

Red Sun and the Witch's Rose (S1, E43)

Rev: All right so we have got the winner of the Twitter contest. The winner gets a copy of 'Monster of the Week', a couple sets of dice, so they can start their very own game at home. So thank you for everybody who entered. Our winner is Anthony Cooney...

Jake: Ooh!

Rev: ...from Californ-i-a.

Tass: Congrats.

Rev: Yeah.

Tass: Are we going to give him cursed dice, that we've failed with.

Rev: You know, I think that it could be a mix and match bag and we just won't tell him which are which.

Tass: Nice.

Teej: I used to live in California, you know.

Rev: Did you?

Teej: Yeah! I used to live near Travis Air Force Base and then Edwards Air Force Base. My parents were in the Air Force.

Rev: We actually just talked about you on 'Investigate the History' with your living in Hawaii.

Teej: Mm hmm.

Rev: That's it. I'm just saying that we named dropped you in another related podcast.

Teej: Cool.

Rev: Rachel actually pointed out to me the other day that we have the most listeners in California. That is where the bulk of our listeners come from. Which surprised me, because I assumed it would be people living around us, who do it, so we'll shut up.

Tass: Yeah yeah.

Rev: But we posted on the Patreon page the other day, we are doing a run of the embroidered hats. So you can go to the Patreon page and it is a open post you'll be able to see it. It has all the instructions there. If you are interested in getting one of the hats, we are going to run that until March the 8th and then I will go and order those and we'll ship them out to you. If you are someone who is not within the continental United States and you're interested in getting a hat, send us an email and we can chat to figure out what shipping might be on that. So again that is on our Patreon page, you can find all the details for that. And we will run that until March the 8th. And then lastly it's that time of the month again to list our supporters who have just joined.

Tass: Yeah.

Teej: Yeah yeah.

Rev: So we've got Sherri B, Natalie B, not related. Brilliant Beholder's Bean Bumbling Barbarians or 'B5' as I like to call him. Brian D. The O'Briens, Jeff of the O'Briens is the one who has literally taught me everything I know about editing this and setting up this equipment so that it sounds listenable so that it sounds good. That was just a shot at Jeff.

Teej: He is truly the master behind all of this.

Rev: Carolyn C., who we know from 'Investigate the History' very kindly supporting us as well. Even though she's working with us. Dubs Nuts.

Teej: That's Jake, I bet. I betcha that's Jake.

Jake: Oh, all the, all the funny names are me.

Rev: He's like, "I've got fifty dollars invested in this every month." Jacqueline of the JQHJ Jared W., Jason E., Martin S., Moot Guru, Rachel P., who is our very own Rachel, who helps us with the publicity every single day. Seth R.T., Steven T., and Tiffany M., so thank you guys for joining us. And of course if you are someone who had joined us back in January, thank you again also. We are really excited about where this is going. We could not be happier with the way that the Patreon is going. So thank you, for those of you who

join us there monthly. Right now, we are putting out 'Hero Salad', three times a month and 'Investigate the History' once a month and we actually just had a meeting about the swag that will go out in April. So...

Tass: Oh yeah!

Teej: Get that swag.

Rev: You know there's, there's a lot to get done today so I think, no panic button, it's just time to let the recap roll.

THE RECAP

Rev: T.J., with your goggles on, you see a flair of magic and a human heart comes out of the eye of the needle and he catches it in his hand and it's pulsing and he holds it to his chest and it absorbs in through his chest cavity.

Rev: MARGARET: We've lost everything, we've lost contact with all of our agents out in the field, none of our computer systems are working properly. We can't get a hold of anyone. It might be NOEL

Jake: I'll run back outside and teleport to the North Pole.

You appear in Santa's cabin. It is char, it is smoke, it is not cold here right now, you feel warm. Off in the distance, you can see the base of what were the candy canes that made the forcefield. Something underneath a pile of ash starts to stir, it's Jingles one of his eyes is completely blacked out, his arm and his leg on one side are gone.

Rev: JINGLES: Jake...what...what happened man? Whats going on?

Rev: And his eye is very slowly pulsing and you can see that is pulsing slower and the light goes out.

Jake: I'm going to pick him up, I'm not going to leave him here so...

Rev: You head down the stairs and you get into her control center and everything is gone. You walk into the teleportation room and the first thing you notice, is that all of the monitors are still in fact there and your eyes drift down as you're thinking, "What could someone have taken out of here, if all the computer equipment is still there.", and realize that the teleportation ring is gone.

RED SUN AND THE WITCH'S ROSE

Rev: Jake you are standing inside of the now ramshackle teleportation room in the north pole.

Jake: I'm gonna look around to see if there is any, any physical evidence left behind by whoever has been here. If they dropped their journal with their name on the cover, like just something that might go, "Oh, I think I have an idea of who's been here." I do think I have an idea of who's been here, but I'd like a piece of information to confirm it for me.

