

Finding the Day (S1, E40)

Rev: So it took T.J.'s advice this last week and I streamed some Ghostbusters.

Teej: You should never take my advice.

Rev: You know what. I feel like it's like a monkey's paw. Every now and then, the thing that I get is actually going to be what I want and not some twisted version of it. But we did find out, actually, once I got done doing the second night of it, that we can stream Quip-lash and the audience like in the twitch room can play along. And so I played Quip-lash for like two and a half hours with the people hanging out in chat.

Tass: That's awesome.

Rev: And it was a lot of fun. They actually have some features in it that you can adjust to make it easier to stream it, like you can make the timer's longer and you can make it so that people have to be like signed into twitch to get into your room. So, I'll definitely do that every now and then because that was that was fun.

Tass: That's awesome. Jake and I went real hard back in to 'Sea Of Thieves'.

Jake: That we did we both finally purchased 'Sea of Thieves' and gave it a a test run being back and had the best night of piracy we've ever had. And it will never be matched. So we have uninstall the game.

Tass: Seriously I thought we were coming back in like, "Oh my God I'm god, I'm going to be so rusty and not remember anything" and in just a couple of hours we killed a Kraken, we sank another pirate ship, we stole a bunch of loot from another sunken pirate ship. Oh an addendum on that, just to show how clearly amazing pirates we are, we sank this other team's pirate ship in a rowboat.

Jake: Yes.

Tass: So I mean if that isn't some pirate-shit right there, I don't know is.

Jake: In a rowboat on the open sea with a single powder keg to our names.

Teej: Wait a minute, you guys have robots now in the game?

Tass: Yes. There are robots.

Teej: I've got to get in on this. I'm just going to pilot a rowboat the entire time.

Rev: Just T.J. and his dinghy. Just the scourge of the sea.

Jake: Yeah yeah I'm trying to decide what game I want to just kind of start streaming like. 'Sea of Thieves' is definitely an option. But we blew it. We wasted the good one already so...

Tass: We sure did.

Jake: I'm kind of considering streaming 'Star Dew Valley' which is like a really Zen kind of, you just farm and you do your thing but I think it'll be interesting because as far as I can tell I'm the only person who is always furious that 'Star Dew Valley'. So I think it'll be a good watch because it supposed to be really mellow and I'm just angry that I left my hoe in the box and I've got to walk back to the farmhouse and 20 more minutes in game have past.

Rev: You had mentioned that, like, you because you play a lot of 'Overwatch' you're like, "I can't stream that because people can't see me this angry".

Jake: No they can't, they can't see me that furious but 'Star Dew Valleys, like it's, like a mild burn a moderate spice.

Teej: Nice. I thought about 'Red Dead Redemption 2', except it would be really boring because it'd be mostly me just like going out in the woods looking for that one elusive tiny animal that I can never seem to find.

Rev: It's you know, I was on chat with T.J. the other night. He was playing 'Red Dead' and I was doing the demo for 'Anthem' and it was, it was an hour and a half of him telling me about trying to find a robin.

Teej: And then like another hour after I actually found the Robin then I was like, "Oh I got to find that chipmunk, got to find that chipmunk, where's that chipmunk at? Just chipmunk chipmunk chipmunk. It was, I was like, "this is good radio".

Rev: So we had mentioned last week that we would be at 'Lodge-con' on February 9th and 10th we actually have a schedule now. So if you are, this is just a little south of Chicago in Peyton I think. P.E.O.T.O.N.E. PAYTOAHN! perhaps.

Jake: Pee-o-tone!

Rev: Pee-o-tone, in one of those places. If you go to one of those three cities, we will be there.

Teej: We just lost the Pee-o-tone audience..

But we will be there for Lodge-con. It is the the ninth and the tenth and Saturday we will be doing three sessions of 'Monster of the Week' one at 10:00, one at 2:00 and one at 6:00. That will just be an open table you can come and join and play. One of us will be running that session. And then on Sunday we'll have a game session at 9 and 1 and there'll be again for that you can just show up and sit down and play if you happen to be in the area. It is a really interesting con. I actually got to talk to the guy who runs it and kind of their history and how they got started and he kind of just got started as "Oh we're gonna play some Pathfinder, but there is no place for us to go, so I'm just gonna have a weekend where people come.", and he did it one weekend and ten people showed up, and he did it again and like 50 people showed up and it just keeps getting bigger. So he started adding other games and vendors. So we will also have a booth there and I'm going to be doing a panel on 'Powered by the Apocalypse' games. So if you've never played one before or for some reason you're listening to the podcast for the first time right now and you've listened to this far without realizing what we're about. Or maybe you just tone out the game, actual mechanics you can come and learn how to play 'Powered by the Apocalypse' games.

Jake: There's got to be someone out there who just listens to the intro and then skips ahead to the next episode and listens to the intro.

Rev: He like, "I just like the banter".

Jake: Yeah.

