

The Reunion (S1, E34)

SFX: INTRO MUSIC

Rev: We're at, like, half power now.

Tass: It's true.

Rev: So a little behind the scenes: we usually record twice a week. On one day, we record the episode. And then on the other day, we record the intro. Just because it seems more enjoyable to record the intro right before it goes out, so in case anything has happened or there's anything pressing we want to talk about. And Jake and T.J. are not here tonight. They are ... They're sick. Jake is sick. T.J.'s just sick of being around us.

Tass: Yep, that's fair.

Rev: And so it's just us.

Tass: And I might as well not even be here. All I'm thinking about is playing Dead by Daylight right now. It's just where my head is.

Rev: I should have started this off like, "Day 17. Food has run out. The water is the next thing to go. We had to eat T.J."

Tass: *laughs* "Jake's out scavenging."

Rev: Yeah. So, just a couple things before we get into the episode. If you are in Indiana, if you are near Fort Wayne, Fort Wayne PopCon is happening the last week of December. We will be there. Our booth is 504. You can come by and see us. They will be playing some games, and just kind of general tomfoolery -- I kind of leave that up to Tass. I'm actually going to be helping to judge the costume contest.

Tass: I'm actually -- I'm pretty excited about that. I've got a few lined up already. I want to run for just random people, if people do want to play, stuff that I actually run at work with some friends. What I call "10 minute one-shots." So I'll have character sheets from Monster of the Week already made, so just stats and abilities and stuff picked. And I'll have just a little scenario that's like some clues they have to solve and probably a monster to fight. So they're going to pick up and literally learn how to play in 10 minutes,

just by jumping in. So I'll have maybe half a dozen of those to just cycle through with random people that walk up.

Rev: So yeah, we will be there Saturday and Sunday, booth 504 at Fort Wayne PopCon. Also on Saturday, we're gonna do a live show -- that'll be at 1 o'clock on the podcast stage. I couldn't be happier with the response we've gotten to the Patreon trailer last week.

Tass: I know. That's so awesome.

Rev: So I've got a couple of questions here that people have sent in that I want to go over the answers to, because I assume that if one person or two people ask the question, there is probably more people, so. That's what they always taught us in school. Like, there's no stupid question, because if you're thinking it, surely someone else is thinking it.

Tass: Exactly.

Rev: So just like The Critshow, wherever you download it, the Patreon is marked as mature. So what does that mean? It just means that the show's going to essentially be the same. You know, it's gonna have the same type of humor, the same type of language. Really, the only difference is that in the Patreon, we probably will not be bleeping anything. Because the idea is that for Hero Salad, we will be running that like a live show. That we have a -- we actually a timer that we have put up on the wall, and we'll start 90 minutes and we will just play. And Tass will kind of keep an eye on it, the same way that I do at the live shows. And so it'll feel a lot more like the Halloween episode or the live shows, where you get a little more of us maybe struggling or goofing around or having a good time. Those episodes will come out on the second, third and fourth Friday of the month. So the second and fourth Friday will be Hero Salad, and the third one nestled in between will be Roll Investigate the History. We put those on Friday. Honestly, I put them on Friday just so it'd be, you know, a little different than what we normally put out. I don't want to put out all our content on Wednesday.

Tass: Yeah.

Rev: But also doing it on Friday, actually, for anyone who signs up that first week, that'll give us a little bit of a buffer to make sure the RSS feeds work, and make sure we understand how to do everything. I feel like I've got a handle on everything, but, you know, technology happens.

Tass: Yeah. Technology is magic to me, so.

Rev: For The Divine, for the the tier that comes with swag, the months for the swag will be April, August and January. And to be eligible for that swag, you need to be part of that tier for the four months prior -- or the three months prior, and that month. So I guess I just throw that out there that if you're someone, you know, on the edge about that one, thinking about maybe waiting. If you do sign up for it, make sure to sign up for it the month after swag has gone out. Just cause I don't want anybody throwing money towards the swag that they won't get for five or six months, so.

Tass: Yeah, good call.

Rev: And the final question: how will I play Monster of the Week with whoever has The Chosen tier?

Tass: Oh. Good question.

Rev: It is a good question. So that'll be really whatever works for that player and their friends. It could be in person if it's someone that's around Indianapolis. It could be over Skype. It can be over Google Hangouts. Really, it'll be whatever works for that group. And I was also actually asked if there would be more than one Chosen. You know, I had kind of mentioned before that we would do one, and then if there was demand for it, I could consider adding another one. Really, I think that we will probably just add another one if one is taken, because I can sleep when I'm dead.

Tass: *laughs* Yeah.

Rev: The Patreon launches on January the 2nd, and you can find that on [patreon/thecritshow](#). And I suppose I'm just going to get back into my bubble, and hope that whatever got Jake doesn't get me.

Tass: Yeah, no kidding.

Rev: Through the thin plastic and the sound of the air being processed and blown into the bubble for me to breathe safely, I will listen for the sound of the recap rolling.

SFX: RECAP MUSIC

Teej: Yeah, so I'm gonna go ahead and I'm going to re-work my wrist blaster into a code breaker.

Rev: You hear a voice from above.

Rev: STROHM: What would it take to get you three out of my home?

Teej: "It would take you giving us all three of those souls in there."

Rev: STROHM: Put everything you found back, and you have a deal.

Jake: "We'll take that deal. But I want my bow back too, then. We'll give you back all your stuff, you give us back our stuff: the souls and the bow."

Rev: STROHM: Very well. But the price for that bow is the necklace.

Jake: I'll look at Damien.

Rev: You turn back, and he's not there.

Jake: "Son of a bitch! OK. Well evidently, that part of the deal is off the table now, because he has eloped with the necklace. Give us the souls, you can keep the bow, and we'll put back everything we've taken, fair and square."

Rev: Around the corner is a large blue crystal.

Rev: STROHM: This is one of the viewing crystals. It's what allows you to communicate with what is inside.

Jake: "Is it OK if we place these three crystals in there real quick, just to verify that they are who we need?"

Rev: STROHM: Yes, of course.

Jake: I'm going to do the red one first.

Rev: You put the red one in and you see Reeves, from the Eye of Horus.

Jake: Withdraw her crystal, and I'll put in the ... Put in the green one.

Rev: It's Rachel.

Jake: So I'll take that crystal back out, and then I will put the white one in.

