

Questions, Deals, and Frozen Fields (S1, E37)

Rev: So I haven't had to do this yet. I've never had to bleep anything in the intro, but holy fuck the Patreon has been going for I believe four days and we are already past our first goal and we're about ready to pass our second goal.

Tass: So you know you put it well the other day off mic. I'm just talking about expectations for just anything we do and especially as theater people, you know you invite 50 of your friends to come see a show you're in and you expect okay five of those people are gonna show up and we're all in that headset to it. Most of us have done that kind of thing we kind of know that level of expectation and this is just so far above what we anticipated so. Thank you everyone.

Teej: Yeah guys, you guys are so great.

Rev: So we've got our first list of shout outs. We will try to do this once a month. We will mention all of our new patrons. So here we go. Alex from Canada, Amanda S., who is a friend of the show, she was with us at Gen Con Anthony C.. I should mention I guess, I'm not saying people's full names, because all the sudden, I thought, oh I don't know if I should say people's full names and I guess that's something we'll figure out later. If anyone's upset that your full name was not said, let me know and I will be happy to say your name again. We've got Strohm We have Vittes, who some of you have seen on the livestream. She plays the Monster of the Week game with us on there. We've got Benjamin B., We've got Cademan. We've got Aaron P., who I believe...

Jake: Is my brubby.

Rev: He's your brother, and I think he's the man who trained Ori how to surf right?

Jake: Yeah.

We've got Ellis G., a good friend of ours from Indiana State. We have Gavin and Nathan, part of the UGA crew. We have Holly G, also for my ISU. We have Jay F. We have Joe M. that M is for muscles. We have John M.. We have John W. who is our chosen. We have Jose'. We have Kevin A. We have Leif who has a baller full name. I'm not going to say it just in case but I'm totally going to steal it for an NPC later. We have Tussle Sprout. We've got Hulett. We've got Matt, my original game master. We have, we have Josie. We have Megan S., who is one of our most vocal supporters on Twitter and who made us the wonderful I'm going to use the wrong term. Is it needlepoint? that's on our wall.

Teej: Crochet?

Jake: I think needle-point.

Rev: I do know that it's not crochet. I don't know a lot, but I do know it's not crochet.

Tass: I thought it was watercolor. I don't know art.

Rev: We also have the folks over at Project Nerd. They are a great Web site for all things nerdy they do movie reviews, they go to cons, there's a lot of cosplay photography posted there. We also have Sarah from our time at ISU as well. So thanks again for everyone who has decided sponsor us. We hope you, well we hope you like what is coming your way in the next couple of weeks this month and gosh, a couple more sponsorships and we will be adding a third day of 'Hero Salad' to the month.

Teej: *Gasps*

Rev: Teej is like, "What!? I hadn't heard about this!".

Jake: "I didnt sign on for this."

Rev: "I don't have time for that!"

Teej: "I don't read Patreons!".

Rev: In other news, on the 25th, Friday, we're gonna do Tass's live stream again. So if you are on Twitch and you want to join in and watch the 'End of Days' crew try to deal with the apocalypse that, well, one of the team may have accidentally caused, that'll be on the 25th at 8:00 p.m.. That is a Friday Eastern Standard Time.

Teej: And for all of those who think that my voice is actually just Rev doing another voice, I'm actually going to be there this time.

Rev: Although you will notice that T.J. and I never talk at the same time so maybe he's not real.

Jake: Maybe it's Rev and in an elaborate mask this time.

Rev: Well now I got to make that happen.

Jake: God one of those creepy super lifelike T.J. mask? Okay. You know I changed my mind immediately. Can we all get them please?

Rev: Just everybody in a T.J. mask. We had a great time yesterday. We spent some time with the Portrait Dude doing a photo shoot. We had all three of the guys in costume this time. And we also had a villain and we also had a dog. So it was a good time. We'll release some of those pictures soon and some of those will be Patreon exclusive. Yeah, and unless anybody's got something else, I think it's time to let the recap Roll.

THE RECAP

Rev: T.J. describe what you have created?

Teej: It's a sleigh that is robotic-reindeer powered. I've set up a password to start it, though.

Jake: Now Dasher, now Dancer, now Prancer and Vixen, on Comet, on Cupid, on Donner and Blitzen!

Rev: And the engine roars to life. So you guys come cresting over this hill in this rocket-powered sled and you come crashing down as you ramp over this hill onto an igloo and three people scatter out and they see you and two of them draw very long swords. And the third one looks like she's starting to cast a spell. The sky starts to light up and you can tell that there is fire coming from somewhere and it's starting to form in the sky. So as you raise the electro blaster the swordsman sees what you're getting ready to do. And he takes the sword away from Tass's neck and throws it at you. You take two points of damage and it pins you to the ground.