Rev: You know it never occurs to me to say like, "Hey if this is your first time, if you've just found this, don't listen go back to the beginning, because you're going to be lost. You have no idea what is going on right now." There's like a Baba Yaga and there's two really powerful people and some guy who can barely lift his gun, what is this story?

Jake: I mean I think at any given time there are two thirds of us who don't know what's going on. So...

Rev: That's fair, that's fair. I want better for the audience than we have for ourselves.

Jake: You deserve more.

Rev: You deserve more. We want to give a thanks again for all of you we're at the end of our first month of the Patreon. Tomorrow if you are interested and you haven't taken the jump yet. If you feel like joining in there, tomorrow will be the last day to sign up for the divine tier to be able to get our swag until the next cycle comes around. So for all of you who have joined us thank you so much. The support for this has been mind-blowing. Carolyn was actually here the other day. We recorded the next episode of 'Investigate the History' and she has so much fun with it. The response we got to that is really exciting but a bunch of people were like, "Hey, when is she gonna play a game with you guys?" And saying that to her, I just felt every part of her just clench. So you know, at some point maybe we'll get her in here to play a game. I think she would have fun once she could... She just hates improv. You know she is a performer, but not that kind she don't like it so...Anything else? We've gotten progressively worse at figuring out how to get out of the intro. So I feel like there just needs to be a panic button.

Jake: I think this is it.

Rev: Is us just us talking about the fact that we don't know how to get out of this and get back into the story.

Jake: Yep. So we'll see all the other side bye!

Rev: Goodbye! It's time to let the recap rooooool... dumb.

Teej: Got sucked into a vortex of mediocrity or something?

Rev: That is the company name the 'Vortex of Mediocrity'. It's time to let the recap roll.

THE RECAP

Rev: As you approach the next clearing, you're trying to figure out what in the world could make this. Like what is this these huge footprints and you can't get a sense of anything because it's almost entirely flat. Whenever you find the footprints come to an end and you start to follow them again and suddenly you hear this piercing screech and you look up from the tracks and you see this very old cottage and it rises up on giant chicken legs and starts to run away and you realize this is the House of Baba Yaga. So as

you're laying on the roof waiting for them to come back it's only a few seconds after Jake has left you hear the front door creaks open.

Teej: Ok. I go to, I assume where the front porch is, and I jumped down.

Rev: And a layer starts to fold back and underneath it you see this very ancient face.

Rev: BABA YAGA: A stranger in my house. People who come uninvited to my house, they never leave.

Rev: And she smiles at you and you see that her mouth is filled with these large jagged metal teeth and a long arm reaches out and wraps around you and squeezes you tightly holding you in place.

Rev: BABA YAGA: I hope that you taste as good as you look.

FINDING THE DAY

Rev: Jake roll 'sharp'.

Jake: 8.

Rev: So as you're standing on the beach, in Hawaii, next to Tass, you open up your phone and you start Googling 'Baba Yaga' trying to figure out what you can find out about her and this pulse goes through your body and it's familiar. T.J. is in trouble.

Jake: Ok, I'm going to just kind of look up at Tass, like in a startle and grab him and teleport back to T.J..

Rev: All right, roll 'angel wings'.

Jake: Uh, 8.

Rev: So do you want to end up in the right place separated, or in the wrong place together?

Jake: I think in the right place separated again. This one is like, now I know for a fact things are breaking bad, I got to get there.

Rev: Tass, even or odd.

Tass: Odd.

Rev: Tass, you appear somewhere that you can't see and it smells very earthy. And as you breathe you can hear your voice echoing.

Tass: I want to... Oh God. I guess I want to get out my flashlight and see where I am.

Rev: You turn on your flashlight and shine it around and you instantly know where you are. You see the old spot in the floor where the energy was supposed to have lived for the Ley line. You see the giant steel slab on top of the stairs. You see the false grave dug in the corner of the room. You're in the remains of the Halifax.

Tass: Oh come on!

Rev: Jake you appear next to T.J. and what you see is an ancient woman bearing very large metal teeth and they are sunk into T.J. shoulder pulling and tearing at the meat. T.J. you take two points of damage. and an unnaturally long hand is wrapped around his body stroking his face and you see her eyes flit over to you as you appear.

Rev: I'm going to go. That guy's dry, this boy's tasty. And, I'm gonna like dance in front of her.

Rev: Roll 'protect someone'. Oh man, that laugh was so maniacal it scared Harvey and he moved.

Jake: 8.

Rev: As you make this dance towards her you can see that she turns her focus to you and you can see the blood on her metal teeth as she lets go of T.J. shoulder and you realize that this coil around T.J., the arm, that you can see it throughout the whole of the structure that you're in, that her whole body is just laying around draped over things, wrapped around the oven. And it starts to slither towards you and she opens her mouth to take a bite at you.

Jake: Do I see the spear anywhere in here?

Rev: Roll 'investigate a mystery'.

Jake: Uh, 8.

Rev: You got a hold one.