Rev: And Tass appears.

Tass: "Oh. Hey, boys."

SFX: RECAP MUSIC FADES

Teej: "Dude!"

Tass: "Hi."

Teej: "It's so good to see you!"

Tass: "Yeah. You guys, too. I don't know how long I've been stuck in this thing at this point. It's, uh ... Ooh. It's really trippy in there. It's like -- it's like nothing. Blegh. This is ... This is better. This is so, so much better."

Teej: "What's it like to be dead?"

Tass: "T.J., after all is said and done -- and I did die -- I loved you the most, buddy."

Teej: "I love you, too."

Jake: "Uh ... Sorry. It's just, this is, I'm ... It's weird. I just wasn't sure that this was going to work. And it's very -- it's really good to see you again."

Tass: "Oh, buddy. It's OK. I'm, you know, fine."

Jake: "I mean, you're gonna be. You're gonna be. You're gonna be fine. We did it. We got you. We're gonna get you out of here. We're gonna bring you back."

Tass: "Yeah. Well, I hope so. Oh, shit. So where'd Damien go?"

Jake: "He absconded with his mom's neckl -- wait, how do you know that Damien was here?"

Tass: "Do you -- oh, you guys didn't get the whole plan. Your plan was just ... Oh, your plan was just the 'get me' plan, wasn't it?"

Jake: "I ... Yes?"

Teej: "That's all we've ever wanted."

Tass: "Oh, buddy, that's sweet. But that sucked real bad. OK."

Jake: *laughs*

Tass: "OK. Let's -- let's take a step back here. Damien was a part of all this. He knew I was here. He got me here. He literally traded me to be here, specifically, so that I could be in the same room with Rachel, so that we could get this information."

Jake: "Well, he told us none of that, so."

Tass: "Well, that makes sense now, that I think about it. I mean, how could he? It wouldn't be able to be a real, whatever, demon deal, if he did it that way. So, that makes sense. So now we're here. This whole thing is because, well, I kind of know some of Nash's plans. At least part of what he's trying to do, if not what exactly he's trying to do. And it involves my soul."

Jake: "Oh, God."

Tass: "Yeah. So we need to talk to Rachel. I mean, we have it. We have her soul, unencumbered by the compulsions she had as a vampire. So maybe we can find out this information."

Jake: "OK. We're kind of in a mummy's house right now. So can we get all of you the hell out of here and deal with this later, on our own ground?"

Tass: "We'd have to find another one of these. We have the opportunity, we need to do it now."

Teej: "I say let's go for it."

Jake: "OK. Yeah. I mean, she's in this crystal and Reeves is in the third one. Do you want me to put all you in there?"

Tass: "Yeah. Might as well. She's sort of a part of this. She's technically part of me? Kind of?"

Jake: "That's romantic."

Tass: "No. No, no. She was ... Never mind. Too much."

Jake: *laughs*

Tass: "Um. Yeah. I think -- I think we do. I think we have to do it now. So, hell, go ahead. Load 'em up."

Jake: OK. I will do that.

Rev: So you place the other two crystals inside of the holder with Tass's crystal, and Reeves and Rachel appear inside of the viewer.

Rev: RACHEL: Hi, Tass.

Tass: "Hi, Rachel."

Rev: RACHEL: You're dead.

Tass: "Yeah. Hey, I'm sorry."

Rev: RACHEL: No, I understand. I mean, I was trying to kill you guys. I was a vampire.

Tass: "Yeah. Good times. Um. I'm just gonna jump right to it. Is there any way you can help us? Is there any information about him that you can give us to stop this, to stop him from doing all of this?"

Rev: RACHEL: I mean, I don't know what he's trying to do, but I do know what he's doing.

Tass: "OK. What's that?"

Rev: RACHEL: He's trying to collect souls of The Chosen. He's been at it for generations, because he can't always catch one and kill one. And after he killed the last one, he learned of a way to create a new one, so he wouldn't have to wait for the world or the gods or whatever to make one. He found out the formula to essentially make one himself. So he's trying to take The Chosen souls from these people.

Tass: "Yeah. As far as I know, that's exactly what he's trying to do to me."

Rev: RACHEL: Really?

Tass: "Yeah. Yeah, I guess I have the ... The thing. The 'it.' Whatever it is.

Rev: RACHEL: Oh. Sorry, I didn't know that. He only needs one more.

Tass: "Right. So here's what really is my only extremely pressing question: If I don't allow myself to be that person, does he have others lined up? Does he have someone that wouldn't know what's coming, that he can do this to?"

Rev: RACHEL: No, not that I know of. I think that it's probably just as difficult to find a potential Chosen as it is to find The Chosen. Because The Chosen, at least, is out there in the world making a flashy show. A potential Chosen could be anyone.

Tass: "Yeah. OK. OK, that's fair. All right, boys. So you heard it. I don't know exactly what this means, or if I can even force it to happen one way or another. But that's part of why Lana was in my head, is because she was The Chosen. And she got this look into the future, about me and about certain events, and she wanted to help. So if I become The Chosen, if I come back, then I at least have that knowledge of what I am and what will happen if he gets me. If I don't take it, then somebody else that doesn't have the information might get taken and used, and then it's game over anyway. So again, I don't even know if we can manipulate this so that I do or don't have it, but it's kind of a choice we've got to try to make and see what we're aiming for, you know what I mean?"

Rev: RACHEL: Lana came to you, too?

Tass: "Yeah. What did she come to you for?"

Rev: RACHEL: She tried to warn me, years ago, about me being turned. And I couldn't understand what it was she was telling me. I had this weird dream where she was in -- this is gonna sound strange -- but she was in a house in my head, in a crystal. And she was talking to me.

Tass: "That is exactly what happened."

Rev: RACHEL: Oh. She said that I had to be careful because I was going to be turned. But at the time, I didn't even know what that meant.

Tass: "So if you had a crystal in your head, does that mean you potentially could have been a Chosen, too?"

Rev: RACHEL: I don't know. I don't know what that means.

Tass: "Yeah. As far as I know, like when she appeared to me in my head, you know, in that sort of house in my dream, she was in this crystal that was in my mind. So as far as I can tell, that's, like, that's part of it. That's kind of the thing that gives us the potential to be a Chosen, is that somebody with experience can, you know, fill that void and, like, give you more. Give you power, of some kind."