Tass: Ok. How the hell do we get T.J. somewhere safe without killing him? Is this you teleporting us, or at least, just teleporting him and I can drive the rig back?

Jake: I hesitate to leave you alone when we know that there's a vampire on the loose right here.

Tass: Fair.

Jake: And now I'll try to teleport us back to headquarters.

Rev: You appear on the ground is very soft and plush and it's warm and you start to look up and you're in Strohm's foyer.

Rev: STROHM: Well boys, I was just thinking about calling you.

QUESTIONS, DEALS, and FROZEN FIELDS

Rev: So here we are in Strohm's foyer. The three of you, in a pile on the floor and she is standing there looking very much like her old self, looking down at you.

Teej: Here's a question. So that sword was sticking through me into the ice, I assume right, pinning me down. So now is it in her very lush, expensive carpet and floor.

Rev: Yes it is.

Teej: Oh God. Okay.

Tass: That's probably for the best since it's holding in your innards at the moment.

Rev: STROHM: It seems like you boys are in need of some assistance.

Jake: Yes. This one's on the verge of death. I don't suppose you can do anything about that can you?

Rev: STROHM: Well, I can do any number of things for the right price.

Tass: Woh! what is happening? Who the hell is this!?

Jake: Oh, this is the woman whose home we broke into to steal your soul. Strohm. Strohm this is Tass. You had him in a jewel.

Rev: Oh, so you're the one that all the fuss was about. Hardly seems worth it now looking at you.

Tass: I, Oh, OK.

Teej: I'm down on the floor, "Snap!"

Jake: What is the price to fix him?

Rev: Well what have you got to offer?

Teej: What do you want?

Rev: Hmm. And she kind of looks up in the air for a moment.

Rev: STROHM: I have a set of coins and I would like to exchange one with you.

Rev: And she pulls out two coins and each one has six small crystals inlaid in them and all twelve of these crystals are glowing.

Rev: STROHM: When you take possession of this coin you will owe me six truths. I can ask you six questions and I will bond this to you so that you have to answer them. And then I will have this coin and I will owe you six truths...

Jake: OK.

Rev: STROHM: And in exchange for that, I will heal your friend.

Jake: I'll look at like, Tass.

Tass: Yes! I mean we don't have any pressing deep, dark secrets I don't think, I mean he's bleeding out man. If it's just some questions, It's worth it.

Jake: Yeah, I'll do it. Give me the coin.

Rev: When it touches your skin you feel a small charge run up your hand and you can feel it specifically pass through your heart and into the back of your brain and back down through.

Rev: STROHM: All right.

Rev: And she snaps her fingers and the suit of armor comes from below. And the suit of armor picks up T.J., precariously balancing the sword so as not to cleft him in twain from sheer weight and gravity and carries him into the back and Strohm follows.

Teej: So gentle...

Tass: Ok. Do we want to use any of these now?

Jake: Do we have any pressing questions right this second or should we save them?

Tass: I mean we don't really have a lead at the moment on the spear. I mean, if she's really this sort of artifact dealer or whatever there's a chance that she knows.

Jake: She did have like a newspaper article about the chosen. So yeah that seems to reason.

Tass: Ok. I mean that would be the main thing that's on my mind besides, I don't know seeing if she had any idea of what Nash did with those circles exactly.

Jake: OK. How do we phrase that one? The spear one I think is easy, just like-.

Tass: Where is this spear of the chosen?

Jake: But then the Nash one, there's a lot of moving pieces.

Tass: Yeah I guess, lay it out, you know, lay it out like there's just the scenario. This person set these circles, this is what those circles do and then we ask "Who was it performed on?" or "What were the other things that were in the other circles?" I feel like the WHO is the more important thing cause we have no idea what the hell he did with it, but knowing what we're up against isn't a bad call either.

Jake: I mean, well we can ask the "who" first and depending on what we glean from that maybe I ask "what happened to them specifically?"

Tass: I like that I dig it. I'll give it a try. She may know nothing anyway. Hell, that's what we need to know to these charges get used just because we ask a question even if she doesn't know it?

Jake: I recommend you ask her that.

Tass: Okay. Yeah. Oh. Yeah. So you don't use a... Got it.

Rev: She's like "Yes. And one of the gems darkens." (JK)

Jake: Know where to get a burger around here? No wait, no sorry! That doesn't count!

Tass: Okay. That that's a plan. And I think we'll just kind of chill out and hope that she's not eating T.J. in there or something.

