

FIND US ALIVE EPISODE 26: VOIDS AND VENTURES

STATIC FADES OUT

PAPERS STRAIGHTEN

KLEIN

Good evening, everyone. Happy Saturday.

HARLEY

(crosstalk)

Happy Saturday!

LOVE

(crosstalk)

Yeah yeah yeah yeah yeah!

KLEIN

Lancaster, glad you could make it.

LANCASTER

Oh, me too.

KLEIN

Alright. Did everyone read the rules I sent you?

HARLEY AND RADDAGHER

Yes.

LOVE

No.

LANCASTER

I also did not read it.

KLEIN

Whatever. It's not super hard. You'll get the hang of it.

DICE CLINK TOGETHER

LANCASTER

Can I have the triangle one?

KLEIN

No. You only need... these two. Percentile dice.

LOVE

Then what do I use?

KLEIN

We only have the two sets so I get one and the rest of you will have to share.

HARLEY

Why do you get your own?

KLEIN

Because I'm the Game Master. Which you would know if you read the PDF I sent you.

LOVE

Whatever.

KLEIN

Let's get started! Harley, please introduce your character.

PAPER RUSTLES

HARLEY

With pleasure! My character is an elven wizard named Glorendal Fensys, Arcane Knight of the Forest Realm, Defender of the Helpless, Beloved by-

KLEIN

Alright, great. Raddagher?

RADDAGHER

Metal construct fighter.

KLEIN

Does your character have a name?

RADDAGHER

No.

KLEIN

Cool. Love, how about yours?

LOVE

I'm a goblin ranger named Skunkass.

KLEIN

Skunkass?

LOVE

Yeah but it means something different in the goblin language. OH! And she has an animal sidekick who's a big huge wolf.

KLEIN

And what's its name?

LOVE

Balto.

LANCASTER

Okay, I am the Minstrel of Mysteria, whose- er, you don't know his real name yet. He's a human bard with a dark secret.

HARLEY

(excitedly)

And he killed Glorendal's parents!

LANCASTER

SHUT UP, no he didn't, what they hell, Harley? I don't know what he's talking about.

TINNY MUSIC BEGINS WITH A BUTTON CLICK

KLEIN

Alright! Players. Welcome to Outer Kingdoms, the best fantasy tabletop roleplaying game of 1996. We open on an ordinary tavern, in a not-so ordinary town...

KLEIN CONTINUES TO SPEAK AS STATIC FADES IN OVER HER VOICE

KLEIN

The guard draws a sword and holds it to Glorendal's throat.

(as Guard)

"That cave, and everything therein, belongs to the Stone King."

HARLEY

I uh, spit in his face.

(clears throat)

(English High RP)

"The Stone King's corruption has long been a plague upon this land and its good people, and I will NOT--"

RADDAGHER

I tell the guard to leave us alone.

KLEIN

And how do you do that?

RADDAGHER
...I... talk to him.

KLEIN
Uh, alright. What's your Social score?

RADDAGHER
Uh, 60.

KLEIN
60?!

LANCASTER
Damn.

RADDAGHER
I rolled high.

KLEIN
Damn. Alright. Roll Social.

DICE CLICK AND ROLL

RADDAGHER
I got a 01 and a 7.

KLEIN
That's a 17.

IMPRESSED NOISES FROM THE OTHERS

LOVE
Is that good?

HARLEY
Lower is better.

KLEIN
Yeah, you talk to the SHIT out of that guard.

CLICK

KLEIN
In front of the Stone King's Dungeon is a large stone statue of a knight holding an enormous sword. It reads "No entry without the King's seal."

LOVE
Should we attack it?

HARLEY
How big is it?

KLEIN
It's about 20 feet tall.

HARLEY
Oh. Yikes.

LANCASTER
Waitwaitwait. No, I have an idea.

KLEIN
Go for it.

LANCASTER
The Minstrel steps forward and he
says-
 (clears throat)
 (awful, incomprehensible accent)
"We have the King's seal-

THE OTHERS LAUGH UPROARIOUSLY

LANCASTER
What?

HARLEY
What accent is that supposed to
be?!

LANCASTER
It's Mysterian, I dunno! I didn't
decide to do one until just now!

LOVE
You should stop.

HARLEY
NO, he should KEEP DOING IT.

KLEIN
You are locked in, Lancaster.

CLICK

LOVE
Balto does a bite attack!

KLEIN
Roll for Combat.

DICE CLICK

LOVE

...89.

KLEIN

Balto the giant wolf jumps at the troll, snapping his jaws- but the troll leaps out of the way,

LOVE

Dammit!

HARLEY

Bad luck!

KLEIN

The troll makes a counter-attack, swinging its club at Balto- what's Balto's Defense stat?

LOVE

45?

DICE CLICK

PAUSE

KLEIN

...the troll got a 23.

LOVE

(anguished)
No!

KLEIN

Troll's club does 8 points of damage-

HARLEY

8?!

LOVE

FUCK!

KLEIN

How's Balto looking?

LOVE

He only has 4 left!

RADDAGHER

Shit.

KLEIN

(nervously)

Heh, well.. We'll see how the dice land!

LANCASTER

'Kay, well it's your fault for picking the class with a pet.

LOVE

I punch the Minstrel.

CLICK

KLEIN

And this weird little mud creature looks at you and says,

(goofy character voice)

"Please, noble heroes, do not mash me into a paste! I can tell you how to unlock the chamber!"

HARLEY

Glorendal flourishes his magical rapier and says:

(as Glorendal)

"I say we show this foul mud-ling mercy. We've wrought enough destruction on his kind today."

PENCIL SCRIBBLING

LOVE

We should keep him.

HARLEY

What?

LOVE

We should keep him! He should join the party.

PENCIL SCRATCHING

RADDAGHER

No.

LOVE

(as Skunkass)

"Hi, my name's Skunkass, want to join our party?"

KLEIN

"Uh, I'm just here to tell you how to open this door,"

LOVE

"What's your name?"

KLEIN

"Umm..."

HARLEY

Pickles.

LOVE

Mudbo.

PENCIL SCRIBBLING

KLEIN

"My name is- uhh, Ronaldo... futi...
dair... son"

LOVE AND HARLEY LAUGH

HARLEY

"Honorable Ronaldofutidairson,
tell us how to open yonder bigass
door."

KLEIN

"It'll only open with the proper
combination of pitches, your lords
and ladyships!"

LOVE

Oh! Oh! That's a music thing!
Lancaster!

PAUSE AS PENCIL CONTINUES SCRATCHING

KLEIN

Lancaster,

RADDAGHER

What are you drawing?

LOVE

Hell-00000,

KLEIN

Earth to Lancaster!

LANCASTER

(starting)

Ah! Uh, yeah. Sorry, what did I
miss?

HARLEY

What are you doing?

LANCASTER

Uh- okay, I'm just doodling. I dunno.

Sorry. I'm listening.

KLEIN

Great! Ronaldofutidairson explains that only the correct pitches in the proper order will open the door.

LOVE

Does Ronaldofutidairson have a family?

KLEIN

What? No. He came out of the mud like three minutes ago.

HARLEY

"Focus, dear companions, lest we forget that the town is counting upon us!"

LOVE

The town can suck my balls, I'm here to get paid.

LANCASTER

Okay so, I've got it. The Minstrel raises his lute-

PAUSE

INTRO TO STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN PICKED ON GUITAR

THE OTHERS LAUGH

HARLEY

That's probably not it.

KLEIN

Roll a general percentage.

DICE CLICK

LANCASTER

2!

KLEIN

The door opens.

THEY CHEER

CLICK

TINNY MUSIC PLAYS IN THE BACKGROUND

KLEIN

The creature reaches down and
smacks Ronaldofutidairson,
swatting him through the air-

LANCASTER

Okay, I'm- I'm sorry, I really
need to go to the bathroom.

HARLEY AND LOVE GROAN

LOVE

Come ON!

HARLEY

We just had a break!

LANCASTER

I know, I know, I know I know, I'm
sorry! I'll be right back!

CHAIR PUSHES OUT QUICKLY

RADDAGHER

I'm going too.

KLEIN

Alright, hurry back.

STATIC BRIEFLY FADES OUT THEN BACK IN

PENCIL SCRIBBLES RAPIDLY

LANCASTER MUTTERS INAUDIBLY TO HIMSELF

PAPER CRINKLES AS PENCIL SCRATCHES

LANCASTER

Okay. Okay. Um...

PAPER CRUMPLES, TRASH RUSTLES

FOOTSTEPS FADE OUT

DOOR OPENS, THEN CLOSES

PAUSE, BATHROOM FAN RUNS

DOOR OPENS, FOOTSTEPS APPROACH

RADDAGHER SIGHS

RADDAGHER

Hm.

PAUSE

RADDAGHER

Mm?

DIGGING IN TRASH

PAPER UNFURLING

RADDAGHER

Huh.

CLICK

HARLEY

I rally everyone to my side.
"Comrades! To me!"

LOVE

I lay face down on the ground.

HARLEY

"We've been through many terrible events this dark week. I know that the future looks dire. It really seems like we're heading into the fight of our lives after--"

RADDAGHER

I used the rest of my abilities on the Mimic.

HARLEY

(trying not to laugh)

"Yeah, we're- we're pretty out of juice. I don't think Klein is gonna let us rest before the big fight--"

LANCASTER

I give him my last, uh, bard bonus.

KLEIN

How do you do that?

PAUSE

SMOKE ON THE WATER PICKED ON GUITAR

KLEIN
I'll allow it.

HARLEY
"But I have faith in our party! I
have faith in the bond of our
friendship! And I know that
together, we will all see..."
(dropping character)
...Klein fudge more rolls to keep
Love's dog alive!

KLEIN
(lying)
I'm not fudging rolls!

CLICK

TINNY DRAMATIC MUSIC IN BACKGROUND

KLEIN
The Stone Queen looks down at you.

LOVE
I draw my-

RADDAGHER
Wait.

KLEIN
Raddagher? You look like you've
got an idea.

RADDAGHER
Yes. I talk to her.

KLEIN
What do you say?

RADDAGHER
Um...

PAUSE

RADDAGHER
They say that... the world is... okay,
actually. And she shouldn't... let
the Stone King kill everybody.

LANCASTER
I back them up!

HARLEY
(feigning seriousness)

Do the voice.

LANCASTER

(stupid character voice)

"The robot p- the r- er, the robot person is right! You should listen to them!"

HARLEY AND LOVE SNICKER

KLEIN

Alright. Roll Social.

HARLEY

Big money, no whammies.

LOVE

The nameless robot NEVER rolls whammies.

DICE CLICK ON THE TABLE

RADDAGHER

...2.

KLEIN

2 total?!

RADDAGHER

Yes.

KLEIN

Wow, that's a complete success.

The Stone Queen considers your reasoning for a while. She leans forward, stroking her chin.

(as Stone Queen)

"You really care about these humans? In spite of all the terrible things they've done to you all?"

RADDAGHER

Yes.

CLICK

LOVE

Balto goes for the ankle! I wanna get his achilles tendon!

DICE CLINK

LOVE

24!

KLEIN

That's a hit! How much damage does
Balto's bite do?

LOVE

6.

HARLEY

Nice!

RADDAGHER

Are you okay?

LANCASTER

(slightly strained)

Yeah. Yeahyeahyeah.

KLEIN

Balto lands a hefty bite on the
Stone King-

LOVE

I want to sever the tendon!

KLEIN

I'm going to need a separate roll
for that.

DICE CLINKING

LOVE

17!

HARLEY WHOOPS

KLEIN

The Stone King roars in anger and
pain, stumbling backwards as
Balto's sharp teeth cut through
the back of his leg-

LOVE

Good boy, Balto!

HARLEY

Nice work, Skunkass!

HIGH FIVE SLAPS

KLEIN

And the Stone King reels back his
sword to strike at the wolf
latched onto his leg-

DICE CLICK

PAUSE

KLEIN
(lying)
62, that's a miss!

HARLEY
Show us.

KLEIN
What?

LOVE
Yeah, what?

HARLEY
Show us the roll.

KLEIN
I'm not fudging rolls!

HARLEY
Balto hasn't gotten hit once since
he dropped below half his HP!

KLEIN
I just keep missing!

HANDS SLAM ON THE TABLE

HARLEY
Well then I don't see why there
should be a problem with showing
us the dice!

PAUSE

KLEIN SIGHS

GM SCREEN SHIFTS

HARLEY
I KNEW it!

LOVE
Dammit, Harley! You're gonna get
my dog killed!

HARLEY
Roll-fudger!

KLEIN

I just want everybody to have fun!

HARLEY

The game has rules! It's about integrity!

KLEIN

The rules can suck my balls!

LOVE

Everybody shut up! How much damage is it?

KLEIN

...7.

PAUSE

KLEIN

How much does Balto-

LOVE

He's dead.

KLEIN

Not yet, hold your horses. Roll a Body save. If he succeeds, he's just unconscious.

RADDAGHER

Why are you so sweaty?

LANCASTER

Wh- I don't- I dunno.

DICE CLINK

PAUSE

LOVE

...41.