Rev: Roll 'investigative a mystery'.

Jake: My favorite one. *drops his die* Then that one's just gone forever.

Rev: Gone, gone forever.

Jake: 7.

Rev: You get a hold one.

Jake: Is, "what sort of creature is it?", a fair question when I'm trying to kind of identify who was here?

Rev: Yeah I think so. So you start to look around inside of this room and you go back to NOEL's control center and you start to notice that there are footprints all over the place. And you also notice that the places where equipment was torn out of the wall or torn out of the ground, there are claw marks around it. Like they were able to dig out things from the stone, from the cement with their hands. And I think it gives you a very clear flashback to the ghouls that you saw in Hawaii.

Jake: Ok I'm going to take some pictures of that and I guess, just with another kind of cursory glance around, like not forget this, I'm going to teleport back to headquarters.

Rev: So you appear back outside of the IPT and things have calmed down a little bit, but not much. They're still desperately trying to find ways to reach operatives in the field trying to find ways to get people information, get their whereabouts. You know I'm sure there were missions going on in the moment that were suddenly cut out.

Jake: I want to find, like one of the boys from the lab essentially, and give him Jingles and tell him like, hey this is one of the workers from the North Pole. He's shut down here, but if you can get him working again he might be able to give us some extra input on what happened there.

Rev: They thank you and they take him. They take him down to the lab.

Jake: And then I'll go back to Margaret.

Rev: MARGARET: Did you learn anything?

Jake: The North Pole's been raised. Almost everything's gone. They got into NOEL's chamber, it's all gone. The teleportation ring is gone. I'll pull out my phone and bring up the photos and stuff, but from what I can tell, it looks like it was ghouls. So I'd guess that it's part of Nash's army.

Rev: MARGARET: Tass, he told me that what had happened there with Nash and that things could be dangerous in the North Pole. I guess I didn't think that he would act that quickly.

Jake: I don't think we did either. We thought we had a little more time that we could get Tass back on his feet and prepare for it, but damn were we wrong.

Rev: MARGARET: All right well get back to them. Take care of yourselves. We're trying to figure out a way to sort this out, get things up and running again. So just get done what you need to get down and we'll see you when you're ready.

Jake: All right I'm going to go get some kind of general stuff to keep us alive in the woods. Get some food, probably grab some of those like little sleeping mats from a camping store or something, Gander Mountain went out of business, I think, but somebody's got to have those.

Rev: Tass's got one.

Tass: I literally do.

Rev: He sleeps on one at every convention we go to.

Jake: And then head back.

Rev: Tass and T.J., you guys are near the copse of trees with the ring in the middle of it. Kind of camped waiting. Is everything you guys are doing while Jake is gone?

Teej: Collecting wood for the camp that we're going to set up, because I assume Jake is going to bring in some camping gear and things like that so...

Tass: I would be being surprised at T.J.'s forethought.

Teej: We did ask him to bring some s'mores and stuff. I figured a nice campfire, you know, get that ready.

Rev: How far away are you from the ring in the trees?

Tass: I'd say 100 yards or so.

Rev: All right, so you guys are building a fire, collecting twigs. Are you making like, a like a hut, a lean to. What are you doing with all of your wood T.J.?

Teej: Well I'm not going to make a lean to with our firewood, if that's what you're asking.

Rev: I don't. I mean you had a couple hours. Are you like an orc in World of Warcraft just constantly in a loop gathering wood?

Teej: Just chopping away. Yeah. I'm making sure our fire is nice and neat and kind of clean up our camping area. You know, "leave no trace" that sort of thing, you know. Yeah just keeping it clean.

Rev: What kind of camp fire pattern are you laying out?. How do you like to burn your wood?

Teej: I like to burn my wood in umm...I don't know what the actual formation is called, but it's like you stack it almost like a pyramid. I learned that one from YMCA camp.

Jake: It's probably called a pyramid.

Teej: That seems too far fetched.

Rev: It might be called pyramid of pyre.

Jake: The pyre-amid.

Rev: The pyre-amid, it was right in front of me. We were so close.

Teej: Anyways enough to let some airflow go through and everything.

Tass: And with some rocks I'm gonna build a little, a little bust of Jake to honor him for going to get us Wendy's.

Jake: I thought you were just gonna say, "And with some rocks I'm going to hit T.J. repeatedly."

Rev: "I'm going to knock down his pyre-amid."

Tass: I'm just up in a tree, just throwing rocks at the fire he's trying to build.

Teej: He's practicing his sniping skills and everything. You know if this chosen thing doesn't work out maybe he can go back to just shooting guns at ceilings.

Rev: And Jake appears and he is laden with goodies.

Tass: Sweet.

Jake: Guys I got bad news.

Teej: You forgot the marshmallows?

Jake: No I got the marshmallows.

Teej: Oh, thank God.

Jake: The North Pole base has gone.

Tass: Wait, like, we didn't move it gone, it's gone gone.

Jake: Destroyed.

Tass: Oh, Shit.

Jake: NOEL's missing, everything in the control room, the teleportation room is compromised.

Tass: All right. Well it puts that much more urgency on getting this done.

Jake: Yeah I mean, last thing Margaret told me was, just to do what we need to do to get back in shape and we'll deal with that when we're done.

Tass: For the moment, at least, I'm just looking at both of the clues that I was handed and just kind of looking at the two and looking up at the northeast and looking back at the two and just kind of thinking for a little bit.

Jake: I'll start laying out stuff, inflating the the bed rolls and things.

Rev: Is there anything you guys want to do as the day passes? Anything you want to talk about, anything you want to go over?

Tass: I don't think so.

Jake: I mean beyond just kind of sharing in detail what I saw at the North Pole. Do you explain your thought process in looking at the two clues? Do I notice it?

Tass: No because I think if I had decided like I'm just going to skip the third one, I would just say, "let's skip the third one." So for the moment I haven't made that decision. So I don't think so.

Jake: I would probably express, again, my lament that we let Koschei the deathless go and we have no idea where he is now.

Teej: I'm actually going to start making lists of things that we might need whenever we eventually go, hopefully, to other dimensions once we get this back. Which I assume we are because nothing is going to go wrong. *weeps openly*.

Jake: Starting to weep as he writes.

Teej: T.J. as you start to make this list out, I don't think that there is any kind of roll for this, but with all of the research that you did on how the interdimensional teleportation worked, you essentially researched how to recreate that process because you didn't have the spells. Really the only thing that was there was the ring and NOEL as you make this list you're fairly positive you could recreate this process. Because NOEL didn't run it. She ran the room and she ran the monitors, but the actual getting from one dimension to

another was the ring and the spells. So I think that you have that realization as you guys are kind of sitting around eating setting up camp.

Teej: Sweet.

Rev: Whether or not you want to share that's up to you.

Teej: I think I'll keep it to me right now, because it seems like people are after this thing and the more people who know about it could potentially put me and my friends in danger.

Tass: This is some Sam and Dean shit here.

Rev: I believe the phrase from our favorite book series is, "and that was the moment the Ka-tet was broken." As soon as they started to keep secrets.

Tass: You made your decision.

Jake: Yeah its too late.

Rev: This is where you live now.

Teej: No, ah shit.

Jake: I imagine after all that, it would just be time to eat dinner and crash. So I suppose we should have Saul top us off before we go to sleep and get into shipshape.

Rev: What are you guys gonna do in the morning?

Jake: Train with our new toys. I guess get used to fighting with our new stuff.

Tass: Yes. Hell yeah.

Rev: Both of you roll, 'kick some ass.'

Jake: Oh dear, okay.

Tass: Oh good.

Rev: Just for our own enjoyment as this day passes.

Tass: 6.

Jake: 9.

Rev: Oh yeah. It doesn't go well for Tass, because Jake keeps forgetting how much stronger he is than mortal Tass. And so even his like soft hits which Tass would have been able to take before, knock you to the ground. He actually breaks your staff at one point and feels bad.

Tass: Ahh.

Rev: Get some tape out and raps it.

Jake: Good thing I brought this "Mighty Mend It."

Tass: Good, thank you. We've got to get this spear soon. I, I am a turd. I am a walking turd with lungs and a mouth. After I get my ass handily kicked for a while, if it's starting to get on towards evening, I would want to get over there to try to be near that circle where I could see what was happening once it hit.

Jake: Yeah I want to see you like the transformation or whatever.

Tass: Yeah.

Rev: So as you approach the circle the white knight is there and he's in his position with his sword in the ground. And then you see the sun start to touch the horizon and he raises his sword and straps it to his back and a bow appears in his hand and there is a red arrow in his other and he pulls the string back and fires the arrow in the direction of the sun and as it hits, you see his form shimmer and shift and there stands the Red Knight.

Tass: Ok T.J., do you see anything like the circle that used to be here or...?

Teej: I'm gonna go ahead and put on the goggles and check out to see if there's a magic circle or any kind of magical thing in general, just besides the the knight.

Rev: Besides the night. No.

Teej: Yeah. There's nothing guys.

Tass: I want to look at him. One had a one had a sword and one had a lance. What has red dude got?

Rev: You notice when you look at him that, that the white bow that he used to fire, before the transformation, is still in his hand and it's red, but it's much more ornate now.

Tass: Ooh!

Rev: And there is a quiver on his back.

Tass: This can't possibly go well for me.

Jake: Do you know how to shoot?

Tass: I have shot a bow when I was 12. I missed the target and hit the siding of our rec room.

Teej: So technically you can hit the broadside of a barn?

Tass: Yes.

Jake: I want to give Tass, before we approach it, like the quickest and dirtiest archery lesson that I can muster. Like you know grab, grab like a curved stick or something, but just kind of explain the grip on the bow and keeping your elbow high and like touching your nose to the string and...

Rev: Uh, roll 'help out.'.

Tass: I love this because, this is gonna, he's gonna give me all these and he's going to end up being, I'm going to be Rickon Stark having to just run away from arrows peppering me.

Jake: 9.

Rev: All right so Tass you get a plus 1 on anything to do with a bow.

Tass: Oh cool. Oh thanks man. I really appreciate it. I guess we should kind of do the same thing. Let's approach and be ready to hit him, I guess, if we have to.

Jake: Okay.

Rev: You step into the center and he turns to face you.

Tass: Hello we are here from Baba Yaga. I am facing the trial.

Rev: He places his hand to the side and brings it back up and there is a round piece of metal in it and he holds it to his side and then throws in the air.

Tass: I guess I'm going to try to quick draw my pistol and shoot the disc.

Rev: Roll 'act under pressure.'.

Tass: It's a 7.

Rev: It comes tumbling to the ground after you fire. The knight walks over and picks it up and you can see that there is a chip out of the side, but no hole through the metal.

Tass: Ok. I'll watch him and see what he does.

Rev: He turns his back and starts to walk away and throws it again.

Tass: I'm gonna try to shoot it again.

Rev: Roll 'act under pressure.'.

Tass: That's a 7.

Rev: Same thing. It comes back down and it's got another ding in it, but no hole through the metal.

Tass: I want to try to shoot it on the ground.

Rev: Roll 'kick some ass.'.

Tass: It's a 7.

Rev: You take three points of damage non armor defeating, as you raise the gun and fire it at the ground, right as you pull the trigger, an arrow goes through your shoulder.

Tass: O K, O K! Message received! I see how it works! Thank you! Holy shit!

Rev: And you look up and he is standing there with another arrow knocked and just frozen.

Tass: And I'm like holstering the gun and hands up, one of them slightly lower because there's an arrow in my shoulder.

Rev: And the plate on the ground dissolves and he returns back to the center of the circle. Okay. Anybody want help me get an arrow out of me.

Jake: Depending on how, like what kind of arrowhead it is, you're supposed to break the the fletching off and push it the rest of the way through. Because, if you pull a Broadhead back out, it'll just shred you even more so.

Tass: So what are we working with here?

Rev: Yeah that seems like the way you're gonna have to do it.

Jake: Then I shall. I'll do that. Have T.J. on hand with something like a rag, whatever we've got to start applying pressure.

Tass: You always need a strip of leather for me to bite on. Do we have a strip of leather?

Jake: I wear a belt.

Tass: No it's fine just do it, just do it. *bears teeth*.

Rev: Tass roll 'tough'.

Tass: Four 7's in a row.

Teej: That's got to be like some kind of bonus like in Final Fantasy 7. If you get 7 sevens on your hp you get like, you just automatically cause 7,777 damage to whatever you attack at that moment.

Rev: Oh.

Teej: It's called Lucky Sevens.

Rev: I think it's from a slot machine isn't it? 7's. You do not pass out.

Teej: Lucky you.

Tass: I appreciate that. Woof.

Rev: You now have a minus 1, to anything involving using that arm.

Tass: Good. I guess I'll salute the guy and unholster my pistol.

Rev: He lowers his arm to his side and pulls up a metal plate and throws it into the air.

Tass: You know I'm going to try to shoot it.

Rev: Roll 'kick some ass.'

Tass: I assume this counts as my minus 1.

Rev: Correct.

Jake: I'm going to put those broken arrow pieces in my pocket dimension, by the way.

Rev: All right.

Tass: Oh good. That brings me down to a 4.

Rev: The plate lands and there's nothing on it. And he picks it up and starts to walk away from you a different direction and throws it in the air.

Tass: Oh damn. Okay. I'm going to try to shoot it again.

Rev: Roll 'kick some ass.'

Tass: Oh it's just getting worse and worse. That's a 2.

Rev: You fire at the disc in the air and the shot goes wide again and it falls to the ground and he walks over, picks it up a third time, cocks his arm back very far and hurls it almost straight past you in the direction of out of the ring.

Tass: I just have to try again.

Tass: Roll 'kick some ass.'

Tass: Man! 4.

Rev: The plate whizzes by you. You turn to fire and you realize that Jake and T.J. are right there and so you don't fire and the plate flies out into the woods and then he returns to the center.

Tass: Oh damn! And I'm just kind of working my shoulder with the hole in it. I don't know if I can do this. I literally don't know if I can accomplish this.

Jake: I mean other than trying to take the shot for you, I don't know how to help you on this one.

Teej: Would you like a werewolf serum?

Tass: No I still have the one you gave me. Oh man, I think I take the werewolf serum.

Rev: All right. You are fully healed.

Tass: Oh I hate using this, I feel so itchy. How many do you have left T.J.?

Teej: 2.

Jake: I mean maybe we could cheat. T.j. Can you rig up any way to kind of draw a bullet to a metal plate, we got any magnets or anything like?

Tass: I don't love that. Again I want to hit this whole thing as honestly as I can, but.

Jake: Yes, "as you can" being the key phrase.

Tass: I know. I mean we all did kind of whoop the White Knight's ass and we still got the thing.

Teej: Let's just whip this guy's ass.

Jake: Give us the note idiot!.

Rev: God, you see that, you remember that scene in Avengers, when the group of guys tried to take out Hawkeye? It's not going to go well.

Tass: I kind of want to approach him and say, May I use the bow for this?

Rev: He offers the bow.

Tass: OK and I will kind of give him a little weird bow, nod, thing because I don't know how to address weird magic knight.

Rev: And he puts his arm to his side and pulls up a plate.

Tass: OK I'm going gonna knock that arrow and be ready.

Rev: He throws it. Roll 'kick some ass.'.

Jake: Did we switch from 'act under pressure' to 'kick some ass' at some point in this process?

Rev: Yes it was 'act under pressure' when he didn't know it was going on. Not that it's any different of a rule for him.

Jake: Yeah, no.

Tass: Oh I even get a plus 1 from Jake and that brings me up to a 4.

Rev: Yeah you get a nice bruise on your forearm where the string just, klang against your, I guess your forearm.

Teej: I go ahead and take my belt off and I wrap it around his four arm for him and then I quickly go over the physics of actual arrow flight. It's not just a stick flying through the air in a straight sort of pattern that it's actually this ballistic wave that the arrow does as it's flying through the air and that's what keeps it straight.

Rev: Yeah. Roll 'help out.'.

Tass: I love you.

Teej: I'm going to science him to, to tears here.

Teej: Yeah. What is that off of?. Cool?

Jake: Cool.

Teej: 4 then.

Tass: Oh no.

Rev: You walk over and you start to explain this to him and you take the bow from his hand and the Red Knight back hands you to the ground and you take 2 points of damage not armor defeating.

Teej: Dick.

Rev: He returns to the center and as he does the bow vanishes from its place on the ground next T.J. and appears in the knight's hand.

Tass: Ok, I've got it this time I'm ready. Teej are you OK?

Teej: Yeah I'm just rubbing my jaw from where some gauntleted hand smacked me and that's all right.

Tass: Sorry man. I appreciate it just yeah. Chill out. I've got it I've got it this time it's gonna be awesome. I'll approach again and say, May I use the bow for this trial?

Rev: He hands the bow to you.

Tass: Thank you. And I'll knock an arrow.

Rev: He puts his hand down to his side, brings up a metal plate and throws it. Roll 'kick some ass.'

Tass: That is an 11.

Rev: The arrow goes into the air right in the trajectory of the plate and hits it dead center and it spirals to the ground and vanishes. He takes a couple steps away from you, puts his hand down, brings up another plate and throws it.

Tass: Oh and I'm going to try to shoot that too.

Rev: Roll 'kick some ass.'

Tass: Oof! That's an eight.

Rev: It comes down with the arrow embedded slightly off center. And when it hits the ground it vanishes. And then he pulls out a third one.

Teej: And whatever he pulls out that third one I just want to say to Tass, "Say your lesson maggot!" *A la Court from the Dark Tower series*

Tass: I'll give him a solid nod.

Rev: And he in slow motion throws the third plate toward you and away.

Tass: Ok, I'm gonna try to make the shot.

Rev: Roll 'kick some ass.'

Tass: 11.

Rev: It spirals end-over-end and the arrow connects with it and stops its trajectory and pins it to the side of a tree.

Tass: I kill with my heart, mother fucker.

Rev: You turn back to him and he is kneeling and he is holding up a piece of paper.

Tass: I'm gonna run over and grab it and shake his hand.

Rev: And he stands up and the bow appears in his hand again and he returns to his resting position.

Jake: While Tass is reading over the clue, I want to walk up to the night and go, "May I use the bow?"

Rev: He hands you the bow.

Tass: That's awesome.

Jake: I just want to try it. I'm just so, this looked really fun.

Rev: He reaches his hand down to his side and pulls up a metal plate and throws in the air. Roll 'kick some ass.'.

Jake: 10.

Rev: It goes into the center and hits the ground and vanishes. He takes a couple of steps away from you, pulls out another plate, throws it into the air. Roll 'kick some ass.'.

Jake: 7.

Rev: The arrow hits the side of the plate and kind of causes it to spin in a circle as it falls to the ground. The arrow is not in it, but the plate vanishes when it hits the ground. He reaches down, pulls out another one and throws it beside your head out of the circle.

Jake: uh, 8.

Rev: A similar thing happens. The arrow catches it in the side and pins it to the tree, but not dead center and it vanishes. And he returns back to center.

Tass: Okay. That was cool.

Jake: That was fun.

Tass: I'm glad you just did it all just so fast and awesome.

Jake: Well, I'm currently superhuman and you're currently not so.

Well, it was dope. OK. Here's what we got boys. "I am Earth. I am water. Fire gives me strength. I hold Earth. I hold water and beauty raises from me." It's a jackal. OK. I think as I start to read this, I'm literally turning on a heel towards the northeast and we're heading. You know I'm trying to bullet back towards the entry to the tree.

Teej: I do not think it is a word riddle this time.

Tass: No.

Teej: I think it has to do with some kind of thing.

Tass: "I am Earth and I am water. Fire gives me strength.".

Jake: Yeah. What is, what does fire not destroy? What does fire give strength to.

Tass: Like a kiln.

Jake: Oh! It's a, it's a pot then.

Tass: Oh OK.

Jake: It's earth and water, its clay and water.

Tass: Literally earth and water.

Teej: Oh yeah, yeah, yeah.

Tass: And then a flower grows out of a pot. Hell yeah dude.

Jake: All right. So we need a flower pot and a blue rose.

Tass: OK. Hell yeah. And I think we're like with vigor, heading back. Like, like a, like a, with a plus 1 head back.

Jake: Roll 'to head back'.

Teej: Because we've got s'mores in our stomach now. So we're like, we've got extra energy to burn.

Rev: Yeah. Who is leading the way?

Tass: Who's done it the most at this point? Probably T.J. because of the dark.

Teej: Yeah.

Tass: And then with his magicy goggles he led us back. You think you can do it again.

Tass: Sure.

Rev: All right, roll 'sharp.'

Teej: That would be a 10.

Rev: So you guys start headed in that direction, T.J. leading the way. And after about three hours you arrive outside of the tree with the hole in it.

Tass: All right let's go. I'll take point on this one.

Rev: I think that we are going to do a little time lapse here. I don't, there's nothing underground anymore that is a threat here. You guys have loosed the threat into the world. So, I think that you guys navigating the maze to try to find the item that you're looking for. It's not a terribly great use of our time. So you explore the maze and you are able to find the clay pot as you go you do find that there are 10 items down here. There is a bowl, a blanket. There is the room with the flowers. There was the room that had the treasure chest in it. There is the clay pot used to hold a flower. There is a book, an old photo, a ring, a wand and a pair of cuff links.

Rev: What was the photo?

Rev: The photo is of a child. It seems like it was probably one of the first photos taken. It looks that old.

Tass: Wow.

Teej: Like a tin-type?

Rev: Yes.

Jake: Do we want to take any of the other stuff down here?

Tass: I was just thinking about that and I thought if we want to do that, we should do it after. I don't want to walk into her house with her shit and be like, "Hey I know you've got my ring in your pocket. Don't do that."

Jake: I'm with you.

Tass: Cool.

Rev: So you find the pot and you head back to the room with the flowers. Again there are 10 different colors blooming all over this room.

Tass: Then yeah I think we want to find the prettiest blue one and try to get down under the roots, you know dig that out, so that there's plenty of Earth and plant it.

Rev: So you dig out the blue flower. As soon as it is disconnected from the earth, all the other blooms in the room retract.

Tass: Oh.

Jake: It is a good thing we got all of the clues and did this all at once, huh?

Tass: I sure hope so.

Teej: Wow, it's almost like hard work pays off or something.

Tass: Ok. Cool.

Rev: You guys head back out and start going back towards the last place you saw Baba Yaga's House. T.J., if you're leading the way roll 'sharp'.

Teej: Will do. 11.

Rev: Yeah, you were able to lead them there. No problem. You get back to the outside of her shack and the house does not scream and run at your approach. You get up on to the porch and there's no door still.

Tass: Baba Yaga we've come with, what the day told us to bring you.

Rev: As you say this, on the blank wall in front of you, words start to appear, as if they are being carved in. And it says, "turn your back to the forest, your front to me" and it's in quotations.

Tass: I feel like I'm doing this.

Jake: That's exactly what I was thinking.

Tass: And it's in quotations. I'll turn around. Nothing happens I assume?