Rev: T.J. you are stabilized and you are healed four points. She takes you into, what is essentially, her living room and she comes in with a cloak and she lays it over you and you get this strange sensation of things crawling all over your skin. And you kind of instinctively go to pull it away and look inside and you don't see anything. And she takes your hand away and puts it back down and you feel just this movement all over your skin, but you can feel the hole in you being knitted closed. And it takes about 15 minutes and she takes the cloak off of you and exits the room and then comes back.

Rev: STROHM: You may rejoin your friends now.

Teej: Thanks.

Rev: STROHM: No thank you.

Teej: You saved my life. I feel like I owe you something, but no take-sies back-sies!.

Rev: STROHM: Oh I think I've got what I need.

Rev: And she escort you out. And so she comes back out into the lobby with T.J.. He doesn't look awesome, but he is much better and he is sans hole through his chest.

Teej: Oh shit dude! I'm gonna give him a big hug.

Teej: Thanks. I think I need to make a saving roll against my will. Cause, that was the creepiest thing ever.

Tass: What did she do?

Teej: She she laid a cloak on me and it felt like things were crawling all over me and it felt like someone was knitting inside me.

Tass: Okay. Yep. Done, done. cool. Yeah. I'm glad you're good. Yeah. Bluh! So, Strohm, hi.

Rev: STROHM: Yes.

Tass: So how does this coin thing work exactly? Like,if Jake asks you a question and you don't know the answer at all, does that still use a charge.

Rev: STROHM: It does because it costs magic to enact the bond between us to force the truth.

Tass: OK.

Rev: So the magic in that gem is used up in the attempt to create truth between the pair of us.

Teej: What happens if he tries to lie?

Rev: STROHM: He can't. Oh and to activate it you must just hold the coin in the palm of your right hand and hold it over your heart and ask me the question. That way it's not just us having a casual conversation and you "accidentally asking me something."

Jake: Oh thank God, I've just been just totally silent. Like standing there with my lips sealed for fear of screwing that up. Ok. Well I think we have a couple of questions that we would like to ask.

Rev: STROHM: Oh please, by all means.

Jake: So, I'll hold the coin in the right spot like I'm doing the salute from Galaxy Quest.

Rev: Yeah, and time rewinds.

Teej: But only like 30 seconds.

Rev: 7 seconds.

Jake: 13 seconds, you scrubs.

Jake: Where is the spear of the chosen?

Rev: As you ask this question, you feel a buzz in your hand and a little pink flash, you can see, almost kind of illuminates the skeleton in your fist and her eyes glow pink and she talks in a very almost nobody's home tone of voice.

Rev: STROHM: The Shorsky National Park in Russia, it is guarded by a very very ancient woman.

Tass: Whoa.

Jake: Whoa indeed.

Rev: As those words are out of her mouth she kind of shakes her head a little bit to clear it.

Jake: You got one? You want to do one now?

Rev: STROHM: Sure. You have a friend who helped you get past the magic wards in my home. I've heard his name but I've not been able to track him down. Where does he live?

Jake: Uh oh, I tell her, I guess.

Rev: And yeah. You feel the same thing as she asked this question, you see her fists pulses pink and it's like you are thrown into a blank room and you hear your voice and then you're back. Like, there is not even a searching for information it is just a regurgitation of fact. So the two of you hear him say the address and the name of the apartment building that Rev lives in.

Tass: Maybe we did have some secrets. I have my phone out instantly, texting.

Jake: This is a more dangerous thing than we foresaw. Huh. Do we want...Do we want to ask another one or not?

Tass: I mean I think we kind of need to don't we?

Jake: Is it worth whatever she's gonna get out of me this time?

Rev: STROHM: I mean it's not an exchange, I could just fire mine off real fast.

Jake: That's a wonderful point. OK.

Rev: STROHM: I know I'm mostly Beatles, but as the old saying goes. "Welcome to my parlor fly."

Jake: **whispering** Is that a real saying? I don't know. **aloud** This is not, this is not, this is not coin to my chest.

Tass: Yeah man go for it.

Jake: Ok, I'll do it again. First, OK, before I do, that I'll, I'll explain the like scenario. So, before I put the coin up, I'll say, OK a few months ago there was a magic ritual in Indianapolis and there were three circles at various points throughout the city. When the magic was activated features, elements of whatever was in those circles were transferred into something or someone at the center of the triangle. We've seen the same ritual happen elsewhere on a smaller scale. And then I'll put the coin in my chest. Who was the recipient of that spell effect?

Rev: Then again the pulse from your hand and her eyes glow.

Rev: STROHM: I do not know, but it was not a major player.

Tass: Okay. That's... okay.

Jake: All right. I mean, I'll pull the coin away and, do you have another one? I think that's all we've got right now.

Rev: She holds her coin back up to her chest.

Rev: STROHM: Who is informing to you about Grigori Nash?

Jake: Oh God!

Teej: We should stop!

