

The Guild
by
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FADE IN:

INT. CODEX'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

CODEX (Cyd Sherman), 27, cute but socially awkward, talks into a webcam. The room behind her is a mess and there's a violin on the bed behind her. She's wearing pajamas.

CODEX

So, it's uh Friday night
and...still jobless, yay. I
haven't left the house in a week.
My therapist uh, broke up with
me...oh yeah, there's a, there's a
Gnome Warlock in my living room
sleeping on my couch.

FADE TO BLACK:

Credits.

CODEX (O.S.)

Wait, so you're firing me? I mean,
you're my therapist. Is that even
medically legal. How is that
legal?!

INT. CODEX'S BEDROOM - DAY (5 HOURS EARLIER)

Codex, fully dressed, talks on the phone and plays on the computer simultaneously.

THERAPIST (O.S.)

I'm sorry Cyd, but you don't seem
willing to work on your addiction.

CODEX

I've been establishing parameters
like we talked about...kinda.

Codex looks down at a Post-It stuck to her monitor that reads
"Online Limit: ~~1~~, ~~2~~, ~~3~~, ~~4~~, 5 Hours".

THERAPIST (O.S.)

You can't grow if you're still
immersed in an imaginary social
environment.

CODEX

It's not imaginary I told you
it's...

TINKERBALLA (O.S.)
I can't get them off you, fuck.

CODEX
Wait, hold on.

Codex turns up her speakers to hear a jumble of voices.

VORK(O.S.)
I'm dying, I need heals! Heal me!

Codex leans into a microphone beside the computer monitor.

CODEX
Incoming!
(into phone)
Um, I play with real people.

Codex mashes keys on her keyboard frantically.

THERAPIST (O.S.)
Have you met them? Face to face?

CODEX
I uh hear them. It's good enough
for the blind.

THERAPIST (O.S.)
Cyd, you need a genuine support
system at this time in your life
not a...

Loud sounds of fighting and dying from the speakers.

CODEX
(interrupts)
Ok, Dr. Hammond! You're killing
me! Like Literally! Can I just
call you back, later?
(click)
Hello?

VORK(O.S.)
Forget it. I'm down.

INT. VORK'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

VORK (Herman Holden), early 40's and balding, stares at his computer monitor with a dorky headset on. His computer area has everything nearby, mini-fridge, coffee maker.

VORK

Repeat. Vork is down.

He lets out a huge, disapproving sigh into his headset.

TINKERBALLA (O.S.)

Oh my God! That was a total rim
job, Codex!

INT. TINKERBALLA'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

TINKERBALLA (Judy Lee), early 20's, a ballsy Asian girl,
stares at her monitor and yells into her mic. Everything is
Sanrio bright and cute behind her.

TINKERBALLA

I was being raped by goblins and
you were standing there with your
staff up your ass!

CODEX

Sorry.

VORK (O.S.)

Tinkerballa, Guild Rule #4. No
finger pointing.

BLADEZZ (O.S.)

She can come to my house, and do
whatever she wants with her finger.

INT. BLADEZZ BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

BLADEZZ (Simon Klemper), 14, reclines in a computer chair.
He's cute in a teeny-bopper way, but his voice is a lame
attempt at cool.

VORK (O.S.)

Bladezz! Guild rule RULE #12!

BLADEZZ

Ooh. Daddy guild leader so angry.

CODEX (O.S.)

You guys ever get the feeling we
play this game too much?

TINKERBALLA (O.S.)

Yeah, so then I web surf. Look,
some chick in China squirted out an
18 pound baby. Check the link.

BLADEZZ

Damn!

CLARA (O.S.)

Clara's back!

INT. CLARA'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

CLARA, (Clara Beane), 30's, what happens to a cheerleader after two kids, sits in front of a computer nursing a baby.

CLARA

Sorry for AFKing, my stupid nanny
left without feeding Bellamy again!
(yelling behind her)
Bell, Gaby tomorrow Mommy's
teaching you to use microwave!
(into mic)
So, did Zaboo show up yet?

Through a child gate behind Clara, BELLAMY, 4, and Gaby, 2, eat and stare longingly at their mother, food all over their faces.

INT. VARIOUS BEDROOMS/OFFICES - INTERCUT

VORK

No, and I'm docking him attendance
points as we speak. Let this be a
lesson.

CLARA

Weird! Zaboo never misses a Guild
run!

TINKERBALLA

Yeah. Even when his Uncle died he
found WiFi at the funeral home.

CODEX

He didn't say anything about taking
time off did he...oh my God, you
guys, Zaboo hasn't been on in 39
hours!

Everyone reacts, stunned/in shock.

VORK

What the heck?

There's a deadly beat of silence over the mic. Clara's children cry.

CLARA
That's like two days, right?
(giggles)
Nursing makes me stupid!

BLADEZZ
You're nursing right now? That's
frikkin' hot.

CLARA
I know, right?

BLADEZZ
Is anyone else getting their nips
sucked on?

VORK
Bladezz!

A doorbell chimes over the mic.

INT. CODEX'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Codex looks up, confused.

CODEX
(into mic)
I'll be right back.

INT. CODEX'S LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Codex peers through the eyehole, sees nothing. Another ring.

EXT. CODEX'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Codex opens the peep hole of her front door and sees SUJAN, 24, an overly upbeat Indian guy.

SUJAN
Hi! Hey! Hi! Cyd Sherman? These
are for you.

CODEX
Oh, ok.

She opens the front door. Sujan is holding a bouquet of shiny blue roses. A suitcase is at his feet. He thrusts the bouquet at her.

SUJAN

Yeah I made them. I spray painted them myself. Craft'd!

He thrusts the bouquet at her. Codex takes it.

CODEX

Thanks! They're...they're beautiful.

SUJAN

Well thank you. You're beautiful. That's why I did it.

(beat)

You have a nice forehead.

CODEX

I'm sorry, do I know you?

SUJAN

Of course you know me. Remember? I was gored by a Wyvern last week and you totally resurrected me? And then I bought a blue flower for you from the gardens of Bleaklands and you know it was totally worth the money but it was a lot but it was worth it.

CODEX

Zaboo?!

SUJAN

Yeah! Yes! Zaboo! Right, I'm at your doorstep! Doorstep'd! Where should I put this stuff? God, I haven't logged on in like 21 hours.

ZABOO (Sujan) waltzes into Codex's apartment. Codex looks lost.

CODEX

Doorstepp'd?

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

INT. CODEX'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Codex sits in front of her webcam as before.

CODEX

I mean, I've been...*friendly* online with Zaboo but nothing you wouldn't say to a co-worker you see like five...eight, nine hours a day. I guess online flirtation can be interpreted many ways. Especially if you're delusional.

INT. CODEX'S APARTMENT - DAY

Codex watches as Zaboo makes himself at home.