Rev: RACHEL: Like Firestorm.

Tass: "Yeah. Yeah, kinda."

Rev: RACHEL: OK. What's that professor's name?

Jake: Stein.

Tass: "No one cares."

Teej: *laughs*

Jake: Whoa, dog.

Tass: "I wonder if he even knew."

Rev: RACHEL: Maybe. Maybe that's why ... I mean, I was nobody. I don't know why he would've taken me to begin with.

Tass: "Oh gosh. OK. Well, that's a game changer, then. Because if he did know -- and again, if I don't take it and he finds you -- then he can make it you."

Rev: RACHEL: I don't think he can.

Tass: "No?"

Rev: RACHEL: You guys 86-ed my body. I don't have any place to go back to.

Tass: "Oh. OK. I mean, that's not exactly a good thing overall. But it's, you know, a good thing for the sake of him getting a hold of you again."

Rev: RACHEL: Yeah, I guess.

Tass: "Woof. Um, OK. Well, I mean, that answers some things. But, holy hell. I don't know, is there anything else that sticks out to you about how he was trying to do this? Any process to it? Anything at all?"

Rev: RACHEL: When I died, it was a theory. I think you'd have to talk to someone who has been around more recently.

Tass: "Wow. Okay. Good to know. Hell, do you know anything about where he goes? Any lairs, any spots that he frequents?"

Rev: RACHEL: I mean, for the most part, he stays to the Argonaut.

Jake: "Do you know where that is?"

Rev: RACHEL: Yeah, it was right off the coast of Hawaii.

Jake: "Booyah. It was right off the coast of the island. We knew it. It is right there."

Tass: "Yeah, but what are the chances that it's going to still be there, is the problem."

Jake: "Do you have any other names of people in his network, besides the people that were on the island?"

Rev: RACHEL: No. I mean, he only had three generals when I died. And did you guys kill Estin?

Tass: "Oh, yeah."

Rev: RACHEL: So, yeah. As far as I know, he doesn't have any generals left, then. But I'm sure that's probably changed. I mean, he wouldn't just leave his top ranks open for long.

Jake: "No. I mean, he's got Ori out in the field now, doing a bunch of his stuff."

Rev: RACHEL: Oh.

Tass: "Oh. Do you know anything about an invasion force of spider-people?"

Rev: RACHEL: No.

Tass: "OK. Good. Good, good. Unrelated."

Rev: RACHEL: I don't even know what that means.

Teej: "Do you happen to know what kind of vampire he is?"

Rev: RACHEL: Who, Grigori?

Teej: "Yeah."

Rev: RACHEL: No.

Teej: "Darn. I was just wondering, because we came across one called a vrykolakas. It's a totally different species."

Tass: "How familiar are you with the, um ... With those magic circles that Estin had, and that were in the shop where you were caged?"

Rev: RACHEL: Very. I mean, I was part of creating that process and combining the creatures.

Tass: "Oh, OK. Any information at all that we could get about that and how that worked. I say that because one of those sort of matched a bigger one that we found in Indianapolis."

Rev: RACHEL: Oh.

Tass: "And so, I mean, anything we can figure out about what that whole picture might look like would be great. Because we need to figure out what in the hell that they did at that theatre."

Rev: RACHEL: Well, yes, the size of the circle just has to do with the area that the creature that you're transferring from might be in. So inside of Estin's lab, there were very small circles, because we were forcing the creatures ... Do you know what the process does?

Tass: "No."

Rev: RACHEL: So there's three circles in a triangle, and then you have kind of the focal point in the middle. And you put something inside of each of the three triangles, and you can transfer an attribute to the thing in the middle. So in Estin's lab, we would put a ghoul in the middle, and then in one of the circles was a lamprey, in another circle was a coconut crab, and then the other circle was an ant. That's what allowed them to feed not only through their mouths, but with the little suckers on their fingers. The coconut crab gave them armor and resistance to the light. And then the ants allowed them to communicate through smell.

Tass: "Wow. OK. That's brilliant."

Rev: RACHEL: Thank you.

Tass: "So if we had one that was much, much, much, much bigger ..."

Rev: RACHEL: It would either mean that there was a much bigger creature, or the person who set the circle out wasn't exactly sure where the creature would be, but they knew it would be within the confines of that circle.

Tass: "OK. And so each of the bigger circles is just, what, like tailored to the effect it's trying to imbue into the middle?"

Rev: RACHEL: No, they're all the same. All three circles are the same, but they're just in different patterns because when you rotate each of the circles counterclockwise, they create the symbol at the focal point.

Tass: "OK. Well, sweet. That is ... Certainly a lot more information than we had."

Rev: RACHEL: I mean, what was going on in the place where you found the circle?

Tass: "Well, there was a ley line that was sort of at the very center of the circle."

Rev: RACHEL: Well, that could be used as the powering rune.

Tass: "And there was a soul bat in the theatre, seemingly guarding it."

Rev: RACHEL: I mean, the soul bat might be the thing they were trying to transfer a power from.

Tass: "Oh, OK. Wow. That makes sense, because the soul bat by itself is rough. So we have two more circles that were seemingly being used for some other kind of creature. All of those attributes were being put on --"

Rev: RACHEL: Whatever was at the focal point.

Tass: "OK. Um, that's terrifying, to put that in perspective of they're trying to charge something. Maybe they were trying to charge Grigori. Is that possible, maybe? Like he was trying to get souped up with something else, a little extra?"

Rev: RACHEL: The forces on the outside have to be more powerful in the attribute that you're trying to get than the force in the middle.

Tass: "Oh, I see so like if a ghoul is already armored, there's no reason to get a crab in there, because the crab armor isn't as good as its armor."

Rev: RACHEL: Exactly.

Tass: "Yeah, yeah, yeah. OK."

Jake: "Typed bonuses don't stack, we know that."

Rev: We've played enough Pathfinder to know that.

Tass: My man!

Jake: "What about the -- I don't know that you'll know anything about this -- the invisible person who shot me, and blew up a door on the roof. Does that ring any bells? It was part of the whole circles and Indianapolis thing, and when we went to check out one of them, some invisible person started trying to snipe us, and then shot me, and had rigged a door with explosives, and had us dead to rights."

Rev: RACHEL: No.