Tass: I don't think it matters.

Jake: I, I tell her. The answer is drug from me. It's Ori.

Rev: And she kind of looks around the room.

Rev: STROHM: I think I'm done for now. Do you have any others?

Jake: I'll ask them. I think, is it worth it to ask who she works for?

Teej: Yeah, go for it.

Tass: Oh God! I guess, I guess it would be if, if she's on his side then we know what she's gonna do with that information. I think it's worth knowing.

Jake: Okay. I'll do that the third one. I'll put it to my chest and say, Who do you work for?

Rev: The flash goes in her eye and she says...

Rev: STROHM: I work only for myself, but I serve whoever could offer me the most power.

Jake: Okay.

Tass: Shit.

Jake: Shit indeed. She is a mercenary, I think we knew that.

Tass: Yeah. It wasn't the, the worse shit. It wasn't, It wasn't a diarrhea shit, but it was a bad.

Jake: OK. I think before we depart though I will say, I know we told you this last time and I know we're not on great terms but I just want to reiterate. Literally the fate of the universe kind of hangs on our mission and that includes you. So you know what you know now. I just want to urge you to be cautious because if the wrong information gets to the wrong people you'll suffer just as much as any of us, whether we like it or not.

Rev: She kind of examines the three of you as you stand there, getting ready to step into the elevator, and she holds her coin back up to her chest again.

Rev: STROHM: Did you know that what Damien had in that jar was not my actual liver?

Jake: No.

Rev: And she nods and puts the coin back in her pocket.

Rev: STROHM: This will only work in person. I'm sure I'll be seeing you again soon.

Rev: And the elevator door opens.

Tass: It was lovely to meet you!

Rev: STROHM: Yes I'm sure that we will become fast friends.

Tass: Kay! I just backpedal slowly into the elevator.

Rev: And it closes.

Tass: So I mean the second that that elevator closes, I have my phone out and I am calling Rev and I'm actually looking over at Jake while it's ringing, Text Ori something man. Holy shit!

Jake: Yeah, okay. I pull out my phone, I start composing a text to Ori.

Rev: Rev answers, Hey what's up?

Tass: Oh okay. So I'm sorry, there's not much time for this. You can scream at us later. Strohm knows where you live. We were kind of in a corner T.J. almost died.

Teej: Sorry, Rev!

Tass: But, Strohm knows where you live. So, I don't know. I don't know if you need backup, if you need help doing whatever you're gonna do with that information. I'm sorry man. If there's anything we could have done to stop it we would have. But, she had us in a corner, so I'm sorry.

Rev: Wha...? You got any place I can go?

Tass: I'm sure I can get you...I don't wanna say that here. Give me two minutes. And do you know where I work. Like where specifically we've talked about this right?

Rev: Yeah....

Tass: That, that is the best possible space. Oh! T.J. has somewhere too.

Rev: Oh.

Tass: But again I don't want to say that in this building. We're on our way down, we're getting out of here and we'll get you some information. So, I'd say, my suggestion first and then we'll let you know.

Rev: Okay.

Tass: Godspeed, love you, buddy.

Rev: Bye...fuck! And he hangs up.

Jake: Okay. So I fire off my texts to Ori, which is just a rant, apropos of nothing, about World of Warcraft. It says,.

Jake: TEXT: "S"o I have. "T"o say, as far as. "R"aid's go, Trial "O"f valor doesn't "H"old a candle to "M"ogu'shan vaults. "K"harazan is "N"ot bad, similar to Siege of "O"grimmar, but "W"henver you can't "S"wing 30 players, "Y"ou can bring "O"ut whichever "U"ndercity "R"uffians need "E"xperience or loot "O"n the server. "U"ndercity is just "R"ife with bored LFGs "G"oing around looking for "U"ndermanned raid parties "Y"ou can recruit.

Jake: But it's the same structure as his. So the first letter of each line spells out "Strohm knows you're our guy."

Tass: I love you so much. Oh my God. That's good.

Jake: I was just thinking like, We've played video games together. like I know me and Ori have played games together. So this stands to reason that it's something we would talk about.

Teej: That is probably the funniest damn thing I've heard on this show so far.

Tass: And it's all so true.

Jake: It's not. It's gibberish as far as I'm concerned. It is just the names of raids and cities. I don't know how good 'Trial of Valor' is, never done it.

Teej: I'm crying. That's how funny that was.

Tass: It's, it's tough. It's pretty cool.

Teej: Let's talk about World of Warcraft.

Rev: He sends you a text back almost instantly, that is broken up, it's four lines. And it says,

Rev: ORI: "F"un times. "U"nless I'm busy tonight, I'm going to play. "C"an we group up? "K"harazan, please, I haven't been there in a while.

