Dungeons and Daddies

Dungeon Master: Anthony Burch

Glenn Close​: Freddie Wong

Darryl Wilson​: Matt Arnold

Henry Oak​: Will Campos

Ron Stampler​: Beth May

Episode 39 - Forgotten Realms

[*phone ringing*]

**Ron:** Mustache, this is Ron. Can you hear me?

**Mr. Mustache:** Loud and clear, Ron.

**Ron:** Kept you waiting, huh? I'm at the sneak point in front of the hippie commune facility.

**Mr. Mustache:** Excellent, Ron. Not having pants hasn't slowed you down one bit! Our intel says Henry's anchor is either located in the temple, or in the hatch. We need you to infiltrate and find that anchor.

**Ron:** Oh, geez. How am I going to sneak past all these weird hippies?

**Henry:** Ron, who are you talking to?

**Mr. Mustache:** Use the action button to cover yourself in mud, so you blend in with these disgusting, smelly hippies.

**Ron:** Copy that, Mustache.

**Henry:** Ron, wait. Don't— Aw!

[*mud splashing*]

**Ron:** I'm making my way towards the temple.

**Mr. Mustache:** Remember, stealth is vital.

**Henry:** What the frick? Why does everyone look like me?

**Mr. Mustache:** Use your proton laser—

**Ron:** Hang on. Henry is freaking out because all the hippies look like him.

**Henry:** Oh, god. What is going on? Oh, geez. Oh, I don't know if I can—

**Mr. Mustache:** Ron, use your weapon button to aim your tranquilizer gun at Henry.

[*alert noise*]

**Henry:** Oh, crap. They spotted us, Ron. What do we do?

**Ron:** Hang on, Mr. Mustache. We've been spotted by the hippies.

**Mr. Mustache:** Get out of there, Ron! Use the circle button to stick to Henry and use him as cover!

**Ron:** Oh, that's a great idea. Thanks, Mr. Mustache!

**Henry:** Ron? Ron? Ron!

[*Metal Gear music*]

[*intro music plays*]

**Freddie:** Welcome to Dungeons and Daddies, not a BDSM podcast, a light D&D roleplaying podcast about four dads from our world, flung into the Forgotten Realms in the quest to rescue their lost sons.

My name is Freddie Wong. I play Glenn Close, the rock and roll bard of the group. And this week, Glenn fact, coming at you hot.

**Will:** Ooh.

**Freddie:** Glenn, as you know, has spent a lot of time in malls. One of his favorite stores in the mall is, basically, the Brookstone/Sharper Image store because they got those massage chairs.

[*Beth laughs*]

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

**Freddie:** And Glenn, definitely every single time there, is like, “hold on, hold on, let me just loosen up before the show,” and will just plop down in a massage chair and just kind of let it go to town on his back for a little bit. It's his pre-show routine. Other pre-show routines include stopping by the Auntie Annie's and picking up a pretzel, and getting a massage, the whole nine.

**Beth:** Nice.

**Freddie:** But Glenn secretly harbors the belief that ... He's like, “Man, these things should sell themselves. These people aren't trying hard enough to sell me on these massage chairs." So he thinks he can sell a massage chair to anybody, if he had a massage chair. And his strategy is basically sitting there, just being like, [*loudly*] "Ah, yeah! That's what I'm talking about!”

[*Beth laughing*]

**Will:** Oh no. Oh, no. Oh, god.

**Freddie:** “Ah, yeah!”

**Matt:** That's the worst.

**Freddie:** “Ah, yeah! Ah! Oh! Right on my nuts!"

**Anthony:** “I’ll have what he’s having.”

**Freddie:** Exactly.

**Matt:** Oh, god.

**Freddie:** He's been asked to leave three Sharper Image.

**Beth:** You know how the SkyMall magazines used to have all of the Sharper Image and Brookstone stuff in them?

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

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

**Beth:** And they were always just like the most absurd stuff that you would never buy, but— so, my mom is similar to me, in that we'll laugh about something super stupid, and then we can't stop laughing. And then, suddenly, we're just disrupting the entire state of affairs in wherever we are.

So, we used to not be able to look at the SkyMall, if we were ever on a plane together, because literally, we had people turn around and be like, "Hi. Could you guys keep it down?" because we would literally be like, "Uggs, but with wheels! [*loud giggling*]”

[*laughter*]

**Matt:** Hello! My name's Matt Arnold. I play Darryl Wilson, a stay-at-home coach dad, who becomes a barbarian when he ... Oh, man.

**Will:** Makes love to his wife.

**Matt:** Makes love to his wife. I was trying to say something other than “enters,” because that made Beth laugh—

**Anthony:** When he inserts himself into the Forgotten Realms.

**Matt:** But then I was going to say he “comes”. Then I was going to say he comes into the Forgotten Realms.

**Anthony:** When he penetrates the Forgotten Realms.

**Matt:** He becomes a barbarian when he comes all over the Forgotten Realms.

**Will:** Oh, okay.

**Matt:** And my Dad Fact is— so, Darryl may not know a lot about BDSM—

**Will:** Okay. I'm very interested.

**Matt:** But— it's not what you think it is. But he does know a lot about B-R-A-T, BRAT, which is the rule when you have an upset tummy, which seems relevant. So, BRAT is what you should think about when you have an upset tummy, which is bananas, rice, apples, and toast. That's what Darryl always remembers whenever he gets an upset stomach. And he always takes care of everybody.

**Beth:** So, wait. You eat them all at once?

**Matt:** They're just the things you should eat.

**Beth:** Oh.

**Matt:** Those are the only things you should eat.

**Freddie:** All of them at the same time? That seems like you'll—

**Matt:** You could.

**Freddie:** ... be even worse.

**Matt:** Well, Darryl's favorite BRAT food is toast, but he likes milk toast, which is, essentially, you make your own cereal. Which is, you cook up some toast, and you put some cinnamon and sugar on top of that toast, and then you tear it into chunks, and you drop it in a bowl, and you have a little bit of milk in there. And then it's your ...

**Anthony:** That is borderline Henry Oak recipe.

**Beth:** Ugh. Ugh.

**Matt:** That's your milk toast!

**Beth:** I hate—

**Freddie:** So it's like your soft, cinnamon toast crunch.

**Matt:** Yeah. It's just cinnamon toast crunch. You just made it yourself, and it tastes great! You get to choose your own bread, brioche, it's amazing.

**Anthony:** Wait, that's all the ingredients for just cinnamon... You could just have cinnamon toast!

**Matt:** But... you can make it yourself.

**Will:** But that's, you—

**Matt:** And you can get better bread. I mean, you can get cinnamon toast—

**Freddie:** Could you imagine going to your kid and being like, "Hey. Hey. Don't worry about them ... Oh, Fruit Loops? I can make Fruit Loops. Oh, Count Chocula? Let me show you my Count Chocula."

**Matt:** If y'all haven't had milk toast, one, you're probably not a New Englander from 1960, but two, it is delicious, and you should try it. It's good stuff.

**Will:** I remember when I was a kid I was obsessed, as we all were, with McDonald's breakfast.

**Matt:** Oh, yeah.

**Freddie:** Ah, yeah.

**Will:** My favorite was their bacon, egg and cheese biscuit. And I remember my dad, he needed to do an errand one Sunday morning and dragged me along with him. He was like, "Will, I promise you, we're going to get a bacon, egg and cheese biscuit after this." I was like, "Oh, yes," so excited for McDonald's. And he took me to, like, a restaurant, like a brunch place for—

**Matt:** No...

**Will:** ... what would've been millennials, at the time. We sat down, and I was fucking furious. I must've been like seven or eight years old. I was so upset that we were not going to McDonald's. And then he was like, "Well, they got biscuits and bacon and eggs right here." And then he asked the waitress to put it in a little sandwich for me.

**Freddie:** Oh, no. Oh my god.

**Will:** And I was still— I was like, "This is embarrassing."

**Beth:** Oh, my goodness.

**Freddie:** Oh my god.

**Matt:** And was it as good? Was it as good?

**Will:** No, it was not as good as the McDonald's y’know.

**Matt:** Of course not. I've never had a fancy version that's better.

**Will:** I've never forgiven my father for that. I ... Well —

**Matt:** And that's why you don't talk anymore. You haven’t talked to him.

**Will:** That's why we don't talk anymore.

**Matt:** Since seven.

**Will:** Hey, everyone. I'm Will Campos. I play America's favorite hippie, Birkenstock-rocking, crunchy, munchy, nature, druid, granola Dad, from the Forgotten Realms.

**Beth:** Oh, man!

**Matt:** Whoa!

**Will:** Henry Oak. That's right. And that's why I feel safe saying America's favorite, because he's probably the only person that all of that stuff applies to.

**Freddie:** I don't know. There's a lot of D&D podcasts out there, my friend.

**Will:** That's true.

**Beth:** Yeah.

**Will:** Fair enough. Then, maybe we're not the first ones to do that. I shouldn't have said that in the intro, because my fact this week was just going to be Henry's from the Forgotten Realms. And I feel like—

**Matt:** Oh, there you go.

**Will:** I've been sitting on that long enough that I'm busting it out as my fact this week. If you've been wondering why you haven't heard any facts about Henry's, like, high school experience, or what it was like for him to be a teen, or what video games he played as a young man, now you know. It's because, since episode like three of this podcast, I've been sitting on this bombshell. And now, it's a whole new world! Who knows what kind of Henry facts we'll have in the future.

**Matt:** Do you guys think that being like, "Man, that show really became part of the Forgotten Realms," is going to be the new jump the shark?

**Will:** I'm very nervous for this very specific reason!

**Matt:** No. I wouldn't have said it, if I thought you were actually nervous about it.

**Will:** Yeah, why don't ...

**Freddie:** Will, can I ask you a question, then? Because Henry has a pretty comprehensive working knowledge of '90s computer games and video games.

**Matt:** Yeah.

**Freddie:** Did he come into our world, and the thing that really got his attention was all these computer games?

**Will:** Henry came into our world with amnesia. I imagine Henry probably did a lot of digging around in '90s and '80s nostalgia, trying to trigger sense memories for himself.

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

**Freddie:** Oh, interesting.

**Will:** Which is why he probably, for a while— like *Mist* really reminded him of something, but it probably was just the weird energy of the creepy forest he grew up in.

**Matt:** And the rhythm of hip hop reminded him of music back from the Forgotten Realms?

**Will:** Yes, exactly. That was the inspiration.

**Beth:** Most people dig around in '80s and '90s culture because they have depression, now.

**Will:** It was heartbreaking. Everyone was talking about how Stranger Things reminded them of their childhood. And then he was like, "This reminds me of nothing."