Jake: "That was a stretch. I was just really hoping." *laughs*

Tass: "Yeah. All right, boys. I've got nothing else. Rachel, thank you. I wish there would've been a way for us to figure out how to, you know, save you, as opposed to do it like this, but --"

Rev: RACHEL: I understand.

Rev: And Reeves has just been kind of quietly listening.

Rev: REEVES: When we're done here, could you smash my crystal? I think that I can not need to be in it. It's real weird in there. I don't like it.

Jake: "Do you pass on at that point?"

Rev: REEVES: No. I think that since I was -- and again, this is just my understanding of how I think it works -- but I was kind of trapped in Tass's brain because when I sent my astral projection out, as I realized I was dying, I send it back towards the ship and I must have hit him. But things started to get weird after the house burned down in his brain. And I realized now, he told me that was when he died. So I think I could just ... I could just connect to any of you for now, since you're living. I just don't have a body to go back to.

Jake: "Oh. I wonder if we can find a body for you to go back to."

Rev: REEVES: Do you think that there is a body that doesn't have a --

Jake: "Define body. Because there's a big animate suit of armor out there that you might just be able to hang out in?"

Rev: REEVES: I think I'd fade after a while. This is taking a lot of effort. It's like... Astral projecting is like turning on a flashlight. It's shooting yourself away. And after a while, I think the battery's gonna die.

Jake: "Hmm. Is there a body? Have we created a body?"

Rev: You've destroyed most of the bodies you've created.

Jake: "As good hunters should."

Rev: Yeah, exactly.

Tass: "I mean, is just hitching a ride on one of them an option to make it easier on you?"

Rev: REEVES: That's my theory. I think that it'll, at least for now, be less tiresome.

Tass: "All right. Well let's start with that, and we'll get back to that once we regroup and figure out what in the world to do from here."

Jake: "OK."

Tass: "Oh, guys. God, I forgot. What's probably the most important thing about what I got from Lana: the previous Divine was her protector. So like, there's a connection. I have a name, at least."

Jake: "We've got, like, some ... A newspaper article and stuff, actually."

Tass: "Oh, nice!"

Jake: "We stumbled upon some stuff while we were here."

Teej: "Yeah."

Tass: "OK."

Jake: "Rachel, what about you? What do we do with you now? How do we allow you to pass on?"

Rev: RACHEL: I don't know.

Teej: "Do you want to pass on?"

Rev: RACHEL: I mean, I don't want to live in this crystal forever, but I don't know if smashing the crystal lets me go.

Jake: "We'll hold onto it. We'll try and figure out how to get you out of there and get you to the afterlife."

Tass: "Before we shove off here, Reeves or Rachel, do either of you have any idea whatsoever what it would be that would trigger me becoming The Chosen? Whether I want to try to grab it or avoid it?"

Rev: RACHEL: What do you know so far?

Tass: "Just what Lana told me. That I kind of have two people that would help dictate that. One person would lead me on the path to it, and somebody else -- it would lead me down another path. But it was hazy to her. Um, that's it. That's really all I've got."

Teej: As he's asking this question, I'm going to tap him on the shoulder. And by tap him, I mean, tap him on the crystal. And I'm going to point out, "Tass, you know that one of them was already possibly a Chosen, and the other one is quite powerful themselves. So one of those could be the one that goes into your crystal when you resurrect."

Tass: "OK, when you put it like that, I sound like an asshole."

Jake: *chuckles*

Rev: Reeves nods.

Teej: "Yes."

Tass: "OK. Rachel, I'm going to yap at these guys for a second and then ask you a hard question. Boys, part of me feels like this is just walking straight into a trap, and part of this feels like it's the entire point of getting the information that I got from Lana -- is, you know, the level of preparation. Because if I don't become The Chosen, he might be able to do it to somebody else, somebody that isn't ready for it. And then he's done it and it's game over. So I'm a little inclined to take it. Thoughts, comments there?"

Jake: "Yeah. If he wanted to turn you into The Chosen because he needs another Chosen soul and he had other options, why wouldn't he pick an easy target? Why would he do it to you, the hunter with a team, if he could have done it to any asshole?"

Teej: "The logic part of my brain says yes, it's better off in your hands than in someone else's hands. Because at least you have a Divine to help protect you. And I can help out every once in a while, too."

Jake: *laughs*

Teej: "And you've got a whole team of people ready to help you out with this. So I say yes, take it. It's yours."

Tass: "There it is. There's my boy."

Jake: You set that up like there was going to be a part two. Like, 'the emotional part of me.'

Rev: He's a Science Guy. There's only the logic part.

Teej: It's true.

Jake: 'The logic part of my brain says this, but the logic part of my brain --'

Rev: '-- Agrees.'

Tass: I'm going to turn back to Rachel. "Rachel, this is a big thing to ask, but would you mind riding shotgun on saving the world?"

Rev: RACHEL: Well, seeing as I kind of had a hand in helping him destroy it, seems only fair.

Tass: "All right. Let's, uh ... Let's do the damn thing, then." And I put my hands up in the air and say, "Ready!"

Jake: Like you're ... Like a toddler waiting to be picked up?

Tass: Exactly.

Jake: "OK. Well then, next time we see you, hopefully you'll be back."

Tass: "Hey. Thanks, guys."

Jake: "Yeah." I mean, I think I just give kind of like a trying not to choke up nod, and grab all the crystals again.

Rev: So you guys start to head out of the room. And as you head towards the stairs, Strohm is coming down.

Jake: I put all the crystals in my pocket dimension, just in case anybody tries any funny business.

Rev: And you can see that she is in a different body. She is no longer in the scarred, beat up, hairless body.

Jake: Is she back in the original?

Rev: She's not, but she's in another younger, attractive body -- that she's kind of put on a social facade again.

Jake: "I think the bargain is complete, here. I think we're out of here."

Rev: STROHM: There's something missing.

Jake: "What do you mean?"

Rev: STROHM: You said you would put back everything that you found. There's something missing.

Jake: "What is missing?"

Rev: And she points across the room.

Rev: STROHM: There was a jar there with a liver in it. It's gone.

Jake: "I didn't take it. I don't know what happened to it. I don't have it."

Teej: "Well Strohm, I don't know how to tell you this, but Damien might have it."

Rev: STROHM: What?

Teej: "We don't have it, obviously. So there was only one other person that was with us."

Jake: Is it the one that we sent Damien to check?

Rev: It is.