Tass: My heart is so full!

Rev: So you guys get down to the lobby of her building. What are you gonna do now? They watched me compose that in real time while they talked about World of Warcraft.

Tass: I love you so much! I mean yeah we either have a hell of a drive to get back to Indy to see if Margaret can get us back to the North Pole or you've got to try to get us back to the North Pole, Bub.

Jake: I mean I can try. There's always an OK chance it works. So let's find out.

Teej: Can we stop by IPT for a second.

Jake: Sure.

Teej: Great.

Rev: All right. Roll 'angel wings'.

Jake: 11.

Rev: Yeah. You guys appear outside of IPT.

Teej: I'm gonna walk in and I'm going to the lab and I'm going to grab some Wolf serum.

Rev: Ingame shopping. How many you gonna get?

Teej: I'm going to get three.

Rev: Alright, that'll be five gear points.

Teej: Copy that.

Rev: And they come, if you remember on a little built.

Teej: Aww, how cute...

Rev: Oh do you remember that? They're like a little strap, Three four five.

Teej: Yeah.

Rev: One for two, three four five.

Teej: I like it. You know what? I'm going to get six.

Teej: He is gonna be a werewolf so soon.

Rev: Yeah. And the guy actually who gives them to him, he's like, "Be careful with these, you know, these are addictive and some bad stuff can happen."

Teej: Yeah yeah yeah yeah.

Rev: There's a guy behind him in a lab coat with huge claws and a long snout who's like, "It's true". Lets not make that cannon.

Jake: It's like if Dr. Connors had a different animal in his experiments.

Rev: Had a wild dog. T.J. are you taking any of these?

Teej: All six of them...

Jake: He means administering them.

Teej: Oh, Like right now?

Rev: Yeah.

Teej: No...

Rev: Okay.

Teej: But I'm definitely testing one real quick with the tip of my tongue.

Jake: Are you rubbing it on your gums?

Rev: That's the good stuff.

Tass: You heal one-tenth of a point. Okay. I think we need to get back.

Jake: Yeah. Back to the igloo or back to NOEL or somewhere else?

Tass: I think the igloo is my opinion on it. We didn't get a chance to look around and see if there is anything there that they were doing specifically besides casting this. Man that one that got away might have come back, but I mean, I don't know. I think it's worth taking a look.

Jake: OK.

Rev: All right. Roll 'Angel Wings'.

Jake: Double 6's. Fourteen.

Rev: Yeah. You guys appear right outside the igloo.

Tass: I'm going to look around see if anything is evidently moving.

Rev: Roll 'investigate a mystery'.

Tass: OK...why do I do things?!

Jake: Why do you do things?

Tass: 6.

Rev: You go over and check the upside down sleigh to see if you know anyone's hiding under there. And as you're kind of reaching around underneath, you hit a button and an alarm starts to sound.

Tass: Oh! oh! Turn it off! Turn it off!

Teej: I'm gonna go over and I'm gonna turn it off.

Rev: Oh yeah. You flip the switch and the very loud rendition of Silent Night stops playing.

Tass: Sorry.

Teej: It's OK. It was just the car alarm, you know, just in case somebody decided to you know, try and steal this beauty. I'm gonna go ahead and check the igloo, is it like all busted up and torn down from when we sort of crashed into it?

Rev: Yeah, it's in pretty bad shape, but you could still go inside of it.

Teej: Yeah, I want to check it out.

Rev: All right. So you go inside of the igloo and it's, like I said, it's pretty crushed inside and you can see a couple of bed rolls and there is a fireplace and there's some books and like a couple of coolers.

Teej: Oh man, this would be a terrible time to- 'Oops!'.

Rev: You open up one of the coolers to look around, see what kind of food they're eating. And it scoots a little bit to the left and you notice that there's a little bit of a hole dug underneath that cooler and you slide it and there's a plastic bag with a book inside of it. And it's a very skinny journal and there's only a couple things written in it, but it looks like someone's handwritten notes like they have been researching NOEL for a very long time. And at the bottom of the second page is a code and it looks very similar to the code that you put into NOEL to help repair her earlier.

Teej: But it's not exactly?

Rev: Correct.

Jake: You guys see anything? Is it safe?

Teej: I've got this journal here, but it's got a code on it very similar to NOEL's. But it's not exactly. I don't know what it would do. I don't know if I want to try it, especially if it's from these guys.

Jake: Ok. If the coast seems clear then I'm going to let jingles out of the pocket dimension.

Tass: I forgot all about him.

Rev: JINGLES: Woah! Woah, man. That's weird in there.

Jake: Can you describe it at all.

Rev: JINGLES: Yeah, man, it just seems like a lot of nothing, but I'm aware. It's real creepy.