Jake: What's being concealed here?

Rev: You do see in the middle of this room, next to the giant stove, that there is a door into the ground that looks like it would lead to a cellar. And as you're taking this time to like look around her, you take two points of armor defeating damage as she sinks into your calf muscle.

Rev: BABA YAGA: Ahh, juicy...

Jake: I'm like, "T.J. check the cellar."

Teej: OK I guess I'm gonna go check the cellar.

Rev: All right. So T.J. you're going to run over and open the cellar door?

Teej: Sure.

Rev: OK. Roll 'act under pressure'.

Teej: Hiyah! That would be a 10, nice!

Rev: All right. So you get over to the door and you wrap your hands around the handle and you pull it open. as you do pull it open, three hands, unconnected to anything else, fly by your head, as if they had just missed running into you. They are just floating hands. You peel this door open and you look down and it's just earth.

Teej: Like, there's no space or anything like that it's just....

Rev: Correct.

Teej: OK. Jake it's just Earth as I gesture towards the door, just a matter of fact.

Rev: Jake she is slowly starting to slither up your body.

Jake: Well then I'm going to kind of hold my hand out, and like the phone disappears and the hammer appears instead. I want to try and crack her on the head.

Rev: As the Hammer appears, she stops and she lets go with her teeth and she pulls back a little bit and she looks at the hammer. And then the long hand coiled around your thigh starts to relax and it moves to your chest armor and it starts tracing the symbol of the defender.

Rev: BABA YAGA: No, I don't wanna stop...

Rev: And she backs off and you see around the whole of the room, the body starts to plump up like she's just pulling herself back together from this draping long form that's all over this front room. And she is standing in front of you now. To say that she looks like a crone, that she looks like an ancient witch out of a book, it would be the opposite. You would think that every witch you've ever heard described is taken from how she looks. Her skin is like parchment, it's yellowing and brittle and long strands of matted gray and black hair hang from her head and she has these sharp features, but she's also very frail looking and none of it quite matches up with this wildness you can see behind her eyes. And then she smiles at you with these large metal teeth.

Rev: BABA YAG: Why are you here?

Jake: We're looking for a weapon. We're looking for a spear. We need it to stop the end of the world.

Rev: BABA YAG: Who sent you? Are you here on behalf of another, or on your own volition.

Jake: I think I'd kind of like think about it for a second. So I'd be like, well we work for an agency but this is kind of beyond that. We're we're here on our own, we're just trying to do right.

Rev: And she turns and moves across the living room and sits down in a chair.

Rev: BABA YAGA: Fine, oh so hungry, but must give the test, see if worthy...

Teej: Are the flying hands still flying about?

Rev: They have stopped, but you see them and they move over to her chair and they kind of perch on it, like a bird's.

Jake: I'm not actually the one who is destined to wield the spear, but I can collect the wielder and you can put him through the test if that's what you need to do.

Rev: BABA YAGA: Yes, I know you you're not. I recognize that symbol. I was told that one would come with that symbol and I would have to perform this task.

Jake: Let me go get him and I will be back. Shouldn't be a moment.

Rev: She just stares at you.

Jake: Promise not to eat the other guy while I'm gone?

Rev: She clicks her teeth together three times.

Jake: Is that a yes?

Teej: I was actually going to ask whether or not she had like, you know, a pot, a kettle on that maybe I could serve her some tea and kind of put a shawl around her shoulders and everything. Maybe kiss up to her a little bit.

Rev: If you start to move around her kitchen...

Rev: BABA YAGA: Are you looking for something to do?

Teej: Would you like some tea or some...?

Rev: BABA YAGA: Nice hot tea, yesssss.

Teej: Ok. Where's the kettle?

Rev: BABA YAGA: Oh, on the fire.

Teej: Oh OK. Well I'll go get the kettle for her and get her tea ready.

Rev: Jake you appear next to Tass and he is hunkered down in the corner and you instantly recognize the location because you went here like twenty four times over the course of a weekend. You're in the little grave room at the Halifax theater.

Jake: Ok, we have mellowed out the Baba Yaga. She has a test for you to claim the spear. We've got to go.

Tass: Oh, please be multiple choice. All right let's go.

Jake: There we go. 12.

Rev: You come back and T.J. is standing at this giant oven watching a tea kettle boil.

Jake: OK just as weird as I could have hoped.

Rev: The three hands are knitting an Afghan.

Tass: Hello it's it's an honor to meet you.

Rev: And she clicks her teeth at you three times and you see that they are, it's like a bear trap. It's just not even metal teeth, but it is metal triangles.

Tass: Okay.

Rev: And you see that T.J. standing by the fire. Kind of messing with the teapot has a wound in his shoulder that looks exactly the same shape as does Jake's calf.

Tass: All right. This is all fine. This is good. I am the one that's here for the spear and I submit myself to your tests.

Rev: BABA YAGA: Pretty pretty boy's...

Tass: Thank you very much.

