell them apart?

**Anthony:** Yeah. Go for it.

[*Freddie laughs*]

**Matt:** And they do it wrong.

**Will:** I got a 12.

**Anthony:** Okay, with 12 you can see.

**Will:** So, I rush out and I say—

**Henry:** My two beautiful boys, I... What in tarnation? What the heck is this? Are these tattoos?!

**Will:** And I grab their arms and look at them.

**Sparrow:** They are indeed, Father. We felt that it would be highly appropriate to honor the person that we love most with a tattoo of their name. And so I, Sparrow, have a tattoo of my brother, Lark.

**Lark:** And I, Lark, have a tattoo of my brother, Sparrow. And so we shall always be united in flesh and soul.

**Will:** I got to admit, that pretty much melts Henry's heart and he says—

**Henry:** Okay, I mean, I think you're a little young for tattoos, boys, but that's a very wholesome reason to get a tattoo. So, in the future, you have autonomy over your bodies, but I would appreciate a heads up just so, as your parent, I can make sure that whatever you want to do, you're doing it in a safe way that you feel supported.

Because, I know a thing or two about tattoos going south, so I just wish in the future, that I think we all need to communicate to each other as a family, both ways, before we make big choices like this.

**Darryl:** Henry, you got some tats?

**Henry:** Oh, yeah. I have... It's a long story.

**Will:** And I show him the Mercedes Benz tattoo on my back.

**Henry:** It's because my wife's named Mercedes, you know?

**Darryl:** Yeah.

**Henry:** It's a cool thing to have, you know?

**Darryl:** Okay.

**Anthony:** Lark says—

**Lark:** Of course, of course. So, I should ask permission or simply tell you that I am also going to get a skull tattooed on my chest very large, across the entire torso? That my enemies may see death coming at them incarnate.

**Glenn:** Oh, and then the eyes could be your nipples!

**Lark:** Exactly. Exactly! Glenn understands.

**Henry:** Why don't we talk more about that when we get back to Earth, okay? Once we get back home... it's just, I also think we need to... your mom needs to be a part of these conversations too, so I think that's probably the way we need to handle that.

**Beth:** I was thinking the other day about how insane it was that Henry's tattoo artist accidentally did the Mercedes sign, instead of the peace sign. What kind of a person doesn't know how to do a peace sign? That is so upsetting, that you could pay money and somebody could be like, “Whoops, I accidentally did this car instead of the peace sign.”

**Will:** But they look really similar! Point of fact, every time I try to draw the peace sign, I'm like, “Wait a second. Am I doing the—”

**Beth:** Yeah, but you're drawing on paper, not somebody's flesh, permanently!

**Matt:** You're not a tattoo artist.

**Will:** To be fair, he could fix it, but he just hasn't.

**Beth:** Okay.

[*waterfall and birds chirping resumes*]

**Anthony:** Walter sidles up to you guys, he goes—

**Walter:** I'm sorry about the tattoos, I didn't realize what they were doing. They did a stick-and-poke to each other before I could tell what was going on.

**Glenn:** *[loudly, over waterfall]*What? What? Walter, you got to speak up!

**Henry:** Glenn, we're outside of the waterfall man, just come out here, you're going to be able to hear better.

**Darryl:** Yeah, come here.

**Glenn:** I can't hear you guys! It's fucking cool, though!

**Darryl:** Glenn, get out.

**Walter:** Glenn.

**Henry:** Glenn, it's very funny, we get what you're doing, but we're all out here—

**Glenn:** There's a whole cave back here, it's so cool! ...There's nothing in the cave, I'm coming out.

**Walter:** Hey man, what's up?

**Glenn:** You got a towel, Walter?

**Henry:** So, Walter, I do have... How did they get tattoos?

**Walter:** It is a stick-and-poke thing. They got to some ink and quills, and some stuff that I lie around, to like— As you can see, I've done some visual design work on the motorcycle and—

**Henry:** And so, did they tattoo each other, or did you tattoo them?

**Walter:** Oh, they tattooed each— I never would have tattooed them! That's not my place.

**Henry:** How would they learn how to make tattoos? That's a prison tattoo thing! Boys, how did you learn how to make tattoos?

**Anthony:** Both of them, in unison—

**Lark and Sparrow:** YouTube!

**Darryl:** It's like in *Gladiator*. Maximus, man!

**Henry:** They don't even have phones. I don't know how...

**Will:** Muttering to himself.

**Walter:** It seemed like they had researched it before they came to this world, and were just waiting for an excuse.

**Ron:** Hey, Terry Jr., are those tattoos on your knuckles and hands, there?

**Terry Jr.:** No, this is bruises, from them. They hit me really hard.

**Ron:** Oh, Terry, as your stepdad always tells you, never start a fight, always finish them. I... actually haven't done either.

**Terry Jr.:** I watched you finish a fight with what I thought was my dad.

[*pained laughter*]

**Darryl:** Yeah, Ron, you've done some fights.

**Henry:** Yeah, Ron you kicked that guy's ass!

**Glenn:** Yeah, Ron, that was some Master Chief, *Halo,* finish the fight shit.

**Ron:** Well, that wasn’t a fight, son. That was a war.

[*laughter*]

**Anthony:** That's a fucking hard thing to say. That's a hard-ass thing to say.

**Ron:** Well, I just meant that, before I came into this world and became the strong, sturdy man you see before you, I wasn't much of a physical being. And there's nothing... I mean, yeah, you should play them again and fucking kick their asses.

[*Anthony laughs*]

**Darryl:** Hey,Walter, how's it been going, running... Have you guys been safe? How's it been, taking care of the kids? Any word from our dads, or anything?

**Walter:** I haven't heard anything from your dads, directly, but I've definitely run into a couple of their bounty hunters. We've been in some tough scrapes and fun side adventures that could be explored in like a graphic novel format or some other sort of ancillary media. Definitely a lot of self contained, fun stories with these kind of characters, that don't need to be in the main campaign. Had a lot of those.

**Darryl:** Hey Walter, we heard something from one of our dads.

**Walter:** Oh yeah, what was that?

**Darryl:** My dad... And guess what?

**Walter:** What?

**Matt:** I pick up Paeden, and I go—

**Darryl:** Here he is!

**Walter:** Behind Paeden?

**Darryl:** No. It's Paeden! Paeden's my dad. It's wild, right?

**Walter:** Paeden's an eight year old boy. That's not your dad.

**Darryl:** But he's got... We don't need to explain, it's a little complicated. But, yeah, the soul of my dad is in Paeden. He doesn't have his memories or anything yet, but if we break the bowl that Glenn has over there, then his memories will go back in Paeden. So, just thought you should know. It's pretty cool.

**Walter:** Oh, so... could you not do that, though? Because Paeden's my son. He's my boy.

**Darryl:** Yeah. I know. We haven't done it yet either. I feel you.

**Ron:** Well, maybe he's your son, but he's my half brother and Darryl's father, so we've all got sort of a little soap opera tie around him. And he's sort of the ultimate patriarch, if you will. Sort of the daddy of us all.

**Henry:** Wait a second. Guys, if Paeden is Darryl's father, and your brother and—

**Darryl:** No, he's not Ron's brother.

**Ron:** He is!

**Henry:** ... Walter's son, does that mean that, Darryl, that Walter is your step-grandfather?

**Beth:** The doctor was a woman!

[*laughter*]

**Darryl:** I guess so, but I think—

**Henry:** Wow.

**Darryl:** ... just from me to you, man, I feel like I went about this the wrong way. But I think we have to keep Paeden with us.

**Henry:** I'm a little foggy on that, I'll be honest. Because it feels like... I don't know where we're going next— I was going to suggest that we maybe go see about my anchor next because ever since I looked at the [*quiet, shaken*] the thing-that-will-not-be-named—

**Will:** And Henry goes pale for a second.

**Henry:** ...It's been a little harder to concentrate. I feel like I maybe awoke something—

**Ron:** Oh, the poop.

**Henry:** [*exclaims in fear*]Ron, how can you just say it? You saw it, too!

**Anthony:** Henry, take a d4 of damage.

**Freddie:** Wait, I could use like—

**Glenn:** Henry, there's this movie that I saw on Disney Channel years ago, called *Iron Will*!

**Henry:** Uh-huh?

**Freddie:** Inserting a thing later about *Iron Will* that I will look up…

[*Beth laughs*]

**Will:** Wow.

**Matt:** Wow.

**Henry:** What a cool and specific reference, that you definitely came up with off the top of your head, and didn't insert later by relooking it up and recording it, Glenn!

**Beth:** Oh, man...

**Glenn:** Yeah, I know, I just have those off the top of my dome—

**Matt:** Man that's so... I'm going to think of a really good joke this moment later, so if we can just add that in, too.