Rev: Yeah. You just see Jake and T.J. staring at you. T.J. staring off in the distance trying to puzzle it out.

Tass: I mean, I'll step up closer to it, I guess, so that I'm like, on the porch. Like right in front of it.

Rev: Like how close?

Tass: Inches.

Rev: As you get closer to the door, the writing shrinks so that it is always the main thing in your view.

Tass: Oh, maybe I'll turn around facing away from it and start walking backwards towards it?

Rev: You bump into the wall.

Tass: I will touch the wall. I'll turn turn around facing it and touch the wall.

Rev: Nothing happens. Boys what do you make of this?

Jake: I don't know. I mean "me" might be referring to something other than the house. I don't know how we turn our back to the forest when we are literally surrounded by it.

Tass: I think I'm still just kind of spinning and looking back at the boys. I don't get it.

Teej: Maybe if we all try and go through the wall at the same time.

Jake: Like Platform 9 3/4?

Rev: Yeah, its like Hogwarts.

Teej: Yeah.

Tass: There's something I'm not getting here. Turn your back to the forest your front to me.

Rev: Where are you standing when you say that?

Tass: Just, I'm like, almost nose to the wood.

Rev: You all hear the wood creak and the door reappears and opens.

Tass: What did I do? What happened? I still don't understand.

Teej: I don't either. Oh! it's, it was in quotations so you had to say it.

Tass: It's "speak friend and enter."

Teej: Yeah.

Tass: I'm a dipshit. And I walk in.

Rev: It was exactly "speak friend and enter."

Tass: God damn it.

Rev: You come into the house, it is warm, as it was before, the fire is going strong and she is sitting in her chair.

Rev: BABA YAGA: Well. Welcome back.

Tass: Thank you. And I'll take a knee and offer the offering.

Rev: BABA YAGA: Oh! Very pretty. You brought me exactly what I was looking for.

Tass: All right, well, is there anything else that is a part of this trial?

Rev: BABA YAGA: Just rest and travel. Have a slumber.

Tass: Oh OK.

Rev: And she gestures to a hallway that leads back to a small room.

Tass: I'll give the boys a little salute and kind of mouth, "watch my ass", and head down that hallway.

Rev: Inside of that room there are three little bed rolls laid out.

Tass: Oh, there's three of em back here. All right cheers. And I'm going to lay down.

Jake: OK. Let's go spend the night at Baba Yaga's house.

Teej: The thought of that just is so unnerving. But I reluctantly follow and get in bed.

Rev: As you start to walk out last, she drops a wink at you.

Rev: BABA YAGA: Don't worry. I'll make sure nothing bad comes in your dreams.
moaning sounds

Jake: I have to imagine that like most of the time that she is talking, I'm just kind of in the background, like, making chomping gestures and like licking my teeth. It's just like uncomfortable to look at her.

Rev: Like how difficult it is for her... It's like the the physical manifestation of the eye of Sauron in the extended cut of Lord of the Rings, where its just all teeth and mouth.

Tass: Yes. *gags*

Rev: So you guys head back to this small room and you try to go to sleep. As you're laying down, you feel the house shift and start to rock and you can tell that it's walking. Are you guys going to try to stay awake or are you going to try to go to sleep? What are you trying to do?

Jake: She explicitly said sleep, right?

Rev: Yeah, she said have a rest.

Tass: Yeah I guess I'll try.

Teej: I am very much known for being able to drop off on a dime.

Tass: Same.

Teej: But man, I feel like I don't want to.

Rev: So you going to try to stay awake?

Teej: Yes.

Rev: All right. Roll 'toughness.'!

Teej: Oh, right, I have a minus 2. That's an 8.

Rev: You're able to stay up for a couple of hours, as the two of them drop off, but the rocking of the house eventually lulls you to sleep. The three of you wake up and the House isn't moving anymore. And if you have any damage, it is fully healed. And you hear her moving around in the living room.

Tass: I'll, go back out.

Rev: You head out and she is tidying up. She has a broom. There's a pot on the stove and she is boiling tea.

Rev: BABA YAGA: We have arrived.

Tass: All right. What do I do now?

Rev: BABA YAGA: Well, the thing you seek is in the cellar.

Tass: We had a theory that might be the case. And I'll walk over and crack it open.

Rev: You go over to the cellar door and you open it and there are only three or four steps going down and you can see just the very edge of a table in the cellar. And there is a gas lantern hanging from the ceiling.

Tass: I'll go down.

Rev: You head down the stairs and on this old wooden table lays the spear. The spear in front of you is silver and not very ornate, but there are two pieces of cloth wrapped around it one right below the blade and one at the butt. The one below the blade is red, the one at the butt of the spear is white. The White is very lacy and the red is almost completely in tatters.

Tass: I think I will just slowly, almost cautiously and reverently approach and take it.