Rev: BABA YAGA: You will retrieve something for me out of the land below. Far to the north east as an entrance. It take you into the land below and there is something in there that I want. But you have to figure out what by talking to the day. Talk to the day they will tell you what I want.

Rev: And she gets this violent gleam in her eyes.

Rev: BABA YAGA: If you come back with the wrong thing...

Rev: And she snaps her jaws three times again.

Rev: BABA YAGA: My instructions are at an end and I will eat. Oh, so hungry.

Rev: And she twists in her chair.

Tass: All right I will find it.

Rev: BABA YAGA: Beware, it's not empty down there.

Tass: All right North-east I go, I suppose. Guys I guess, do you just stay here?

Jake: I'll look at her like, can we accompany him?

Rev: She shrugs and takes that teacup from T.J. and starts to sip.

Jake: I think we go with you all right.

Tass: Yeah. I think that's fine. I think ultimately I'm gonna need to be the one making the decisions.

Jake: You typically are.

Tass: We'll be back and gonna head out the door and, Yeah...

Rev: So when you head out the front door it closes and it seals it seems to vanish, like there's no door there.

Tass: Oh that's trippy.

Rev: So Jake you had asked when you were starting to look on your phone, what do you find about Baba Yaga in a Google search, because you guys obviously didn't have time and Tass doesn't even necessarily have the move anymore to call Margaret. So what we're going to do, is we're going to try something a little different. You had about what a minute and a half before?

Jake: You're going to make me Google Baba Yaga in a minute and a half aren't you?

Rev: I am, I'm going to pause this for a minute and a half and we'll see what Jake knows about Baba Yaga in just a second.

Tick, tick, tick, tick, bing!

Rev: All right, Jake, what did you find?

Jake: Not as much as I would have liked. She flies around in a mortar, she wields a pestle. I've learned, I read a lot about the possible origins of her name. A fairy tale where a guy saw the hut and then a Firebird came and got him and flew him away before he got eaten. She's got three knights that are like her servants or her helpers, Bright Day, Red Sun and Black Night.

Tass: Ok. Well I mean that answers, the sort of cryptic mission is we've got to find Bright Day? Is that what it was?

Jake: Yeah.

Tass: And he should know, he or she should know what she wants.

Rev: So right now just for your frame of reference, it's about five o'clock at night. So it's starting to get towards evening. The sun has not set yet but it will start to get dark soon.

Teej: Is the sun actually red at this moment.

Rev: It is.

Teej: For some reason I feel like that's important but I don't know how.

Rev: Do you think that the knight will only be around or exist in it's, just time of day.

Teej: That's what I'm thinking like, if it's a Bright Day then the sun is gonna be up and you know, like our regular yellow sun and all lit up. And then like Red Sun only comes out, I would say either at the evening or at the dawn. And then Black Night, I assume is just the guy who comes at night, when there's no light. But that's just a toss in the wind sort of thing.

Tass: Well that's a good theory. I think that's probably sound. But we got a time this right. Like we have no idea where these nights are going to be. So yeah we could hunker down right now and just camp until it's daylight, but then if it takes us 10 hours to find it, our window is gonna be gone.

Teej: Well she did say to the northeast so maybe...

Tass: Right. Let's at least head that direction and just be slow and cautious about it.

Teej: Sounds good.

Jake: Yeah.

Rev: So who is leading the way here?

Tass: I suppose I would be.

Rev: All right. So roll 'sharp', to try and navigate your way through this woods kind of keeping the bearing that she told you.

Tass: Oh no. Oh OK. That's not bad. 9.

Rev: Yeah it takes a little longer than you'd imagine as the three of you are traveling through the woods, you notice that there aren't many landmarks as you go and you get turned around a few times, you find yourself checking the trees for Moss and even have a few moments where you feel like the path that you just came down isn't there anymore when you turn your back to look at it. But you do eventually find a very old tree that the trunk is split and you can see that is big enough for someone to fit inside of. And it smells unnatural.

Tass: All right. I mean this is it, but I don't, I clearly don't think we should go in that or get close to it yet. So maybe we just hunker down until morning?

Jake: Do you want to hunker down here, or do we want to hunker down like a quarter mile away from here?

Tass: That's solid. That's solid. Let's do that.

Rev: You guys head a quarter mile. Which direction?

Tass: Let's go due south.

Rev: All right. So you guys head south and how are you sleeping, you guys set up a watch? We've never had to do this before.

Tass: Yeah, I'd say you know as long as we're each getting like at least four hours with, you know, a couple of hours of each of us, you know one of us watching for a couple of hours and then, I don't know math and hours and numbers. This isn't Pathfinder where we have to get the straight eight in a row to be able to function.

Rev: It's true, but I know each of you and I know what you need to function correctly.

Jake: And for me it's like 13 hours.

Rev: Your minuses will depend greatly on the story you tell me right now.

Tass: I'm a night owl so I'll stay up for the first stretch.

Teej: That's fine with me, because I can go out like a light.

Jake: T.J. is an early riser right?

Mmhmm.

Jake: I might just sleep through the whole damn thing, like Wake me up if you need me, but I do genuinely, I need a lot of sleep to function.

Rev: He does.

Tass: Yeah. All right. That's the sitch.

Rev: Is there anything you guys want to do before you go to bed.

Jake: I imagine we should have Saul top us all off.

Tass: Yeah yeah yeah. That's solid.

Rev: Oh everybody's kinda sittin at a little damage aren't they?

Jake: Ah I will ask him... Ask him out...teehee...Saul, could you heal us all up please.

Rev: SAUL: Oh yeah. No problem.

Rev: And he does. He puts out the pulse of light and everybody is healed, 3 points. All right. Roll 'read a bad situation', Tass, first since you are on the first watch.

Tass: That's an, 8.

Rev: You get a hold one.

Tass: Are there any dangers we haven't noticed?

Rev: Somewhere far off in the distance, you hear the sound of galloping hooves and wood splitting and this is about two o'clock in the morning you think.

Tass: Oof! All right I'm gonna wake them up.

Teej: Ugh, what?

Tass: Listen and I'll kind of point out that sound.

Rev: Yeah. You guys hear very far away, you hear metal striking something, you hear like trees splitting. But it is a great distance away.

Tass: All right. So that makes me think that the knights are just out here, like guarding things. So...

Teej: Might be doing tasks for the uh, for the Baba Yaga? Maybe splitting some firewood or something?

Tass: Yeah. Yeah. God knows. So it may not be a matter of waiting till morning to go in. It may be waiting till morning and trying to get around and find wherever the knight is.

Teej: Sure.

Jake: Okay.

Tass: So that's pretty far away. So I guess, let's stay where we are and keep this going and then we'll just try to haul ass in the morning and find it.

Tass: I like the idea of it.

Jake: Yeah.

Rev: You guys switch at this point, or I don't know I'm not sure what hours you're switching? What hours you sleeping and what's your, what's your coverage window here?

Teej: Yeah I'll take next.

Rev: T.J. roll 'read a bad situation'.

Teej: And as I'm doing this can I go ahead and put on my night vision goggles?

Rev: Sure.

Teej: Cool. sweet. That's like 13.

Rev: All right. You get a hold three.

Teej: I assume. What threats do I not see here?

Rev: So as you are sitting there and everyone else is asleep, you get your night vision goggles on so you can kind of get a better sense of everything. You see someone approaching from the north they are very, very thin with long black hair and their face is scarred and they are wearing rags and their abdomen and their arms everything you can see is covered with cuts and puckers, but they're all scars. And they are barefooted and dragging a very long sword and they are approaching you.

Teej: So they're still pretty far away though?

Rev: Not pretty far away, close enough that you can see them through goggles.

Teej: Ok. Guys, guys, guys! Wake up, wake up, wake up!

Jake: Mmm?

Teej: Bad guy, bad guy! Quick, that way! And I'm pointing out...

Rev: Into the darkness.

Teej: Into the darkness, that they can't see.

Jake: Yeah. Can I see it?

Rev: No.

Teej: I'm gonna take my goggles and put it on his face.

Rev: Now you can see.

Jake: Oh!

Tass: Which direction should I be running?

Jake: I'll just gesture for them and start moving away, moving in the opposite direction. I'll kind of stay. I'll be backing up, so that I'm facing that thing as I let them go behind me and kind of get out of the way.

Rev: OK so you guys are trying to like sneak away essentially?

Yeah.

Rev: All right, roll 'act under pressure' to try to get out of this place quietly.

Jake: 7.

Teej: Hard 5.

Tass: 6.

Rev: Tass and T.J., you both take one point of armor defeating damage. Tass starts to back away with his shotgun out and he hears a sound behind him and he, out of pure terror turns and fires, which startles T.J., which causes T.J. to blast his Electro Blaster into the ground catching both he and Tass and they shake a little and fall to the ground.

Teej: Oh so it wasn't damage from the knight, it was just our own damage.

Rev: Correct.

Teej: OK.

Rev: Jake you can try to, with this going on, make a bigger spectacle and draw this thing's attention away, or you can stand your ground knowing where he's coming from since you've got T.J.'s goggles and get a plus 1 in dealing with him, or you've got enough time that you could try to get hands on both of these guys and teleport away.

Jake: Man, teleporting has been going so poorly, that I don't think it is my first choice right now. I think I'm going to try to make a spectacle. So what I would like to do is

teleport somewhere else around here that I've been at this point and just get its attention from from elsewhere.

Rev: Like behind it?

Jake: I don't know where I've been relative to it.

Rev: It is coming basically in a straight line from where you guys just came from. It is coming from the north, after you guys traveled a half mile south.

Jake: Yeah. Closer to the tree. Closer to the gate or the entrance or whatever the smelly tree was.