**Beth:** Damn.

**Will:** Couldn't enjoy Stranger Things. He was the only one.

[*laughter*]

**Beth:** Hey, I'm Beth May, and I'm America's... fourth favorite—

**Will:** You're America's favorite. You can say it.

**Beth:** Fourth favorite Beth May. There's actually a Beth May that's Elizabeth May. She's a fantasy writer who has way more fans than I ever will, and she's—

**Freddie:** We should just say that's you. What's stopping us?

**Beth:** Oh, that is me. Yeah.

**Matt:** Yeah.

**Beth:** Of course. I think she lives in Scotland, though.

**Matt:** Multi-talented.

**Beth:** But, yeah.

**Freddie:** Yeah, so?

**Anthony:** Which means no one will ever run into her.

**Will:** We had to talk to Random House to get Beth on the podcast.

**Beth:** She got like 100K Twitter followers, and now ...

**Matt:** Elizabeth, Elizabeth really adds a lot of... It does sound a little more successful, doesn’t it? Like—

**Beth:** That's what my mom always said.

**Freddie:** The author of the YA fantasy trilogy, The Falconer. Ooh, this ... Ooh.

**Will:** Shit, this sounds good.

**Matt:** Yeah, it sounds good, Beth. You’re talented.

**Beth:** I mean...

**Will:** The next time you call Beth May in-universe, it should be a— it's a wrong number, and you get Elizabeth's.

**Matt:** Oh, shit. That's so good.

**Beth:** Elizabeth May from Scotland.

**Will:** And then Elizabeth May can show up and be like, "Who?”

**Freddie: “**Sorry, who? How'd you get my number? Please stop calling."

**Beth:** Now that I'm like the toxic, awful person that looks at how many Twitter followers they have, like whenever I clicked on her, I'm like "Elizabeth May, who does she think she is?" And then I was like, "Oh, who do I think I am?"

[*laughter*]

**Beth:** I'm Beth May, just to clarify, and not Elizabeth May. And I play Ron Stampler.

**Freddie:** We've lost some followers now!

**Matt: “**Oh, no. I thought this was the girl that—”

**Freddie: “**Oh, I thought this was the writer of the YA fantasy trilogy, The Falconer!”

**Matt: “**I want to hear about the falcons!”

**Beth:** I play Ron Stampler, emotionally detached stepfather and rogue. Fun fact about Ron this week, is that Ron can type 70 words per minute.

**Matt:** Wow.

**Beth:** That's right.

**Freddie:** Respectable.

**Beth:** Yeah.

**Freddie:** Respectable.

**Beth:** It's respectable. It's ...

**Matt:** Wait, what word?

**Beth:** It's only one word, and it's the word, “word”, over and over again. He can type the word, “word”, over and over again, 70 times in a minute.

**Will:** Oh, it's 70 “words” per minute.

**Beth:** Yeah.

**Will:** That's pretty good.

**Beth:** Yeah.

**Matt:** That's still pretty fast.

**Will:** That's a little over one a second.

**Matt:** That's pretty fast. That's like, even just knowing—

**Freddie:** For hunt-and-peck, that’s pretty good.

**Beth:** Yeah, I mean, I'm not acting like it's something to not be proud of, because, yeah, it's good for him.

**Will:** Well, *word* to that.

**Beth:** ...Right.

**Matt:** Okay.

**Will:** Is what Henry's going to say when he finds out about that.

**Anthony:** Hey, everybody. It's me, Anthony Burch, your dad.

**Freddie:** Yay.

**Matt:** Yeah, I miss—

**Beth:** Hi!

**Matt:** I miss seeing your dad face.

**Anthony:** Well, that's one of us.

**Matt:** You're just an “Anthony” on my screen. You just—

**Anthony:** Yeah.

**Matt:** It's just the Arial font, “Anthony.” It's just sitting there.

**Freddie:** Could you, at least, put an emoji or something in there, so I have something to look at?

**Will:** Anthony has evolved into his final form, a lower case, white-on-black, sans serif font.

**Anthony:** It's just very hot in my house, and I don't want to have to put on clothes, just to talk with you nerds, so—

**Will:** Wait are you nekked for this recording?

**Anthony:** I am.

**Beth:** Yeah, that's why he always says he's not on camera.

**Matt:** God. You sound so much like my dad.

[*Anthony laughs*]

**Beth:** I thought you were going to say, "You sound so naked."

**Matt:** So naked...

**Anthony:** That's what I thought he was going to say. I was like, “can you hear the lack of…?”

**Matt:** You sound so naked.

**Anthony:** Yeah, that's an unfortunate thing that you can just know, now. Some episodes, I've been naked before. Some, I haven’t.

**Freddie:** Oh. What?

**Anthony:** If you can go through the catalog and think you can figure out which ones I'm naked and which one I'm not, I will give you a $100 gift card.

**Beth:** The earlier episodes, where he's naked most often, is the one we were all recording in the same room.

**Matt:** Yes, yes. It was when we were in the same room, was when he did it.

**Anthony:** Yeah. That was a power move.

**Freddie:** I just want to also say congratulations to all of us, but mostly to Will—

**Anthony:** Yes.

**Freddie:** ... for your first rap album!

**Will:** Oh, pish-posh.

**Anthony:** Yay!

**Matt:** Oh my gosh.

**Will:** All the glory goes to Freddie and Max Waller for pulling that one together.

**Matt:** No.

**Freddie:** Will Campos put together a—

**Anthony:** No. I heard that one.

**Freddie:** Yeah, exactly. We've finished the Rocks Rock! EP, which is, as referenced in the show, the first EP rap album that Henry Oak created.

**Beth:** The first of many.

**Freddie:** The first of many. People who are Patreon supporters already know about this. This released for free to all of them because it was a Patreon stretch goal. If you're listening to this right now, it's available for download on our website, dungeonsanddaddies.com. And if you stick around after the episode, you can hear a preview of the first track.

**Beth:** Oh, man.

**Will:** Some choice beats!

**Matt:** I feel like if that's canonical, like that's actually the album Henry made, it really changes his character.

[*laughter*]

**Beth:** Yeah.

**Matt:** Because that was no Garage Band bullshit, like he did on the episode, off the top of his dome. That was—

**Will:** Henry put the work in on it, man.

**Matt:** That was some good-ass rap. Somebody said it well when they were like, Darryl said he liked the album? And they’re like, Now it makes sense, because it's fucking legit. It's legit hard. It's legit good.

**Anthony:** Yeah, he wasn't just being nice.

**Matt:** Yeah.

**Will:** Well, thank you, guys.

**Freddie:** Anyway, folks, stick around after the end of the episode to listen to the first track.

**Will:** What what!

[*end of intro music*]

**Anthony:** Last time we were all together, you got Lark and Sparrow from Walter the Immoral, and dropped off Grant, played some ninja, hung out, and then you went to the City of Oakvale, or the Village, I guess, of Oakvale, to get Henry Oak's anchor. And once you got there, you split up. Ron and Henry are together. And the others are with Lark, Sparrow, and Paeden, making sure that they don't follow after Henry.

Henry found that there was a very large temple, and a very large hatch set into the ground, kind of like *Lost*, and that his anchor was in one of those two buildings. As he got close, they got caught. The guards that were going to presumably arrest you, or attack you, they instead fell to one knee, kind of referred to you as royalty, and then Barry Oak came out of the temple and said, “Hen, welcome home.”

**Will:** And then, also, a lot of the people look like me, right? Wasn't that—

**Matt:** But they're not clones!

**Will:** They're not clones!

**Anthony:** Yes. Sorry. Yes. Also, this village of Oakvale is weirdly filled with a bunch of people that look very similar to Henry Oak, almost like they are relatives of his. Not like they're clones. I didn't describe that well.

**Will:** Not like clones, but more than the way all white people look the same. Somewhere in—

[*laughter*]

**Anthony:** Like all the Hemsworths.

**Will:** Like, yes. An embarrassment of Hemsworths, which is I believe how Hemsworths are referred to in the plural.

**Anthony:** Barry Oak has descended the stairs and has taken your hands into his, Henry. And he said, “You’re home.”

**Henry:** What—?

**Will:** I pull my hands back.

**Henry:** What do you mean, home ? What are you talking about? Where am I? What is this place?

**Barry:** This is Oakvale. This is where you were born. This is where I raised you. And this is where you left me, so long ago. And this is now, I think you'll agree, where you are going to return, to finish what was started.

**Henry:** [*faint, panicked*]What? What? Wh-?

**Will:** So, Henry— internally, because I'm not a great actor, so I'm going to explain it, rather than act it—

[*laughter*]

**Freddie:** Dude, could you imagine if you could do this in movies?

**Matt:** Yeah.

**Freddie:** Just say, “Listen, internally, this is how I feel.”

**Will:** That's what's great about books, my friend. Books can be like, “Here's what was going on!” So Henry is like, it's just a sheer terror kind of going through him right now. He's just very overwhelmed. I stagger back. I'm just—

**Henry:** What? What are you— What? Wh—?

**Will:** And he looks around, and it starts to slowly come back to him. He looks around, and he sees these faces that all kind of look like him, and it's all beginning to slide into focus.

**Henry:** Oh, my god. Oh my god, Father, what are you... Huh? [*starts to hyperventilate*]

**Anthony:** He goes—

**Barry:** Shh, shh, shh. Hen, Hen, Hen, in through the nose, out through the mouth. In through the nose, out through the mouth...

[*Henry takes deep breaths as directed*]

**Beth:** Behind him, Ron is like—

**Ron:** [*quietly*]In through the nose, out through the mouth. In through the nose…

[*Henry’s deep breaths devolve into hyperventilation*]

**Anthony:** And he goes—

**Barry:** All will be revealed in time. But, where are your—

**Henry:** [*rapid, panicked*] Just shut up. Just shut up. Just shut up, Dad, just, back—

**Barry:** Oh, well that’s just rude...

**Henry:** [*shouting*] Just, stop it! Stop it! Stop— Oh, my god. Oh, my god. I just, I need a second...

**Will:** And then Henry just kind of flops his ass back onto the ground. And then—

[*laughter*]

**Beth:** Onto Ron?

**Anthony:** Does that mean you crush Ron?

**Matt:** I thought it would just reveal Ron...

**Will:** I just, I fall backwards onto Ron, and then you hear a— Like, okay. So yes, I just fall backwards. Is Ron still hiding behind me?

**Beth:** Yes.

**Will:** Okay. So I'm just pitching backwards onto the ground because, essentially, Henry starts hyperventilating, and he falls backwards.

**Beth:** Yeah. I think— okay, so Ron's lying flat, like a crime scene chalk outline on the ground, with his face in the mud. But like, not super bothered.

**Will:** Are you still behind Henry?

**Beth:** Yeah. I think we're cheek-to-cheek, at this point.

**Anthony:** I feel like you have to roll Constitution to see if you can hold your breath for as long as this conversation's going to last.

**Beth:** Oh.

**Matt:** Nice. Don't let her roll Stealth.

**Beth:** I got a 15.

**Anthony:** You manage to hold your breath for at least the first chunk of whatever this conversation ends up being.

**Will:** So, Henry's just on the ground, basically having a full-on panic attack. He's just—

**Henry:** [*out of breath, shaken*] What? It's... What are you…? Just, just shut up. Just shut up. Just shut up. Oh my god. Oh my god.Oh my god.

**Will:** Barry's going to be getting a lot of this right now. [*laughs*]

**Anthony:** Right. So, Barry immediately just starts doing yoga in front of you, and he goes—

**Barry:** Your mood is beginning to influence my mood. We can't have that, can we? This needs to be a calm, welcoming environment. This is a safe space for you, for me—

**Henry:** Oh, my god. Shut up! Just shut up. Just, shut... Just...

**Barry:** Oh, dear.

**Henry:** Just— oh, my god.

**Barry:** There he is. There's Hen.

**Will:** I just stand up, and I start pacing around.

**Henry:** I'm from here? I'm from the Forgot— How is that possible?

**Barry:** Well, I can tell it to you, or I could show it to you. I fear that if I told you, you might not believe me—

**Anthony:** He's still doing yoga.

**Barry:** If I told you, you might not believe me.

**Freddie:** I need some more strain in that voice. Like, [*strained grunt*].

**Anthony:** No, he's so bendy, it's like nothing to him.

**Matt:** I know, he's like—

**Will:** It's infuriatingly—

**Anthony:** He's like, both of his legs are behind his head, and he's just walking around on his hands. And it doesn't sound like anything.