HARLEY

Uh oh.

KLEIN

That's a failure, Love, I'm sorry..

LOVE

It's Harley's fault.

HARLEY

I'm SORRY!

LOVE

I want to sacrifice Glovebox to
bring Balto back to life.

HARLEY

Okay, my name's Glorendal,

LOVE

Sacrifice.

HARLEY

Wait, CAN I sacrifice myself?

KLEIN

It's your turn, you tell me.

HARLEY

Glorendal sees Balto fall beneath
the blade of the Stone King, and
is overcome with grief and rage.
He raises his staff, and-

PUNCTURE NOISE

LOVE

OW! Lancaster, what the FUCK?!

LANCASTER

Sorry-

LOVE

Was that your pencil?

LANCASTER

It was an accident, I didn't-

KLEIN

What happened?

LOVE

He fucking stabbed me!

KLEIN

What?

LANCASTER

It was an accident, it was an
accident, I was just moving too
fast,

HARLEY

Oh, you're bleeding.

LOVE

I KNOW. OW.

KLEIN

Aw, come on. It's not that bad,
I've got a bandaid right here.

LANCASTER

I'm so sorry-

KLEIN

Do I need to give you a crayon or
something instead, man?

LANCASTER

It was an accident. It was an
accident

LOVE

It's FINE. Whatever.

RADDAGHER

You did that on purpose.

LANCASTER

I- wh... no. No, I didn't.

RADDAGHER

I saw you.

LANCASTER

I didn't- Love, I'm sorry. I'm
sorry. I didn't mean to do that.

CHAIR SCREECHES ON FLOOR

RADDAGHER

(angry)

Yes you did!

HARLEY

Whoa,

KLEIN

Alright, sit down, it's just a
little scratch.

LOVE

Yeah, it's really not that bad, I
was exaggerating-

RADDAGHER

What's wrong with you?

LANCASTER

Wh- With ME?

RADDAGHER
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?!

LANCASTER
Nothing! I don't know what you're
talking about!

RADDAGHER SLAMS HER HANDS ON THE TABLE

RADDAGHER
LIAR! What's THIS?

PAPER RUSTLES

LANCASTER
Wh- huh? I dunno, doodles?

RADDAGHER
Why did you go all the way into
the bathroom to draw this?

LANCASTER
Did you follow me to the bathroom?

RADDAGHER
Something is wrong with him!

HARLEY
Maybe we should take a break. Cool
off a little bit.

BEAT

RADDAGHER
...You don't believe me.

LOVE
(Quietly)
He said it was an accident.

PAUSE

FOOTSTEPS RETREAT, DOOR OPENS, SLAMS SHUT

LOVE
I should-

KLEIN
No, let her go.

CLICK

STATIC

SURVEILLANCE OFFICE EQUIPMENT HUMS

LOVE

Do you feel better now?

RADDAGHER

I'm angry.

PAUSE

RADDAGHER

How is it?

LOVE

It stopped bleeding. I think there's a piece of lead in there though.

RADDAGHER

Do you really think it was an accident?

LOVE

Yeah.

RADDAGHER HUFFS

LOVE

Why are you so dead-set on thinking it was on purpose?

RADDAGHER

I don't think it was an accident.

LOVE

Why not?

RADDAGHER

(sharply)

Because I don't.

BEAT

RADDAGHER

Am I paranoid?

LOVE

What?

RADDAGHER

I think he's acting weird. Nobody else does.

LOVE

I don't think you're crazy or anything, if that's what you're worried about.

RADDAGHER

I'm not.

LOVE

I know you're not.

PAUSE

LOVE

But I don't know how to answer that. Maybe? Maybe you're paranoid? Everything's fucked up all the time. Trying to tell when somebody is acting weird in here is like trying to get my colorblind brother to pick out a paint swatch.

RADDAGHER

Something's wrong.

LOVE

Everything is wrong.

PAUSE

LOVE

Wanna hold the boy? Maybe you'll feel better.

DUMPTRUCK SQUISHES

PAUSE

RADDAGHER

Sure.

LOVE

Besides, you'll be fine anyway.

RADDAGHER

Hm?

LOVE

(casually)

If something IS wrong, I won't let anything bad happen to you.

Or- you know, anybody else.

RADDAGHER

Oh.

LOVE

Plenty of shit's fucked up in here. We've made it this far. We'll be alright.

RADDAGHER

Promise?

PAUSE

LOVE

Yeah. Promise.

END