Rev: So Jake you appear back, closer to the tree, and this guy is not within your line of sight anymore but you know the direction that he is in. What are you going to do to try to get his attention from this far away?

Jake: I'm going to try to level a tree.

Jake: I'm gonna just try to fell a tree and hope that the crashing gets his attention.

Rev: All right. Roll, 'No limits'.

Jake: Uh, 8.

Rev: All right. So what is your consequence?

Jake: Probably a point of damage. I think that just, I overdo it here trying to rip a tree out of the ground.

Teej: I think what happened was, you tried to headbutt it.

Rev: You just watched, 'How to Train Your Dragon', so you're just all amped up and doing head butts on everything.

Jake: Don't think, act on instinct, head-butt the tree, instinct back.

Rev: Yeah. But you do you are able to uproot this tree and knock it to the ground and it is very loud. You both hear, as you're kind of gathering yourselves from the forest floor, a loud thud and you actually feel a bit of a tremor. And you guys don't have any way of

seeing anything in the darkness unless you're getting out flashlights. Are you guys doing anything?

Tass: I think I'm just getting back to my feet certainly and trying to make sure T.J. is up. I'm just like trying to stay low and crouched with shotgun out.

Rev: Okay so you guys are just kind of staying in place.

Teej: Right. And I think I would be trying to get a flashlight out but then like Tass is like...

Tass: Ahh! Ahh!

Teej: You know we're like fumbling with it.

Rev: So there's a very long tense quiet period where there's just something out in the darkness and it's that sensation of, like you used to get when you were a kid and you played hide and go seek, your heart speeds up because you know that someone is right there and there's a chance they may catch you. And Jake, about a quarter of a mile away, you suddenly see the figure head in your direction and it is just slowly walking, dragging this very large sword. And if you didn't know better as you watch it, you feel like it's looking you in the eyes.

Jake: So, I am prepared to teleport back to them at any moment, but I want to kind of wait for like, a metaphorical whites of its eyes. like, I want to wait until it gets a little bit closer. Like, if it's still a quarter mile away, I want to give it a little bit of time so that I just buy the extra few seconds. That when I go back to them we've got those few extra seconds to go the other direction.

Rev: All right. So how close are you gonna wait?

Jake: I'm going to say 50 yards and if I feel like it's looking at me, I'm gonna like wave and see if it does anything about it.

Rev: As you start to wave at this. You blink, and it is halfway there and then half again and half again. It almost seems like it is moving at you in an old film and there are frames missing. And it is slashing out with that sword and you instinctively teleport away. Roll 'act under pressure'.

Jake: 7.

Rev: So as this creature gets to about 50 yards away, you can teleport away and it is only going to catch you with the corner of its blade as it passes you, or you'll get away unscathed but it will sense where you're going, or the speed it approaches is going to startle you into dropping your hammer and you'll get away cleanly.

Jake: I think I'll take the hit.

Rev: So you take one point of armor defeating damage and you're standing next to Tass and T.J. again and you're breathing a little heavy and you feel wetness running down your cheek from where he caught you.

Jake: Ok, I'm going to gesture them like, "go the other direction, like get away from this thing."

Tass: Do we see that? How dark is this?

Rev: Dark.

Jake: Good point. Oh my God if I tap them on the shoulder, they're gonna shoot me.

Rev: I think that they are aware of your arrival. There's a little flash behind you guys.

Tass: Oh that's fair.

Teej: And we're so used to it by now, we weren't even startled.

Tass: I was startled.

Rev: Yeah. Probably untrue.

Jake: Then I'll just real real quietly, "go this way" and kind of turn them like steer their shoulders and give them a gentle shove away from that knight. I'll be like, "It cut me. It wants to hurt us. Let's go."

Tass: OK well let's go then.

Teej: Yeah.

Rev: OK so which direction are you going now?

Tass: So I think west.

Jake: Sure. I don't care as long as it's not towards the thing that just, that I just lured away.

Tass: Right. Yep. Right.

Tass: I think we're gonna turn and go that way.

Jake: And I'm gonna give T.J. his goggles back.

Rev: So it is T.J. leading the way now?

Teej: Yeah I guess so.

Rev: I didn't know if you guys we're getting out a light source or...

Jake: I don't think so. Any advantage we've got being hidden in the dark, we should keep.

Tass: Yeah for the moment at least, to get until we feel like we've made some good tracks, we'll stay dark and just hang onto T.J. shoulders.

Rev: All right. So you guys travel west for a while. Tass you have a minus 1 ongoing because you haven't slept much.

Tass: Yeah.

Rev: After a half hour of going west, you come to a clearing in the forest and T.J. what you see through your goggles are fence posts with skulls on them.

Teej: I'm going to hold us back for a second. Guys there's fence posts with skulls on them. Do I see anything that these fence posts are surrounding?

Rev: From here you do not.

Teej: I think a little caution fellas.

Tass: OK. Well, what else is there?

Teej: I don't know. I'm gonna sneak in a little closer.

Rev: Roll 'investigating mystery', if you're gonna go explore this area.

Teej: Yes I will. Come on, twelve. Nope,okay. That's 11.

Rev: All right you get a hold 2.

Teej: What's being concealed here?

Rev: You can tell by the shape of the opening in the middle of these fence posts, that this is where Baba Yaga's house normally would rest. This is kind of where its foundation is and you can see that in the middle of this earthen area where the house should sit, is a patch of odd colored dirt. And because you opened the door previously you can guess that it matches up with that door.

Teej: My thinking on this question is, 'What can it do', as in that patch of dirt.

Rev: You think that this area is filled with so much magic and you have seen some really strange things already in your time here. And you remember opening that door and seeing that there was just earth underneath it. And you have the notion that if the house was in its proper resting place, and you opened that door, that patch of earth wouldn't be there and it would lead into a basement.

Teej: Ok, I'm going to convey that to the guys, like I think this is where Baba Yaga's house is, and Jake remember the basement, sort of door, and there was only dirt there before, but I think if it were to rest right here, the house, we could probably get in that basement.

Jake: Well that's probably where she's got the spear or something. But I mean are we...It seems like a non-issue right now.

Tass: Yeah. I don't think it's the type of thing that we can just dig for it. I think, you know it's probably tied to her magic. So that's that's good to know, but you know we'll either need to keep moving or hunker down and get some rest here and hope that that thing doesn't sneak up again.

Teej: Ok, I guess we're going to go further west then, or just right here?

Tass: Yeah let's go a little further west of here, just so that we have a little more tree cover and hunker down again.

Rev: All right. Now much further?

Tass: I think we'll go about a half hour further west. Just you know, until I feel like we found a good copse of trees that's nice and dense.

Rev: So the three of you again start to make your way through this dark woods and as you travel, the thing you still can't seem to get used to is the lack of animal sounds. You know being outside in almost pitch black with only the sound of your footfalls and the occasional gust of wind, it makes you feel a little more exposed than if birds and bugs were reacting to you passing by. After about thirty five minutes of this, you come across a small clearing where you can see through the trees and into the night sky and you decide to stop. Who's going to keep watch?

Tass: Feel like shit, sleeping.

Teej: I'll stay up some more.

Jake: I'll go back to sleep. This worked out pretty well so far. Just wake me up when a problem shows up.

Teej: Okay.

Jake: I can't see shit out there anyway.

Rev: So, T.J. you are sitting up still. What do you guys plan on moving camp?

Teej: Well it's 3:00 now, so maybe about three hours from now, around 6:00.

Rev: Like you waiting, You waking them up at sunrise, are you waking them up after the suns been up for a while, before it's up?

Teej: Probably at sunrise. Whenever I see the lights starting to show over whatever horizon there may be.

Rev: So T.J. you sit watch for another couple hours. Roll 'read a bad situation', as you again sit watch over everybody.

Teej: That would be a 9.

Rev: You get a hold 1.

Teej: Are there any dangers we haven't noticed?

Rev: As you're getting ready to wake them up, off in the distance, you hear a bow string twang and you turn and you look. You see this white arrow streak through the sky and hit right where the sun seems to be coming up and there is a small pulse of energy and it seems to be coming from about a mile south of you.

Teej: I'm going to wake them up and tell the guys what I just saw. That's amazing. I feel like this is a sign for something good, because at least that arrow wasn't headed at my face. So that's pretty good.

Tass: Ok. I mean sounds like as good of a place to start as any. Let's head towards that.

Teej: Yeah.

Rev: Who's leading the way?

Teej: Jacob, since you've got the most sleep you want to lead the way?

Jake: Sure.

Rev: All right. So, Jacob roll 'sharp' to navigate the forest.

Jake: 6.

Rev: You guys are going along and things are starting to look familiar. In about half a mile away, you realize that you see the dead tree with the opening in it.

Tass: Oh God did we get turned around?

Jake: Maybe. I'm not so directionally apt.

Tass: Yeah. Somehow that, this wasn't south. So I'll try to like a line this up again to try to figure out what that opposite direction would be and start trucking that way.

Rev: All right. Roll 'sharp'.

Tass: Do I still have my negative 1 ongoing?

Rev: No. I think you've got like four hours sleep so.

Tass: God, 6.

Rev: Everything is starting to look the same. You guys have passed so many trees and you've been here almost 24 hours and it's all starting to look a little familiar and you're not sure if it's the lack of food, if it's the scarcity of water, if it's how poor your sleep was, but everything is just starting to look the same. You passed through a set of trees and this weird sensation washes over you and you feel like you take a tumble like you have fallen over, but you're still standing up and you all blink together and open your eyes and you are standing in front of Baba Yaga's cabin.

Tass: What the hell is happening?

Teej: This forest seems to be messing with our brains.

Tass: Oh God. I assume we shouldn't be disturbing her.

Jake: Probably not. With no news and no thing.