[*Freddie laughs*]

**Barry:** But, I suspect I'll have to explain it all to your friends, as well. Where are they? Or have you finally realized that you're better off without them?

**Henry:** I'm not telling you anything. You want to show me something? You can show me—

**Barry:** Okay. So they're around.

**Henry:** ...No. They're not. I don't know where they are. They're back with the kids, you're never going to find them! They're with—

**Anthony:** Roll Deception.

**Will:** Okay...I got a 15.

**Anthony:** Ooh, actually, it's your dad. So I feel like he knows when you're lying to him. So, go ahead and roll again. We'll say that's a disadvantage.

**Will:** Okay. I got a 19.

**Anthony:** Oh, wow. Okay. Great. Well done.

**Freddie:** It's been a while.

**Anthony:** So yeah, he narrows his eyes as he goes—

**Barry:** Hmm. Mayhaps you have learned something. [*hums thoughtfully*]

**Henry:** Yes, father, mayhaps I have. Ugh, “mayhaps”? Ugh. Just... [*scoffs*]. Whatever you want to show me, you can show me and me alone because I… am by myself.

**Barry:** Okay.

**Will:** Ron's still hiding, right?

**Beth:** Yeah, I'm still hiding behind you.

**Will:** Okay.

**Anthony:** Okay.

**Barry:** Well, in that case, did you notice— I presume you did, because you have my eyes, as it were— Did you notice the hatch when you came into the village?

**Henry:** Yes, I saw the hatch.

**Barry:** Well, you have many questions, I'm sure, about your past. Those will all be answered if you head into the hatch. There are some catches involved with the hatch. A hatch-catch, if you will.

[*groans from players, Beth laughs*]

**Will:** Henry rolls psychic damage. I take 3 damage.

**Henry:** God, you and your stupid puns. Ugh, just ... Ugh, it's so cheesy.

**Barry:** Oh, you loved it. He loved it. Did everybody love it?

**Anthony:** He looks— as you look around, you see that the entire town has sort of come to watch you, like they're watching a lovely show. And they're all so happy. And he goes—

**Barry:** That was a good joke, was it not?

**Anthony:** Everybody very politely claps for him. They go, “Oh,” and he's—

**Barry:** Oh, thank you. Thank you. It was an easy one. But anyway, yes. Inside the hatch, you can learn everything about how our family came to be here in the Forgotten Realms. And I think, once you see the whole story, you'll know that this is, essentially, where you belong. And you must ... You should stay here with me, with your family, all of these, all, everyone that's around you.

**Henry:** Okay, I ...

**Barry:** Say hello to your family, Hen.

**Henry:** You're not ... Look, just show me the hatch.

**Barry:** Canary, can you take us to the hatch?

**Anthony:** And one of the girls goes—

**Canary:**[*super chipper*]Absolutely!

[*laughter*]

**Anthony:** And she jumps to her feet. She— You know when people in the 1950s would make a fist?

**Matt:** Yeah.

**Anthony:** They’d go like, “Gee wiz!”, and like, punch the air, kind of? She does that.

**Will: “**Why, soitenly!”

**Freddie:** God, a new voice. I love it every time.

**Beth:** I love Canary.

**Matt:** Yeah. Canary's the best.

**Anthony:** So Canary ... Ah. I've already forgotten the voice. Canary goes—

**Canary:** Follow me!

**Anthony:** And she leads you, walking way too jauntily, almost like Mickey in the old Steamboat Willie cartoons. Just, her limbs are moving a little bit too much. She's got a little bit too much bounce in her step.

**Will:** Her lips have shot way— like, five inches out from her face, as she's whistling.

**Anthony:** Yeah. As you walk toward the hatch, Barry says—

**Barry:** I will be here waiting for you, once you realize what is to be done, of course. I shall see you in a moment. But, there are preparations to be made for the feast. There's going to be a play, a party. There's going to be so many enjoyable things. We've been waiting so long for you, my son… [*fades out*]

**Anthony:** He does the trail-off thing with his voice. He doesn't need to, because you're just walking away—

**Will:** I'm trying as hard as I can to tune him out, right now.

**Matt:** At this point, isn't— I mean, they're surrounded at this point. Have they not noticed Ron?

**Anthony:** Oh, that's true. Yeah, Ron, give me another Stealth check.

**Beth:** Okay.

**Freddie:** Well, but remember, we— that in the previous episode, Beth said that Ron covered himself with mud and muck and stuff.

**Will:** Yeah.

**Freddie:** And he's facedown. He could just blend right into the ground.

**Anthony:** Yeah, yeah, yeah. It's good.

**Will:** He's John Ron-bo now, so he's a man of war.

**Beth:** So, that’s 14 plus 8 is 22...

**Anthony:** [*singing*] I forgot how good you were at sneaking! ...They just look, and they see a big hunk of mud on Henry's back.

**Beth:** Nice.

**Matt:** I feel like you're crawling right behind him, and they just— You are just, like, a moving pile of mud.

**Will:** Well, no, because I splatted in the mud, so—

**Beth:** Or like, I got my hands around his ankles, and he's just dragging...

**Freddie:** [*laughing*]He's just dragging you!

**Matt:** Yeah.

**Anthony:** So he looks like Pigpen? He just has this fucking cloud of muck around him all the time?

**Beth:** Yeah.

**Will:** Everyone thinks that Henry's walking really slow because he's freaking out and traumatized, and that's partially true, but it's also because he's dragging Ron and trying to be cool about it.

**Beth:** Should I roll again to see if I can talk to him a little bit?

**Anthony:** Yeah, if you want to. You'll have to, yeah, roll another Stealth.

**Beth:** Okay. So 11 plus 8, so 19.

**Will:** Ya love to see it.

**Anthony:** All right. Go ahead and talk.

**Freddie:** Just, through the vibrations transmitted through his ankles through your hands.

**Matt:** Yeah, I feel like you're kissing his ankles.

**Ron:** [*softly*]Hey, Henry. What do you think... Sorry, I just choked on a stick.

[*laughter*]

**Ron:** Hey, Henry, what do you think we should do?

**Henry:** [*whispering*] I mean, I... You know...

**Will:** Do I have to roll Stealth to talk to Ron?

**Matt:** Yeah.

**Anthony:** Yes.

**Freddie:** Well, but you're, like, muttering to yourself, right?

**Anthony:** No, no, no. It's the difference between them thinking he's muttering to himself and them not hearing it at all.

**Freddie:** I see. I see. I see.

**Will:** Actually, I'm going to do this as a Performance because I'm trying to perform that I'm talking to myself. I'm trying to bluff it that I'm talking to myself, but I'm really talking to Ron.

**Matt:** There you go. That's the slick rule— that's the shit I want.

**Anthony:** Okay, okay.

**Will:** ...And I got a 13!

**Anthony:** That's not good enough. So, they definitely hear you just sort of murmuring whatever you're about to say to yourself. Canary hears this.

**Will:** But do they think I'm murmuring it to myself?

**Anthony:** Yes. They do.

**Will:** Okay. All right.

**Henry:** [*whispering*] I don't know, Ron. This is a lot for me, right now.

[*laughter*]

**Anthony:** Okay, nevermind. You said Ron!

**Freddie:** Oh, boy...

**Anthony:** So Canary turns around and goes—

**Canary:** Who's Ron?

**Henry:** Who's Ron? What... What do you... Who's, who's— I don't know who... I don't— I just got here! Go find Ron, if you want to talk to Ron.

**Ron:** [*softly*] I'm your pet rock.

**Henry:** Ron's my pet rock!

**Canary:** Ooh!

**Beth:** I grab a rock on the ground, and I kind of hold it near his ankle, and I try—

**Will:** And then I pick it up, and I say—

**Henry:** Ron's my pet rock, okay? This is my emotional support rock.

**Ron:** Hi!

**Henry:** He's my rock…

[*laughter*]

**Anthony:** You get inspiration. Canary goes—

**Canary:** Oh, I have an emotional support rock, as well! That's so delightful!

**Anthony:** And she takes a rock out of her fanny pack in front of her, and it's a rock in a sock, or whatever. And she goes—

**Canary:** I use it to repel people that I do not care for, and I use it to comfort myself in long, lonely nights, where I feel sad about death and the end of all mortality.

**Henry:** [*stammers uncertainly*] ... Can you just run that one by me one more time, before I go into this creepy hatch? What was that?

**Canary:** Yes. So, if somebody tries to hurt me, like, if I'm— And, nobody inside of Oakvale will hurt me ever, of course, for multiple reasons. But if I go out on the road, to try to go to another town to see the sights, I carry Bianca, here, with me to protect myself. And when I'm asleep and thinking about how, when there's nothing for us after death, just black void and eternal nothingness, I hold onto the rock to keep me grounded.

**Henry:** Oh. You're just talking about, just death in gen— Okay. I mean, that's the normal terrifying stuff. I thought this was... All right.

**Canary:** That's right!

**Henry:** Okay. I thought that was maybe a clever end to a fantasy thing. But I'm going to—

**Canary:** Oh, no, no, no, not a fantasy thing. Just a normal, relatable thing.

**Henry:** All right. Well, it seems like a fun thing to remind people of in the middle of a podcast.

[*laughter*]

**Henry:** I'm just— hey, Canary, I mean, it's good for you. You have an emotional support rock, like my emotional support rock, Ron. So Ron and I are going to keep walking, and if you hear me talking to my friend Ron, just know it's me talking to this rock.

**Canary:** Wonderful.

**Henry:** [*sighs in relief*] That was a close one, Ron.

[*laughter*]

**Ron:** That was really close. What are we going to do when we get to the hatch?

**Henry:** Okay. I think when we get to the hatch— I mean, I gotta figure out what the frick is going on here. And I don't trust what's going on with regards to, you know, the other rocks. You know how there's those *other rock*s—

**Will:** Because I'm assuming that Canary's still leading us, right?

**Anthony:** Yes.

**Ron:** Oh, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah. Yeah.

**Henry:** Those *other rocks*. I want to make sure that they're safe, so I want to keep them far away.

**Ron:** You mean, you're talking about the kids. You're talking about your boys?

**Henry:** The *baby rocks*. Yes, the baby rocks. That's what we're talking about. I think we just gotta go in here, Ron, because I'm pretty scared to do this on my own. I think, maybe we gotta go in, but what do you think? I mean, this is a two-way street, so I want a…

**Will:** And then I hold the rock up to my ear to pretend that I'm talking to the rock, and nodding along.

**Ron:** Yeah, sure. Let's rock and roll, buddy.

**Henry:** Great. I'm really glad it's you and me on this one, Ron.

[*music*]

[*ad break*]

**Anthony:** The last thing that happened was, you learned that Barry Oak had created Oakvale, and that therefore, the boys were walking into a trap. So, what do you do?

**Darryl:** Glenn, this has got to be *the* Barry Oak. It would be too much of a coincidence to go— We went here for his anchor. It's got to be Barry Oak. It's got to be Barry.

**Glenn:** I agree. It's a high percentage likelihood, but let's just keep open the possibility that there could be multiple people named Barry Oak. You see, when paths diverge, you need to be—

**Darryl:** Okay, game plan. We gotta... Barry wants Lark and Sparrow.

**Glenn:** We gotta get Lark and Sparrow out of here.

**Lark:** [*chanting*]Rescue mission. Rescue mission. Rescue—

**Darryl:** —Mission. Yeah, that's right, kids! We're going to do a Rescue Mission. We're going to rescue you two from your horrible grandpa who's coming after you. Okay?