ZABOO

Yeah, it was pretty easy to track you down 'cause I'm awesome! Address, cellphone records, Xanax dosage...I know everything about you! Pretty cool, huh?

CODEX

Yeah..no, no. Not really.

ZABOO

I tried to get here before raid time but the Greyhound kept stopping for old lady bladders. Bladder'd.

CODEX

So, we've never met before. This is my house. What are you doing...here?

ZABOO

Codex, you seem sad lately, and I came here to the physical realm to hold you. Look, this long-distance thing is killing our relationship.

Zaboo holds out his arms for her.

CODEX

What? Zaboo, no. We don't have a relationship.

(MORE)

CODEX (CONT'D)

I mean, we're friends. Friends
online. Anonymously.

Zaboo opens his laptop and reads from the screen.

ZABOO

Uh really? This chat log says
otherwise. Chat Log, 5:38 am.
3/13/07. Codex: Where r u? Zaboo:
Farming in Netherhell. Codex: Can
I help? I need gold. Zaboo: I
will give you gold. That's pretty
sweet of me. Codex: No, I don't
want ruin our *relationship*.
Followed by a "winking smile". Ok?
I mean, you winkie'd me.

CODEX

No, because that was a keyboard
error! It was just supposed to be
a colon. A nice impersonal colon.
The semi-colon just slips in when
I, I can't hit the shift key...

Zaboo stops her talking with a finger to her lips.

ZABOO

It's a Freudian slip. K?
(kneels)
Our keyboard chemistry is
undeniable. I just really think
that...oh, my God.

CODEX

What? What's wrong?

ZABOO

I gotta drop some kids off at the
pool right now.

CODEX

What are you talking about?

ZABOO

I have to go poo.

CODEX

Oh. Ew. Gross. Ok, so you can go
down the hall and it's the first
door on the, to the left...

ZABOO

To the left. No, I know. 'Cause I know every floor plan of every place you've ever lived. Floor plan'd.

INT. CODEX'S BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Codex, looking dazed, sits down at her computer and hears an argument online. She leans into the mic and interrupts.

CODEX

(into mic)

Hey guys, hey guys!...I found Zaboo. Yay.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

INT. CODEX'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

CODEX

(sighs)

I guess I just don't cope well...with anything. I mean, I, there's always a lot of drama in the game, but at the end of the night you can always just log off. You can't log off from your own life. Oh, I mean you can...not like...I didn't mean that...

Codex flusters, then groans.

INT. VARIOUS BEDROOMS/OFFICES - DAY

CODEX

(into mic)

Hey guys, hey guys!...I found Zaboo. Yay.

CLARA

What? What? Where is he?

CODEX

In my bathroom...pooing evidently.

CLARA

Oh...I hate poo.

TINKERBALLA

He's there? Visiting you?

(BEAT)

You slut.

CODEX

No! No, it's not like that at all
it's...

Zaboo enters and leans into Codex's mic.

ZABOO

Hey everybody, it's Zaboo! I'm at
Codex's! We're networking our
computers together! Network'd.

TINKERBALLA (O.S.)

How romantic.

Zaboo starts moving things to make room for his equipment.

VORK (O.S.)

It's good you're here Zaboo.
Something horrible's just happened
in the Guild. Tell them Bladezz!

INT. VARIOUS BEDROOMS/OFFICES - INTERCUT

Vork is cooking bacon on his George Foreman grill.

BLADEZZ

Yeah, I've got a real LOL
situation. Just got a 24 hour ban.

CODEX

What? What did you do, Bladezz?!

BLADEZZ

I was at the Trading House and I
might have yelled "FAG" a few
thousand times. I made a macro.

CODEX

That is not cool! My Dad...turned
gay.

CLARA

And her ex-boyfriend too!

CODEX

Clara!

BLADEZZ

Wow. Codex: Slayer of Masculinity.

ZABOO

(to Codex)

Will I'll never be gay.

VORK

Bladezz, our Guild has an untarnished reputation! The "Knights of Good" stand for good and all things related to good! As a founding member of this guild, how are you proposing to rectify this? Bladezz?

There's total silence over the mic except for popping bacon.

VORK

Bladezz! Repeat!

TINKERBALLA

You either bored him to death or he logged off. Oh he logged off. Can I fucking attack now?

VORK

No, you cannot! Guild business always gets sidetracked by killing and looting! This is serious!

Codex turns to see Zaboo setting a photo on the desk next to his laptop. It's a picture of him and Codex together.

ZABOO

Hey Your DMV photo. I downloaded it. Photoshopp'd.

Zaboo exits. A desperate look crosses Codex's face.

CODEX

(blurts into mic)

Hey Guys, why don't we meet in person to talk about it?

There's a deadly silence over the mic.

VORK

Physically? In person?

CODEX

Well um, Zaboo's here, and...I'm not exactly sure what to do with him. Besides we're a local guild! It would be easy to meet! Why haven't we met before? Well, I guess because we're playing too many computer games, but we could all use some time away from keyboard! Clara, when's the last time you went out with someone over the age of four?

CLARA

Like before I started breeding! Ooh, let's do brunch! I love pancakes!

VORK

But we need a course of action to deal with Bladezz and his behavior problems! It'll be more distracting *seeing* each other. And also, I don't wanna!

CODEX

You could draft us an agenda.

VORK

(BEAT)

I do have an appropriate Word template.

CODEX

Tink?

TINKERBALLA

No way. I like you guys the way you are, cartoon characters who let me feel a sense of achievement in an imaginary world.

CODEX

Fifty in-game gold.

TINKERBALLA

I'm in. So, when? Next weekend, next...

CODEX

No let's meet tomorrow! No need to delay forming a socially approved support system!

TINKERBALLA

That was creepy.

VORK

Somewhere with a low price point.
I didn't budget for social
activities this month.

ZABOO (O.S.)

The Guild's gonna meet? Awesome!

Codex turns to see Zaboo's standing in her doorway,
wearing only a pair of tighty whities and a shiny gold
turban.

CODEX

Oh, dear God no.

ZABOO

You like my helm? It's plus five
to sexterity. Get it? It's like
Dexterity but with sex in the
front. Like a prefix. I'm kinda a
linguist.

CREDITS: OUTTAKE

ZABOO

(outtake)

Oh, no. I forgot to pack my robe.
Forgot it. So I guess we'll have
to make due. Without the robe.
This is my magic carpet...

Laughter.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

INT. CODEX'S BEDROOM - CURRENT

CODEX

It was a delicate after that, with
Zaboo exposed and everything, but I
was quick to establish parameters.
I started crying hysterically and
then he put his pants back on.

(BEAT)

Ok we're gonna go to the meeting,
and then he'll go home. Hopefully
without a restraining order.

EXT. PARKING LOT - MORNING

Codex gets out of her car, slamming the door. Zaboo rushes around to meet her.