Tass: Yeah, cause I don't want her to eat me. Is anybody good at climbing trees?

Jake: I'm not bad at climbing trees.

Teej: I've climbed a tree or two in my day.

Tass: I mean maybe somebody can get up higher and get a good gauge of exactly where we are and maybe where that came from.

Teej: Yeah. I volunteer as tribute. I guess I will climb a tree and see if I can get our bearings.

Rev: So T.J. roll 'act under pressure' to make your way up this tree.

Teej: Shouldn't have volunteered for this.

Jake: Shouldn't have...

Teej: But I did anyway with a 13!

Rev: There you go. So, yeah, you just like a howler monkey up this tree. And you find yourself at the very top looking out over the forest. Roll 'investigating mystery'.

Teej: That's not so good. That's a 6.

Rev: So T.J. you look around trying to get a bearing of where you are and you don't see anything. You know you really just see the top of the forest, and as you're coming back down one of the tree branches breaks it doesn't catch you. You don't fall but it does make a sound. And from inside the house you hear.

Rev: BABA YAGA: Ahhh, tick tock, tick tock. Oh, you're still here? You should be gone. You should be far-far away. Ah, time, ah, time.

Tass: I'm going to back slowly deeper into the house.

Jake: Did you see anything?

Teej: No.

Jake: Tremendous. OK.

Teej: Yeah. There's just a lot of forest around here and it's kind of dark.

Jake: Well, I'll just kind of, scootch us away from the house. Well let's go this way for the moment while we figure it out. I'm just glancing back at the house repeatedly like hoping that nothing's happening.

Rev: Yeah. Every time you kind of look back at it no matter how you guys move, you feel like it's facing you.

Jake: I hate this place.

Tass: The best I can think is just trying to reorient based on the direction we thought that that arrow had been shot from again, and just try to walk that direction which I feel like was kind of south west. It's like I guess, we could try heading deeper in this way.

Jake: Yeah let's let's walk for the moment.

Tass: Ok.

Rev: You guys start to head west. Who's leading this pilgrimage?

Tass: I'm pretty sure I did. I think I kind of took the lead here unfortunately.

Jake: I'll go like shoulder to shoulder with him. Like, I don't know where we're going and I trust his leadership. But you know I'm I'm the guy who gets hit.

Rev: So you guys travel for about an hour. Roll 'investigate a mystery'. Again, you're trying to pick up where this arrow was fired from and head in that general direction.

Tass: OK. 7.

Rev: You get a hold one.

Tass: Where did it go?

Rev: So as you guys travel for this hour, you realize that you start to see slashes in trees and the grass is matted down from footprints and you haven't heard any animal sounds the whole time you've been here. But you do hear a horse whinny. You start moving in that direction and you walk into a clearing and in the clearing is a knight standing next to a very old and ratty looking horse and the armor is a brilliant white and they are holding a very long blade.

Tass: Hello, we come in peace. It raises its sword. We're here because we were told that you know what....Oh God I don't want to say her name. What the witch in the house wants and we just hoped that you would help us find out what that is.

Rev: It begins to walk towards you with the blade raised.

Tass: Oh God.

Jake: We are working for her. You work for her right? Like, we're doing her a favor. The two of you roll 'act under pressure'.

Jake: 9.

Tass: 5.

Rev: It brings this sword across at both of you. Jake, you can get out of the way from this strike but you're gonna bump into T.J. as you jump backwards and knock him to the ground as well, or you can take partial damage and draw its attention towards you or you can take no damage and get around behind it, but its attention is gonna be on Tass. That's a good one. That's a good set.

Rev: Thanks.

Jake: Man. I know how hard these guys can hit or at least how hard the other guy could hit. I'm gonna knock me and T.J. over.

Rev: All right. So you are able to kind of shift your weight a little bit and the pommel strikes you instead of the blade as it kind of arcs towards task and it knocks you backwards into T.J. And the two of you kind of end up in a pile on the ground. Tass falls to the ground as this blade hits him blunt side. The knight pivots the sword and raises it.

Tass: I want to roll back out of the way.

Rev: All right, roll 'act under pressure'.

Tass: 10.

Rev: You were able to roll back just in time as it thrust the blade into the ground.

Tass: And I'm gonna shout, What does Baba Yaga want?!

Rev: It pulls the blade out and starts to swing it down toward your legs.

Tass: Oh God. I'm gonna run, try to go in a direction that isn't you know towards the boys on the ground.

Rev: All right, roll 'act under pressure' again.

Jake: I would like to be getting to my feet.

Teej: As would I.

Tass: Argh, 5!

Rev: Jake and T.J. you are able to get to your feet as Tass is turning and running away from this night and you're both momentarily blinded as sunlight glints off of the night's blade as it slashes out towards him. Tass you feel excruciating pain just below your knee and you tumble to the ground and you instinctively reach down to put pressure on the wound. But when your hands reach down all you find is a bloody stump.

TO BE CONTINUED