**Sparrow:** No, no, no.

**Darryl:** So here's what we're going to do. We're going to carve these sticks— because you guys can defend a fort, right? We're going to make the biggest, baddest fort. Your grandpa's never going to be able to get in there. And when your dad comes back, we're not even going to let him in. It's going to be so intimidating. You think you can handle that? You think you can make that big of a fort?

**Lark:** We're going to make a fort that would keep out an Oak? I do not think so. Oaks are battering rams used for breaching fortresses. We do not build, we destroy!

**Darryl:** Well, how about one of you makes a big fort, and the other one builds a battering ram. And then you see who wins.

**Glenn:** Yeah, you can use what's called an adversarial network. What happens is one person makes something, and the other person tries to break it down. Then that person realizes, using the weaknesses of the thing they tried to break it down with, can build a better one. Then that process continues until you have a fort that's unbreakable and can also fool Google image captchas.

**Darryl:** And whoever wins, I'll teach you how to do this!

**Matt:** And Darryl's got some sweet butterfly knife skills, and he spins the knife around.

**Freddie:** Oh, that's a ...

**Will:** That's a Dexterity roll.

**Anthony:** Roll Dexterity. Roll Dexterity.

**Will:** It's not a butterfly knife, so I'm curious as to how this is going to go.

**Matt:** He just spins his knife around. He got a ... Oh! I was like, “What is this shape?” And it's the weird Dungeons & Dragons sign on the top of the dice, which means it's a 20 +1 for Dexterity.

**Will:** Yeah, baby!

[*Anthony sighs*]

**Matt:** So, I do... Not only do I spin the knife, I spin the knife, and then I twirl it on my finger like a basketball. And I flip it in midair, and as it's flying, I pull out an apple, and take one chunk out of it, take a good bite, and then I hold the apple out, and the blade slips through the apple and splits into three even pieces. And I hand two pieces to each of them. And then I take a bite of the last piece. I go—

**Darryl:** You want to learn how to do that?

**Anthony:** So,Paeden's mouth is watering, first of all.

[*laughter*]

**Darryl:** Oh, shit! Sorry, Paeden! Here, you can have my apple piece.

**Matt:** And I had to give him the rest of my piece I already ate like half of.

**Anthony:** He goes—

**Paeden:** Thank you, son.

**Anthony:** And he's still reaching up to the knife. He's like—

**Paeden:** [*straining noises*]

**Darryl:** Well, if you help them out, you'll be able to do that, too.

**Anthony:** Lark and Sparrow are like, agog. Their mouths are just open with shock.

**Will:** Shit. Darryl's going to steal my kids!

**Freddie:** Darryl's doing a way better job with your fucking kids!

**Will:** Fuck!

**Freddie:** Maybe that's a secret, is everyone just needs to rotate one dad to the left.

**Will:** Yeah. This week on Dad Swap...

**Anthony:** Do! Not! Google! Dad! Swap!

**Matt:** Oh, god.

**Beth:** She's not a Christian!

**Anthony:** Lark and Sparrow immediately exchange glances, and Sparrow's like—

**Sparrow:** I will build the most impenetrable fortress!

**Anthony:** And Lark is like—

**Lark:** I will build the most penetrable...

**Anthony:** Oh, shit. What's the word I'm looking for?

**Lark:** I will build the most penetrable battering ram!

**Anthony:** And they immediately start putting sticks together, and just building shitty forts out of nothing, just fucking dirt and mucus. But, they seem to be pretty focused on that.

**Matt:** All right.

**Anthony:** And Paeden's just sitting there, being their hype man being like—

**Paeden:** Go. Go. Do it. Do it.

[*laughter*]

**Matt:** He’s just the hype man? Okay.

**Anthony:** Paeden's like—

**Paeden:** I'm rooting for both of you. I don't even know why.

**Darryl:** All right. Hey, Glenn. What do you think? Should we…?

**Glenn:** I think this is going to work for now. I don't know.

**Darryl:** No, I was wondering... should we leave them? I don't know if we should leave them unsupervised. I mean, I guess Paeden is my dad, but it's still Paeden. I don't think he can supervise them, but I think Henry might need help. I don't know.

**Glenn:** This is a tough one. I don't know how to handle this, but maybe tell them we'll be back in a little bit? And then keep it vague, so that they don't know what “a little bit” means? And that gives us a little bit of freedom to kind of figure this out. And then, if we don't show up, I guess they're going to come after us. Oh, boy. This is a real pickle. How do guys do it?

**Darryl:** No, no, no, no, no. I'm not concerned about them thinking we're going to be gone. I'm more concerned about us leaving them here, and them getting attacked, or something.

**Glenn:** Yeah, that's probably true. I mean...

**Darryl:** Hey, Paeden.

**Paeden:** Yeah, what's up, baby?

**Matt:** That's—

**Freddie:** It's weird when your dad calls you baby.

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

**Matt:** Yeah. I don't like that.

**Paeden:** You were a baby. And I am your father. If anything, it makes more sense, now. My little baby boy. Come here, my little baby boy.

[*laughter*]

**Anthony:** And he's got his arms outstretched, and he's just walking towards you.

**Paeden:** Baby boy!

**Matt:** No. No. No. There's ... He ...

**Paeden:** Daddy wants a hug. Daddy.

**Matt:** Okay. Okay. I pick him up and I give him a hug.

**Paeden:** Yes.

**Matt:** I go—

**Darryl:** Okay.

**Paeden:** Good boy.

**Darryl:** Yes. Okay. Hey, Paeden?

**Freddie:** He pats you on the head, condescendingly.

**Anthony:** Yeah, he does.

**Darryl:** Do you remember what my dad's name was?

**Paeden:** His name’s Frank.

**Darryl:** Mm-hmm [*affirmative*]. Okay. Is there…?

**Matt:** I kind of stare in his eyes, like, can I see, is there—?

**Darryl:** Do you remember anything about him?

**Paeden:** No, just the stuff that you told me, generally.

**Darryl:** Okay. Well, a quick dad quiz, then. What are you going to do if Lark and Sparrow here want to follow us?

**Paeden:** I guess ...

**Beth:** Hot dad, hot shot.

[*laughter*]

**Anthony:** “I shoot the Lark!”

**Paeden:** I guess I'll stop them...?

**Darryl:** Okay. But would that—

**Paeden:** And make them not follow you.

**Darryl:** Hey, Glenn. Glenn, do you have like a whistle, or anything? Maybe we just need to give them some sort of way to call us, if there's trouble.

**Glenn:** Oh, like an emergency whistle of some kind?

**Darryl:** I don't know, like an instrument? Yeah, you probably don’t want to give them the guitar.

**Glenn:** Oh. Oh.

**Darryl:** That doesn't quite work. You can probably— I guess they could just scream.

[*pause, then laughter*]

**Will:** I take back every good thing I said about Darryl's parenting!

**Paeden:** So your plan is that you leave three kids on their own, and if something bad happens, they scream?

**Beth:** They scream.

**Paeden:** Just bring us with you, man.

**Glenn:** Darryl, I got it. I got it. I got it. I got it! We can trust Paeden, more or less. Right?

[*Will and Beth laugh*]

**Darryl:** No. No, we can't.

**Matt:** I put his— and I put my hands—

**Darryl:** Here. Here's the problem...

**Matt:** So, like, Podcast Matt is like, “We shouldn’t split up the group more”, but Dad Darryl's like, “Definitely, Glenn, just stay here with the kids.” And Darryl should go check to see, because we should not get these kids anywhere near—

**Will:** He's like the chicken, and the bag of rice, and the wolf, and you're going to cross the river—

**Darryl:** Oh, I just know, if I go and I find Henry, and then we can't find his kids, he'll be like, “Why did you leave the kids?” But I know if I bring them and Barry sees them, he's going to like, eat their souls, or whatever it is.

**Glenn:** I think one of us needs to stay with the kids.

**Darryl:** Okay.

**Anthony:** Paeden is like—

**Paeden:** I have an idea.

**Darryl:** What's up, Paeden?

**Paeden:** You told me that when you first met them, they were disguised as one person standing on top of each other's shoulders. What if you roll in hard, three creepy adults, and also me, and we go to town on these homies?

**Glenn:** That's true. That's true. Wait... This is such a good...

**Matt:** Darryl stares at Paeden, and for a second, a little tear is in his eye because it's like, it's kind of an idea like his dad— he's like—

**Darryl:** That's pretty damn smart, Frank... I mean, Paeden. That’s really—

[*Will laughs*]

**Anthony:** Aww...

**Darryl:** Yeah, no, that's true. I think we’ve got to take the risk. We got them out of trouble the first time...

**Glenn:** Okay. Yeah, that's a great idea.

**Darryl:** No, we're not leaving them out of our sight. You're right. You're right.

**Will:** So all three kids are going to be a giant guy in a trench coat?

**Freddie:** No, no, no. They've already proven that they can deceive adults as two kids in a trench coat.

**Matt:** Yeah.

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

**Freddie:** Therefore, we put Lark and Sparrow as a trench coat person, and then Paeden is just along for the ride because he can handle himself.

**Darryl:** Hey, Paeden. Paeden. Can you do a Walter voice?

**Paeden:** Can I do a Walter? Yeah, let me try it. [*clears throat*] Okay. [*Paeden as Walter*] “This is what I sound like when I'm—

[*impressed sounds from the players*]

**Will:** Oh, my god!

**Beth:** Oh my goodness!

**Freddie:** Holy shit! Are you...What?

**Will:** We're three levels deep!

**Freddie:** Holy shit, Anthony!

**Darryl:** Paeden. Paeden, I think, if you can hop like a frog, we can maybe... I know this can get a little grim, but maybe we carve one of these fish up and put some fish scales on your face.

**Will:** What? These talking fish?

**Glenn:** Darryl, it's fine. Darryl, it's fine. It's fine. We don't need to worry about that.

**Paeden:** Are you sure? The fish can speak English around here. I think they would be really ...

**Darryl:** You're right. You're right. That's a little cruel. Okay. We'll just put some mud on your face and what-not. We'll put some twigs on. You'll just pretend to be ...

**Paeden:** I can just be me! What is the point you are trying to accomplish?

**Darryl:** I just want you to pretend that you're a frog person.

**Paeden:** Why is it less weird if you have a dirty boy?

**Darryl:** I want you to be a frog person.

**Paeden:** Why?

**Glenn:** Darryl, no. I'm gonna have to put my foot down. This is weird.

**Paeden:** I am your father, and I—

**Glenn:** He's your father!

**Darryl:** Okay.

**Glenn:** This is your dad, man. You can't make your dad a fish person!

[*Will laughing*]

**Darryl:** Okay. Fair enough. Fair enough. Maybe I'm overthinking this. It's the first time I've been accused of that, but I could see that being the case here. Okay. That's fine….Hey, Lark and Sparrow, how's the fort and battering ram going?

**Anthony:** When you turn back, they're already just stabbing each other with sticks.

**Darryl:** Whoa.

**Anthony:** They go—

**Sparrow:** It seems that my building aptitude is not what I thought it was.

**Anthony:** ...Says Sparrow. And Lark says—

**Lark:** Samesies. Hard samesies. Putting two sticks together was a waste of time, when I have— when one is all I need.

**Glenn:** Well, speaking of putting two sticks together, kids, you remember when you guys were the Lord of Chaos?

**Lark:** What are you, a cop?

**Glenn:** What, cop? No. Hell, no.

**Darryl:** Glenn? Have you ever met Glenn? Glenn is the least cop guy you've ever met.

**Sparrow:** Let's say we do remember that.

**Glenn:** I think that you guys need to go incognito into this village that we're about to go into. And I think that those skills, that you may or may not have, could come in handy. What I'm saying is, you got to get on each other's shoulders. That's the only way we'll let you follow us.