Tass: I was somewhere like that recently. I appreciate that.

Rev: JINGLES: Yeah, its like, *singing* Hello darkness my old friend.

Tass: Yes! I want to fist bump him like 'void Brothers' yeah!

Rev: JINGLES: Yeah, we stared into the abyss and it stared back, but we don't give a shit.

Tass: That's right. Jingles.

Jake: It goes something like that. Ok. Nobody's got a trail on this guy right? If not I suggest we just start heading back.

Tass: Yeah. That's not a bad plan let's just go.

Jake: Start trudging back I guess.

Rev: You guys walking, you hoofing it?

Jake: Is the sleigh not operational anymore is it?

Rev: It is upside down. It did get fire rained on it. A lot of the reindeer have been melted.

You guys wanna want to help me flip it back over so I don't have to try to super strengt it?.

Tass: Yeah. Thats fine.

Teej: Yeah, sure.

Rev: Yeah, you guys are able to muscle it over no problem.

Teej: I'm gonna do a systems check on it and see if it works.

Rev: All right. Roll 'engineering'.

Teej: That would be a 10.

Rev: All right. So you fix it.

Teej: Excellent. Wonderful. I'm sure some of the deer look a little messed up and everything, but for the most part...

Rev: Yeah some of them have like leg wraps and eye patches, mismatching horns but they all, They're all up and running again.

Teej: Nice.

T.j., it is legitimately cool as shit to watch you do this stuff, by the way.

Teej: Oh thanks man! You know it just just came to me I used to play with Legos-.

Tass: Okay. No need to brag. Let's go.

Teej: I guess we get in and get our asses back to NOEL.

Jake: All right. Well, I mean it doesn't just start. We've already established how you have to start this thing. If you would please.

Jake: *Clears throat* On Dasher, on Dancer, on Prancer and Vixen on comet, on Cupid, on Donner and Blitzen!

Rev: And it starts and lurches back towards the village. So where are you headed to specifically you're headed back to NOEL?

Jake: Yeah.

Rev: I think that you guys are not trying to rush there, the way you were before. So, you get back and you park the sleigh in front of NOEL's building and as you get out Santa and Mrs. Claus are outside again.

Rev: SANTA: Well hello! welcome back boys!

Teej: Oh hey Santa. Good to see you...up and about.

Rev: SANTA: Yes it's good to be up and about.

Jake: We did it.

Rev: SANTA: Oh did you?

Jake: I mean it seems like it, right the domes up, the storm's gone.

Rev: SANTA: Yes, I noticed I can see the beautiful starry sky again.

Tass: Point of interest. There is a vampire running around somewhere.

Rev: SANTA: Oh.

Tass: So if anybody sees that, please let us know as soon as possible, so we can kill the shit out of it.

Rev: SANTA: Yes that would be good.

Tass: Yeah.

Jake: Was this enough to bump us to the nice list?

Rev: SANTA: Oh well I suppose, once you kill that final vampire it's not very nice to leave a vampire laying around.

Tass: He's not wrong. He's not wrong.

Jake: It just seems like a higher standard than most are held to doesn't it?

Rev: SANTA: Those who can do more should. Well I mean the naughty and nice is got to be relative from person to person. We can't be all the same scale. I have the power to do good for many. Someone else may be able to do good for very few, but if they try harder and help one or two and I try very little and only help one hundred who is really the better person?

Tass: I like it. I like where your head's at Santa.

Rev: SANTA: HO, HO, HO!

Jake: Anyone can wear the mask. I learned that lesson recently.

Tass: All right I suppose we should head in and talk to Noel, huh?

Rev: I almost broke the episode there because we have not taken time to talk about into the Spider-Verse. I just want you to know the restraint that I'm putting out right now, to not bring this episode to a grinding halt. As you guys step into the house, it is back to what you originally saw. It is the nice cozy wood cottage.

Tass: NOEL are you here?

Rev: NOEL: Yes.

Tass: OK. So we're fairly certain we killed a vampire that was casting these sort of storm spells, but one of them got away. One of the like, I think it was a guard or something. So we still have that to deal with but we at least headed off the big gun.

Rev: NOEL: Oh I see. Can you tell me exactly where it was that you found them?

Teej: Yeah. And then I go ahead and tell her the exact coordinates.

Rev: NOEL: Oh you found them exactly where the storm originated?

Teej: Correct.

Tass: Yeah, there's like an igloo that they were working out of.

Rev: You see a screen appear in a picture frame on the wall and she shows you a satellite image of the location and you can actually see it starts to flip forward a little bit and you see the sleigh come into the shot. And from this angle the igloo is almost invisible just because of its coloration, but you see the fighting going on. Roll 'investigate a mystery'.