Rev: You pick it up and you feel this energy course through your system. To say that you are suddenly jolted from a sleep doesn't even quite hit it, because you see the world completely different for a brief moment as you hear Rachel's voice come back into your head.

Rev: RACHEL: Oh, that was horrifying. I couldn't quite communicate with you. I felt like I was starting to drift away, but this feels great.

Tass: Hell yeah, it does.

Rev: So Tass real quick you level up. Well not even level up. You have a character sheet, again.

Tass: I do!

Teej: Yeah.

Rev: Let us go over this character sheet real quick that we have worked out prior in the event that you actually got this spear. For your notes the spear has three tags. It is bladed, it is an artifact, and it is throw-able. So let's talk about your moves. What are your moves?

Tass: Well technically this class starts with two but we're gonna get rid of one. The one that I am keeping is called 'Destiny's play thing', "At the beginning of each mystery I roll weird to see what is revealed about my immediate future. On a 10 plus keeper will give a useful detail about the coming mystery, on a 7 to 9, a vague hint about it and on a miss something bad is gonna happen to me. And the one that we're gonna get rid of, because it just doesn't quite make sense with the way that I came into this is called, 'I'm here for a reason.'

Rev: Correct. So I don't think we have to.

Tass: No, like, yeah, just the title alone is enough to go, uh uh.

Rev: So because you essentially inherited the spear, what I have decided to do is have you drop that move and you're actually getting a move from Rachel's presence in your head. So what is the move that she grants you.

Tass: That is called, 'the site.' And so what that does for me is, "I can see the invisible especially spirits and magical influences. I can communicate with maybe even make deals with the spirits and they can give me more opportunities to spot clues when I use investigate a mystery."

Rev: And then what is your third move?

Tass: And I just picked, I think, a really solid choice for this. It's not too flashy but it's really helpful is called 'Invincible.' So I always count as having 2 armor.

Rev: All right. Heavily armored group.

Tass: Yeah.

Rev: Except ol' glass cannon T.J..

Rev: So what is your stat block?

Tass: It's actually a little bit similar to what I had as the professional, but then is a really good mix of, like, suddenly having all of this kind of magic imbued into me that I didn't have before. So what I like about it is that it has plus 2 cool. So that was kind of what I had originally that was my main stat. So that's riding the same. It also has plus 1 charm, minus 1 sharp, minus 1 tough and then plus 2 weird.

Rev: All right. And what is your weird move?

Tass: And the weird move, I think that's the main thing that really stayed the same, is that I just still have 'trust your gut' when I need to kind of be pointed in the right direction. I use that.

Rev: I think that covers everything on the sheet right.

Tass: I believe so.

Rev: So the two of you see Tass go down into this basement, four or five steps and he kind of vanishes for a second and there is a pulse of energy that rolls up the steps and through the living room. I think you probably hear Tass talking to someone. "Hell yeah it does!" And then he turns and comes back up the stairs.

Tass: It worked.

Teej: Great, who were you talking to?

Tass: Rachel. I can hear her again.

Rev: And you notice that as you are looking at them, still this whole world looks different. You can see this gold shimmer radiating around Jake, around T.J. you see this strange

blue and red pulse. You don't even see Baba Yaga really, all you see is a void where you know that she is standing. There is this strange overlay like you're looking at a photo with the photo negative on top of it. And so as you're looking around the room seeing everything in this strange kind of double vision you realize that you can turn that off.

Tass: Ok. Yeah I think I kind of do. Like I take a couple of Blink takes of on, off, on, off.

Rev: Yeah. And the room returns back to normal. And then there's this photo negative and then normal and photo negative and the normal again.

Tass: Oh, do I get my Tobey Maguire Spider-Man moment of like pulling my glasses down and realizing I don't need them and I crush them and then I go, "Shit. I really did. It didn't fix anything."

Jake: You pull your glasses down and it's a blurry photo negative. You put them back on you can see. Ahh, Darn.

Tass: It it worked.

Jake: Good.

Teej: Great.

Jake: Wonderful.

Teej: And then I want to motion them over into a bit of a huddle, like, **whispering** Hey guys, you want to kill Baba Yaga?

Rev: Everybody roll 'act under pressure.'.

Teej: **still whispering** Dammit.

Jake: 9.

Teej: 5.

Tass: I would like to announce my first roll as the Chosen, as a 13.

Rev: So as T.J. whispers this to you guys, Jake kind of instinctively stumbles backwards away from him as he hears a loud noise from behind him and he falls to the ground. Jake

you a minus one ongoing. Tass, you were able to back away from T.J. as these three hands slam into T.J. and hold him to the ceiling one around his throat and the other two around his arms.

Rev: BABA YAGA: I know what you let loose on the world!