**Lark:** Ooh, I see...

**Darryl:** Yeah, you want to be an adult again? You guys want to turn into a big old adult, the two of you, together?

**Sparrow:** Lark, you know this calls for

**Lark:** Sparrow? I do...STEALTH!

**Anthony:** One jumps on the other's shoulder in a, like... It's so quick and so beautiful, it's like frames of animation. It's like an anime transition. And they produce a cloak, and whip it over themselves. And, instantly, you can't see into the cloak. It's just this dark figure, and it's like a six-foot tall looking dude. And they manage to move with convincing adult moroseness.

**Matt:** Which one's on top? Love Wolf, or Violent One?

**Anthony:** Lark is up top. Violent One.

**Matt:** Violent One. I go—

**Darryl:** Whoa, you guys! Hi. Nice to meet you, old man! I've never seen you before! My name's Darryl Wilson. What's your name?

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

**Anthony:** The Lord of Chaos simply bows.

[*laughter*]

**Will:** I cannot believe the Lord of Chaos is back. This is fucking wild.

**Matt:** Okay.

**Anthony:** It bows, but at a perfect 90-degree angle because it's just Sparrow holding onto Lark's ankles. And Lark is leaning forward, like Michael Jackson in *Smooth Criminal*. And then he just, like—

**Beth:** Oh, no...

**Matt:** This is so good.

**Will:** Yes!

**Darryl:** Okay. So, Lark, Sparrow?

**Sparrow:** Yes.

**Matt:** No, that was a test. Don't respond to Lark and Sparrow. Lord of Chaos?

**Sparrow:** Oh, okay. Sure.

**Glenn:** Do you want another name, other than Lord of Chaos, just in case that name’s been burned?

**Lark:** Do we want another name, other than the coolest name there is?

**Glenn:** You're right. You're right.

**Lark:** No, I think we're fine.

**Glenn:** You're right. You're right. You're right. That's fair. You're right. Mm-hmm [*affirmative*]. Okay.

**Darryl:** Glenn, he can be like, your leading guitar man, or something.

**Glenn:** Oh, yeah. He's like the mysterious bassist!

**Darryl:** Yeah. There you go. And we're like a crew.

**Glenn:** Doesn't say much, because he plays bass.

**Darryl:** I'm the drummer.

**Glenn:** Okay.

**Darryl:** Can we be a band?

**Glenn:** I guess we'll be a band.

**Darryl:** Yeah, we're like a band.

**Glenn:** Yeah. I guess ...

**Paeden:** I guess I'm lead singer and guitar...

**Glenn:** Whoa, whoa, whoa, whoa, whoa. Paeden.

**Paeden:** What?

**Glenn:** Slow your roll, my man.

[*laughter*]

**Will:** Paeden's your manager.

**Paeden:** I'll be your manager. I'll make sure all the candy's the right color. We'll make it work. We'll make it happen. I'll get you deals.

**Glenn:** Yeah, sure. Let's go for it, man.

**Darryl:** Yeah, we're going to go for it. Really quick, okay—?

**Matt:** Now, I am talking to Lark and Sparrow, and I open up the coat, so I can look at them both in the eye.

**Anthony:** They go—

**Lark and Sparrow:** Yes!

**Darryl:** Yes. Now, look. It's good to be rowdy sometimes, but you know your dad could very well be in trouble. You remember what happened last time with your grandpa, right?

**Lark:** Oh, yes, it was boring as heck.

**Glenn:** Yeah, you don't want that. Right?

**Darryl:** Okay, so it wasn't traumatizing, it was just boring. So, to you guys, it was just boring. Well, that’s—

**Sparrow:** Yeah. Pretty much.

**Darryl:** But you hate being bored, right?

**Lark:** Oh, we despise it. You know this!

**Darryl:** Okay. If you get caught...

**Glenn:** It's going to be even more boring!

**Darryl:** You're going to be so bored.

**Sparrow:** More boring than this conversation? Ooh, burn!

**Anthony:** *Slap*, and they high-five each other.

**Darryl:** Okay. Well, I think you guys got it.

**Matt:** I close the cloak.

**Glenn:** Hey, should we arm the Lord of Chaos? Or you think he's good unarmed?

**Will:** Off in the hatch, Henry just got a chill down his spine.

[*laughter*]

**Darryl:** How about you give them your guitar, Glenn? Because they're supposed to be guitarists...

**Lark:** Ooh! Better idea, why don't you give us Glenn's gun?

[*Will laughs*]

**Glenn:** No, I’m gonna hang on to that...

**Darryl:** We actually lost that!

**Glenn:** I’m gonna hang on to the firearm.

**Darryl:** No, but Glenn, you don't even have it anymore! You lost that!

**Anthony:** Roll Deception, just Darryl.

**Matt:** That is a 9.

**Lark:** So he still has the gun. Delightful. Delightful.

**Darryl:** Yeah, he has the gun, but you guys are kids, and you're not going to have a goddamn gun! You understand?

**Glenn:** Just give them the stick. Give them the sticks.

**Darryl:** Here's, here's ...

**Glenn:** Darryl give them the stick!

**Sparrow:** It's stick or gun, my man. We will not go in—

**Beth:** Stick or gun…

**Sparrow:** We are going in strapped, with wood or iron.

**Glenn:** Give them a stick.

**Darryl:** You both did a good job of carving your stick...

**Glenn:** You share!

**Darryl:** No, they can both have a stick. Keep one stick inside the cloak, and here's your other stick. You both get a stick.

**Glenn:** Ooh.

**Anthony:** They go—

**Lark:** If we break these into two pieces, then we will both have two sticks, and we'll look like Goro from the YouTube videos of Mortal Kombat!

[*Freddie claps and laughs*]

**Darryl:** Sure. Whatever that is. All right.

**Freddie:** You hear the sound of two pieces of wood being snapped.

**Glenn:** Huh. Okay.

**Matt:** Then, I guess, we start heading into town. Right?

**Anthony:** Are you doing so stealthily? Or are you walking in to be noticed?

**Freddie:** Stealthily, I think.

**Darryl:** Hey, Glenn. Do you want... I don't think we're going to be able to hide ourselves. Or, I guess, I see what you're saying. I guess you want to just check the perimeter and see if we can see what's going on, first.

**Glenn:** Let’s check the perimeter! You don't have to just, like, bust in...

**Matt:** Okay. Yeah. Yeah, we're sneaking up. We're trying to sneak up and see, like ...

**Freddie:** We're sneaking up to get a lay of the land, Anthony.

**Matt:** Yeah, like if there's any hills.

**Anthony:** Okay.

**Freddie:** We're going to approach stealthily to get a sense of any openings, like the beginning of any good stealth video game. You start out stealthy. It never ends that way, but you have good intentions, at the beginning.

**Anthony:** Go ahead and give me a Stealth roll.

**Freddie:** Yeah, how good's your Stealth, Matt?

**Matt:** My Stealth is really good. Wait. That doesn't make sense. Oh, oh, I got it. It was a +1. I thought I rolled a natty 1. I got a 7 plus 1, though, so 8.

**Anthony:** Okay.

**Will:** That was a journey on that dice roll.

**Matt:** I thought it was a 1 plus 7. I was like, “I don't have +7 Stealth.”

**Freddie:** I have 15 plus 4, 19.

**Anthony:** Okay. So they don't see Glenn, but they do see Darryl. So, what happens is the two of you head up to the ridge, and you can see that, in the center of the village ... Ooh. Actually, also, both roll Arcana for me. I didn't even bother having the other two do it because they have disadvantage.

**Matt:** Arcana?

**Freddie:** 5 plus 2, 7.

**Matt:** 10 plus 0, 10.

**Anthony:** Okay. So neither of you notice anything different, other than the implication of me asking you to roll Arcana. But...

**Darryl:** Weird ... Glenn, did you just feel a sense like you began to think about something magical?

**Glenn:** I just like... The symbol that Prince adopted for his moniker just kind of flashed in my head, but it could just be I've had *Want to Be Your Lover* stuck in my head for the last 20 minutes.

**Darryl:** That's a good song.

**Anthony:** So what happens is, as you're talking about Prince, the group of Oak children, I guess, or Oak family members, because they're of all shapes and sizes and ages, they immediately notice Darryl. And, you see about 20 very Henry-esque faces sort of turn to you in unison, and their eyes lock with you, and then they all get big, genuine smiles. And they start waving at you, and then they say—

**Oaks:** Hello! Hello, come in! Come to Oakvale, welcome to Oakvale. Come in!

**Beth:** Aww...

**Darryl:** Oh!

**Oaks:** We're just about to have a big banquet to honor the return of our prodigal son!

**Darryl:** Oh. Well, howdy! I'm Darryl. And this is, uhh….Glad we were just wandering by! We're looking for a nice place. This sounds like a party. We're— this is Glenn!

**Glenn:** We're just a— No! Glenn... yeah, sure. Fine.

**Anthony:** Okay. So now they see Glenn.

**Will:** You've explicitly said that your names are the names of the dads that Barry is looking for, and has been tracking this entire time.

**Freddie:** You fucking idiot.

**Anthony:** Yeah, once you say that, they go—

**Oaks:** Darryl and Glenn! We've heard so much about you!

**Darryl:** Oh, I think you misunderstood. I think you misunderstood.

**Glenn:** No, no, no, no. We're the band, Darryl & Glenn.

**Darryl:** No, I — Yeah, Darryl & Glenn.

**Glenn:** There's some other bands, like Hall & Oates. We're Darryl & Glenn.

**Darryl:** Yeah.

**Anthony:** Roll Persuasion with disadvantage.

**Freddie:** Persuasion with disadvantage, sir?

**Anthony:** I know. I probably still walked into the wrong forest, I know.

**Freddie:** I don't know if I should choose between the 24, or the 23!

**Will:** Jesus.

**Anthony:** Goddammit. Okay. So, they go—

**Oaks:** Oh! Oh, a band for the banquet, what a delight! You could play music, while we quaff and fill our bellies of love and food! Why don't you come in and have a seat?

**Darryl:** We have a kid here. We didn't ...

**Glenn:** We're gonna need to see a rate card before we commit to that, but we can talk.

**Anthony:** Yeah, Paeden walks up behind you and he goes—

**Paeden:** Whoa, whoa, whoa. We don't do anything pro bono. Let's see... We're going to have half now, half later, 2,000 gold minimum, or we walk.

**Glenn:** Yes! I agree with that.

**Anthony:** The Lord of Chaos also comes in behind you, and they go—

**Oaks:** Ooh, who are these two? Who's the small one and the very large one? Tell us all about them!

**Glenn:** This one's our manager. This is, uh... Duke.

**Darryl:** Duke Ellington, our manager.

**Glenn:** This is Duke Ellington, our manager!

**Paeden:** Duke Ellington. Nice to meet you.

**Anthony:** And he starts running around, just shaking hands, like really shittily, just like— *pow, pow, pow, pow*! Just grabs them, shakes them, put it down, grab them, shake them, put it down.

**Glenn:** And this is our bassist. He doesn't talk much, the Lord of Chaos.

**Anthony:** The Lord of Chaos bends over ever so slightly. And they say—

**Oaks:** Oh, well, that is absolutely delightful! Do you want to have something to eat? We're still cooking a lot, but we have some carrots, we have some kale chips... And we have some seaweed snacks, some delightful seaweed snacks! There's all kinds of things! Sit down, avail yourselves of some food!