Teej: I'll do it. That would be a 13.

Tass: Nice.

Jake: Damn.

Rev: All right. You get a hold two.

Teej: What is being concealed here?

Rev: You can see as it starts to flip through the fight that you guys do, the vampire get up and run away as you're dealing with the spell caster. And so you can see the direction that he is going.

Teej: Which direction is he headed?

Rev: He is headed south.

Teej: To the South Pole. Son of a bitch!

Tass: I don't...Yeah, okay... Is there a way with this satellite image to follow that, to follow that trail.

Rev: NOEL: Yes. Now that I know his general heading I should be able to track him.

Tass: That would be awesome if we can get a location on him now we can go deal with it.

Rev: And she starts to scan around and you could see that it's picking up different areas, it's picking up different areas. The image is adjusting. And then you see a small fire, but it's burning blue and you can see very small this vampire is kneeling in front of the fire moving his hands around.

Tass: Ok.

Rev: NOEL: This location is approximately half a mile south-east of where you encountered the vampires originally.

Tass: OK. We should be able to get there pretty quick.

Teej: Yeah absolutely. Jake you ready.

Jake: I will do my best. Are you saying teleport to the igloo?

Jake: No, I'm saying just, Well no because it would take forever for us to walk half a mile. You said half a mile? Oh god that's not very...never mind.

Rev: You told me you'd been going to the gym.

Tass: What seems quicker there? The speed of our sleigh or jogging through the tundra for half a mile.

Rev: It's probably an even toss because it was a couple of miles away to get to the igloo and the sleigh goes pretty well. So it just depends on how you want to approach. If you want to be approaching with the jingling sleigh and the music and the reindeer, or if you want to be coming on foot.

Teej: I feel like there's a certain sort of dread of just being alone on the Arctic tundra and all of a sudden you hear just like, creepy Christmas music just getting closer and sleigh bells getting closer.

Tass: Sold American. It's what we're doing.

Rev: DREADFUL VOICE: Sleigh bells ring, are yah listenin?.

Jake: What we could do is, I could teleport back to the igloo and start making my way there and you guys give me like a several minute head start and then you bring the sleigh in so that I've got eyes on the guy by the time you come tearing in and I can catch him by surprise.

Tass: I like it.

Teej: Yeah.

Tass: Let's do that.

Jake: Okay.

Rev: All right. So who's gonna drive the sleigh since it's not Jake.

Tass: I mean it's your baby but I'll drive.

Teej: Go for it.

Rev: All right, start it up.

Tass: On Dasher and Dancer, Prancer and Vixen, Comet and Cupid and Donner and Blitzen???

Rev: It backfires.

Tass: That again, but confidently because it takes me a long time to think of those names in the right order.

Rev: We've got to hear it. We got to hear it booming.

Tass: Oh my God.

Rev: Give me your Santa.

Tass: Can I write it down first?

Rev: I mean you could've, but now you've said it out loud and now they know.

Tass: They're looking back at me with the stink eye.

Rev: No I mean the audience.

Tass: That's who I meant to.

Teej: By the way it begins with "now Dasher."

Tass: I hate everything about you in this now. Now, I hate you.

Rev: Jake'll mouth it to you.

Jake: *whispers* Dasher.

Tass: On Donner! No. Well, which one?

Jake: Dasher.

Tass: *Jake continues to whisper to Tass* Dasher and Dancer Prancer and Vixen, Comet and Cupid, Donner and Blitzen!

Rev: It starts up.

Tass: Oh good lord.

Jake: I'll see you guys over there. Give me like three minutes before you take off.

Tass: Okay.

Rev: All right. So Jake vanishes and you appear back at the Igloo. Are you sprinting? Are you sneaking? Are you- How are you going about trying to get to this guy?

Jake: I imagine that I'm kind of estimating, like, not sprinting probably at any point because, it was, we determined that'd be like an even toss to trudge there, right, as to take the sleigh. So I'll move it like a normal pace for...What's the landscape like, as far as like hills and valleys?

Rev: It's very flat.

Jake: Okay then maybe go...I mean can he just see me from half a mile away?

Rev: It depends on where he's looking.

Jake: Yeah, okay. Sneaking then, I guess, trying to stay low.

Rev: Alright, Roll 'act under pressure' to sneak to this vampire by the fire.

Jake: Hell yes! Twelve!

Tass: Ninja in plate-mail!

Rev: Tass roll 'act under pressure' to drive the sleigh.

Tass: I was hoping you'd say that.

Rev: I thought you were.

Tass: 7.

Rev: All right so you can get there a little too soon. You can make a lot of noise, so he's aware of your approach. Or you can get almost there and it's gonna die.