ZABOO
Don't get the door, I'll get it.
Chivalrous.

ZABOO
Sorry, I'm sorry about the shower,
it took so long. It's just your
shampoo got all in my nose and...

CODEX
It's fine.

ZABOO
...I started thinking about you in
the shower with me and...

CODEX
I just really hate being late, you
know. I always get everywhere a
half-hour early and just, you know,
sit in the car waiting mostly so...

As they walk to the diner entrance Clara intercepts them and crushes Codex in a hug.

ZABOO
Ok that's, that's a little
neurotic.

CLARA
Codex? Uch! I'm Clara! How are
you?! And you must be Zaboo!

Clara turns and crushes Zaboo in another hug.

ZABOO
I am. Yes. And your breasts are
very pillowy.

CLARA
Thank you!

ZABOO
You're welcome!

CODEX

Hi, Clara! So uh, did you recognize my voice?

CLARA

(shakes head)

No, Zaboo posted photos of you sleeping last night.

ZABOO

(adoringly)

Yeah, the flash didn't even wake you.

Codex turns abruptly and starts walking towards the entrance. Zaboo lags behind, applying lip balm.

ZABOO

That's fine...that was a very angry look!

EXT. DINER - CONTINUOUS

CODEX

(to Clara)

So, we're looking for Vork, Tink and Bladezz right?

CLARA

No, Bladezz isn't coming. Vork didn't want to invite him. Something about "firewalling our priorities."

ZABOO

Hey guys! Wait up! Zaboooooo!

CODEX

But it's a Guild meeting! Everyone should be here!

Codex continues as they enter the restaurant.

INT. DINER - MOMENTS LATER

People mill about the hostess station and the waiting area. Clara, Codex and Zaboo enter and gather near the doorway.

ZABOO

Alright! Let's get the party going!

HOSTESS

Welcome to Cheesybeards. Arrrg you ready to be seated?

CODEX

No, we're just meeting people.

CLARA

So what do Tink and Vork look like?

CODEX

Right. Good point...

Tink sits a foot away from them playing Gameboy. A few beats go by.

TINKERBALLA

Don't talk to me. I haven't decided if I'm joining you yet.

CODEX

Tink? I'm Codex and...

TINKERBALLA

Seriously. Don't talk to me.

CLARA

Okie dokey! So where's Vork?

CODEX

Um, what does he do?

ZABOO

He's a Fighter. But, you know skills are metalworking and...

CODEX

In real life, Zaboo!

ZABOO

I don't know, I didn't have time to research him so...back off...lady. Sorry. Uh...this is our first fight. Maybe we'll have makeup sex later or...

CODEX

No.

ZABOO

Not.

CODEX

What about that guy over there?

Zaboo point to Vork, speaking into a voice recorder.

ZABOO

The Bald one?

CLARA

Hmm, I never pictured Vork being bald! He's so confident on the mic.

CODEX

You can't be bald and confident?

CLARA

Um, your scalp is *out* all the time.

They skirt over to eavesdrop leaving Zaboo behind. He leans over to Tink.

ZABOO

Hey, I think it's cool that you're Asian.

TINKERBALLA

Shoo, shoo.

ZABOO

I'm just sayin' we're from the same continent...

TINKERBALLA

Dismissed.

ZABOO

Yeah.

He leaves.

Codex, Clara and Zaboo skirt over to where Vork's talking into a voice recorder. They eavesdrop.

VORK

Soothe a wizard's ego...finish
Parched Forest delivery then
proceed to timber mill Night
Spiders...

Zaboo and Codex exchange triumphant looks.

CLARA
(stage whispers)
That might be him.

Tinkerballa finally joins the group.

TINKERBALLA
You think?

ZABOO
Oh! Tink! Tinkerballa!

Codex introduces herself.

CODEX
Vork? Hi, I'm Codex, real name
Cyd. It's not short for anything.

VORK
Greetings Guildies! Herman, call
me Vork, I simply respond to it
better.
(to Codex)
You don't look like your picture.

Vork shakes hands firmly, then hands out collated agenda
portfolios.

CODEX
Maybe because my eyes are open.
Um, this is Zaboo, real name...

ZABOO
Sujan Perumparambil Goldberg.

CODEX
Really?

ZABOO
Yeah. I'm a Hin-jew. It's like
part Hindu part Jew.

CLARA
And I'm Clara! Real name Clara!

VORK
You use your real name for your
avatar. Interesting.

CLARA

Yeah, well I tried an alias on another game, but my kid picked it up and started calling me Mominatrix. My husband got pissed.

TINKERBALLA

Yeah I have the same name as my character too.

CODEX

Your real name is Tinkerballa?

TINKERBALLA

As far as you guys know it is.

CODEX

Well, it's great to finally meet everyone! After spending 6 hours a day together, we can finally put a face to a voice. Talk about real life for a change!

There's nodding heads all around, then a horrible awkward pause. Really long. Vork starts muttering to himself strangely.

TINKERBALLA

An epic dagger dropped for me this morning.

CLARA

Oh my god, really?!

VORK

Loinslicer or Zombieblade?

ZABOO

Epic'd!

He and Tinkerballa high-five.

CODEX

I'll get us a table.

FADE OUT:

INT. CODEX'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

CODEX

Well uh, the meeting went great. The Guild helped me explain to Zaboo that I like him, but only as a friend and he was totally cool with that. He packed up his stuff and left and now, now I'm just hanging..

Zaboo pops into frame with oven gloves on.

ZABOO

Hey. Love monkey. The dinner's ready. So. Whenever you're ready to come. Don't want it to get cold!

CODEX

Ok.

ZABOO

This is nice. We should use these.

CODEX

Ok bye.

Zaboo exits.

CODEX

I was lying. Lied to my own webcam.

INT. DENNY'S BOOTH - CONTINUOUS

The Guild sits in a booth attempting conversation.

CLARA

...so my husband's in pharmaceuticals and I stay at home with the kids...where I'm in pharmaceuticals too, haha!

CODEX

Great! Thanks for sharing. Tink?

Codex looks expectantly at Tink.

TINKERBALLA

Well, I just got a job at a fashion magazine as the assistant to the editor. It's a dream come true. I know I don't have the looks to fit in, but I decided to stick it out. Do whatever it takes to fulfill my dreams.

ZABOO

Yeah, that's the plot to Ugly Betty.

CLARA

Oh my God, it is! What a coincidence!

As the conversation starts veering off on a tangent, at the opposite side of the table, Codex turns to Vork.

CODEX

So...what do you do Vork?

VORK

I was thinking of dropping metalworking for...

CODEX

(cuts him off)

I'm a violinist, you know, former child prodigy. Now I'm old.

ZABOO

Well you know what I love...this thing. This one.

Zaboo points to Codex.