**Anthony:** I'm going to think of a whole story arc, and stuff for you guys to do later.

**Matt:** Yeah. Can we actually just write all the dialogue?

**Beth:** And now an ad for the new podcast that I'll be doing later!

**Will:** Okay, I got 2 damage.

**Matt:** So, you took 2 damage?

**Darryl:** No, I hear you Henry. I guess the only thing is, we don't know a lot about what your dads are doing, it does feel like— No insult to you, Walter, but it feels like we probably don't want my dad's soul to get taken by Willy and those guys. It feels like he's probably safest with us.

**Henry:** But by that logic, aren't all of our kids more safe with us, Darryl? Because, the whole point—

**Darryl:** Our dad's don't want to... No, I know, but your dads don't want to kill our kids. We don't know what they want to do with—

**Henry:** If you want to spend some time with your dad, I think that's wonderful. But I think you could just maybe shoot straight about it. That's all.

**Darryl:** I mean...

**Anthony:** Paeden's just like—

**Paeden:** Yeah, son, do you want to just hang out with your old man? With your pops?

**Darryl:** Always, Paeden.

**Paeden:** We'll throw the ball around! I'll teach you how to shave!

**Darryl:** I mean, that too, obviously having Paeden around is dope, I just, you know... Anyways. That's all. We don't know what the dads want. I just don't want—

**Anthony:** Walter—

**Walter:** I mean, it's up to you, I guess. He's my son, but he's your dad, so I feel like it's only fair if you get to decide whether you want to keep him or not.

**Darryl:** I mean, we're a team, we can put it up to vote, it just feels like he's got a big magical thing here with us that we don't want to lose.

**Ron:** I guess maybe we could ask him, in that he's wise and that he's your dad, but he's also young and with it, because he's also a kid, sort of.

**Paeden:** I definitely want to stick around, because the chances of getting into a rowdy, rowdy fight with you boys, is about a thousand times higher than with daddy Walter. Sorry, Walter.

**Henry:** You raise a good point, which is that if we meet someone along our journey who can separate Paeden's soul from your dad's soul, it'd be nice if we didn't have to come all the way back to the waterfall to get him and bring him back. That seems like something we might want to do, lickety-split.

**Darryl:** But Henry, you do bring up a good point, I gotta say. About— hey Walter, I can't help but realize that you couldn't even stop our kids from getting tattoos and beating up one of our other kids.

**Henry:** Wait, who got beat up? Who got beat up?

**Walter:** Nobody got beat up. They're playing a game!

**Darryl:** Look at Terry Jr., look at his knuckles!

**Ron:** Nobody got beat up. Your secret's safe with me, kiddo. Sorry, he's not feeling too well, he got kind of beat up.

**Terry Jr.:** I didn't get beat up. They hit me on the hands hard, that's all. They just hit harder than I expected, it's not...

**Ron:** It's okay. It's okay, buddy.

**Terry Jr.:** I'm not—

**Henry:** Lark and Sparrow? Come here boys.

**Lark and Sparrow:** Mmm, yes?

**Henry:** Now, I'm sure you guys meant that you were horsing around with Terry Jr., but it's a game. You can't hit people too hard, okay?

**Sparrow:** Father, in the rules of Ninja, you must strike to kill, with intent. And indeed we have, and indeed we did. We have not lost a single game of Ninja.

**Henry:** Sparrow, I'm going to ask you, were you trying to kill Terry?

**Sparrow:** I was trying to win in such a way that he, as a character in the game, did not live anymore.

**Henry:** I see. But, how much does him not living in the game have to do with how hard you hit him? If it's all in the game, then hit him really hard in your imagination, but maybe just give him a little tap. That way, you guys can play longer, too. You know?

**Sparrow:** I received his consent. He said it was fine.

**Henry:** Well, sometimes people say things are fine, because they're embarrassed, because it hurts a lot.

**Will:** Then I lean in and whisper—

**Henry:** Just ask Grant about that one.

[*laughter*]

**Anthony:** Grant is just standing in the waterfall still, and water just [*water pouring sound*] on his head. He's just standing there getting drenched.

**Ron:** Terry has nothing to be embarrassed about. He's a good boy, never been embarrassed, and if I need to kick the shit out of your kids, I'll do it. I'll beat both of your kids up.

[*laughter*]

**Henry:** I don't think anyone needs to kick the shit out of anyone. Why don't you guys—

**Ron:** I'll fucking destroy your kids.

**Anthony:** Immediately they fucking take stances, they're like—

**Lark and Sparrow:** Bring it, sir! This is the day we've been waiting for since we met you and your mustache!

**Matt:** By the way, Darryl, seeing that Grant is just sitting there under the waterfall, Darryl's like, “Oh, good idea,” and he takes his shirt off and he goes to go under the waterfall, too. He's like—

**Darryl:** Guys, it's time to clean up!

**Grant:** [*embarrassed*] Dad!

**Darryl:** Nice shower down here.

**Beth:** Ron sees Darryl take off his shirt, and he thinks it must be some sort of fighting thing, like “Bro, I'm taking off my shirt.”

**Grant:** Everyone put their shirts on! I just miss the rain, I just like getting—

**Freddie:** Glenn peels off his shirt, revealing rippling abs underneath.

**Beth:** No!

**Anthony:** God...Grant turns around for that one.

**Will:** Henry says to Lark and Sparrow, he's like—

**Henry:** I'm not really a big fan of you guys playing this violent game. I feel like... Why don't you and Terry play a compliment game, where we see who can give each other the most self-esteem-lifting, life-affirming compliment?

**Sparrow:** Okay, Terry Jr., you are very good at withholding pain.

**Henry:** That’s… I guess that's a compliment. That's a start.

**Sparrow:** Nailed it. I am the best!

**Anthony:** And he immediately slaps Lark across the face. Then he goes—

**Lark:** Ha, ha!

**Anthony:** Then he slaps Sparrow across the face.

**Henry:** Boys!Gosh darn it, alright, oh jeez...

**Ron:** Henry, I'm going to compliment your boys so good they're going to die... Do I win?

**Henry:** I don't know—

**Lark:** Bring it, coward!

**Ron:** You got two of the same person. Blessings. Congratulations. Now, die.

**Sparrow:** Pathetic!Prepare for a counter attack, Ronald. You have the ability to talk with your son, and an emotional vulnerability that most adults can only aspire to! Hi-yah!

**Henry:** That's great! See how much more fun this is?

**Beth:** Ron dies.

**Lark:** We fucking destroyed him!

**Anthony:** Walter's like—

**Walter:** So, where’re you guys going to be next? Just so I know, just in case there's an emergency, or whatever. There is Oakvale, right? Where Henry's thing was—

**Henry:** That seems like a weird coincidence. Hmm...

**Walter:** Yeah, that is weird, now that I think about it. There's the Meth Bay, where I think Glenn's anchor was. And then there was Swankery Hill, where Ron's was.

**Matt:** Darryl's been climbing up the waterfall, by the way, this whole time.

**Freddie:** Sorry, what?

**Anthony:** With all the strength of a raging river?

**Beth:** Yeah.

**Henry:** Look, I feel like I need to sort out— maybe if we go towards my thing, I can work through some stuff that will get me past it. I just... Anything to stop thinking about the... [*distressed noise*]. Anything to stop thinking about the you-know-what.

**Sparrow:** Ooh, Father, what did you see?

**Darryl:** I think the next stop we're going to do is the town of... Belly Flop!

**Matt:** And then Darryl jumps from 30 feet up, straight onto his belly.

[*splash!*]

**Ron:** Oh, the poop!

[*Henry cries out in horror*]

**Anthony:** Another d4.

**Will:** God dammit.

**Freddie:** There's a potential roll there where you hit your dingus real hard and you just—

**Anthony:** Yeah, I think definitely— roll Constitution or Dexterity. Up to you.

**Matt:** I rolled 18 plus 6. 24.

**Freddie:** Whoa.

**Beth:** Damn.

**Freddie:** Belly flop champ.

**Anthony:** Jesus. When you belly flop it is the water that gets hurt.

[*laughter*]

**Beth:** Damn.

**Matt:** I pop up like nothing happened, I don't even sink. I just hit the water like Jello, and then I just roll onto my back somehow, and then I just do a backstroke over to the shore and I get up, and I put my arm around Henry, I go—

**Darryl:** Yeah, man. I think if that's where you want to go, I think it's Henry's turn, baby. Let's do this!

**Henry:** Okay.

**Ron:** I agree, because I've noticed that, when I'm not the dad that's getting the most attention, people think that I'm a good dad.

[*laughter*]

**Ron:** And so, if I'm just not having to be a dad in an active sense, then people just... Things go pretty well for me. Except for the poop.

**Henry:** I think we all are probably going to need to do our stuff first, to help Ron do his thing. That's kind of my vibe...

**Darryl:** Know what? You guys taught me a lot about opening up, do you guys want to open up about my poop? It feels like you've brought that up a lot.