**Freddie:** So, Glenn clocks that they all look a little bit like Henry, and he's starting to put some things together, rubbing some brain cells and getting some sparks.

**Glenn:** Hey, are you all like, related, or something? What's your deal? You all seem real friendly with each other, and you have...

**Darryl:** Yeah, is this like a family reunion?

**Glenn:** Yeah. What's going on?

**Anthony:** They all, in unison, burst into laughter, and then, all in unison, stop laughing around the same time, with the same like [*laughs softly, and fades out at the end*]... That same, like... normal thing. The one who's talking to you, who looks very much like an older, feminine version of Henry, says—

**Oak Woman:** Yes, we are all family. We're all the Ry-Oaks. We are all of the Oak, Oakvale. My name is...

**Beth:** Anthony, I have a question.

**Anthony:** Yes?

**Beth:** Okay... If they're all related in this town, are they just, like... into incest? Like, how is this happening?

**Anthony:** No, no. They're not incestuous.

**Will:** Hi, folks. This is us taking a pause from the podcast to let you know, this isn't an incest thing.

**Matt:** Yeah.

**Will:** Now, sit back, relax, and enjoy the rest of the episode!

**Anthony:** The older lady says—

**Gator:** My name is Gator Ry-Oak. And we, we're all family. We've all come from the great Bear Ry-Oak, and we live here in perfect peace and utter harmony!

**Darryl:** Okay. Well ...

**Glenn:** Oh, man. I think this is the commune that Henry said he was from.

**Darryl:** Wait...

**Glenn:** Oh, man. Dude, these are a bunch of hippies.

**Darryl:** Yeah. Yeah, I mean, they look a lot like Henry. That's for sure.

**Glenn:** Right.

**Darryl:** Okay, well...

**Glenn:** Hold on, I just gotta adjust my mentality. You know, we kind of gotta do that. We do tour the whole country, after all. There are certain pockets of the country that— I'm just going to adjust my mentality a little bit, like, “Oh, far out, man!” Guys, what are you cooking up?

**Gator:** Oh. Oh, just all kinds of—

**Glenn:** Oh, you already said. Oh, you already said. Love it!

**Gator:** Yeah.

**Darryl:** Hey, I’ve got a—

**Glenn:** Hey, I'm kind of gluten-free, though.

**Gator:** Oh, yeah. Oh, no, no gluten to be found, my good friend.

**Glenn:** All right.

**Darryl:** Great. Oh, yeah, I forgot—

**Gator:** We're all celiac.

**Darryl:** I forgot to—

**Glenn:** Darryl, Darryl, I'm not actually gluten-free. I want to be—

**Darryl:** No, stop saying that— Yeah, I forgot to introduce myself. Frank, of Darryl & Glenn. Nice to meet you. Any chance we could see the man of the hour? You guys are celebrating somebody, a guy named Henry?

**Gator:** Oh, you wish to see the prodigal son. You wish to see Hen.

**Darryl:** Oh, it sounds like a fun thing. It sounds like, if that's what you guys are up to.

**Gator:** Oh, yeah. Now, perhaps you could—

**Glenn:** Also, my name is Bonesaw!

**Darryl:** ...Yeah.

**Gator:** Okay.

**Darryl:** Frank, Bonesaw—

**Beth:** Bonesaw’s ready!

**Darryl:** Lord of Chaos, and Duke Ellington are here. And we'd love to meet Henry.

**Will:** Of Darryl & Glenn?

**Darryl:** Of Darryl & Glenn. We'd love to meet—

**Will:** It's like Lynyrd Skynyrd, or Pink Floyd. You know it's a name, but it's not the name of anyone in the band.

**Matt:** Yeah.

**Anthony:** Hootie & the Blowfish.

**Freddie:** It's like Kiss, and you're like, “Oh, that seems like a nice band!” And then you see them, and you're like, “Oh, this isn't a nice band, at all!”

[*laughter*]

**Darryl:** And also, you said Barry's here?

**Gator:** Yes. Bear Ry-Oak is here. He's the one who made this land for us, and he is the one who keeps it peaceful, and safe, and really, really cool. So yeah.

**Darryl:** Okay.

**Gator:** If you would like to go see Hen Ry-Oak, the prodigal son— I don't know if I told you his name was Henry, but I'm pretty sure you're just really intuitive. I can get that feeling about you. We're all very empathic here.

**Darryl:** Oh, yeah.

**Gator:** But yeah, he just went down that way, toward the hatch.

**Anthony:** And as they point, you can see Henry and a weird clod of mud at his feet, slowly ambling toward a hatch in the ground.

**Will:** Oh, we haven't even gotten in the hatch yet?

**Matt:** We haven't gone to the hatch yet!

**Anthony:** I'm presuming that was all happening quasi-simultaneously.

**Freddie:** Oh, okay, okay, okay.

**Will:** [*laughing*] Alright.

**Matt:** Oh.

**Freddie:** You see Henry holding a rock and pointing at it.

**Anthony:** Yeah.

**Darryl:** Glenn, it's Henry. What should we do?

**Glenn:** I think we just go along with this. We strike when the moment is opportune.

**Matt:** I feel like we look, and then the camera pans—

**Freddie:** And Glenn takes the safety off his gun!

[*laughter*]

**Anthony:** The Lord of Chaos starts, like, vibrating.

[*Freddie laughs*]

**Anthony:** Okay. So, let's cut back to Henry and Ron.

**Will:** Let's cut 20 feet over to Henry and Ron.

**Anthony:** Yeah.

**Will:** Okay. So, Henry is all eyes on this hatch. This hatch is his entire world, right now. His whole mentality is just rocked. I'm just going straight towards the hatch.

**Anthony:** So, Canary holds out a hand and goes—

**Canary:** Ah, here's the thing. It is very, very dangerous in there, and if you go in, you will die. You will immediately age about 100 years or so, and then you'll die. So there's some other precautions we have to take.

**Henry:** [*stammering*]Oh. Well, okay. I feel like, that— Alright...

**Canary:** Well, you just kept walking towards it. I was going to explain it to you, when we're in front of the hatch. I was going to be like, “Before you is the hatch. Here are the rules.”

**Henry:** Oh, I see. Okay.

**Canary:** But you were just ...

**Beth:** Oh.

**Canary:** You're a go-getter. I like that.

**Henry:** Yeah, okay. So, I'm going to die if I go in there, is what you said.

**Canary:** If your *body* goes in there. You see... Okay. So here's the thing. Inside this hatch— this has all been told to me by Bear Ry-Oak. From his lips to my ears, to my lips, to your ears— inside this, is the answer to where all of us came from. It carries with it a time long gone, a bygone era. So, if we go into this space with our bodies, our bodies will age and decay very quickly.

**Henry:** Oh, so we have to astrally project our minds in there, is what you're saying.

**Canary:** Essentially, yes.

**Henry:** Okay. I can—

**Canary:** But you're going to have to astrally project them into, sort of, homunculi.

**Henry:** Oh, so it's a ... Okay. So, we're going to put our spirits into totems, or something, and go in there?

**Canary:** Kind of.

**Anthony:** So, she starts digging into the ground and just getting big clods of mud. And she goes—

**Canary:** The thing about the world on the other side of this hatch, is that it has a lot of different physical rules than the world that we're in. So, if you were to imagine this world as sort of a Dungeons & Dragons 5.0, everything on the other end of that hatch is sort of Dungeons & Dragons 1.0, like original D&D mechanics, so to speak. So, what I'm going to do is—

**Freddie:** What?

**Canary:** You're going to tell me what kind of character you'd like to build in the 1.0 system—

**Freddie:** What!?

**Will:** Are you fucking kidding me?

**Canary:** I will make it out of mud.

**Freddie:** What!?

**Canary:** You'll put your soul inside of it, and then that character will go in, and you can explore to your heart's content, without worrying about dying, because things were very lethal back in the old days.

**Henry:** Okay. This is a lot. Canary, it's been a big 10 minutes for me, so I'm going to sit down. Is that... Oh sh—... Oh my— What?

**Will:** And so Henry looks up, and he sees Darryl, and—

**Matt:** Darryl's waving.

**Henry:** Yeah. Hi, Darryl. Oh geez, and Glenn. And, oh gee. Is that who I think it is in the robe?

**Darryl:** Our bassist, Lord of Chaos!

**Matt:** And I wink at him.

**Anthony:** The Lord of Chaos immediately, like, two hands come up from the sides of the cloak, and they're just doing devil horns.

**Henry:** [*sighs*] Excuse me, Canary. These are my friends. I guess they're—

**Glenn:** The band! We're the band! The band that's called Darryl & Glenn. That's us, the band!

**Darryl:** And I'm Frank!

**Glenn:** And I'm Bonesaw!

**Darryl:** And we heard everything she said, so you don't have to explain it to us again! We overheard it.

**Canary:** Perfect.

**Darryl:** She was talking to you very loudly.

**Canary:** Perfect! Would you like to go in, as well? If he— Oh, you're the bards? Are you bards?

**Glenn:** Uh, yes.

**Canary:** You can sing a lovely song about Henry and all the wonderful things that he's done in his whole life, if you went in with him!

**Glenn:** Uh-huh [*affirmative*].

**Canary:** It's up to you, though. You don't have to go in.

**Glenn:** Are you paying us?

**Canary:** No, not at all! There is no payment in Oakvale. We support one another with kindness and love.

**Glenn:** Whoa, whoa, whoa. Slow down. What?

**Canary:** That is the currency of Oakvale, is food, companionship, shelter, the basic necessities of life!

**Glenn:** Yeah, but what about money, though?

**Canary:** What about it?

**Glenn:** Well, but what ... Are you against the idea of money?

**Canary:** Yeah.

**Glenn:** But why? It's like so...

**Canary:** You like the idea of money? Do you like doing things you don't like to do, just to get a currency that some other entity has determined should run your life? That seems a little bit slavish.

**Glenn:** No. Well, no. But the decision of how much money his worth is decided upon by a group of people.

**Beth:** Ron stands up.

**Canary:** Oh! Oh, who is this?

**Ron:** I'm in the band, too!

**Canary:** Whoa! Your pet rock has turned into a man! You don't even need a homunculus. You could just go in as you are, that's delightful!

**Will:** Hmm, I think Ron should probably make a homunculus, too... Hey, guys. I am actually really glad to see you. It's been crazy. This is, like— I'm from here, I think? This is my home. It's all kind of coming back to me.

But they said there's a lot of answers on the other side of this hatch, and I gotta go in. It sounds really dangerous, though, so... I, you know. Oh, geez. Oh, boy. Oh, man, this is a big one. This is a lot.

**Matt:** I put my hand on his shoulder. I go—

**Darryl:** So, Henry, is the GP around?

**Henry:** The GP?

**Ron:** What's ...

**Darryl:** The grand of... us, you know?

**Henry:** My dad?

**Ron:** Grandpa!

**Henry:** Barry?

**Darryl:** Oh. Is that just an open thing?

**Henry:** Yeah. This is his town, man. This is— My dad, I think he's like the mayor here, or something like that. It's all slowly coming back to me. There are answers on the other side of this thing, and I have to see it through.

**Darryl:** Okay.

**Henry:** Sorry.

**Ron:** Well, hold on. If you're remembering stuff now, then why don't we just wait here? I mean, everybody seems really nice and helpful, and there's no money to worry about. As a businessman, I love money, but I don't like counting it. You know what I mean? [*chuckles*] So, if we're safe here, then why don't we just wait for your memory to sort of... memorize.