CODEX

Um, what about you? Real life? Question?

VORK

Um, I was taking care of my grandfather full-time but he passed away last summer.

CODEX

Oh, I'm sorry.

VORK

He was a great man. He gave me this suit. And his house. I still get his Social Security checks.

CODEX

Isn't that illegal?

VORK

What?

CODEX

Isn't that illegal?

VORK

I'm very happy for you two.

CODEX

What? Zaboo? Oh, no, Zaboo and me? No, no. I'm sorry it's just uh there is no circumstance under which we are together in any way shape or form it's just that...

Codex turns to hear Zaboo talking to Clara and Tink.

ZABOO

...yeah, so we're gonna have an in-game ceremony and it's gonna be off the hook, frankly. Because that's where it started...online. So...

CODEX

Zaboo? Can you...

ZABOO

Yes, my love?

CODEX

Would you mind getting my sweater from the car?

ZABOO

A quest! Do I get a reward if I turn it in? Like maybe a...I could get it now? I'll get it later. With tongue...

Zaboo tries to lean in for a kiss but Codex evades, laughing. He takes her keys and exits. Codex turns to the others, still laughing.

CODEX
(desperate)
Help me.

TINKERBALLA
Help you? With what? You and
Zaboo have been sucking virtual
face since the Gargoyle Fest.

CODEX
That is not true that's ridiculous!

CLARA
There were a lot of winkies in
guild chat.

CODEX
It's because the semi-colon just
slips in! I just...ok can you guys
help me explain to him that there's
no way...why is there a pack of
cheese on the table?

VORK
Thank you for asking, Codex. The
price difference here between a
cheeseburger and a hamburger is one
dollar. Now if you divide twelve
into \$2.95, the cost of a pack of
Kraft Deli Deluxe mild cheddar
slices, each slice costs 24.5
cents. If you bring your own
cheese, that's a savings of 75.5
cents per burger. Anybody
requiring cheese can pay me so
accordingly. Go ahead and round
up.

TINKERBALLA
What the fuck?

VORK
I want to grow my money, Tink. Not
spend it on cheese gouging.

CODEX
Ok. Forget the cheese!

CLARA
Yeah, you guys cut it out, ok! Cut
the cheese out! Cut-the-cheese.

Clara giggles uncontrollably at her own joke.

CODEX

Listen you guys! How do I get Zaboo to understand...

Codex is interrupted as Zaboo arrives back at the table.

ZABOO

Your cloak M'lady. It's +15 to frost resist. I thought of that on the way over.

Everyone laughs but Codex. Vork checks something off his agenda.

VORK

Very funny, very funny. That's enough socialization. Let's turn to page two of the collated agenda. Bladezz is one of the Knights of Good founding members, but his attendance as of late has been less than stellar, and his attitude worse.

TINKERBALLA

Boot him.

CLARA

No! He's like the retarded cousin of the guild! The right thing to do is to let him play tag, even though he runs around hitting people.

CODEX

Yeah, Clara's right. In theory. Um...

BLADEZZ (O.S.)

Hey...I thought I smelled nerd stink coming from this booth.

Bladezz stands at the table smirking like an evil mastermind. Everyone looks confused but Zaboo.

ZABOO

Hey Bladezz, my man!

Codex looks at Zaboo, puzzled, then to Bladezz.

CODEX

(to Zaboo)

You guys have met before?

Zaboo shakes his head quickly and Bladezz looks puzzled.

CLARA

(waving)

I'm Clara! I'm old enough to be your mom!

BLADEZZ

And that doesn't spring me. But you other ladies...

VORK

Bladezz, I'm Vork. We have been discussing you.

BLADEZZ

I figured. Clara's post on the Officer's forum was titled "Cheesybeard's meeting to discuss Bladezz."

CLARA

Oh, see that's why I don't play a rogue!

BLADEZZ

So, you guys were gonna kick me out behind my back, huh? After all the hours I put in with you?

CODEX

Well, the meeting wasn't just about you, it was about the Guild getting to know each other!

BLADEZZ

Ah. That makes me feel less left out.

ZABOO

We've got your back, Bladezz.

Zaboo indicates himself and Codex.

CODEX

Don't speak for me.

BLADEZZ

Well, I just want to remind Vork that he transferred the entire guild bank to my other character last week, so I have all the guild gold.

(MORE)

BLADEZZ (CONT'D)

I have all the guild equipment, and
...yeah, that's it. Have a nice
meal.

Bladezz starts to leave all cool and suave, but his sister
DINA, 11, tomboyish and direct, marches up to him.

DINA

Simon! Two minutes are up. Dad
says get your ass in the car.

ZABOO

She's adorable.

BLADEZZ

I'm coming.

DINA

These your internet friends?
They're old. Any of them pervs?

Everyone looks at Zaboo, who shakes his head innocently.

ZABOO

No. No one's a perv.

BLADEZZ

Dina! You ruined my exit!

Bladezz turns back to the Guild and tries to think of a great
exit line, but fails. Frustrated, he turns and leaves. The
rest of the Guild turns to Vork.

CLARA

That was awkward.

CODEX

You transferred the guild bank to
BLADEZZ?!?!

VORK

Let me explain...

TINKERBALLA

Let me. One day, Vork decided to
smoke a doobie and his whole left
hemisphere of his brain disappeared
from his stupid bald head. Then,
he gave the guild bank to Bladezz.
The end.

VORK

In the world of Management 2.0 you
have to trust all your widgets!

(MORE)

VORK (CONT'D)

Clear blue ocean. Clear blue ocean.
I gave the greatest responsibility
to the weakest link of the guild
chain, in order to strengthen us as
a whole.

Clara starts giggling uncontrollably for a long beat.

CLARA

You said a-hole.

CODEX

So, now Bladezz has all the gold,
all the loot, and 6 months of
gathered materials?

CLARA

Vork! The retarded cousin *rides*
the short bus, you don't let him
drive!

Tinkerballa texts on her phone.

TINKERBALLA

My boyfriend's totally laughing at
us right now.

CODEX

Where is he?

TINKERBALLA

In the car. Where I told him to
wait.

CLARA

Can you have him check on my kids
for me? It's a green SUV.

CODEX

You left your kids in the car?!

CLARA

What? I cracked the windows!

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

INT. CODEX'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Codex speaks into the webcam.

CODEX

I guess it was pretty desperate, thinking the Guild could help me with this Zaboo you know...whatever this is. Maybe I should go to my spam folder for help. "Dear Minni Hymen, thanks for telling me about your herbal Viagra. Any chance you can help me with this warlock on my couch?"

(BEAT)

I know. I'm not funny.

INT. CODEX'S APARTMENT - AFTERNOON

Codex and Zaboo enter from brunch.

CODEX

I knew leaving Bladezz out was a mistake!