Jake: "Yeah. He was the one who was supposed to go check that, and he said there was nothing there, so."

Teej: "And we took his word for it."

Jake: "I mean, and barely took his word for it. Like, we kind of grilled him for it. And he's -- he kept to the story."

Rev: DAMEIN O'DOYLE: Yeah. Sometimes you got to have an ace in the hole.

Jake: *laughs*

Rev: You hear from the top of the stairs, and Damien comes walking down.

Rev: DAMIEN O'DOYLE: Listen Strohm, I've known of you for a long time and I've seen your vindictive side against people. I didn't think for a minute that you were gonna let these guys walk out of here without you trying to track them down for the rest of their natural lives. So I'll make a deal with you. I'll give you this --

Rev: And he conjures a jar with a liver in it.

Rev: DAMIEN O'DOYLE: And in exchange, your grudge ends today. Or you can keep your grudge, and I'll destroy it. And then I'll spend the next couple hundred years of my life tracking down the last few pieces you've got left.

Rev: And she is furious. There's a very long moment where she looks up at him from the bottom of the stairs, and he looks down at her from the top of the stairs. And eventually she holds her hand out, and she won't make eye contact with him. And he comes downstairs and he places it in her hand, and he grabs the other one and shakes it.

Rev: DAMIEN O'DOYLE: All right, boys. Let's get the fuck out of here.

Jake: I want to look back at Strohm and go, "Will you just do ... Will you just do one thing for me before we go?"

Rev: STROHM: What.

Jake: "You remember in Men in Black when Vincent D'Onofrio's character's like 'Sugar and water.' Will you do that? Just real quick? Do that line? Because you're bugs in a --"

Rev: STROHM: Get. Out.

Jake: "OK."

Rev: And as she screams, like, her mouth gets really wide and some scarabs fall out.

Jake: I just teleport to the next floor and meet them at the top.

Rev: And Damien doesn't even appear. Like, he doesn't come to the top of the stairs. He GTFOs.

Teej: So it's just me. I'm just getting out of the room.

All: *laugh*

Teej: All right. I'm the one running up the stairs. Yes. All right.

Jake: I think she scares a little bit of like, the poop out of me. I don't think I'd --

Rev: Yeah, probably.

Jake: I think I involuntarily teleport out of there.

Rev: That's fair. That's fair. Yeah, so you guys get to the top floor and I assume you get in the elevator and you go down. And you get back to Jake's car and Damien is leaning up against it.

Jake: I just high five, like, "That was the tightest shit I've ever seen."

Rev: DAMIEN O'DOYLE: Holy crap. I didn't think she was gonna buy it.

Jake: "What do you mean? Just didn't think she's gonna take the deal?"

Rev: DAMIEN O'DOYLE: No, no. That was a pig liver.

All: *laugh*

Teej: "Damien whatever your middle name is O'Doyle, you rule."

Tass: You hear from the crystal, *muffled* "O'Doyle rules."

Jake: "Well, that was the best. That was the coolest thing. Boy, you're a good liar. It's -- it's a little intimidating. But, oof."

Rev: DAMIEN O'DOYLE: Well, I'm gonna ... I'm gonna go. I got some stuff to take care of.

Jake: "Hey, thank you so much for your help on all this. And man, even when you lied to us, you knew what was going on, and I appreciate you."

Rev: DAMIEN O'DOYLE: Well, you know, I hate to give a super old parable, but don't judge a book by its cover.

Rev: And he vanishes.

Jake: "All right. Let's go home and figure out how to bring our friend back."

Rev: You guys climb into the car and head south, back towards Indianapolis. And we fade out on you guys getting onto the freeway.

The lights come back up on Rev's apartment. And Jake is prepping Tass's body. Tass is clothed in his old IPT gear and he is laying underneath a sheet in the center of a circle. T.J. is going through some old tomes and notes that are piled up on the table at the center of the room. And Rev is prepping the circle. T.J., roll 'Investigate a Mystery' to try and help out with this, to try to figure out the parts that ... Well, that Rev doesn't know yet. He has kind of the basics of resurrection, but he doesn't know quite what to do with the whole thing with the crystals.

Teej: Seven.

Rev: All right. You get a hold 1.

Teej: 'What is being concealed here?'

Rev: So the thing that you find, as you go through all of these notes and piecing together the parts of the story that you heard from Tass in the crystal and the things that Rachel has said, is that at the moment of resurrection, you need to take the two crystals -- the one containing Tass's soul and the one containing Rachel's soul. And you put the one for Tass's soul over his heart, and you put the one for Rachel on his forehead. It's essentially like chakra crystals. And at the moment of his resurrection, the two spirits will be relocated to those two locations.

Teej: All right. Well then, I convey that to Rev and to Jake.

Jake: And I nod in just total comprehension. "Oh, mmhmm. Of course. Yes."

Rev: The crystals are placed on his chest and the other on his forehead, and Rev begins to cast a spell. He asks the two of you to join him, even though you aren't quite sure what it is that you're doing. But he knows that he can't do it alone. Tass, role Weird.

Jake: Ooh.

Tass: Oh, no.

Rev: This is how resurrection works. And whatever your stat is to Weird, plus or minus, you do the opposite. So if it is a minus, you add to it. If it is a plus, you subtract from it.

Tass: It's a lucky seven.

Rev: And that's with your adjustments, or you have no adjustments?

Tass: I have no adjustment.

Rev: Tass, you are sitting in darkness. Again, that feeling of, 'How long have I been in here?' There is no sense of time, or really anything but a sense of self. And then there is a blinding white light, and Rachel is standing next to you.

SFX: RINGING NOISE

Rev: Your ears are ringing because it sounds like people are screaming all around you. And you realize that the scream is coming from you and it's coming from Rachel. The two people turn as they scream at each other and they merge into one. And then you black out.

SFX: CACOPHONY CRESCENDOS

SFX: SUDDEN SILENCE

Rev: And you open your eyes, and you're looking at Rev's ceiling. But when you wake up, you don't feel anything. Like, you don't even feel the spryness or awareness that you felt as Tass. You just feel kind of nothing. And you hear Rachel's voice in your head.

Rev: RACHEL: You're missing something. I can't tell what it is. But Tass, it didn't totally work. The two of us combined, we didn't ... We didn't make it. We're missing something.

Tass: "Oh, God. Did we mess it up?"