**Henry:** [*sighs*]I feel like I gotta... Just, I need to know, because I need to know, Ron. And, if you— Look, if you want to stay on the outside, I totally get that, because this is crazy. This is too much. I need to see this through.

**Darryl:** Wherever you need to go, Henry, we're going to go. Only question is, what do you want to do with the kiddos over there?

**Henry:** [*quietly*]So, does nobody know that they're the...

**Darryl:** No. I don't think so. And by the way, I fed them only vegetables, and they did carve some sticks, but they were pretty chill. They got a little out of control, but they're okay.

**Glenn:** They got their exercise in.

**Henry:** Thanks, man. I appreciate that. Hey, and thanks for keeping an eye on them, man.

**Darryl:** Yeah, yeah, yeah.

**Henry:** It's a dangerous world out here.

**Anthony:** As you say this, you turn and see that the Lord of Chaos produces one hand with a sharpened stick in it, and then another hand with a sharpened stick in it, and then another hand with a sharpened stick in it, and then another hand with a sharpened stick in it.

[*laughter*]

**Beth:** Oh, my god.

**Matt:** And I wave them down.

**Darryl:** It would be a shame if this got real *boring*. Am I right, Henry?

**Anthony:** All the hands go right back inside the cloak.

**Henry:** That's a good one! I'm going to have to use that one. Wow. I can't believe I never thought of... Hey, good job, Darryl!

**Darryl:** Oh, thanks.

**Henry:** Canary, so you're saying we're going to create little mud versions of ourselves and go into this other plane of existence. What happens to our bodies? Are we just taking a nap on this side?

**Canary:** That's right. You'll do a little snoozy.

**Henry:** Hmm. That makes me a little nervous.

**Darryl:** You're like... you won't do anything to us?

**Canary:** What do you mean, do anything to you?

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

**Henry:** I just... Okay.

**Canary:** We'll take you into a bed, because your back might hurt a whole lot when you get back up, so we'll probably take you into the village, and get you on a nice, nice little comfy down mattress.

**Ron:** Oh, that's nice.

**Darryl:** No, like, putting our hands in warm water, or, like... killing us?

**Canary:** We couldn't kill you if we wanted to.

**Ron:** Oh, that's good to know.

**Glenn:** Right.

**Henry:** Why couldn't you kill us even if you wanted to?

**Canary:** Real quick, go ahead and kill me. Try to kill me.

**Henry:** Are you sure? That...

**Canary:** Man, go for it. Go for it.

**Will:** Okay. I take out—

**Freddie:** I feel like Paeden takes this opportunity to—

[*laughter*]

**Anthony:** Paeden's jumping up and down. He's bouncing up and down like—

**Paeden:** Let me do it, let me do it, let me do it…

**Henry:** I ...

**Paeden:** It's consensual. It's consensual!

**Will:** I... Henry pulls out a knife and—

**Henry:** No. You know what? I'm sure it must be some magic. What? Do you like, come right back to life, or something like that?

**Canary:** It's no big deal. Here, watch. Give me the knife. Go ahead.

**Matt:** Okay. I give her the knife.

**Anthony:** So she takes the knife, and she goes—

**Canary:** I'm going to stab myself! Watch out, everybody!

**Anthony:** And she brings the knife down, and it... She tries to drive it into her stomach, but before it even connects with the skin, her arms just seize up, and she goes [*grunts*]... It's like she can't—

**Will:** Whoa.

**Anthony:** ... physically bring herself to do it. She's like [*grunts*]... And then she goes—

**Canary:** See? You can't actually follow through on any violence within the center of the village. Now, in the hatch, you definitely can, because that's sort of a separate zone.

**Matt:** I grab the knife, and I try to stab into my thigh.

**Anthony:** Same thing happens.

**Darryl:** Whoa!

**Anthony:** The second that the knife is about to breach your skin, it just, [*grunts*]— And you can't physically, or psychically, make yourself do it.

**Freddie:** This makes the fact that Darryl did this cool knife trick less impressive now.

**Anthony:** [*laughing*] Yeah, he couldn't have possibly cut himself.

**Matt:** I toss the knife to Paeden, I’m like—

**Darryl:** Alright, buddy. You can have the knife while we’re here.

[*eager Paeden noises*]

[*Freddie laughs*]

**Anthony:** He grabs it, jumps on top of Canary, and just raises it up, and just keeps bringing it down over and over, and it keeps doing nothing. She's not reacting at all. And she's like—

**Canary:** He is a delight. This one's a delight.

**Anthony:** And he's like—

**Paeden:** This is so good! This is all the fun and none of the mess!

**Henry:** Okay. Canary, we need to do a band huddle, here. So, if you could just give us a quick second?

**Canary:** As much time as you need.

**Henry:** Okay. Hey, guys.

**Will:** And I bring Lark and Sparrow into the huddle, too.

**Darryl:** Hey, how you doing with all this, Henry?

**Henry:** Well, just, it’s... Man, I'm trying to keep it together right now, and this is just, like— I'm getting a lot of curveballs thrown at me today, and I just—

**Darryl:** Yeah.

**Henry:** So here's my primary concern...

**Darryl:** Okay.

**Henry:** We go to sleep, we go into the other side of this world, who knows what kind of crazy situation we're going to wake up in. Right? Like, the—

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

**Henry:** That seems kind of rowdy to me. And especially like, I'm nervous about the kids having to go to sleep, too, because I know that Barry wants the kids ... But, they want to raise our kids. Right? Barry doesn't want to hurt them. He wants to raise them. That's what they said. He wanted to steal our kids—

**Glenn:** Well, yeah. If they wanted to hurt them, they would have hurt them when they had them.

**Darryl:** Yeah, I don't think they're going to... There's a chance that maybe he'll take them, but, you know, if he takes your kids or whatever, we'll get them back.

**Henry:** All right.

**Darryl:** If that's what you got to do, then we got to do this.

**Henry:** Okay.

**Darryl:** You know,I'm less concerned about what they're going to do to us than just making sure that you're okay, and ready to face whatever's going to be in there.

**Ron:** How do we know that we can't just go into the hatch? How do we know that she's telling the truth about it aging everybody up?

**Anthony:** Lark says—

**Lark:** If you want a test, I can run in, and then very quickly run out, and see if I'm suddenly 18, and have the ability to smoke, and drink, and vote, and fire a gun!

**Glenn:** Actually, you know what? Ron, you could just throw some of your bats or something in there, and see what comes back. Like an old bat.

**Henry:** That's true. Do you want to test it out with a bat, Ron?

**Ron:** Yeah, I'll send a frog in because I think that's... No offense to your father, Paeden, but I think it's my least favorite animal that I have in here.

**Paeden:** Bullywugs aren’t frogs. It's— they look similar. That's all it is.

**Ron:** Oh. Yeah. I fucking hate frogs!

**Beth:** All right. So I pull up the Hat of Vermin, and I say—

**Ron:** Hat of Vermin, one frog, please.

[*splashing noise*]

**Anthony:** A frog sploots out right on your hand.

**Beth:** Ew,I don't like “sploot”.

**Anthony:** Canary grabs a big old wheel on the front of the hatch and cranks it counterclockwise, and with all of her strength, lurches it open, and a puff of ancient, dusty-smelling, foul air comes out of the hatch. It's pretty dark in there, but you can see a staircase headed down.

**Will:** Henry casts Speak With Animals and speaks to the frog. And I say—

**Henry:** Hi, Mr. Frog? Mr., or Ms., I don't want to... Frog?

**Frog:** Yes?

**Henry:** Hey, we need you to go down this hatch and just come back real quick. Okay?

**Frog:** [*belching*] Yes.

**Anthony:** This is my frog voice.

**Frog:** Yes. You want me to go down and just come back?

**Henry:** Yeah. Just real quick. Just dip on in, and then run back out after we—

**Ron:** Henry? Or, Hen, rather. [*chuckles*] Guys, did you know his name's Hen?

**Henry:** Just call me Hen. No— My name is Henry. Call me Henry.

**Ron:** It’s like a chicken, Hen. Hen!

**Henry:** My name is... [*shouting*] My name is Hen, Ron!

**Ron:** Okay.

**Henry:** [*flustered*]My name is Hen— My name is Henry! My name is Henry.

**Ron:** Okay. All right. All right. Henry. I'm sorry. Will you—

**Henry:** It's okay. Just...

**Ron:** Will you tell the frog that, if he sees the button, it's 4, 8, 15, 16, 23... 42? 42, I think. And...

**Freddie:** Are you just going off the top of your dome?

**Beth:** Yeah.

**Freddie:** Jesus.

**Ron:** Yeah, and then just click enter, or whatever.

**Henry:** Okay. Hey—

**Will:** I tell to the frog, because Henry did not see the show *Lost*—

**Henry:** If you see anything for numbers, those are the numbers. But, just run on in and run back out. Okay?

**Frog:** All right. Here I go!

**Anthony:** And he jumps on the first stair, jumps down onto it. The second his little paws... Or paws? Flippers? Touch the first step...

**Beth:** Aww. Frog paws.

**Anthony:** ...Immediately, a gray beard begins to form on its mouth and then wrinkles begin to form across the frog’s back. And he goes—

**Frog:** Oh no!

**Anthony:** And it jumps back out, and is like, the beard is way super long. And in the instant that it was there, it seems to have aged at least 50 years.

**Beth:** Wouldn't it, like... bleep out of existence?

**Freddie:** Frogs live about 10 to 12 years.

**Beth:** That's amazing!

**Anthony:** Not in Faerun!

**Matt:** Well, it’s the Forgotten Realms...

**Will:** Not in Faerun! In Faerun, they grow beards.

**Matt:** Yeah, they grow beards, Freddie.

**Freddie:** That's true. They also don’t grow beards.

**Will:** Henry turns to Ron. He says—

**Henry:** Ron, I think they're telling the truth about the hatch.

**Glenn:** Hey, Henry, let me sidebar you for a second, over here.

**Henry:** Yeah, what's up, Glenn?

**Glenn:** Yeah. It's just... Just sort of looking at this situation.

**Henry:** [*affirmative*] Uh-huh.

**Glenn:** Losing consciousness, going to sleep? This just seems like a really dumb idea! Just saying.

**Henry:** Ah, yeah. I mean...

**Glenn:** It's a really dumb idea. And I'm not doing it! I don't let no dentist put me down. I still got all four of my wisdom teeth, even though they said it was going to be a real problem. And it turns out, by the way, that it wasn't a problem, and maybe all of dentistry is a scam? I'm still working on that one.

**Henry:** I don't know. I know— God, I... Do I have my wisdom teeth? I guess I must. I mean, I never thought about it, but they... Yeah. I have all my wisdom teeth, too. Now, I'm like, that may be... Oh, my god. I have a lot of gum problems. I mean— I got to focus. I got to focus. I got to focus.

Look, I get it. I'm not comfortable with this either, man, but this is like my whole existential... I got to know what's in there, dude. So— ah, geez, though. You raise a really good point. I remember hearing that you're never supposed to go with a hippie to a second location, and I also feel like that probably involves going to sleep in a commune that you haven’t spent the night in before.

**Beth:** Ron's got, like, four of his fingers in his mouth, like—

**Ron:** I don't know if people ... If you're wise, do you have wisdom teeth? And if you're not wise, does that mean you got them out? And you're a dentist already?

**Will:** Right now, Henry has disadvantage on wisdom teeth.

[*laughter*]

**Henry:** Okay, Glenn raises a really good point. Do we want to leave all of us unconscious here? Because here's what I'm thinking**.** Who knows what's in that place, too? How well can we trust these people? There might be some crazy stuff in there. I don't want to go in there alone. That's really scary!