ZABOO

Tink said she'd talk him down, you know. They're close, they kill newbies together for fun. So, now that the courtship part is over I figure...I can put my wizard staff into your mana pool now..

CODEX

No. No. Ew, Zaboo, I need you to get a hotel room. This is...not working out.

ZABOO

Ok, then how can we form a codependency together. That does not compute.

CODEX

Yeah. Exactly. Look, I just got out of a relationship, and...

ZABOO

Right, the guy whose cello you set on fire. Cello'd.

CODEX

How did you know about that? Uch, look who I'm talking to.

ZABOO

No worries. I dig the fiery
redhead thing. Even though it's
clearly not natural.

CODEX

(suddenly upset)

I caught him with the first-chair
oboe, Gunther, and his oboe...

ZABOO

Ooh. Oboe'd.

CODEX

I don't know. Maybe video games do
make you violent.

Codex gets emotional. Zaboo hugs her.

ZABOO

No. Shh. Shut up, ok? Shut your
mouth.

Codex starts to lean into his comfort, then stiffens.

ZABOO (CONT'D)

Oops. Woodie'd.

Codex pushes him away.

CODEX

Ok, I want you out of here,?
You're inappropriate, I am not
interested in you, and...I don't
want you here! Ok? Done!

ZABOO

(BEAT)

Cool. I can read body language.
I get it. I'll go pack my stuff.

Zaboo looks forlorn and exits. Codex calls after him.

CODEX

I don't *not* like you...

Silence. Codex walks into her bedroom, frustrated.

INT. CODEX'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Zaboo is packing as Codex enters the bedroom. Zaboo looks up and immediately starts to drag his suitcase out of the room. He turns back to her.

ZABOO
Hey, I'm sorry, ok? I just schwing
for you.

Zaboo grabs the photo of them together and exits. Codex sits down at her computer and turns on the speakers. Voices fill the room.

VORK (O.S.)
Tink! Take out the runners,
they're pulling more mobs!

INT. VORK'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Vork is using an old-fashioned adding machine, wearing a visor and playing on the computer at the same time.

TINKERBALLA (O.S.)
But I thought if I play like a
taint bag I get to keep all the
loot. Isn't that how you run the
Guild now?

INT. - CLARA'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Clara is pumping breast milk and playing at the same time.

CLARA
You guys, stop fighting! Jeez!

INT. VARIOUS BEDROOMS/OFFICES - INTERCUT

CODEX
Hey. We're...I'm back.

VORK
Good, get in here! Zaboo too.

CODEX
Zaboo won't be logging on right
now.

TINKERBALLA
Post-coital'd?

VORK
Clara! You're running into the
wall again.

CLARA
Sorry, I'm playing one-handed! I'm
almost finished pumping!

TINKERBALLA
(snorts)
I wish Bladezz was here for that
one.

VORK
Me too. I'd like to open
negotiations immediately for the
Guild Bank. This is why I don't
leave the house!

CODEX
I'm sorry everyone! It was my idea
to have the meeting and now Zaboo's
upset and...

Clara interrupts, stage whispering into her headset.

CLARA
Oh my God, you guys! I'm in big
trouble! My nanny quit!

CODEX
What? Just now?

CLARA
No. I guess she left like a week
ago! She's IMing me right now.

TINKERBALLA
How could you not notice she was
gone?

CLARA
She claims I didn't hear her
quitting 'cause I was "killing
gnomes" which is just stupid,
because I'M a gnome! Then she says
she left a note. There's no note!

Gabby and Bellamy stand at the office barrier, eating ripped
paper and holding an empty box of crayons.

CODEX

I can't believe you left your kids alone that long! Are they ok?

CLARA

They're fine! Maybe. See the baby got fed 'cause my breasts they get all achy to remind me, but I guess Bell and Gabbie have been feeding themselves. No wonder they smell like ham and crayons! Should I take them to the ER or just...wait for rainbow poo?

VORK

I'm not qualified to answer that. I am, however, certified in CPR and sushi preparation.

TINKERBALLA

No one cares!

CLARA

I need a new nanny, like, tomorrow! I have super important plans and my husband'll notice if they're all loose and stuff!

CODEX

Can't he watch them?

CLARA

It's his day off. Why would he want to spend it with the kids?

TINKERBALLA

You can pick up a guy in the Home Depot parking lot. They come cheap.

CODEX

She's not repairing a roof!

VORK

Ahem. My research shows that nannies earn anywhere from \$8-\$12 an hour. I would be happy to offer my services for a comparable price.

TINKERBALLA

No! I want the babies!

CODEX

Why? You have the maternal instincts of a woodchipper.

TINKERBALLA

Vork wants them, I want to punish Vork, so I want them! He gave away the GUILD BANK! I want him homeless and logging on from a ditch!

VORK

I need that money, Tink! I spent fifty percent of my savings on that meal today!

CLARA

Um, Your share was like ten bucks.

VORK

\$10.87. I know that number well.

CLARA

Well, if Vork needs the money...

TINKERBALLA

Forget money! I have a uterus!

CLARA

Oooh, I was in a sorority. I'm super into vagina loyalty...

INT. CODEX'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

There's a doorbell ring. Codex looks up and rolls her eyes.

INT. CODEX'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Codex marches over and opens the door. AVINASHI BALKRISHNAN GOLDBERG, a coiffed woman in her 40's, is on the doorstep.

AVINASHI

Where is my son? I know he's here. I tracked his GPS signal.

CODEX

GPS? I thought he took the bus.

AVINASHI

He's been microchipped.

Zaboo appears behind Codex.

ZABOO

Mom?! What are you doing here!
Codex and I are in love!

Zaboo runs away into the apartment. Codex watches him go, then turns back to Avinashi just in time to see Avinashi's fist coming at her full force.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

INT. CODEX'S BEDROOM - WEBCAM

CODEX

I have a headache. Maybe because
my skull hit the floor yesterday.
Zaboo locked himself in the
bathroom right after his Mom got
here and she's been yelling at him
through the door for oh...all night.

(BEAT)

Wait. I don't hear anything.
Maybe they left.

Codex gets up. Sound of door opening. Silence, then some yelling. Door slam. Codex sits back down in front of the webcam, freaked out. She mouths "Help me" into the camera.

INT. CODEX'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Codex plays at the computer in her pajamas. She looks at the bedroom door, nervously. There's a chair propped under the doorknob. Sounds of a violent argument waft in.

CODEX

So...Clara dropped her kids at the
curb?

INT. TINK'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

TINKERBALLA

(shrugging)

It was a loading zone and she
couldn't wait. It's cool. I
rounded them up.

Behind Tink, all three of Clara's children are playing happily in a doggie cage.

CODEX

I still can't believe you got the kids.

INT. VARIOUS OFFICES/BEDROOMS - INTERCUT

VORK

We settled it the adult way. We dueled for it.