Rev: RACHEL: I don't know what's to mess up, but do you feel it? Like, I can feel that the power's there, but I don't -- I can't tap it.

Tass: "Yeah, I don't even feel like myself. I don't feel like I used to. This isn't gonna make any sense to you, but I just feel like I'd be shooting a whole lot of ceilings right now. I just ... I just don't have 'it.' I don't know what 'it' is, but I don't ... I don't have it."

Rev: And over in the pile of your gear, your phone rings.

Tass: I guess I'm gonna go get it.

Rev: So you guys see him stand up.

Teej: "Holy shit!"

Jake: Just bear hug. Almost tackle, bear hug.

Rev: Yeah. I imagine the four of you are standing in the middle of the room, hugging.

Teej: Yeah.

Tass: "Hey, guys. I think my phone's ringing?"

Jake: "So? Let it go to voicemail! You're alive! We did it!"

Rev: And it does. It clicks over to voicemail and then it stops buzzing as you guys were talking.

Tass: Yeah, I ... I absolutely think I'd take a minute, and just take stock of myself. Like, the last thing I remember feeling was explosions. So like I'm seeing am I, like, all messed up now? Is my body broken? Like, what's going on?

Rev: It's not. You feel completely fine. But again, you feel completely normal.

Tass: "Yeah. This is messed up, guys. Something didn't work. I just ... I don't feel whole."

Jake: "So, like, you're not The Chosen?"

Tass: "I don't know. I don't know. I can hear Rachel. She agrees. Like, there's just something not right."

Jake: "You've still got guns."

Tass: "Huh. Yeah, I ... Wow, I don't know that I'd trust myself with them." Yeah, I'm just grabbing my stuff and kind of idly flicking through my phone, and --

Rev: Yeah, there's a voicemail.

Tass: I'll open it up and listen to it.

Rev: DAMIEN O'DOYLE: Hey Tass. This is Damien. It seems like my bargain with you is finally complete. Well, at least with this voicemail. The last piece of information I had to give you that she gave me when she made this deal was ... Well, you're not gonna be complete until you can find her weapon. Because The Chosen has a weapon. But like she said, you ain't The Chosen. So you gotta find her's. Hasta luego.

SFX: MUSICAL STINGER

Rev: All right. It is time -- it's been a while -- for end of mystery experience.

Tass: Dun dun dun!

Rev: We're like three behind because the stories just kind of kept running into each other. And it seemed weird to give experience while someone was dead.

Teej: Well, I've got my pencil ready to make little marks.

Rev: I know.

Teej: Let's do this.

Rev: This is this still super unfortunate for Tass, because he doesn't have a class to get experience in.

Tass: I don't!

Teej: He's like Harvard in the summertime. Or is it like Yale in the summertime? I always forget what Ryan says.

Rev: It depends on what school you went to, and who you want to insult. All right. So question number one: did you conclude the current mystery?

Jake: Yes.

Teej: Yes.

Rev: Good. And what was the current mystery?

Jake: Bringing Tass back from the dead.

Rev: And what was the previous mystery?

Jake: Trying to prevent him from dying. *laughs* And that one? No.

Rev: You did figure out what, or who, the vrykolakas was, at least.

Jake: Yeah. I guess it depends on your definition of conclude. Because they all ended. Just not necessarily well.

Rev: The vrykolakas is dead.

Tass: And they stopped the vrykolakas poison from killing me.

Rev: That's true. That is true. It was not a mystery about stopping C-4.

Tass: That's right.

Jake: And that was a wild card.

Teej: We had no idea that was happening.

Rev: Did you save someone from certain death, or worse?

Teej: We saved our friend Tass from the death that he had just experienced.

Jake: We un-did the 'No' from the first mystery, into a 'Yes' on the second mystery.

Rev: All right. So one out of two is what we're saying with that one. If you're getting two points per, you're kind of 50/50 on number two.

Tass: Sure, yeah. That's a good call. Yeah.

Teej: All right.

Rev: Did we learn something new and important about the world?

Tass: So many things. Oh, goodness. Just so, so many things. We got hard proof about how the summoning circles work. So that was really big. How The Chosen work. You know, a lot of history on Lana, and just that she was that at all. That she was married to the previous Divine ... Yeah. I mean, there is a ton. Like, I think we should get a ... Just a point for every one of these, and make a comprehensive list.

Rev: See, he's a real friend. I mean, he is fighting for you guys, knowing that he gets none of this.

Teej: That's true. And then also we learned that he's actually kind of good. He's not the jerk we thought him to be. Damien, I mean.

Rev: Oh.

Teej: I mean, I mean --

Tass: You son of a --

Teej: Tass is not the jerk we thought him to be. No, the fact that Damien, like, kind of turned it around. Like, maybe he's not a demon because of that's how the world works, but maybe because he did something in the past that he needs to be redeemed for.

Rev: What about with the vrykolakas? Did we learn something new and important about the world?

Jake: I mean, we learned that you don't only come back as a vrykolakas if a vrykolakas killed you. Because Dr. White was not killed by vrykolakas, but he became one.

Rev: Yes.

Tass: And I just like this whole idea of the different tiers of vampirism. Like, that's kind of cool, that there isn't just 'a' kind. Like, there are these different things. Different styles?

Rev: Right.

Teej: Almost species. I wanna say 'species,' but they're all the same.

Rev: He and Ori were certainly not the same thing.

Tass: Right. Like, we'd hinted at that before with Rev telling us, "Well it kind of depends on what kind." But that was very vague. Now we're like, "Oh, OK. No, there's like an assassin-bot vampire." And, yeah. That was really cool to see.

Jake: They've all followed different skill trees. So they all chose vampire class, but then when the skill trees opened up at level 10, they all went different directions.

Rev: They all specced in different stuff.

Teej: Or if you're a Final Fantasy player, their glyph spheres were like totally different branches.

Jake: Video game reference.

Teej: Video game reference.

Rev: Did we learn something new and important about one of the hunters?

Jake: We learned that he has the potential to be The Chosen.

Teej: Mmhmm.

Rev: Yeah. What about with the vrykolakas?

Tass: We learned that I can, in fact, be killed.

Jake: Did it -- I'm trying to think about each of us. I don't think anything new came out about me in the vrykolakas arc. No, I don't think we did really learn anything in the vrykolakas arc about any one of us. It all kind of came to light either right before that or right after that.