Tass: I'm imagining for any watchers of 'Red vs. Blue', just that very subtle polka music in the distance.

Rev: Yeah.

Tass: "What the hell is that? UGH!" So as we're going I'm gonna get on my comm to Jake and say, I don't think he's gonna NOT hear us. So hopefully we'll draw his attention. So you should be pretty clear to sneak up man. And yeah make the noise.

Rev: All right. So you come tearing through the tundra. You are ringing bells and singing carols. The reindeer are just singing along. And Jake you get up right behind this guy but he doesn't seem to notice the noise. There is this blue fire. He is kneeled in front of it and his arms are out and you can hear him muttering very quietly.

Jake: Okay. I am going to...hold on I need to visualize this maneuver in my head.

Rev: Go on. Is it the "Riker maneuver"?

Jake: So basically I'm going to go up behind him with the garrote. And I am going to throw it around his neck and grab it so that like one end is around my wrist. I'm holding the other one so that I'm like noose-ing him with one arm and wrapped the other arm over one of his arms. Right, so I've got him by the throat and I've got him by a shoulder and all he's got free is like that right arm and I'm going to drag him away from this fire.

Rev: All right. Roll 'act under pressure'.

Jake: 7.

Rev: OK, so you can get it around his neck, but not get his arms. You can get both of his arms or you can get it around his neck and get one of his arms, but he is facing you, because he starts to turn as he hears you.

Jake: I mean, I'll take the no arms, just around the neck.

Rev: OK so you've got this garrote around his neck. The sleigh pulls up and stops and you guys see Jake standing there with this vampire and he's got the garrote around its neck and then it seems like they're kind of in a strange standoff.

Tass: So it's like, he's clearly kind of stopped what he's doing. He's struggling with Jake?

Rev: Yes.

Tass: OK we'll jump out and hold up the shotgun, Dude hold still or we will just kill you.

Teej: And I pull out a stake and put it up against his chest, just so he gets the point.

Jake: Boo.

Tass: That was so bad I didn't even realize it was a pun.

Rev: He thrust himself forward into the stake. If you want to try to stop him or stop him from decapitating himself, I will let you rule act under pressure. This is for both of you.

Jake: I think for the moment I'll try to not let him kill himself. Yeah.

Rev: Ok.

Teej: Same.

Rev: What did you guys get combined.

Jake: I got a nine.

Teej: And I got a nine as well so, 18??

Rev: Ok, so a nine, between the two of you.

Rev: Yeah. You guys are able to see that it pierces his skin a little bit in both locations his chest gets a little bloody and his neck starts to tear. You're not able to loosen it enough to get away. You guys are all kind of just tightly clustered now and it's really kind of on a razor's edge right now and that any kind of deviation from where you are right now and he's going to kill himself but you've got him very precariously balanced between the two of you.

Jake: Damn dude.

Tass: Ohh, I shouldn't try this. I kind of want to...oh, man... I kinda want to stick my gun to the side of his head between them and pull the trigger with just the theory of I know this isn't going to kill him for good, but it sure as hell is gonna put him out for a little bit.

Rev: Roll 'act under pressure' to not screw up the balance they have going on.

Tass: Okay.

Tass: If that's what you're doing.

Tass: Here we go.

Jake: I support you.

Tass: That's a 3.

Rev: Tass sees the two of you kind of balanced in this very strange pose. And he tries to put the shotgun in to help out. And just the intervention of the gun kind of throws you both off and he pierces his heart and turns to dust.

Tass: God, shit. Shit, I'm so sorry.

Jake: No, it was a good, it was a good idea. It was a good thought.

Tass: Guys I'm useless. I'm so useless right now, damn it!

Teej: No no no no man.

Jake: Look, I'd rather have a dead vampire than one who might get away, So.

Teej: And think about this. We're now on the 'nice' list.

Tass: All right. Well that's that I guess for the moment. Let's kick back.

Jake: I mean I want to take a closer look at the fire.

Rev: Yeah, you see that the fire is still there. It is not quite burning as bright of a blue, once his focus went away from it. Roll 'investigate a mystery.'.

Jake: Why do, why do I do things? Come on! 5.

Rev: You lean into the fire. This vampire was kneeling by and the very base of it is burning just a slight blue still. As you get closer trying to investigate it, It roars to life and grows four or five times the size that it was. It makes a wall of flame that is blue and then it shrinks back down. And standing on the pile of ashes is a very slight man wearing a vest and a pocket watch and he's got white hair that is slicked back and some

spectacles. Very nice shoes and he looks at you, Jake and he looks at T.J. and then his eyes land on Tass and he seems very surprised to see you tassel.

Rev: SLIGHT MAN: Good. You're a very hard soul to track down.

TO BE CONTINUED