TINKERBALLA

I kicked his ass.

VORK

Lucky proc.

TINKERBALLA

QQ more.

Codex sniffs the air.

CODEX

Wait listen...do you smell that?

INT. CODEX'S KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

Codex enters the kitchen. Avinashi is cooking at the stove. The food looks fabulous. She looks fabulous.

AVINASHI

Blintzes?

CODEX

Uh...sure...

Codex reaches towards the plate, ready to dodge a fist.

AVINASHI

Your poor head! I'm like a mama cougar with her cubs. Mess with my baby, I rip out your spleen!

She laughs and makes a clawing motion at Codex, who flinches and laughs awkwardly. Avinashi goes back to cooking.

CODEX

Uh, yeah! That's...creepy.

AVINASHI (CONT'D)

You can imagine how upset I was yesterday! I went to give Sujan his bath, he was gone. No note, he didn't answer his cell phone...it was like having a hysterectomy all over again.

CODEX

(BEAT)

Right. You went to give him his bath?

AVINASHI

More quality time with my son.

Avinashi stares at Codex for a beat, weirding her out.

CODEX

So...you guys leaving soon?

AVINASHI

Yes. I finally convinced him your homely charm isn't worth throwing his life away for. He's packing now. You'd better not stop him.

CODEX

Don't worry. I...Zaboo came here by himself! I did not invite him.

AVINASHI

Zampoo? You renamed him! How sweet. Like the Moonies.

CODEX

No, that's his character name in the game we play together. Online. It sounds kind of lame when you try to explain it to real people but...

AVINASHI

(menacing)

He'd better still be a virgin.

CODEX

Uh...I'll go say goodbye.

Codex exits.

INT. CODEX'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Codex peers into her bedroom. No Zaboo, but a loud argument coming from the computer draws her in. She sits down. Intercut for the remainder of the scene.

CODEX
(into mic)
Hey. What's going on?

TINKERBALLA
Delicious drama.

VORK
Bladezz just posted a video on the official forums. It's a PR disaster!

Codex types on the computer and stares at the screen.

CODEX
Oh my God! How did he make our characters naked?!

TINKERBALLA
And animated.

VORK
And why make me defile everyone?!
It's against my alignment!

Behind Tink, Clara's kids stare at the screen from the cage.

TINKERBALLA
Don't worry, kids. They're just dancing.

Zaboo enters Codex's bedroom with his laptop and a weird look on his face. He stands behind Codex and stares at the screen.

CODEX
There you are. Look what Bladezz posted!

ZABOO
Oh Wow, it's you and me naked, doing it. Naked'd. Sex'd...whatever.
(BEAT)
I guess this is goodbye.

CODEX

Yeah, well, it was a nice...visit.
I'll talk to you on the other side.

Codex indicates the computer mic.

ZABOO

So true. Ok. Logging off.

Codex waves and goes back to the mic. Zaboo walks further into the bedroom instead of leaving but Codex doesn't notice.

CODEX

Tink, weren't you going to talk
some sense into Bladezz?

Behind Codex, Zaboo makes a noose out of a DSL cord.

TINKERBALLA

I just said that to make the
meeting end quicker. Oh, my
fucking God. What is that smell?

(BEAT)

It's the babies!

Tinkerballa looks behind her at the kids, who are crying.

CODEX

Diaper change?

TINKERBALLA

(panicked)

No way! She never said I had to
touch them!

VORK

Bladezz's video is going to get us
perma-banned from the game! The
"Knights of Good: Lovin' edition"
is plastered all over the place!

CODEX

Maybe if we PM a forum moderator...

Zaboo starts hanging himself and makes gagging noises behind Codex. She turns to look.

CODEX (CONT'D)

Oh my god!

FADE OUT:

INT. CODEX'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

CODEX

When I turned and saw Zaboo trying to hang himself with an ethernet cord...I jumped up immediately. Like a ninja. Oh, my shirt's on backwards. I don't mean to be self-centered but this was a real breakthrough moment for me. I mean my therapist is always telling me be bold and take control. Nothing makes you proactive like watching someone try to hang themselves.

Codex gives a positive thumbs up sign.

INT. CODEX'S BEDROOM - DAY

Codex jumps up, knocking over items onto her keyboard, (holding down some buttons). She struggles with Zaboo.

CODEX

No! Stop it! Stop it! What are you doing, you idiot! Stop it!

Codex grabs the cord and holds it up.

CODEX

Really?! Stupid, stupid, stupid!

ZABOO

Look! I can't go back with her! My only option is re-rolling!

CODEX

No! Your mother loves you! Maybe too much, but you need to go home!

Zaboo grabs her hand.

ZABOO

Codex, I can't drive.

CODEX

What?

ZABOO

She insists on driving me to college every day for the past four years.

CODEX

Wow.

ZABOO

She used to take me into the ladies' room with her until I was 15 years old. Every time I try to grow up she has a panic attack, or an ulcer, or some sort of breast polyp. Which she makes me feel. Look, the only place that I can be myself is online, but last week I caught her reading Internet for Dummies! If she finishes that book...I'm gonna have nothing left!

Codex stares at him, helpless. Clara breaks in on the mic.

CLARA

That's awful!

TINKERBALLA

Awesome.

VORK

Awkward.

TINKERBALLA

Awesome! Wait, Clara?!

ZABOO

Uh...everybody heard that?!

CODEX

Sorry. I left the mic open.

Codex gets up and straightens the desk.

ZABOO

God.

TINKERBALLA

Wait, Clara?

CLARA

I'm coming! I just need to change from pole dancing class!

TINKERBALLA

That was your appointment!? You mean I'm watching your sperm blossoms because you're training to be a stripper?!

CLARA

I have to stay nimble! How do you think I had three kids in three years?

TINKERBALLA

Come get them, now! Uch, the smell!

Tink reaches down and turns a Vornado fan on the babies in the cage. Bladezz logs on.

BLADEZZ

Yo! Dudes like my video? I gotta say , meeting you all in person was like, inspiring.

VORK

Bladezz! I'd like to open a formal negotiation to acquire...

CODEX

(into mic)

Take that video down before you get us all banned, tool face!

TINKERBALLA

Go girl!

BLADEZZ

Better idea. I'm gonna go play Richie Rich and give some Guild Bank bling to random newbies. Later, kitten.

Bladezz logs off.

VORK

We're doomed. I guess it's back to single player for me.

CODEX

Guys, guys! We can work this out, ok! With just a few of us, we can take down a ten-man dungeon! Life can't be that much harder!

There's a beat of silence. Zaboo pipes up behind Codex.

ZABOO

I know how to get Bladezz to give back the guild bank and then take that video down.

(MORE)

ZABOO (CONT'D)

Help me escape two-armed Kali out there and I'll show you!

Zaboo looks at Codex desperately and taps his laptop.