**Glenn:** You might be trapping your soul!

**Ron:** Hey, Glenn? While I'm out, you have my consent to see if I have wisdom teeth, still.

[*laughter*]

**Glenn:** Okay. Yeah, I'll check on that.

**Beth:** And, if I still have my wisdom teeth, can I have my Wisdom back that I lost when I looked at the poopy?

[*laughter*]

**Matt:** I thought you were going to say, even if you do have wisdom teeth, you're going to let Glenn remove them while you're out.

**Beth:** No! This is directed more to Anthony, because wouldn't it be funny, if we rolled something, and then I had wisdom teeth, so I was really smart?

**Anthony:** Yeah, that is funny.

**Beth:** Okay.

**Anthony:** All right. We'll do that.

**Freddie:** Because that's how wisdom teeth work!

**Anthony:** Yeah, because otherwise, you're going to have to wait until you get all the way to your— to fucking, Swankery Hill to get your shit back. Yeah, okay. That's fine.

**Beth:** Okay, cool.

**Anthony:** It's stupid.

**Freddie:** I'll give it a coin flip, as to whether or not them teeth are still in there.

**Anthony:** Yes.

**Beth:** Okay. But we can't do it now, because I'm still awake.

**Will:** No, that's the juicy cliffhanger that we're going to leave this episode on, is whether Ron still has his wisdom teeth.

**Freddie:** Yeah.

**Matt:** Darryl walks over to Canary, and is just like—

**Darryl:** Hey, so just real quick. We don't actually go in there, right? So, if we die in there, we don't actually die. Correct?

**Canary:** No, no, no, no. Only a homunculus goes in, that you can remotely control by putting your consciousness into it, momentarily. If you die down there in the homunculus, your body just gets your consciousness back.

That said, your consciousness, once it goes into one of my homunculi, once it's died, it can't go back into a homunculi. It just develops an antidote to being back in my little mud men. So you only get one shot.

**Freddie:** It's a refractory period, if you will.

**Darryl:** Henry, this might be your only shot, man. I think, at the very least, we can't go in half-cocked. You know what I mean? We got to... I'm there for you. We do this. It's a risk to leave— Maybe we leave somebody here, but I'm there for you, man, if this is what you want to do.

**Henry:** Okay.

**Ron:** No. I'm full-cocked. I'm going in.

**Glenn:** Okay. Well, you guys can go in, I'll stay behind and guard the bodies.

**Darryl:** Don't call us “bodies”. That makes it feel like you've already given up hope on us, Glenn. But you're going to guard us.

**Henry:** The “unconscious people”.

**Glenn:** Okay. Yes, you. Yes.

**Henry:** All right. Glenn.

**Glenn:** Yes. Yes.

**Henry:** There could be some stuff in there that I don't know if my beautiful boys are ready to see. Because I'm still trying to piece together what all happened. I want to have as strong a team in there as possible, so I'm going to go against my better judgment here, and say that I’m… [*strains to speak*] It's really hard for me to say this right now, so just give me a second.

**Glenn:** Okay. All right.

**Henry:** Glenn?

**Glenn:** Yes?

**Henry:** [*pained*]You're in charge of my sons.

**Glenn:** Oh, all right.

**Freddie:** I give a little light thumbs up.

[*Matt and Beth laugh*]

**Will:** That was not reassuring, at all, to Henry.

**Matt:** I look at Henry. I say—

**Darryl:** Hey, Henry? When I was there with Glenn, I got to tell you, Glenn straight up, he did a great job.

**Matt:** I look over at Glenn. I'm giving a wink because like—

**Darryl:** You got nothing to worry about. I didn't even have to parent, at all. It was all Glenn, man. He’s got your kids down pat.

**Will:** I'm going to roll to see if I saw the wink. What would that be?

**Anthony:** It'd be Perception. And then— Yeah, roll...

**Will:** That's— Perception's Wisdom. Right?

**Anthony:** Yes.

**Will:** I got a 15.

**Anthony:** With the 15, you actually see the wink.

**Henry:** Okay, why are you winking, though, Darryl? I feels like, if that was a true statement, you wouldn't need to wink to Glenn about it. You know what? I can't... I can't ...

**Freddie:** I put my hand on Henry's shoulder. I look him dead in the eye, and I say—

**Matt:** Persuade...

**Glenn:** Henry, don't worry about up here. They won't know I'm here, I'll be able to conduct some reconnaissance for when you guys come back, and I will make sure to take care of yourkids, Spark and Arrow.

[*Anthony laughs*]

**Henry:** Oh. Okay...

**Sparrow:** Ooh! Much better names. Much better names.

**Lark:** We're getting our tattoos changed.

**Henry:** Here’s— One promise is pretty good, but what's even better than one promise, is multiple promises. Glenn, do you promise, on your word as a dad, that you will take care of my children and watch after them, as if— I don't want to say “your own,” because frankly, I mean, not to judge, but— Will you do a good job looking after them?

**Glenn:** Yes.

**Henry:** Okay. I have your word. Canary?

**Will:** And I turn to Canary.

**Canary:** Hello!

**Henry:** You seem like a really nice person. You seem like someone that, if you give your word, your word is bond. Do I sense that that's true? Is that true?

**Canary:** Oh, of course. Of course, of course, of course, of course.

**Anthony:** She does a pirouette.

**Henry:** Do you give me your word that nothing bad will happen to anyone in this room, while they're unconscious? And that nothing bad will happen to my friends Road... Man, and Spark... I mean, the Lord of Chaos?

**Canary:** That's a lot of names you threw at me, but no. Of course. Of course. I will be as fantastic a host as Bear Ry-Oak himself is. You have nothing to fear.

**Henry:** [*hums doubtfully*]...All right.

**Matt:** Can I roll to think if I think she's lying?

**Anthony:** Yeah. Roll Insight.

**Matt:** I got a 19. I don't know what my bonus is.

**Anthony:** With a 19, which is a pretty good roll, you can tell that, as far as she knows, by her definition of what is good or bad, nothing bad will happen.

**Matt:** Okay.

**Will:** Hmm, seems like a shaky technicality, but...

**Matt:** But in that moment, Darryl's like—

**Darryl:** I mean, she seems truthful.

**Glenn:** The only question I have is, what do we do about the P-Man?

**Henry:** Well, so...

**Glenn:** Get it? Because it works both ways. Do you see what I did there?

**Henry:** About who? What?

**Glenn:** The P-Man.

**Darryl:** What?

**Glenn:** The P-Man!

**Paeden:** P-Man!

**Glenn:** Pee Man.

**Paeden:** Paeden! [*chanting*] P-Man! P-Man!

**Henry:** The P-Man. Oh, P, as in Paeden.

**Ron:** Why does it work both ways?

**Glenn:** And also, pee, as in urine.

**Henry:** Paeden's coming in with us.

**Darryl:** I feel like this is a good way for Paeden to get out some fighting and aggression, without being in physical harm.

[*Freddie laughs*]

**Henry:** This is great, because this kind of— video games do that in our world.

**Darryl:** Yeah.

**Henry:** And I think, maybe Paeden would be a really good gamer. I feel like, if Paeden was in our world, he'd be a gamer! That's what I think. But a really nice gamer, who didn't do bad gamer stuff.

[*laughter*]

**Matt:** Yeah, he’s not a capital-G gamer.

**Paeden:** I’d really care about ethics in gaming journalism. That’s canonically the kind of person I am.

**Beth:** If Paeden was in the real world, he would think you are a cuck!

[*Anthony and Freddie laugh*]

**Henry:** Paeden, you know, in our world, we have... You guys have Unfortunate Foster Children. We have these Brothers that are Super. And guess what they do? They Smash stuff.

[*eager Paeden noise*]

**Henry:** That could be something that you're a part of. Anyway…

**Paeden:** That sounds like your sons. Sounds like you just described Lark and Sparrow.

**Glenn:** Yeah, it does.

**Henry:** That's true. They are super smash brothers. I love my... Oh, boy. All right. Which brings me to the last word! We've got two pretty shaky words from Glenn and Canary, both of whom seem semi-reliable. Lark... I mean, [clears throat], Lord of Chaos? May I have a moment’s parlay with you?

**Lark and Sparrow:** [*layered, in unison*]The Lord of Chaos speaking!

**Henry:** Oh, I hate it when you guys do that. Okay. All right. Boys?

**Lark and Sparrow:** Yes?

**Henry:** I have to go into this mystery hatch. While I'm down there, Glenn is in charge. Do I have your word that you will do what Glenn says? Your word, upon your brother's life, that you will listen to Glenn, and that you will do what he says? As long as it doesn't sound too stupid, because it's Glenn.

**Lark:** You would use our love for each other against one another, to get what you wish? That is brilliant, Father! Yes. I, Lord of Chaos, part one, agree to do that thing.

**Sparrow:** And I, Lord of Chaos, part two, also agree to do that thing!

**Henry:** All right, guys. That's four words that are all kind of shaky, but what I'm hoping, here, is they'll all add up to one pretty good word that nothing bad is going to happen. So, given all of that... it's time to go in.

**Anthony:** So, as you resolve amongst yourselves that you are going to go down into this hatch, Canary's turned away from you, fiddling with something. And when she turns back around, she's holding a rock and a chisel, and you can see that the rock is like a isodeco- It's got 20 sides on it.

**Will:** Oh, boy.

**Matt:** Oh… Nice.

**Anthony:** And she—

**Freddie:** Icosahedron.An icosahedron, Anthony?

**Anthony:** Yes. It's an... It's one of those, you fucker. And she goes—

**Beth:** Fuckin’ nerd...

**Canary:** All right, guys! It's time...

**Anthony:** And she throws it at you—

**Canary:** ...to roll your characters!

[*outro music plays*]

**Freddie:** Dungeons & Daddies is Matt Arnold as Darryl Wilson, Anthony Burch as our DM, Will Campos as MC Henry “Professor” Oak. Remember, we got a track from the Rocks Rock! EP, right after this. Beth May plays Ron Stamper, and myself, Freddie Wong, plays Glenn Close. Theme song and outro is Alright by Maxton Waller.

And a quick shout out to all of our fine Patreon supporters, but especially folks like austinhasabeard, that's one word, Logan Duquette, Beth Thatcher, John Stampler... related? Who knows. Patrick Estiburg, Justin Valentine, Brett S. Jones, Luke Downey, Francis Marie Glorioso, Dillon Adams, Alex Robert, Beau Elkers. I think it's Elkers, something like that. Benjamin D. Horning, James Gillespie, and Shawn Chapel. Thank you all so much for supporting.

By the way, the Rocks Rock! EP, the rap album we've referenced as a joke in an episode, we made it into a reality. It's out, and by all accounts, it's actually pretty good. You can judge the level of quality we're talking about for yourself, here, in just a second.

Two ways you can get this album. One, it's available on our store as a digital download at dungeonsanddaddies.com, or you can become a Patreon member, and every level, from five bucks a month on, gets the album, as well as all of our stretch goal content, our after show, our bonus content, our Discord live listens— just so much stuff that you get on top of that! Listen, the choice is yours. I'm just saying, two ways you can get it, dungeonsanddaddies.com, or become a Patreon member. Follow us on Twitter @dungeonsanddads. Our subreddit is reddit.com/r/dungeonsanddaddies.

Our next episode's coming at you August 18th, so we will see you then.

*[outro music plays]*

*[Rocks Rock! EP plays]*