Tass: Yeah, I guess it's -- that's a hard no.

Rev: All right. So for that, I think everybody gets three experience.

Jake: And twelve gear points?

Teej: We missed a pay cycle, so yeah.

Rev: Yeah. You guys missed a pay cycle. You guys didn't get paid for Halloween or the vrykolakas story arc or ... So now you're getting paid for overtime.

Tass: Do I at least get the gear points?

Rev: I think that you can have half of them. Since you didn't do a lot of heavy legwork in the most recent story arc.

Jake: *laughs*

Tass: That's true.

Teej: And I've leveled up.

Rev: All right. So what are you going to take?

Teej: I'm going to take a play from another playbook. I'm going to take from The Expert the move called 'Preparedness.' And what it is, is when you need something unusual or rare, you get to roll +Sharp, which I have in abundance.

Rev: Yeah.

Teej: And so on a +10, you have it right here, right now.

Tass: "Oh, I thought of this, just in case."

Teej: Yeah.

Tass: Nice.

Teej: Yeah.

Rev: "I always carry one of these around with me."

Teej: Yeah. On a 7 - 9 you have it, but not here. It will take some time to get it. And on a miss, you know where it is, but it's somewhere real bad. And you know what that means: you have to get it from that really bad place.

Rev: Ooh, yeah.

Teej: That's what that means.

Rev: That's the only place it exists, is in that bad place. We're going to take you to your bad place.

Teej: *laughs* Oh, no.

Tass: Whoa.

Rev: All right. What about you, Jake? Did you level up?

Jake: Yes, I did.

Rev: What are you gonna take?

Jake: I'm going to erase one used Luck mark from my playbook.

Teej: Woo!

Tass: Nice!

Teej: You get that Luck back!

Jake: Because currently I'm now rolling just a +1 on Luck rolls. If I erase one I'll get it back up to at least a +2 on it, so.

Rev: OK.

Teej: Noice.

Rev: So is there anything you guys want to talk about with these ... You know, we've been through a lot, actually, since we've had time to kind of go over the story or go over what the characters have been through. Is there anything that's kind of on your guys' mind? Or anything you want to go over or rehash? Or --

Teej: OK. I just want to say, first off. Damien, I'm so sorry. I was about ready to kill your ass.

Tass: With your evil slushie plan.

Rev: Yeah.

Tass: I just keep thinking about the way we recorded all of this in general.

Rev: Oh, OK. Yeah, so I had written out this story -- and I mentioned this a little bit in the intro last week -- but we essentially played Jake and T.J. through to the point where Jake put the white crystal into the viewer. And then we went back and we played Tass's story. And so kind of as things were unfolding with Tass, to watch Jake and T.J. silently react, "Oh, god. Oh, no. Oh, God." It was -- it was very enjoyable. So that is why we kind of jumped back and forth. Because I felt like it would lose something if I told both those stories at the same time. Because I don't think you can help but let things kind of bleed into your subconscious if you know. Like, you know, if you guys subconsciously knew that Damien was working to save Tass's soul, you know, you never would've said like, "Oh, he's an awful person and no one will ever miss him." You know, words hurt. He remembers those things.

All: *laugh*

Rev: I definitely learned not to go out of my way to plan elaborate missions for you guys. Because you're just going to shit on them.

Tass: The knowledge that they had from those blueprints, though, ended up being super good to have.

Rev: Yeah. Someone sent me that meme the other day of Dennis and Mac sitting at the table. Where it says like, you know, above Mac, it says "Rev." And then it says "a heist" in the plate. And then it says, "Jake" over Dennis, and just throwing it down the hallway.

Tass: Oh, that's hilarious.

Jake: And don't worry, Jake. We'll have a heist. A real, planned out heist one day.

Jake: I have to assume that like Rev just has a list of, like, things he wants to put in the game at some point. And heist? I mean, he crossed it off. He did it.

Rev: I made it.

Jake: We fucked it up. It's not happening again.

Rev: You know, in building that heist, I was interested to see where T.J. finally used 'Oops.' Because since it was such a item and knowledge laden place, there was something different depending on where he used it. So I had a list of eight different things that you would find, depending on what room you used it in.

Teej: Ooh.

Rev: I thought, you know what, it shouldn't just be, "Oh, there's a thing in here." I was like, "No," because, you know, she keeps different levels of power or information more and more closely guarded. And you didn't use your 'Oops' until you were inside of, essentially, the ...

Teej: The vault.

Rev: Yeah, the vault.

Teej: And I kind of planned that a little bit because I was like you know what, if there's any place that anybody should ever use 'Oops,' it's inside of a item filled vault of some sort.

Rev: Yeah. So yeah, you guys got a lot of stuff and then you lost it. And we'll talk a little bit about what you found on the pictures that Jake snapped later. But, so what do you think's gonna happen with her now? You know, she's just up in Chicago and she doesn't necessarily know yet that it's a fake liver.

Jake: I feel like at some point she might be a reluctant ally. Like, she's got a whole bunch of stuff and at some point we might need something, and it might be like a "Cut a deal," or like she's our merchant. You know, like if we need a specific thing, she'll trade us for a better thing and we've gotta go get it, or something like that. I have a feeling that at some point she's gonna find out that the thing's fake somehow, and all bets are off and we're gonna have a new villain. Like, we're gonna have to fight her at some point.

Teej: Yeah. It's gonna be like ... Did you guys ever watch the Aladdin cartoon that they made? That Disney made?

Rev: Oh, yeah.

Teej: There's a character on there called Abis Mal. And he was sort of like the anti-Aladdin.

Rev: Yes.

Teej: And he kinda helps out a little at one point, but then he just becomes this total -- like, he almost becomes like the power behind the evil sort of thing. Past Jafar, and everything.

Rev: Yeah.

Teej: Yeah.

Rev: Yeah. I mean, at least in the sense of the deal, if you go back and listen. You know, she says, "Oh, my liver is missing." And Damien says, "Oh, you got to have an ace in the hole." And then it comes downstairs stairs and he says, "I'll trade you this." And he just pulls out the jar. He never says "your liver." He just says, "I'll trade you this, and this is what I want for it." So he was kind of using the language of the contract.

Tass: Yeah.

Teej: Right, yeah.

Tass: My, like, super crazy ... You know, just shower thoughts of trying to sort through profound thoughts that I haven't had, but, you know, come to you in the night.

Jake: What?!

Tass: What did you just say?!

Tass: Let me start that over.

Rev: I smell smoke.

Tass: So. So my only, like, pseudo-profound shower thought that I had about this whole thing was ... She has to, like, come up with a whole new persona, doesn't she? Like, if she's been an established person in a body and has been making these deals and knows people and is a force. Like, she has a new ... We wrecked her body!

Rev: She's probably got some illusion magic.

Tass: That's fair. Yeah, OK. I can get behind illusion magic. I was just thinking about like, OK. She just has to be like, "Hey, I took over for Strohm. I'm Strahm. How are you?"

Rev: Yeah. It's like when they changed out the guy on Blue's Clues.

Jake: Yeah.

Tass: Oh, yeah. Nobody like that guy.

Jake: I'm excited for when she does whatever she's gonna do with the super magic bow and arrow. And like, she's got this ultimate weapon now. That we're gonna figure out a way to go back over to Elnore and get a now incredibly magical, extra powerful siege weapon. Because we left them with metal and tools. And bring that back and go, "I've got a bigger gun. Nice try."

Rev: And it's been hundreds of years for them now.

Teej: Oh God. Yeah.

Jake: That was the most powerful, the single most powerful magic item you've ever seen. Now this is. And it's mine.

Rev: Actually, it's been almost no time for them.

Tass: Oh that's right.

Rev: It's the other way.

Tass: Yeah.

Rev: It's been like a day for them since you guys left.

Jake: That's fine. They don't need that long.

Rev: Yeah, I had been waiting ... I mean that was quite a while, episode-wise, waiting for Jake to open his extradimensional space again. Because I noticed, I was like, "Oh, he didn't give that back. Oh, that means he's still got it. OK." And I'd kind of decided like, OK, as soon as he opens it, it's just gonna fly out. Because he kind of crammed too much stuff in there, and his magic was more powerful there.

Teej: Right.

Rev: And that was perfect timing for that to happen, in the sense of what it was you guys were trying to accomplish. Like, I could not have written that better, to time out that way.

Tass: Good work.

Jake: Thank you. I'm very forgetful.

Tass: I actually, on the day we have recorded this, I spent most of the day hanging out with Strohm's namesake.

Rev: That's accurate. I came home and she was sitting in my living room. And so I ran up to my office and hid the liver.

SFX: MUSICAL STINGER

Tass: "Oh, shit. I've got to find a weapon."

Jake: I just, like, point to the pile of them on the table. "Done."

Tass: "No, no. No no no, no. Like a.. A special weapon. I guess it's like similar to your hammer situation. She had something that was The Chosen weapon, and I guess that's the next step. We got to find this thing."

Jake: "OK. What was it? What did she have?"

Tass: "I have no idea."

Jake: "Well, Anastacia will know."

Tass: "Oh, yeah."

Jake: I'm gonna pull up the pictures on my phone that I took of, like, the article about the Divine, about Anastacia. And see if it's got any information about her, or any information about her compatriot or anything in it.

Rev: So you pull up the photos of the article entitled 'Woman Saves Family of Seven. Claims to be Chosen by God.' And you expect to see the name Anastacia, but it's not

there. But the name Lana King is. And at the top of the article is a photo of a woman standing backlit by fire, holding a spear, with a family huddled around her feet.

Jake: Oh.

Rev: And the article tells the story of a woman who says she was chosen. She didn't know by what, but she was here to make the world a better place. She thinks God chose her. And she went around the world trying to help people, to make the world a little better of a place. And that along her way, she had met some people that had helped her, and that she felt like she was making a difference. You imagine this must be why Strohm had this, because this is knowledge. It gives the name of Lana King, and it does mention Anastacia.

Jake: "Hey, look who's in the paper, and look what she's holding."

Tass: "OK. Ooh, a spear."

Teej: "That's a start."

Jake: "Yeah. OK. We know what it looks like."

Rev: As you're holding out your phone, showing them the picture, all three of your phones vibrate.

Teej: Gonna pick it up.

Rev: MARGARET: So did it work?

Tass: "Hi."

Rev: MARGARET: Oh, good to have you back.

Tass: "Thanks."

Rev: MARGARET: How are you feeling? Is he weird? Are things bad?

Tass: "I just really, really want to eat human flesh. But otherwise, I feel fine."

Jake: "He's got four legs."

Rev: MARGARET: I can see they haven't fixed your sense of humor in the resurrection.

All: *laugh*

Jake: "Yeah. It worked. We ... We've got him back here. He's A-OK. And we've got a mission. We've got something to do, now."

Rev: MARGARET. You absolutely do. Does he feel like he's in fighting shape?

Tass: "Um ... Questionable?"

Rev: MARGARET: All right. Well, nothing like testing it then getting you out in the field. I got something that needs to be done, boys, and it's an emergency. One of our old operatives, he's having troubles. He need your help. So get here as soon as you can and I'll help you get to him.

Jake: "OK."

Teej: All right. So we're going to start packing up our gear, and thank Rev. "Rev, thank you."

Tass: And give him a big old hug.

Rev: REV: No problem, guys. Jesus, take care.

Tass: "Thanks, buddy. Love you. Thank you."

Rev: He actually tells you to send him that photo, so he can see if he can find anything about that spear.

Jake: I'll send him that, and I'll send him the photos I took of the book, too. Just for the hell of it.

Rev: So you guys get into Jake's car and you head back towards IPT. Margaret is at the door and she is kind of frantic as you guys come in.

Rev: MARGARET: Yeah. A friend of ours -- he used to be an agent here -- he's having some trouble. The last communication I got from him, it wasn't good. It seems like he's under attack by something. I don't really have any more details, so I'm just going to send you guys to him.

Rev: And she pulls a bag out of her pocket and she sprinkles what looks like soot on the ground. And there is a flash of light and you guys are gone. And suddenly you are inside of a very dark cabin and there is a little bit of firelight. And you can hear screaming and combat outside. And there is a woman laying on the ground, breathing heavy. And you see a man standing with his back pressed against the door, holding it closed. And he's wearing a red, tattered jumpsuit with a huge white beard. And at your appearance, he smiles.

Rev: SANTA CLAUS: Well, I know I had you on the naughty list, but Margaret said you could help. Time to get to it, boys. The North Pole is under attack.

SFX:

OUTRO MUSIC