CODEX

Zaboo I...

ZABOO

Hey, help me Codex-Wan. You're my only hope.

Codex stares at his pleading, puppy dog eyes. Then...

CODEX

(into mic)

Ok, everyone. Meet us at Cheesybeard's in an hour to settle this.

CLARA

Yay! More pancakes.

ZABOO

(leans into mic)

And get Bladezz there too!

TINKERBALLA

Anything to off-load the poop factories.

VORK

I don't have gas money for that!

AVINASHI (O.S.)

Sujan! Attend to me!

Zaboo looks at her, desperate.

CODEX

(into mic)

Just do it!

(to Zaboo)

This better work. Come on.

Codex grabs her purse and climbs out the window. Zaboo follows with his laptop. Then turns back to grab the plate of Blintzes.

ZABOO

For the road.

They leave.

FADE OUT:

INT. CODEX'S BEDROOM - EVENING

CODEX

Small problem with our escape plan: There are bars on my windows that don't open. Yeah, that was inconvenient. And dangerous if there's ever a fire. But we opened the heating vent and we got out through the crawl space. Yeah, I'm kidding we just walked out the back door. I know! I don't know why, I don't know why. I don't...I just couldn't let Bladezz destroy the Guild! I mean, this is all I have in the world right now! God, I can't believe I just said that.

INT. DINER - AFTERNOON

Clara sits in the booth with a row of empty martinis with Vork, who pours himself a drink from a two liter Shasta that's hidden under his jacket.

VORK

Codex better come through. I want to get back on our regular gaming schedule! All this walking around is making my back hurt.

Tink walks up and slides into the booth, holding baby BLAKE far in front of her and wearing oven mitts. She thrusts him at Clara.

TINKERBALLA

Never. Again.

Tink sits and gets her Gameboy out. Bellamy, carrying her own diaper bag, runs over to Clara.

CLARA

(to Bellamy)

Did you have a good time with Auntie Tink? Now go play while mommy lunches.

Clara thrusts the baby Bellamy off into the restaurant as Codex arrives with Zaboo in tow, a bunch of newspapers in her arms.

CODEX

(out of breathe)

We got the goods. Zaboo's cyber-stalking skills came in handy for once.

ZABOO

Well, when I put my mind to something I accomplish it.

TINKERBALLA

Yeah, except kill yourself.

ZABOO

I mean, I could've.

Bladezz saunters up to the booth.

BLADEZZ

(to Tinkerballa)

Let me guess. Brazilian with a landing stip.

TINKERBALLA

At least I have something to wax.

CODEX

(to Bladezz)

Bladezz. Sit. We have a proposal.

BLADEZZ

First, I gotta see the lady nips.

CODEX

Excuse me?

TINKERBALLA

Oh. I told him if he showed up you'd flash him your boobs.

CODEX

Why would you say that?!

TINKERBALLA

'Cause I needed a reason. I'm not gonna show him mine!

CLARA

Hello! What about me? These aren't hams I'm smugglin'!

Clara gestures to her breasts.

BLADEZZ

I'd like the original recipe, thank you.

ZABOO

It's ok. I'm fine with it.

CODEX

No! No! No way! God.

BLADEZZ

(shrugs)

No flash, no cash.

He starts to saunter away. Codex looks desperately at Vork.

VORK

Bladezz! Nipple negotiations aside, we'd like to offer you a chance to apologize, return the Guild bank and take down that video.

BLADEZZ

(laughs)

Don't corpse camp that idea, it'll never rez.

CODEX

We thought you'd say that. Or something to that effect. So Zaboo and I drove around and got every copy of *this* we could find.

Codex pulls out a coupon insert from the papers. On the first page is Bladezz. He's selling a big sausage for "Meat Master" in the dorkiest manner ever.

BLADEZZ

OMG.

Bladezz pales and suddenly looks like the little kid he is.

CLARA

Oh, look at the little chef hat!

TINKERBALLA
(snickers)
Nice sausage.

BLADEZZ
How did you guys find this?!

ZABOO
Yeah, sorry dude. Codex helped me break up with my Mom, and then I trashed her bathroom with tears and poo and stuff, so I kinda owed her one.

CODEX
Right. Zaboo has a auto search set up on...everyone he meets really. That's how he recognized you yesterday. And got my pap smear results.

ZABOO
She's clean. I gotta check the hygiene before I hit it. I said I was sorry!

CODEX
His file on you contained your modeling alias, FINN SMULDERS, which led us to this juicy photo in the Sunday newspaper.

TINKERBALLA
What the hell kind of name is Finn Smulders?

BLADEZZ
My mom forced me into modeling to pay for college. I'm not gonna use my real name!

Codex holds up some more horrifying photos.

CODEX
From your online portfolio. These could all be faxed to the school paper.

BLADEZZ
That's a recipe for locker rape!

VORK
What'll it be? Repent or rape.

BLADEZZ

Fine! You guys win! I'll send the bank back to Vork and G-quit when I get home. I can't believe you newbs owned me like this.

(BEAT)

Gratz. This was a real-life teabag.

Bladezz turns and exits.

CODEX

I can't believe I did that you guys! I feel like I'm gonna puke.

CLARA

(not into it)

Yay. We kicked the retarded cousin.

ZABOO

Strangely, I do not feel good about this kill.

CODEX

Well, we saved the Guild! Isn't that what we wanted?

TINKERBALLA

Yes! I totally just beat Mario!

CODEX

What?

TINKERBALLA

What?

VORK

You're right, Codex. We can't worry about crushing souls in the name of justice. If we leave immediately we can still make our 2pm raid...

Zaboo interrupts, totally freaked out.

ZABOO

Oh my God. She's here!

Zaboo points to the entrance where Avinashi is scanning the restaurant.

ZABOO (CONT'D)

Ok, clearly that wasn't a microchip that I pulled out of my ear earlier so I'm gonna go. Lemmee out! Lemme out!

Zaboo starts to shove his way under the booth, but Codex stops him.

CODEX

No! Zaboo! We just won one fight, we can win another! Guys, the Guild has to help Zaboo take down the scariest boss of all time:

(BEAT)

His mother.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

INT. CODEX'S BEDROOM - EVENING

Codex is eating pudding and talking.

CODEX

I've never really felt like I have any control over my life. I think that's why I like video games. It's so much easier to measure life in experience points. But when I was in Cheesybeard's today and I saw that...woman...I had this crazy surge of confidence that I could take on something that was bigger and tougher than anything I'd taken on before. Because I had the Guild as backup. It was pretty cool.

(LONG BEAT)

This is really good pudding.

INT. CHEESYBEARD'S - AFTERNOON

From the booth, the Guild gazes at Avinashi.

ZABOO

Yeah...there's no way. She breastfed me until I was eleven, so there's no escape!

TINKERBALLA

Eleven!?