**Henry:** [*exclaims in pain*]Stop saying— !

**Anthony:** Another d4.

**Henry:** Ugh, it hurts! Look Darryl, I just... [*struggles to speak*]. I can't talk about it, and I just wish you would respect that, and not bring it up.

**Darryl:** Okay.

**Henry:** I will deal with it eventually. To quote one of my favorite people, we'll talk about it later.

**Darryl:** Okay.

**Lark:** Ooh, Father's winning the compliment game, now! Destroy him, Father.

**Darryl:** All right, it does feel like something that Willy did, but we'll have to deal with that later, but okay.

**Walter:** In that case, you're going to be taking Lark and Sparrow with you. I presume I will take Grant back. Oh, Grant, what's going on?

**Ron:** Oh, nevermind.

**Sparrow:** Oh, this will be a fight that I will... We are going to destroy you slowly, piece by piece.

**Henry:** Boys...

**Sparrow:** Your entire psyche will turn to chocolate in our mouths.

**Henry:** Okay, okay. Look, we're going to be going... This is our first time since we got separated that we're going on a big adventure together.

**Lark:** Indeed.

**Henry:** Well, I'm going to need you both to be real grown ups, okay? I need you both to be on really good behavior, and it's going to be really dangerous out there. And I know that you think that danger is fun, and a way to challenge yourself, but you could get really hurt.

Lark, Sparrow could get really hurt. And Sparrow, Lark could get really hurt. Or I could get really hurt. And if we have to come back to your mom and say that we got hurt, or somebody, God forbid, something really bad happened to them, she is going to be heartbroken. And do you want to disappoint your mom like that?

**Sparrow:** No...

**Henry:** Do you want your mom thinking that we hurt ourselves real bad because we were being goofballs?

**Sparrow:** No...

**Anthony:** Says Sparrow.

**Henry:** Okay, then.

**Anthony:** And Lark is like—

**Lark:** I think Mother would like to know that we were centurions out in the war, defending her honor and our own victory at every possible turn. I think she would be very proud of us.

**Henry:** You know, I think you're right. I think your mother would be very proud if you were brave, and *disciplined,* and respectful, the way that a centurion is. I remember seeing this movie *300*, and while I wasn't super hip with a lot of the broader themes—

**Darryl:** That is a dope movie, Henry.

**Henry:** Yeah, and so—

**Sparrow:** It was racially problematic!

**Henry:** One thing you got to say about those Spartans, is that they were disciplined and they controlled themselves. And they—

**Glenn:** And they killed the weakest kids!

**Lark:** Yes!

**Darryl:** He kicks the dude in the well! Oh, man...

**Henry:** Hey, can you guys just give me a second here? Lark, you are my warrior—

**Lark:** Thank you. Thank you.

**Henry:** ...but part of a warrior means controlling yourself, and it means having focus, and it means not dying or getting hurt in a stupid way.

**Lark:** Of course.

**Henry:** We all need to be a team here, and being a warrior's about being a team, right?

**Lark:** Yes, absolutely.

**Henry:** Okay.

**Lark:** We are Team Warrior.

**Henry:** Team Oak Warriors. Go team!

**Lark:** Go team. It's going to be O-A-K, I-L-L.

**Henry:** Well, it's going to be... If I-L-L stands for I Love Lark.

**Will:** And I pat him on his shoulder.

**Henry:** And Sparrow. We're Team OAKILLS!

**Sparrow:** Team OAKILLS is a delightful nickname for us! Team OAKILLS on three!

**Henry:** All right.

**Sparrow:** One, two, three.

**Henry, Lark, and Sparrow:** Team OAKILLS.

**Matt:** I just want to say that *300* was the first rated-R movie that Grant got to see, because Darryl convinced Carol that it was historical and important. So, the moment you brought it up—

[*Freddie laughs*]

**Freddie:** And Grant convinced Darryl that he was—

**Anthony:** Yeah, Grant kept asking. Over and over and over.

**Matt:** Well, yes, Grant loves it, obviously also because of the fricking hot dudes, but I just want to say, in the background, Grant and Darryl are definitely doing “This is Sparta!” Over and over again in the pool. He's just kicking—

**Anthony:** Kicking him in the pool.

**Matt:** ... Darryl into the water, and then Darryl gets out and then he kicks him into the water. And they just keep doing it.

**Anthony:** Walter the Immoral bids Lark and Sparrow a temporary adieu, and hands them off into your custody, and if you guys want to leave, you can just leave now and head for Oakvale.

**Darryl:** I just want to— Really quick, Walter, again, just want to double check.

**Walter:** Yeah?

**Darryl:** You're good right? This is my kid.

**Walter:** I'm great!

**Darryl:** Grant, you're okay with—

**Walter:** Look, look. You're giving me some shit about the tattoos and stuff like that. I didn't explain. The tattoo thing happened while we were dodging arrows from a bounty hunter.

**Darryl:** Wait, what?

**Walter:** And I was skillfully weaving us away from his attacks, okay? I'm pretty much nailing it.

**Henry:** Sorry, you guys got shot at by a bounty hunter?

**Sparrow:** Many times, yes.

**Henry:** Oh, wow. Well, gosh that sounds really scary.

**Lark:** We are wanted people.

**Henry:** Hey, thank you for keeping our kids alive, man. I appreciate it.

**Walter:** No problem, man. No problem.

**Darryl:** Let's all say bye to our kids. Can we all say bye to our kids?

**Anthony:** Yes, do that.

**Freddie:** Okay.

**Beth:** On three! One, two…[*laughs*]

**Glenn:** Hey, Nick?

**Henry:** Bye kids!

**Freddie:** I go—

**Glenn:** Hey, Nick? You good?

**Nick:** Yep, I feel like I'm fucking killing it!

**Glenn:** Hell yeah, baby!

**Freddie:** I throw the horns.

**Anthony:** He was on his own, just playing air guitar.

**Freddie:** Hell, yeah!

**Anthony:** The second he saw you.

**Freddie:** Hell, yeah. I throw him the horns.

**Anthony:** He throws the horns back.

**Glenn:** God, I have the coolest kid everybody.

**Beth:** Ron goes to Ninja-swipe Terry Jr., but he hits him a little bit too hard on the hand, and he's like—

**Ron:** Oh, I'm sorry. I was just—

**Terry Jr.:** Ow. What are you doing?

**Ron:** You can practice your skills—

**Terry Jr.:** Can't you see my hand’s bruised? That hurt even more...

**Ron:** I'm sorry. Well, I'll catch you later, kiddo.

**Terry Jr.:** Yeah, I guess you will. Jeez, Louise...

**Ron:** Okay.

**Anthony:** So, as you turn away from Terry, Terry turns to look at Grant, and sort of goes over and starts talking to him, and you can't hear what they're saying.

**Matt:** I walk over to Grant, who I guess is talking to Terry Jr.

**Anthony:** All right, then you hear Terry Jr. go—

**Terry Jr.:** Hey, are you okay?

**Anthony:** And then you show up, so he stops talking.

**Darryl:** Oh. Oh, hey Terry Jr. Hey man, I just want to say bye to Grant real quick.

**Terry Jr.:** Okay, yeah, I'll leave you guys...

**Darryl:** I mean, you can stay, it's all cool. It's not a secret. Okay. Hey, Grant, you going to be good with just Walter? I mean, it's probably safer here than with us, I just want to make sure you're doing okay?

**Grant:** I think I'll probably be fine. If he can keep the twins safe, I'm sure he can...

**Darryl:** Yeah.

**Freddie:** It's probably going to be a lot calmer.

**Darryl:** Honestly, Grant compared... Walter and Terry Jr., and Nick, I feel like you're probably the most responsible one of all these people, so... just hang in there kid. I just want to give you a quick—

**Matt:** And I take off my watch. And I go—

**Darryl:** Don't let Paeden see it, because I know he's going to want it, because it's my dad's watch, okay?

[*laughter*]

**Matt:** So, I look and I go—

**Darryl:** This is my dad's watch, and I want you to have it. I've always worn it around my thing, just, y’know, keep good care of it. And—

**Beth:** [*giggling*]Worn it around your thing? ...I'm sorry.

**Darryl:** Around my dick. Yes, Ron.

[*laughter*]

**Anthony:** Yeah, that was Ron, over your shoulder, saying that.

**Beth:** Yeah, Beth would never say something so awful.

**Anthony:** Grant doesn’t take it from you. He's like—

**Grant:** This seems like an ”if I'm going to die” thing. I don't want to... I don't like what that's implying.

**Darryl:** Oh, no, no, no, no. My dad gave it to me, actually, when I... the first day of little league. It just meant a lot to him, and he wanted me to have it.

**Freddie:** Yeah, he gave me this Rolex for when I played baseball!

**Beth:** Way before he died.

**Darryl:** It wasn't a Rolex, Glenn! Why is everyone listening, Glenn? It wasn't a Rolex, it’s just a nice watch!

**Anthony:** Everybody's in the bush, they just know that when you're near Grant, they need to hide in the bush and eavesdrop.

**Darryl:** It's just a nice watch. It's not a big deal, Grant. I mean, it's great, but I should have given it to you sooner. It's just, you need a watch, and now everybody's got iPhones and whatnot now— it's not a big deal, but it's my dad's watch. I just want you to have it. Because I'm proud of you.

**Grant:** Okay.

**Darryl:** And you've done a lot in the world here, right now. I would like you to wear it. I would like you to have it. You don't have to wear it. You can do whatever you want with it, I just want you to have it.

**Anthony:** So, Grant takes it, he goes—

**Grant:** All right, thanks, I appreciate it.

**Anthony:** And he puts it on.

**Darryl:** Can...can your old man have a hug?

**Grant:** God. All right, yeah, all right, let's do it.

**Matt:** I put my arms out.

**Darryl:** ...Please?

**Grant:** Can you put your shirt on first?

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

**Matt:** I put my shirt on.

**Grant:** All right. All right, yeah, bring it in, I guess.

**Matt:** When I hug him, I go—

**Darryl:** Bear hug! You're going to get wet. Salmon!

**Matt:** And I jump into the lake with him.

**Grant:** Dad!

[*splash*]

**Anthony:** And he goes into the water with you.

**Freddie:** Ruining your dad's watch.

**Anthony:** Yeah, yeah, immediately breaks your dad's watch.

**Beth:** Oh my gosh.

**Matt:** I come out—

**Darryl:** By the way, that watch has not worked for a very long time.

**Grant:** Oh, thank God. Dammit Dad!

**Anthony:** He just shouted—

**Grant:** Goddammit, Dad!

**Anthony:** But everybody's laughing at him, and he's got that kind of performative anger that children have, where they're basically trying not to laugh, but they're still angry, kind of thing.

**Matt:** Darryl walks away, and he went specifically in the water because he's hiding all the tears he has, as he's walking away from Grant.

**Beth:** Oh my God.

**Will:** Wow, emotionally open Darryl is like a scary, intense energy. It's like we just uncorked something, and it's all coming out now.

**Anthony:** Unless there's anything else you'd like to do, you head off for Oakvale.

*[guitar strumming plays]*

*[ad break]*

**Anthony:** Okay, so then you ride for a reasonable amount of time. If you want roll on the—

**Will:** Do we encounter any wolves?

**Anthony:** Yeah, do you want to roll an encounter again? You can.

**Will:** Yeah, let's do it. I want to do another encounter. I got a 6.

**Anthony:** Three wolves appear on the trail in front of you. Three handsome, beautiful wolves.

**Will:** I cast Wild Shape, and turn into a wolf. And then I cast—

**Anthony:** Okay.

**Will:** ...Speak With Animals, and I go up to the wolves and I say—

**Henry:** Hey, guys.

**Beth:** And then he goes and lives with them, for the rest of his life.

**Henry:** Hey, these guys are cool, I'm with them, all right? We're just going to go walk this way, all right?

**Anthony:** Roll Persuasion.

**Matt:** I'm holding my ax.

**Darryl:** Are they cool, Henry?

**Will:** Henry goes, [*wolf noises*], because he's a wolf and he, as many people pointed out to me, cannot talk to humans when he's in Wild Shape.

**Ron:** Henry, can I pet one?

**Henry:** *[wolf noises]*

**Will:** And Henry's looking like, “No, don't ruin this for me. This is still a touch and go situation.” Henry got a 20 on his Persuasion.

**Anthony:** Jesus!

**Matt:** Wow.

**Anthony:** So, the wolves are like—

**Wolves:** Yeah.

**Henry:** All right, cool!

**Matt:** Do they sniff Henry's butt?

**Will:** I sniff their butts, for sure.

**Anthony:** Yeah.

**Will:** And I'm like—

**Anthony:** They go around in a circle, everybody sniffing butts.

**Will:** Here's what happens is, I sniff the first wolf's butt, and I go—

**Henry:** Nice to meet you Steven.

**Will:** And then I sniff the second wolf's butt, and I go—

**Henry:** Ah, Tiffany, nice to meet you.

**Will:** And then, is like—

**Henry:** As you can tell, my name is Henry. Be well on your way. Walk the way of the wolf, and—

**Beth:** Wait, I want to pet them first.

**Henry:** My human friend, Ron, would like to pet you. Is that okay?

**Anthony:** With a nat 20, the wolves go—

**Wolves:** Yeah, all right.

**Will:** So, I look to Ron and I do like—

**Beth:** I spend a half hour petting the wolves.

[F*reddie and Beth laugh*]

**Steven:** Which way are you guys headed?

**Henry:** Oh, yeah, as wolves of the land, do you know anything about a place called Oakvale?

**Steven :** Oh... yeah, we try not to go there.

**Henry:** Why not?

**Tiffany:** It's just a lot of really tedious people.

**Henry:** Tedious people? What do you mean by tedious?

**Tiffany:** Like, they’re just— you'll see when you get there. They're just all a big pain, and they love to eat vegetables and stuff, so it's safe to be there, so we tried to live there for a while. But they just, with the dancing, and the petting, and the touching, it's a whole thing.

**Henry:** That sounds kind of nice, though. I don't...

**Tiffany:** Well, then you should have a great time.

**Henry:** Okay, well, thank you for this information. May you be well, wolves.

**Tiffany:** Okay. We just say “bye,” but that's...

[*laughter*]

**Henry:** I'm definitely a fellow wolf, I'm not a human in disguise.

**Will:** And then I'm like—

**Henry:** Go, go, go, go, go...

**Tiffany:** Yeah, that's also something we say.

**Beth:** Like reverse, not-a-wolf Twitter.

**Matt:** That was like the wolf equivalent of Will bowing to somebody, and we don't bow.

[*birds chirping, faint singing*]

**Anthony:** So, after a little bit, a day or so of travel, you come across a beautiful forest of trees. And, it's unlike a lot of other forests you've seen in that every single tree, once you pay attention to it, and once you really start looking, they're all identical.

**Freddie:** Oh, weird.

**Anthony:** They're angled in different directions and stuff, but they all have the same little knots on the trucks. They all have the same number of branches, the same arrangement of leaves.

**Matt:** So, it's like Skyrim?

**Will:** Behold the Forest of Clone Brush.

[*laughter*]

**Matt:** Yeah.

**Will:** Welcome to Clone Brush Forest.

**Anthony:** The tree on it's own is like the *ne plus ultra* of trees. It’s like the quintessential tree that springs to mind when you think of what a beautiful tree looks like, but sort of copy and pasted over and over again. It loses a bit of it's impact and feels like having dessert for dinner.

**Will:** Looks like control-C, control-tree sort of situation, am I right?

**Freddie:** Fuck off.

**Anthony:** Alright. You get advantage for that.

**Freddie:** Fuck off.

**Anthony:** Despite—

**Beth:** It being bad?

**Anthony:** ...what that was, you get advantage.

**Matt:** Despite that, you get advantage.

[*distant singing*]

**Anthony:** As you get closer to the center of this forest, you hear singing. Many voices, old and young, male and female and non-binary, all singing harmoniously together with one another. It's a looping melody of three or four seconds that is very pleasant at first, but as you get closer and you start hearing it a bit more, it's beginning to get just a little bit irritating.

**Freddie:** I know what it sounds like, it's, [*hums Nokia ringtone*].

[*laughter*]

**Anthony:** That's exactly what it is.

**Freddie:** [*hums Nokia ringtone*] Like, “Wow, is that…?”

**Henry:** What is this place? Look at all these trees. They're identical.

**Glenn:** Hey Henry, you're like a geologist, man, how does this... You don't know tree science though, right?

**Darryl:** That's not trees, Glenn.

**Henry:** I've known a couple of biologists and treeologists, I can't remember what the technical terms is, I'll record that in later. I mean, Lark and Sparrow are twins, I guess you can have twin trees, and this is a lot of trees that have the same DNA. I guess it's possible.

**Ron:** I mean, you know a garden witch that knows a lot of trees, so maybe they're just related to these other trees.

**Henry:** Oh, that's a great idea!

**Will:** I grab a leaf and I say—

**Henry:** Hey, Erin?

**Anthony:** And Erin's face appears on the veins of the leaf and she goes—

**Erin:** What it is?

**Henry:** Hey Erin, can you see if I hold this leaf up?

**Erin:** Yes.

**Henry:** What's the deal with these trees? They're all identical.

**Erin:** Oh, gross. Ew. You're in Oakvale, I guess? Right?

**Henry:** Yeah, we're heading towards Oakvale to find my anchor. There's a mysterious singing going on, as well.

**Erin:** Well the singing I don't know, but whatever's going on with the trees, they were essentially magically designed. You know, normal tree, you grow it, it comes to fruition, it's a natural process. It has its own life, it's a beautiful thing. That's why I love trees.

But whatever the hell this is, is like someone found a tree that they liked, and basically took the form of it, and magically made it over and over and over again, just because they thought it was aesthetically pleasing. Whatever place you're in was designed, it's not natural.

**Ron:** Wow.

**Henry:** Wow, so we're like in the Ikea of forests.

**Ron:** Yeah.

**Henry:** We're in a pre-fab forest. Oh, that's very unsettling.

**Darryl:** Can you control them, Erin?

**Erin:** No, no I can't, because they're not connected to the earth. If I found the original one I could control that one, but all the facsimiles, no. And I don't control them, I talk to them, they're people.

**Darryl:** Yeah, yeah, you know what I mean. Okay.

**Erin:** “Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah.” Just my whole world view. Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah.

**Henry:** All right, well, thanks, Erin. Hey, anything else you can tell us about Oakvale as we're heading there? These wolves told me it was really boring.

**Erin:** Yeah, no, I've heard that people there are like... a lot. I've heard they're a lot.

[*laughter*]

**Beth:** Such a good description!

**Erin:** So, yeah, I mean I can't... I would be very, very careful.

**Henry:** Back in our world, there's a group of people that are really a lot, and they live by a Silver Lake in the City of Angels.

[*laughter*]

**Beth:** Oh, my gosh.

**Erin:** If— I'm not saying it should happen, but *if* worst comes to worst, and you end up killing them all and burning the forest down… my trees are still looking for a place to chill that is cool and really—

**Henry:** Are you saying you want me to commit tree genocide?

**Erin:** I- I’m not—

**Beth:** Or tree gentrification.

**Henry:** What the fuck?

**Erin:** First of all “treason” was right there!

**Freddie:** Tree-son.

**Erin:** Second of all, no. I'm just saying, where you guys go, rowdy things happen. So, if it does happen, just let me know. I'm not saying—

**Darryl:** See, this is why I didn't think we should have split the money with her, she's a murderer!

**Erin:** I'm not saying “do a murder,” I'm just saying, if it did happen—

**Darryl:** If the murder happened you would benefit from it.

**Erin:** Exactly!

**Henry:** You're saying wipe out the local population, so your trees can move in. That is called settler colonialism, and I bid you good day!

**Will:** And I hang up the leaf.

**Darryl:** Hell yeah, Henry!

**Freddie:** Yes.

**Anthony:** All right—

**Henry:** We got enough of that back home. We don't need to bring that crap here. Let's go on guys, I'm ticked off, now. Jeez, louise...

**Darryl:** I hope she'll still help us when we ask for help, though...

**Anthony:** She probably will.

[*laughter*]

**Anthony:** If you continue toward the singing, if you want to move stealthily, you can, to not be noticed. You just have to roll for that. Or, you can just walk in like you own the place.

**Henry:** I think we should be cautious. There's a movie, I think it's called *Midsommar*, on Earth— I didn't watch it because it looked really scary, but, you know… Sometimes you hear happy singing in a forest and you think, “Oh, that's nice”. But if it's a little creepy, you should be cautious. I would recommend we—

**Darryl:** That's a Shakespeare movie, right?

**Ron:** Yeah.

**Glenn:** I don't think there's ever been a situation where, if you heard weird singing in the forest, that ever ends up good. So, I agree, we should—

**Henry:** Well, I mean, there's the Renaissance festival. That's a good thing.

**Darryl:** We could send Ron in. Ron's stealthy. We could have Ron scout it out. So, we don't get the kids in trouble.

**Henry:** Oh, that's not a bad idea! Ron, do you think you could scout this out? Maybe I could go along with Ron, as like a little bird, or something like that.

**Darryl:** That's true.

**Henry:** So, we can maybe get an eye on the place. And I can help out Ron if he gets in trouble.

**Ron:** Yeah, all right. Let's see... How am I going to be stealthy? I think I'll just sort of walk quietly toward the sounds.

[*snickers*]

**Glenn:** That's a good start.

**Beth:** Yeah.

**Anthony:** Master of Stealth!

**Beth:** Yes.

**Will:** Before we do that, I turn to Darryl and I say—

**Henry:** Darryl, this is very, very important.

**Darryl:** Mm-hmm?

**Henry:** I need you to put 99.9% of your energy into making sure my sons don't follow me into that forest. Because the second I leave, they're going to try to just go do something crazy, like they always do, and I am entrusting you to be their dad in temporum.

**Darryl:** Henry?

**Matt:** I put my hand on his shoulder, I'm like—

**Darryl:** Henry, you're the QB, I'm the center, those two kids, your two kids, they're the frontline of the other team. They're not getting near you.

**Henry:** Okay.

**Darryl:** Don't you worry, I'm stopping them.

**Henry:** I appreciate it.

**Darryl:** And I'm going to treat them like my own kids. Nothing's going to happen to them.

**Freddie:** Glenn is already playing Ninja with them.

[*Anthony laughs*]

**Henry:** Boys?

**Will:** And I—

**Anthony:** They're like—

**Lark and Sparrow:** Yes? Yes? Yes?

**Will:** I refer to all three of you, I guess, when I say that.

**Henry:** I am going to go scout out this singing with Ron. Mr. Wilson is in charge, so you need to listen to him and do what he says, okay?

**Glenn:** *[whining]*What? No!

**Lark:** No...

**Sparrow:** I don't think we will do that, Father.

**Darryl:** Glenn, Glenn, come on, help out here.

**Glenn:** What? I mean, we're playing Ninja!

**Darryl:** No, that's cool, you guys can play Ninja. You can play Ninja.

**Henry:** You can play Ninja with Mr. Close.

**Glenn:** Okay, game on!

[*slapping sound*]

**Lark:** Ow, ow! Ooh, he’s a— he's a sneaky one, I like him.

**Henry:** Okay.

**Lark:** I like this one.

**Henry:** Okay—

**Darryl:** Don't worry Henry, as long as they're doing this, they're not going to go anywhere.

**Henry:** Okay, good talk, boys. Ron, let's roll.

**Matt:** Darryl, by the way, jumps into Ninja. I mean, he's competitive and he loves fricking games like this. So, he's absolutely jumping in.

[*laughter*]

**Anthony:** And they say—

**Lark and Sparrow:** Ooh, big boy!

**Anthony:** And immediately gang up on you.

**Will:** I turn into a cricket and I sit on Ron's shoulder.

**Beth:** Aww!

**Matt:** Nice.

**Freddie:** Oh my god.

**Anthony:** Give him life advice. Okay, Ron, give me a Stealth check.

**Beth:** That is a 17, plus....

**Matt:** 24, or whatever it is.

**Beth:** Yeah, 8.

**Anthony:** Rowdy boys...

**Will:** You love to see it

**Beth:** You really do.

[*birds chirping, distant, indistinct sounds of people talking*]

**Anthony:** Okay, with that banger of a Stealth roll, you manage to get pretty close to the singing, and you can see that in the center of this forest, there is basically a little civilization that has been created in the center of these trees.

In the distance, you can see a big temple, and you seem to be in a residential town area. But everything is all tents. You just see a lot of tents right next to each other. You see somebody grilling asparagus. You see somebody brewing kombucha over on the side. You see a bunch of... What's the word I'm looking for?

**Freddie:** Dirty hippies?

[*Will laughs*]

**Anthony:** You see what seems to be, a sustainable, very healthy, commune of people. And right now they're all dancing around in a circle, just sort of singing the Nokia ringtone to each other, over and over again. And, you can also— actually, roll Perception? Henry and—

**Will:** Oh, yes, the two Perception dumb-dumbs.

**Anthony:** Yeah, oh, whoops.

[*die rolls*]

**Will:** I got an 18.

**Beth:** I got a 16.

**Anthony:** So, you can see that, while everything around you is this beautiful, lush, verdant shade of green, like Windows 95 default desktop levels of picturesque—

**Will:** Of bliss.

**Anthony:** Of bliss. In the distance, you can see that there is a rather large and unusual looking metal door set into the ground, like, flush. It's a door—

**Freddie:** That's some *Lost* shit.

**Beth:** A hatch! It's a hatch.

**Anthony:** Yeah, actually kind of, I guess. Yeah, there's a hatch. But, what's inside this one is hopefully better.

**Beth:** Fucking... I'm quitting.

**Will:** Dang. Calling your shot.

**Anthony:** Oh, it's a guy at a terminal, big fucking deal!

**Matt:** It’s a Trader Joe's.

**Anthony:** It's a Trader Joe's. All that stuff that I just described to you, that's sort of like, the second thing you notice. The first thing that you notice is that all of these people who are dancing around and singing at each other? They look a lot like Henry.

**Will:** Oh, fuck.

**Anthony:** They look like relatives of Henry, at the very least.

**Beth:** Oh my goodness.

**Will:** What is…?

**Anthony:** They all have the same color hair, they all have very similar facial structure, they're all kind of... whatever you imagine Henry looks like, dear podcast listener, imagine that like writ large.

**Will:** The Island of Shaggies.

**Matt:** Does Ron notice this?

**Anthony:** Yeah, both of you do.

**Will:** Is Henry picking up any anchor vibes? Is that going on?

**Anthony:** Yeah, you can tell that whatever you're looking for is probably either in that temple, or it's in that hatch. They're both in the same basic area of this village, and they're distant. It's between you and those two points of interest, are all the people singing.

**Will:** Okay, upon seeing all of these people that look a lot like him, a really deep-seated fear just comes over Henry, and just kind of grabs him in the pit of his stomach— or his thorax, or whatever a cricket has— and he fights it down.

And he has this sharp vision in his head of a door with a bunch of surging light behind it, pounding open. And he manages to, just in his head, keep it shut for another moment. And he looks to Ron, and he taps Ron with a little cricket hand.

**Ron:** What's up, Henry?

**Will:** And then, because he can't talk, because he's a cricket, Henry makes little SWAT team gestures, with his cricket hands—

[*laughter*]

**Anthony:** That's adorable.

**Will:** ... to suggest that we go around this place.

**Ron:** No, yeah, they all look like you. That one, and that one...

**Will:** Henry shakes his head and he says— and then he kind of tries to mime out again... Like, he pretends to hide behind Ron, and then sneaks across to the other shoulder, and then nods like, “You get it?”

**Ron:** Oh, yeah, yeah, yeah! So, I should look like you, so that I could blend in here and just sort of walk across...

**Beth:** So, Ron digs into the dirt ahead of him and gets whatever horrific mud, worms, and stuff that he can dig up from the ground, and just puts it all over his body. Just like, whatever can make him smell absolutely horrific. Just, completely filthy. Just, end of apocalyptic YA novel filth levels.

[*laughter*]

**Beth:** Bleeding, openly dying, smelling like gangrenous intestines... Okay.

**Matt:** Damn.

**Beth:** And then, yeah, he just walks with cricket Henry, fake-cheerily trying to blend in to the rest.

**Anthony:** So, are you going to walk through, or past the group of people? Or are you trying to sneak around the trees, and stuff? Or what's the story?

**Beth:** Not *sneak* so much as to be very careful behind the trees, but just sort of quickly make a beeline for... Do you want to go for the temple?

**Freddie:** You're trying to blend in, basically.

**Beth:** Yeah. Just kind of blend in.

**Matt:** To the temple.

**Anthony:** Okay, so it's more of a Deception check than a Stealth check?

**Beth:** Yeah. Oh, I don't like that.

**Anthony:** Okay, give me one of those, then. You just fucked yourself, son!

**Beth:** I got a 19, so go fuck yourself, dad!

**Will:** Yeah!

**Anthony:** Fuck! Fucking shit. Okay, so, you manage to confidently walk past all these other people that look a lot like Henry Oak, and your nose is filled with this—

**Beth:** I think Ron like, pumps his fist. Like—

**Ron:** Veggies! Yum!

[*laughter*]

**Will:** Very good.

**Anthony:** So, you've made it past this initial group of these people. Where are you headed, to the hatch or to the temple?

**Will:** So, Ron, do you go around a corner? Do you hide at all anywhere?

**Beth:** No. So, I think we're going to—

**Will:** Okay, where are we going?

**Beth:** The temple?

**Will:** Okay.

**Anthony:** I'm so happy that you put your entire fate in Ron's hands.

**Will:** I know. I was like, “Shit, I can't talk to Ron.”

**Beth:** Well, I mean, I feel like if you point with your little cricket hands—

**Will:** Yeah, that worked so well last time! I tap on Ron and I point towards the temple, like, “Let's check there first.”

**Beth:** Okay. And I go to the hatch.

[*laughter*]

**Beth:** No, I'm kidding. I'm kidding. All right, let's go to the temple.

**Anthony:** As you get closer to the temple, Henry, you can feel inside your daddy heart, that this is where your anchor is. It's somewhere in this temple.

The temple's pretty tall, it stands out amongst everything else in the village that you see. Because everything else is very humble, very small, very low to the ground, the trees are as high as they get. You can't see the top of this temple, because—

**Will:** Whoa, holy shit.

**Anthony:** ... its roof goes above the canopy of trees.

**Freddie:** Whoa...

**Anthony:** It's large. It seems to be made of stone, something a lot sturdier than anything else you've seen surrounding it.

**Matt:** It's a good thing you went there first. You can climb up to the top and get a whole... You unlock the rest of the map if you get to the top.

**Anthony:** Yeah, and then you jump off into a big bale of hay. But yeah, outside, basically—

**Will:** Guys, gamer references are only funny when I do them? I'm sorry.

[*laughter*]

**Matt:** Beth had the exact same reaction when I did one.

**Beth:** I had so checked out by that point, that I just wasn't even—

**Matt:** Sorry, Beth.

**Anthony:** There's a big set of steps leading up to a very large, ornate door with some carvings in it that you can't make out from here. And, standing in front of that door, are two people who, again, look like relatives of Henry Oak. But they are the only people thus far that you've seen that are clad in some sort of armor, and they're holding sabers. And they're just standing there.

**Will:** Hmm, shit. I need to stop being a cricket. Okay...

**Anthony:** Okay. We'll jump back to the other group, how about?

**Matt:** Can we check who's winning the game?

**Anthony:** Everybody, yeah—

**Matt:** I think that's pretty important, right now, is I want to know if I'm winning Ninja.

**Anthony:** Glenn and Darryl, roll Dexterity.

**Matt:** Yes. Fuck you, Glenn...

**Freddie:** Shit. Shit. 6 total.

**Matt:** God. 4 plus 1, 5.

**Freddie:** Yes! Yes!

**Anthony:** Lark is fucking annihilating all of you.

[*laughter*]

**Anthony:** Lark rolled a 17. Lark is like the wind, you don't realize you've been hit until it already happened and his hand is there.

**Freddie:** Our hands are bruised up.

**Anthony:** Yeah, your hands are totally bruised up, he's hitting you way too hard. He did not listen to what Henry was saying.

**Darryl:** Lark, kid, man, I think soccer's just not your game. You got the skills, you should... like, hockey? Look at this. Maybe tennis. Look at your fricking hand-eye coordination...

**Lark:** I am interested in no games, save for the most dangerous, sir.

[*Freddie laughs*]

**Darryl:** Which one's that?

**Lark:** Hunting people. Warfare. The art of combat.

**Darryl:** Oh, okay, well…. okay. Well, you'll figure that out at some point that's not really a game. But, let's do another round.

**Lark:** I've grown tired of this! You are no challenge to me, you.

**Darryl:** Oh, that's because I'm not left handed. I've been playing with my left hand the whole time.

**Lark:** Really?

**Darryl:** Yeah.

**Lark:** Well then, mayhaps a wager, mayhaps.

**Anthony:** And Sparrow goes—

**Sparrow:** Ooh, I do love a wager.

**Glenn:** Yeah, me too, but I'm going to sit this one out.

**Darryl:** No, no, no, Glenn, we need you. Us two versus you two.

[*Will and Freddie laugh*]

**Lark:** If you can beat me in a game of Ninja, then I will follow my father's instructions and respect you as my elder. If I beat you however, I do what I wish, and we will search for our father in the singing forest.

**Darryl:** Uh, I... no—

**Will:** I'm so happy someone else has to deal with these fucking kids for once…

[*laughter*]

**Darryl:** Lark, Sparrow, we can keep playing the game, but either way you're going to have to listen to your old man.

**Anthony:** Roll Dexterity again.

**Matt:** That time... that is a straight up natural 20!

**Will:** Oh, shit!

**Anthony:** You piece of shit! You motherfucker!

**Matt:** With +1, so 21.

**Anthony:** Jesus.

**Matt:** I got a 4, and now a 20. What is he going to do, that I'm going to stop him?

**Anthony:** They both just went—

**Lark and Sparrow:** Run for it!

**Anthony:** And they just ran in the other direction. Just started sprinting, and I guess you caught them.

**Beth:** Oh, god...

**Matt:** I instantly ran, and I pick them both up by their collars ,and I just hold them. I go—

**Darryl:** Kiddos, it is dangerous. Your dad's going to be back soon. This is fun, we get to play, you get to do whatever you want with me and Glenn, here. We can play some Ninja, we can play another game if you want, but you're not going after your old man, it's dangerous. You understand?

**Anthony:** And Sparrow goes—

**Sparrow:** Yes, perhaps the most loving thing we could do at this moment is to respect our father and our... godfather? Temporary father’s? Wishes, and just stay here for the moment, Lark.

**Anthony:** And Lark is like—

**Lark:** I will listen, for now. But at some point... you will have to sleep.

[*laughter*]

**Darryl:** Yeah, we'll see.

**Freddie:** There should be just a side quest where at some point Lark and Sparrow get kidnapped by bandits, and it just resolves itself. We just have a whole thing where we’re like, “Oh no, we've lost them!” And then it's just the—

**Will:** It's like that whole Julius Caesar side quest, where Julius Caesar got kidnapped by pirates, and then managed to talk his way out, and then came back and killed them.

**Freddie:** Yeah, that's exactly what—

**Darryl:** Tell you what kids, how about... I know you want to prepare for combat. Tell you what, I saw some fish in that lake, why don't we sharpen some sticks and we can go fishing?

**Lark:** Fishing! Hmm, yes, that's sort of like fighting, but against a much weaker foe. I guess I can support this.

**Darryl:** Glenn, break some sticks...

**Matt:** And I pull out the knife that I took from Paeden.

**Anthony:** Paeden's immediately like—

**Paeden:** Whoa, let's not flash that in front of... it's mine. Can I have that back now? I've learned my lesson.

**Darryl:** Well, I’ll show you there— I'll show you guys how to carve some wood, and we'll go ahead and we'll sharpen some sticks and we'll go swimming.

**Freddie:** Hey Anthony, how do the animals behave? Are they like Disney animals? Do they flit about, just knowingly and lovingly towards us?

**Anthony:** Yeah, I guess so. A lot of birds do that. You find that a couple of animals, when you come up, have the same sort of look on their face as the wolves that you met. They're just like, “Ugh, these people,” and they're just heading in the opposite direction. But some of the birds are like—

**Birds:** *[modified, pitched-up]* Hi! Hi, how are you doing? Nice to meet you! Hello! Hello!

**Matt:** We can hear them?

**Anthony:** Yeah, they speak English.

**Freddie:** [*laughing*] What?

**Matt:** Wait, buried the lead. So, Darryl's sharpening this stick and he's like—

**Darryl:** What did you say Glenn?

**Glenn:** I didn't say anything.

**Darryl:** What?

**Bird:** Hello, hello, welcome to Oakvale! Oh, you're all so pretty and so sweet looking!

**Glenn:** What the—? The fu—

**Darryl:** What the hell is that?

**Bird:** Look at those children! Look at the three children! I love them. Which one's cuter? Hmm, they're all so cute, I can't decide! *[laughs gleefully]*

**Freddie:** Glenn puts a single finger out to be like, “Will this bird perch on my finger?”

**Anthony:** The bird immediately perches on your finger.

**Beth:** Aww!

**Anthony:** And he's like—

**Bird:** Ooh, what a lovely finger! It's the perfect size. How are you doing? I am...

**Anthony:** I was going to say Sparrow...

[*laughter*]

**Beth:** Sparrow with a— Like, S-B-A-R-R-O.

**Freddie:** Sbarro, it's Sbarro.

**Will:** Sbarro.

**Beth:** Sbarro.

**Sbarro:** My name is Sbarro! What a pleasure to meet you all!

**Freddie:** Glenn holds Sbarro up real close, he's like—

**Glenn:** [*whispering*] Darryl, is this bird named Sbarro talking?

**Darryl:** Yeah, no, it's talking. Don't worry, it's talking, it's talking.

**Glenn:** Okay. Okay.

**Darryl:** Hey, do all the animals talk here? The fish, too?

**Sbarro:** Yes, any animal that lives in Oakvale gets the ability to communicate with the residents of Oakvale! It's one of the many gifts installed upon us our benefactor! I love it.

**Darryl:** Sorry, kiddos, I don't think we can... You know me, I like eating meat, but I feel a little weird killing animals that can speak to us, so I think we're going to have to take a pause on the fishing.

**Sparrow:** *[groans]* I can't believe you would get us so excited, and then... This is... this is...

**Darryl:** Tell you what? I'll teach you how to throw. We'll throw the spears at the trees. I'll just teach you how to throw some spears. Like javelins. It's a—

**Glenn:** Yeah, fuck Erin.

**Sparrow:** Oh, okay. If you teach me how to throw a spear accurately, I am sure that will never come back to haunt you, yes.

[*laughter*]

**Darryl:** That could be your sport. Track and field. You guys are talented at a lot of stuff.

**Sparrow:** Javelin! The javelin throw!

**Darryl:** Javelin, yep. All right, so… Wait, what were you saying about the benefactor? Sorry, there's a lot going on here.

**Glenn:** Yeah, bird, what are you talking about with this benefactor? What benefactor?

**Sbarro:** Yes, yes, yes. The lovely benefactor, Bear Ry-Oak.

**Darryl:** What?

**Glenn:** What?

**Darryl:** Say that again, Bario?

**Sbarro:** His name is Bear. Ry-Oak. He's like—

**Darryl:** I guess the Bear's the less weird thing than the Oak. Oak? His last name's Oak?

**Sbarro:** Yeah, Bear Ry-Oak. He is the person that made this lovely world for all of us. This lovely corner of the forest.

**Darryl:** Yeah, I mean, it makes sense. This place is called Oakvale, that's a little coincidence that it's Henry's name, but oak is a common tree, so...

**Glenn:** Wait.

**Darryl:** What?

**Glenn:** Bear Ry... Darryl!

**Darryl:** [*realizing*]No! Hey, Lark and Sparrow, what's your grandpa's name?

**Sparrow:** On our mother's side? His name is Pablo Garcia.

**Darryl:** No, no, no, no. Your dad's side.

**Sparrow:** Barry. His name is Barry.

**Glenn:** Oh Barry! Darryl, it's okay, that one's named Barry, not the same guy.

**Darryl:** No, wait... they might have walked into a trap!

[*crescendoing strings play*]

[*birds chirping*]

**Will:** There's two guards in front of this big tower.

**Anthony:** Yes.

**Will:** All right, I tap Ron again and I point to a nearby bush, like… [*hums as if indicating direction*]

**Ron:** Uh, yeah...

**Beth:** I go toward the bush and I just stand next to the bush.

**Will:** Henry de-crickets and turns back into himself. Shit, am I naked now?

**Anthony:** No.

**Freddie:** Fit right in, baby.

**Will:** I thought we said that, when I turn into an animal, my clothes don't turn...

**Anthony:** Oh, we did say that, didn't we.

**Freddie:** Ron might have carried your clothes with him, though.

**Will:** Okay, great. So, I turn back into myself and say—

**Henry:** Hey Ron, thanks for holding my clothes.

**Will:** And I start putting my clothes back on.

**Ron:** Oh that's... I mean, it's not like I could wear them.

**Beth:** And Ron looks fondly at the pants.

**Henry:** Yeah, sorry.

**Freddie:** Aww...

**Anthony:** Yeah, I guess all the people in the center of town just saw a pants-less, mud-covered person walking past and went, “Yeah, that's normal, that's fine.”

**Will:** That checks out, it's fine.

**Beth:** Yeah, that checks out.

**Ron:** Henry, do you think this place has an elevator, or whatever? Because those stairs look pretty steep, and I'm kind of beat from just...

**Henry:** Ron, I got to admit, I'm kind of freaking out here, man. I'm really scared.

**Ron:** Why are you scared? Is it because everybody looks like you?

**Henry:** Yeah, man, what the heck is going on? Like, this place feels really familiar, but I've never been here before. That door, I just don't like it. I don't—

**Ron:** That door?

**Henry:** ... I don't feel safe. I just feel like we need to get out of here. But, I know the anchors are here, so... I don't know what to do man, I'm really nervous.

I'm really thinking that maybe— no offense, but maybe someone a little more decisive could bounce off of our neurotic energy right now. I feel like we're just going to feed off of each other right now. Do you know what I mean? Are you freaking out? I'm freaking out a little bit.

**Ron:** Well, I wasn't freaking out before, but now I'm freaking out! And it's—

**Henry:** This is exactly what I was afraid of! This is called a vicious cycle, we're going to start freaking each other out!

**Ron:** Well, no, because I'm looking at your face right now, and then all the other faces that have your face look happy, and so maybe they're—

**Henry:** Oh God, don't say that they have my face! *[takes several calming breaths]*

**Ron:** They don't have your face. They didn't steal your face, but they just have your... You know, it's a good thing that we weren't at a place called Stamplerville, because everybody would be so sexualized that—

**Henry:** Oh, fuck, you're right, it is called—

**Ron:** ...it'd be so hot. It'd be just an absolute orgy—

**Henry:** Ron, Ron, I need you to focus, man, I need you to focus.

**Ron:** All right. Okay.

[*laughter*]

**Henry:** I just can't...

**Ron:** All right, say something to... Let's do “one, two, three Doodlers,” and then we'll be focused and then we won't have to worry about focusing anymore.

**Henry:** Okay. Ready?

**Ron:** All right—

**Ron and Henry:** One, two, three... Doodlers.

**Ron:** Okay. All right...

**Henry:** *[deep breath]* I feel better. Yeah, I feel a little better. What are we going to do?

**Ron:** I don't know. I don't know what we're going to do.

[*everyone laughs*]

**Anthony:** How have we been deprived of this pairing for so long? This is so good. I want these two on the road.

**Will:** A high-strung Bob Hope and Bing Crosby.

**Anthony:** Yeah.

**Henry:** Okay, Ron, it seemed like—

**Ron:** Wait, did you hear that? It sounded like a bird or something.

**Bird 2:** Hi! Hello, hello, hello! Who's in my bush?

**Ron:** Hi…

[*everyone laughs hysterically*]

**Bird 2:** I should have invited you... All right, okay, okay, I see what happened. Okay. Let's all have a big laugh at my expense, yes, yes, yes. Okay, of course. It's my home, I invited you in.

**Will:** “We're from Manscaped, we've come here to talk to you about this bush!” No...

**Beth:** Fool me once...

**Bird 2:** Welcome to my home. How are you doing?

**Henry:** Oh my gosh, a little talking bird!

**Bird 2:** I feel so rude for not inviting you in, but you're already here! That's so perfect! Hi!

**Ron:** Hi.

**Henry:** Hi. Wow, birds talk. I can roll with that. That's fine, I already said Doodlers, I can't get freaked out about something else. Mister... I'm sorry, I don't want to assume... Bird-person, bird, what's your name?

**Dominos:** [*singsong*]My name is Dominos!

[*laughter*]

**Henry:** Dominos the bird, that's a lovely name. Listen, we're visitors, and we tend to approach places with caution, which is why we're in this bush.

**Dominos:** Yes.

**Henry:** And we both are having a lot of anxiety right now, so I'm hoping that maybe you can give us some—

**Ron:** [*strained*]No, we're fine. We're fine.

**Dominos:** So, should I go? Do you want a moment to yourself?

**Ron:** Can you help us out? Please could you just help us out? Yeah.

**Henry:** No, no, I was just...

**Dominos:** Yeah.

**Henry:** I was just wondering if maybe you could tell us something about this place we're in. Where do we find ourselves?

**Dominos:** What can't I tell you? This is Oakvale.

**Henry:** Okay.

**Dominos:** It's great! I love it!

**Henry:** Okay.

**Dominos:** I love it. And—

**Ron:** What's up there?

**Dominos:** Up there?

**Beth:** I point to the door.

**Dominos:** This is the home of our benefactor. Of our lovely benefactor, Bear Ry-Oak.

**Ron:** Bear.. Ry… Oak...

**Will:** And a chill runs down Henry's spine. And he says—

**Henry:** [*shaken, stammering*]What did you say?

**Dominos:** Yes, yes, yes. Bear Ry-Oak, the man who built this lovely land of Oakvale for all of us to live in!

**Ron:** Barry...

**Henry:** Barry Oak built this place?

**Dominos:** Oh, what a funny pronunciation! Where are you from? That's delightful. But yes, no, no, he—

**Ron:** Where *are* you from?

**Henry:** [*distressed*] I don't know!

**Will:** And I say that way too loud.

**Anthony:** So, two things happen. Firstly as Ron says, “Where are you from,” you have the realization that the door leading into the temple, is the same door you see in your mind, that you keep shutting every time it's about to open.

Secondly, as you shout, “I don't know,” at the top of your lungs, the two guards at the front of the temple immediately come down to investigate. And, they are going to see you in the bush unless you do something. And there's really nothing else around. You're going to get seen, no matter what, but you have one action of a thing to do before they get to you.

**Freddie:** You could turn into a bird and fly far, far away.

**Will:** I burned both of my Wild Shapes, already. So, I can't turn into a bird.

**Freddie:** Oh, shit.

**Ron:** Maybe if we act like we live here, because you—

**Freddie:** You could take Ron prisoner.

**Ron:** The old Wookie—

**Freddie:** The ol’ Chewbacca!

**Anthony:** The ol’ Wookie trick!

**Freddie:** It's the ol’ Wookie trick!

**Ron:** It's that old... Wookie trick.

**Matt:** That might not work if they don't normally take prisoners… [*laughing*]

**Freddie:** Hey man, I'm not going to make assumptions.

**Ron:** Hey, how about you just look real friendly, and then I'll just try not to look super obvious.

**Freddie:** Ron just melts in like fucking *Rambo,* into the wall.

[*laughter*]

**Beth:** I literally think that— this is a bad move to pull in a podcast, but I literally think that they swoop, so that Ron's back to back with Henry and just facing the other direction, but his profile is completely hidden by Henry's.

**Freddie:** Ron hides behind another party member perfectly!

**Beth:** Yes.

**Anthony:** Give me a Stealth check to see if that's what you do.

**Beth:** [*whining*]Why? ...Okay.

**Anthony:** [*laughing*] Because, sometimes bad things have to happen.

**Beth:** I got a 12, +8, that’s...

**Anthony:** Fuck, your +8. Okay, yes, exactly what you just said happens. You are perfectly his silhouette.

**Will:** Okay, so then here's what happens, is, Henry goes—

**Henry:** Oh, shit, they're coming! Ron, what do we do?

**Will:** And then I turn around, and Ron is not there, and I go—

**Henry:** Ron?

**Will:** And then I turn around again, and Ron is not there either, because Ron is perfectly synced with my back.

**Beth:** And then Ron says—

**Ron:** [*whispering*] I'm right behind you, buddy!

[*laughter*]

**Will:** And then Henry goes—

**Henry:** [*loudly*]Jesus!

**Will:** And then I've completely blown my cover.

**Anthony:** So, the two guards come over to the bush, and they see you shout, “Jesus.” For a second their eyes narrow, as if to suss out who you are, and you can see their eyes travel your face, just really studying your features. And then pure shock is visible on their face, and immediately they both kneel. And they go—

**Guards:** Hen! Sir Hen, you've returned!

**Will:** Henry's just speechless.

**Henry:** [*low, panicked*]What? Wait, what?

**Anthony:** One of them takes a horn out of his armor and he puts it to his lips and [*fanfare noise*]... No, it's a different ringtone. What's another good ringtone?

**Beth:** Hello Moto.

**Anthony:** Yeah, he blows on the horn and the horn goes, “Hello Moto!”

[*laughter*]

**Anthony:** And the doors to the temple bust wide open, and you see Barry Oak step down from the steps of the temple. He comes down, and sees you in the bush, and he goes—

**Barry:** Oh, get out of that bush my son. You don't have to hide anymore.

**Anthony:** And he holds you by both of your hands, and he goes—

**Barry:** ...You're home.

[*outro music plays*]

**Freddie:** Dungeons and Daddies is Matt Arnold as Darryl Wilson, Anthony Burch as our DM, Will Campos as Henry Oak, Beth May as Ron Stampler, and myself, Freddie Wong, as Glenn Close. Our theme song and outro is Alright by Maxton Waller.

Shout out to all the Patreon folks who have always believed in us from the jump. People like Sam M., Kaleigh Todd, Erica Keough… Keough? K-E-O-U-G-H, I don't know how to pronounce that one. Hesh Podcast? That's not your last name, Hesh! Your family name is not Podcast, podcasts are a new thing! Josh Duff, aka Teshrike, Ian Rosic L'Occitane, Taylor from Marketing - not our marketing, some other marketing. Daniel McAllister, and Tanya Milloslovich. Wow, there were some hard ones this week!

I'm also pleased to report that the Rocks Rock! EP is being mixed and mastered right now. It should be out, maybe even by the time you hear this. If you're a Patreon supporter, don't even sweat it, you're getting this digital album for free, as one of your stretch goal perks. Every single one of yas.

We're also going to have a digital download of the album on our website, dungeonsanddaddies.com, if you're not a fan for whatever reason of getting all kinds of awesome bonus content and campaigns and oneshots, I don't know, don't let me tell you how to live your life. Do your thing. But, I'm just saying, patreon.com/dungeonsanddads, it's a party over there. You can join it.

You can find us on social media. Twitter.com/dungeonsanddads, reddit.com/r/dungeonsanddaddies, and our website, once again, dungeonsanddaddies.com. You'll want to be on all of those for the moment we drop this hot fire. Our next episode, August 4th. Stay safe out there, we will see you then.

[*outro music ends*]

**Freddie:** Wait, wait, wait. Is there a Hot or Not, but just for D&D podcasts?

[*Beth laughs*]

**Anthony:** God, I fucking hope not.

**Freddie:** I hate to break it to you everybody, I'm looking at these pictures. We're on the “Not” side of this category.

**Anthony:** Yeah, no, absolutely.

**Will:** How dare you?