VORK

She is a formidable opponent...but
this could be a great group
building exercise! Attacks?

CODEX

Um, acid tongue and a mean right
hook, so stay alert.

CLARA

Potions out and ready.

CODEX

Let's make the pull.

Codex gets out of the booth and motions the others to follow.

ZABOO

Wait! Why are we doing this?

CODEX

She called me *homely*.

The Guild walks out of frame, leaving Zaboo.

ZABOO

Man up.

He follows the Guild out.

INT. CHEESYBEARD'S - CONTINUOUS

The Guild approaches Avinashi as a group. She spots Zaboo.

AVINASHI

Sujan! I have missed three Pilates
sessions with this latest escapade
of yours. Get in the car and let's
go!

CODEX

Mrs. Goldberg, um, Zaboo has
something to say to you.

AVINASHI

(rolls eyes)

You again? Sujan, can't you see?
Your babies would be so ugly!

ZABOO

(blurts)

Mom, I'm not...interested in
joining you...at this
juncture...very much.

AVINASHI

Excuse me?

Zaboo's POV: Avinashi's eyes literally flash fire.

ZABOO

Forget it, I'm coming! Ha ha,
joke'd. Ok. Let's get some
frosties!

Zaboo starts to leave. Codex holds him back and nudges Vork.

VORK

Madam, Zaboo is on record that he
does not wish to go home with you.
I can notarize a statement in
writing. I'm licensed, and have my
own seal. I carry it on my person.
Always.

AVINASHI

I'm sorry, but this is a family
issue. Your bald authority means
nothing to me.

TINKERBALLA

Vork has passive-aggressive aggro.
DPS begin.

CLARA

But she's so pretty...I mean, ugly!
Yuck! No wonder Zaboo wants leave
you! I like your dress.

AVINASHI

How many unemployed people have you
arranged to gang up on me?

CLARA

Look, your son doesn't want to live
with you anymore, duh! A real Mom
doesn't smother her kids! Heck,
they can live alone at 15, I did my
research. Anyways, if you love him
just listen! Oof, I'm out of mana.

VORK
Nice damage, Clara.

CODEX
He just wants to live his own life.
You can understand that, right?

Avinashi turns to Codex, aggressively clawing at her.

AVINASHI
You're started all this! How dare
you try to steal my son!

CODEX
I wasn't...

AVINASHI
Wasn't what? Able to put together
a decent outfit? Wax your little
moustache?

Codex whimpers, broken. Tink steps between them.

TINKERBALLA
Get off our healer, she's squishy!

AVINASHI
Out of the way, you!

Zaboo's POV: Green fog comes out of Avinashi's mouth and drifts towards Tinkerballa who waves it away.

TINKERBALLA
I'm immune to poison, *Lady Face*
Lift.

Avinashi gasps and touches her cheeks.

ZABOO
Yikes, nasty crit.

AVINASHI
(changing tactics)
Sujan, I'm just trying to protect
you. Every time you run off to one
of these online women I have to
come get you out of trouble!

CODEX
(to Zaboo)
Every time?

AVINASHI

Come home with me. Don't abandon me like your father did.

ZABOO

Mom, Dad had a heart attack!

AVINASHI

Out of spite! He ate all that fatty food on purpose! Please, son. You're all I have left.

Avinashi tears up, Emmy performance. Codex looks at Zaboo, whose will is starting to fade.

ZABOO

Augh! Don't cry! Brain melting!

CODEX

No! Zaboo! It's your life! You don't have to live it for her!

ZABOO

I know!! But...she's my mommy...

Zaboo approaches Avinashi slowly with his arms outstretched. Zaboo's POV: magical rays connect her fingers to his head.

CLARA

She's got him mind controlled! Do something, Vork!

VORK

(hypnotized)

Woman tears...paralyzed...

Bladezz appears from out of nowhere, and stands between Zaboo and Avinashi. Her finger rays disappear.

BLADEZZ

Zaboo's Mom, chill. A MILF as hot as you can find another son. Hell, I'll volunteer and you can spank me or bathe me or whatevs.

AVINASHI

Well thank you, but I don't want another son. And my son doesn't want another mother!

BLADEZZ

Oh yeah? He tried to suicide
'cause of you! No screenshot, but
trust me, it happened.

Avinashi looks back and forth between Zaboo and Bladezz.

AVINASHI

(to Zaboo)
Is this true?

ZABOO

Yeah...you kinda inspired it.

TINKERBALLA

Ouch.

Avinashi tries to gather words, but fails.

VORK

She's stunned. Heal him up Codex!

CODEX

(to Zaboo)
Zaboo you can tell her.
(BEAT)
We're here for you.

ZABOO

Mom...I'm tired of you treating me
like a little kid, ok? I'm an
adult and I'd like to be able to
read my porn wherever I want. In
the living room. During lunch.
So, look, I love you but Dad was
right. You can be a real crazy
b...lady.

(BEAT)

So, I'm not going home with you.

Avinashi collapses in slow motion onto a nearby chair.

CLARA

She's down!

The Guild cheers. Avinashi stands and gathers herself.

AVINASHI

(to Zaboo)
Don't bother changing your mind. I
always wanted a sewing room.

Avinashi turns and leaves. Codex turns, excited.

CODEX

Did you see what we did, you guys?
Socially maladjusted my butt!

TINKERBALLA

Yeah, we totally knocked her into
menopause.

ZABOO

Yeah, own'd. Just a sec guys...

CODEX

Zaboo, no!

Zaboo runs after Avinashi.

ZABOO (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Mom! Do I get a goodbye hug?

The Guild watches in horror as Zaboo is punched and lands at
their feet.

EXT. DINER - MOMENTS LATER

The Guild stands on the sidewalk and watches Avinashi leave
in her Hummer. Avinashi makes the cougar clawing motion at
Codex as she pulls away.

ZABOO (O.S.)

Is she gone?

Zaboo steps out behind Codex with a bruised eye.

VORK

For now. But remember, every boss
has a re-spawn timer.

Zaboo nods sagely.

TINKERBALLA

Speaking of spawn. Clara, where
are your kids?

Clara looks around blankly.

CLARA

(BEAT)

Oh, yeah. Right.

ZABOO
(to Bladezz)
Hey, thanks for coming out of
stealth back there, buddy.

BLADEZZ
No prob. I'm sorry I was douchey
to you guys. It's just hard being
exploited 'cause I'm all hot and
stuff. And I just kinda took it
out on you guys.

VORK
I suppose we can call our inbox
clean. You fought well for the
Guild.

BLADEZZ
(nods)
Yeah. Too bad she didn't drop any
loot.

ZABOO
She dropped some loot for Codex.

Zaboo puts his arm around Codex and leans his head on her
shoulder. Codex gets a look of realization on her face.

CODEX
Oh, sh...

FADE OUT: