

The Guild
Season 4

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EPISODE 1:

INT. CODEX'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Codex stares into her webcam.

CODEX

So, we faced off against the rival Guild, it came down to me and their leader, Fawkes, I kicked his butt, we met up for drinks then...oh man. I never win anything, and I've certainly never done stuff like...THAT on the first date so, I blame the heat of victory. Stupid confidence! Stupid cute gamer boy. Okay, I gotta come clean with the Guild. Better to be up front about this than be discovered. That would be SO after-school special! What if Vork caught us emoting together in-game, or Clara spotted us out at the movies? We'd be at a foreign one with subtitles, then we'd go out and eat something exotic afterwards like oysters, prosciutto ... whatever that is. Anyway, I'm gonna tell the Guild. I'm gonna do it. Just get it done. Yes!

Codex whimpers.

INT. VARIOUS OFFICES - DAY

Codex sits in her bedroom looking nervous, her leg bounces anxiously and she bites her nails. She's wearing Fawkes' jacket. Clara's is in her office singing. She's wearing a stuffed squid hat on her head.

CLARA

"Enchant a fish and make a wish ...
The festival of the Seaaaaaa!"

TINKERBALLA

Stop singing along with the NPCs!

CLARA

Oh come on, Tink! This is my favorite in-game holiday! All the mermaid quests and pirates! I can't wait to get my character that epic coconut bra!

Bladezz is in the Cheesybeard's Restaurant kitchen, wearing a Cheesybeard's shirt and a hair net and a gaming headset, cooking and peering into his laptop.

BLADEZZ

I get enough pirate crap here at work. Can we run a dungeon, or something that doesn't make me want to spit on a burger again?

Bladezz flips a patty on the grill. In Vork's office, Vork flips a burger patty on his own small desktop grill.

VORK

Before we embark upon the adorable seasonal sea horse pet quest, I have a proposal.

CODEX

You guys, hey, umm it's Codex. I just wanted to say -

ZABOO

I'm going to name my seahorse Drownny. Ironic'd.

CODEX

But Vork, I need to let you guys know that umm there's...

The lights flicker off and on in Codex's room.

CODEX (CONT'D)

What.... Is that a sign?

INT. VORK'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Zaboo's cell phone rings. The ring tone is loud and frantic, like a submarine diving. Zaboo panics.

ZABOO

Oh my god, it's my mom's ringtone!

He starts piling things on the cell phone.

ZABOO (CONT'D)

Why is she calling, why now? She hasn't called in weeks dude! Don't call, don't call! Stop! Stop stop!

VORK

Are you done now?

ZABOO
Yeah, I'm done.

CODEX
Back! As I was trying to say...

VORK
(interrupts)
I have decided that the "Knights of Good" should have a custom Guild Hall.

CODEX
(frustrated)
Or YOU go first.

CLARA
What?! A CUSTOM GUILD HALL! Oh, cool! What's that?!

ZABOO
Don't you read the patch notes?

CLARA
(chipper)
Never!

VORK
The new expansion has added player-designed housing to the game. My hope is that a communal Guild area will repair the emotional scars caused by our recent near-breakup. In addition, I want one.

TINKERBALLA
Vork, those things are expensive and pointless! Total epeen stokers.

BLADEZZ
You guys know how I feel about epeen stroking...

VOICE (O.S.)
Hey idiot! I can't serve a charcoal briquette!

INT. CHEESYBEARD'S KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

JEANETTE, a black woman in her late 20's/early 30's stands near Bladezz. She's in a snit and holds up a charred burger.

JEANETTE

Remake it! And get off that computer or I'm telling Ollie.

BLADEZZ

Who won't do anything. The boss loves me. You on the other hand...

Jeanette hits him in the face with the patty and exits.

BLADEZZ (CONT'D)

Watch the face!

INT. VARIOUS OFFICES - CONTINUOUS

ZABOO

If we're gonna get a Guild Hall we gotta get the biggest baddest one!

TINKERBALLA

The deluxe castle model is a half a million gold!

VORK

Precisely. And we have...

ZABOO

(types)

Twenty-thousand in the bank.

CLARA

Half a million and we have twenty-thousand? That's li-...oh yeah, there's a difference!

CODEX

I uh...HEARD that the Axis of Anarchy is saving for a deluxe one too...which reminds me...

TINKERBALLA

Those d-bags are getting one?! That's it. I'm in.

BLADEZZ

Yeah, screw those guys! That dude Bruiser is still dating my mom! Get this - he took her on a wine tour through Napa like she's fancy or something!

TINKERBALLA

Yeah, and Fawkes made the lewdest comments about you, Codex.

CODEX
 (flattered)
 Really? He did?

ZABOO
 That's unacceptable.

VORK
 He's reprehensible.

CLARA
 I'm hungry.

CODEX
 (blurts out)
 I'm dating him.

Pregnant moment of silence. Zaboo starts screaming.

ZABOO
 Aaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaah!

Then falls sideways onto the floor.

CODEX
 Zaboo?!

VORK
 What is with you today?

TINKERBALLA
 You're dating Fawkes?! He almost
 ripped apart the Guild!

BLADEZZ
 Actually, you started it.

TINKERBALLA
 I will dent your face.

CODEX
 We've only had ONE date and it was
 AFTER the LAN party! I'm not a
 traitor!

CLARA
 Enemies become lovers?! Oh my God,
 this is like a soap opera I used to
 watch! Maybe you have an evil twin
 and he's secretly a NASCAR driver
 slash surgeon!

INT. VORK'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Vork is on the ground next to Zaboo pumping his chest.

VORK
I'M NOT PUTTING MY MOUTH TO YOUR
MOUTH!

Zaboo sits up with a huge intake of breath and grabs Vork by the front of the shirt.

ZABOO
Vork! Codex is dating Fawkes?
What the heck happened?! Why did I
disconnect her bedroom surveillance
cameras?

INT. VARIOUS OFFICES - CONTINUOUS

CLARA
On second thought, maybe he's a
bull fighter and you're in the
witness protection program...

BLADEZZ
You're banging him and their guild
healer is banging my mom? That's
Guild incest!

CODEX
No wait a second, wait wait wait
wait wait. I never did anything
like this before and there were
some unique circumstances...
Remember I had won something.

TINKERBALLA
Wait, so you DID bang him? I never
pegged you for a hoe bag!

ZABOO
Wait, you **WHAT!**?

Zaboo faints again. Vork looks exasperated and follows.

CLARA
Whoah, you boffed him after only
one date?! Achievement UNLOCKED!

BLADEZZ
Did you boff him or bang him?
Let's get this story straight here!
And with details!

CODEX
It's not... guys, we are dating.
We're in a *relationship!* So if
stuff happened, it's private.

CLARA

Not anymore.

CODEX

I know he seemed like a jerk but, he's different. We might be good together! I just wanna see where this goes!

TINKERBALLA

It's going NOWHERE! He's an Anarchist! There's no way he's gonna DATE you!

Codex lifts up a jacket from behind her chair.

CODEX

That's not true! He left his jacket here!

CLARA

He left something? Classic "move". It's like when a dog pees on a fire hydrant. He's totally into you.

VORK

Codex, we're discussing building a Guild Hall! This is SERIOUSLY distracting!

CODEX

I was up front about everything! Can't I get props for that?!

EVERYONE

NO!

Suddenly Codex's monitor flicks offline. Then a big spark and loud electronic "POP" comes from Codex's tower case. She looks down and smoke starts to come from it. She panics.

CODEX

NOW who's judging me?!?!?

FADE OUT:

EPISODE 2:

INT. CODEX'S BEDROOM - DAY

Codex stares into the camera, but the picture is lower-fi, perhaps a Flip video camera she's holding on herself.

CODEX

I hope this thing works... I was in the middle of arguing with the Guild and my computer just...pow!

(camera roams)

This bedroom feels like a crime scene now.

(ends on bed)

For more than one reason.

(back on Codex)

Telling the Guild about Fawkes was the right thing to do! I just wish they hadn't jumped to all the right conclusions. They're so mad at me! I texted everyone "Help, computer broke, sad face" and Bladezz was the first one to respond! He's coming over with some spare pity parts he had lying around, see if he can fix the thing. He needs to hurry! I know they're talking about me, I can feel it! Did I mention I can't get online right now?

INT. CODEX'S BEDROOM - DAY

Codex is on her phone pacing. In his room, playing on the computer, Fawkes picks up.

FAWKES

...Damn it, Venom! Why don't you just cut off my dick and tell me it's a popsicle!

(into phone, curtly)

Raiding.

CODEX

Hi! It's Codex! I've been having some computer problems, so if you see me offline, I didn't want you to think I was avoiding you, or anything.

FAWKES

I think that would be pathetically neurotic.

CODEX

Oh. So, I haven't talked to you since our date together, right? I don't normally drink, but I had a really good time!

FAWKES

As did I. I think my favorite part of the evening was after the second Marguerita when you said "Come back to my place and take my armor off."

CODEX

Wow, "drunk me" is REALLY forward.

FAWKES

There's nothing to be ashamed of. The sexual act is one of our base, animal instincts.

CODEX

Well, I shy away from my baser instincts and try hard to be really classy. Like Audrey Hepburn...

FAWKES

At a certain point in the evening you farted on me. In order to make me "taco flavored." It was cute.

CODEX

Moving on... Tonight... I was thinking that, uh... I have your jacket...

FAWKES

Bring it to 521 Spring Street at 8pm.

He gets cut off as he hangs up.

CODEX

OK, tt's a date! Oh, he hung up.

There's a knock. Codex looks up to see Bladezz posed against the bedroom door jam in a smarmy way. He's carrying his laptop and a bag of computer parts.

BLADEZZ

I heard you let the bad boys in?

CODEX

Thanks for coming over. Is the Guild still talking about me? Fix my computer, hurry!

BLADEZZ

OK, OK. But just so you know, I told the boss I had a family thing come up, so if anyone asks, you're my cousin who had boob surgery.

CODEX

My computer's right there.

BLADEZZ

On the bed and ready for me? Rawr.

CODEX

Do you HAVE to make everything into a sexual innuendo?

BLADEZZ

I'd like to inn-YOUR-endo.

CODEX

God, you're awful.

INT. VARIOUS OFFICES - DAY

Zaboo, Clara and Tink are online together.

CLARA

Who would have thought that last holy bolt Codex shoved up Fawkes' butt at the LAN party would have goosed him into a RELATIONSHIP? So ROMANTIC!

Zaboo looks miserable.

TINKERBALLA

Reality check: There will be no "relationship." Be prepared for her depressed voice. Also known as: normal voice.

ZABOO

I don't understand women. Codex is dating a jerk, my one and only girlfriend Riley locked me in a clothes dryer and my moooo...moother...see? I can't even say it.

TINKERBALLA

It's not your fault you're a social retard with girls.

ZABOO

It's not?

TINKERBALLA

My psych 101 class, which I went to once, says it all starts with the parents.

CLARA

Parents influence their kids? What is that, a new study?

ZABOO

But you're women and I'm totally normal with you dudes!

TINKERBALLA

"Normal"?

CLARA

That's because we're your friends! Just treat Codex like you would treat us. Because let's face it, you and Codex...

TINKERBALLA

Not gonna happen.

ZABOO

Yeah, you're right. I need to let go of that and focus on being her friend! 100%. No, 110%! Even though the math is, weird on that. I'm gonna be her best friend ever! So, how do I do that?

TINKERBALLA

When did this Guild go from playing a game together to talking about feelings and holding each other's vaginas?

ZABOO

(genuine)

Do you guys really do that?

INT. CODEX'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Codex and Bladezz are leaning into Codex's computer. Bladezz blows into the computer and dust comes out in a puff.

BLADEZZ

There's gross lady dander coating everything.

CODEX

I didn't know you need to vacuum in there! Who tells you that? Can you fix it?

Bladezz is screwing something into the computer.

BLADEZZ

You're better off just buying a new computer.

CODEX

I can't buy a new computer! I'm poor. My credit cards are maxed! I survive on ramen, that's why my skin's so dry, I... I'm sharing so much personal stuff today! Where did you get all these parts, anyway?

BLADEZZ

Public library computer.
(off Codex's look)
You're a part of the "public". OK, here we go!

Bladezz plugs it in and a whirring sound starts.

CODEX

I love that sound!

Codex shoves him aside to sit in front of the computer.

CODEX (CONT'D)

Move over! I have to log on - I can feel them talking about me. I have to defend myself!

She clicks on the computer. Loud voices come through.

VORK (O.S.)

The aesthetics are irrelevant!
We're building a Guild Hall, not a banjo factory!

CODEX

Oh. So self-centered.
(into mic)
What's going on?

INT. VARIOUS OFFICES - CONTINUOUS

ZABOO

Welcome back Best Friend Codex! My friendly friend frienderston.

(MORE)

ZABOO (CONT'D)

We're just discussing design options for the Guild Hall.

TINKERBALLA

We need someone with vision, and I am that person. Check out my color palette.

Tink clicks. The Guild members look at their screens.

BLADEZZ

That looks like a pre-schooler's sock drawer! Let me design it! Can you buy slave girl NPCs?

Bladezz reaches over Codex and starts typing.

ZABOO

(loudly)

I think we should let Codex do it to show that we, as a collective, are fine with whatever choices she makes in her personal life.

Puzzled, Codex looks at Bladezz. Bladezz shrugs. In her office, Clara holds up a crayon-colored rainbow castle.

CLARA

Vork, I'm gonna fax you my design. I used every single crayon color!

Clara turns to her fax machine and tries to use it, but can't quite figure it out.

TINKERBALLA

Hold up chickie! Who made you lead designer?!

CLARA

(pouty)

But I want the turret model!

TINKERBALLA

I want the turret model!

CLARA

I want the formal gardens add-on!

They shift from arguing to agreeing excitedly.

TINKERBALLA

So do I! With the gazebo!

CLARA

And Magenta walls!

TINKERBALLA

Yes! And eggshell trim!

CLARA

Did you borrow my crayon set? And my MIND?!

VORK

A gazebo painted in #FF33CC? NO! The primary function should be defensibility! We're using austere #333333 stone! #FF33CC would make an extremely eye-catching target for an aerial dragon assault!

CODEX

That feature doesn't exist in the game!

VORK

There could be future additional downloadable content!

BLADEZZ

(points at screen)

If you want defensible, the blood fountain is an automatic in!

TINKERBALLA

No one wants to hang out in a hair band video!

CODEX

Why don't we compromise on a design everyone can enjoy?

EVERYONE ELSE

Adlib protests

CODEX

But the whole point of building a Guild Hall is to bring us together! We shouldn't let this turn into a competition.

VORK

I agree, Codex. The only fair way to settle this would be to give design rights to whoever earns the most gold.

CODEX

But that's the very definition of a competition!

VORK
Fundraising shall commence...now.

Vork, Clara and Tink lean intently on their monitors.

BLADEZZ
(whiney)
No fair! I have to go back to work!

He grabs his stuff and rushes out of the bedroom.

CODEX
I can't start til tomorrow! I have
to get ready for my date. I wanna
find a really good quote to open
with.

ZABOO
So you're going out with Fawkes
again? I'm excited for you!
Because friends support friends!
Oh man, this is gonna be tough.

Zaboo lifts his arms up and there's pit sweat on his shirt.

ZABOO (CONT'D)
(to himself)
Man, this is gonna be tough. She's
a friend. Like a guy. Pretend she
has a penis.

EXT. STREET FRONT - NIGHT

Codex is standing on the corner of 5th and Spring in a dress,
freezing. She's wearing Fawkes' jacket around her shoulders
and checks her phone, trying to memorize off it.

CODEX
"And one by one the nights between
our separated cities are joined..."

VENOM comes wheeling up to her and puts out her hand.

VENOM
Jacket! Now!

Codex hands over Fawkes' jacket tentatively.

VENOM (CONT'D)
Nice dress. Go die in it.

Venom wheels off. Off of Codex's outraged look we...

FADE OUT:

EPISODE 3:

INT. CODEX'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

During this webcam, the picture starts to go wonky and pixelates and Codex's voice slows down (**bold**), then it speeds up really fast (*italics*) then back to normal.

CODEX

Last night was a miscommunication. That's all. When I was on the phone with Fawkes yesterday, I'm pretty sure I heard *rubble sound effects in the background, so I think Fawkes was in the middle of running the Yevven Ridge dungeon, which is SUPER intense on the leadership side.* Plus, I just dance around things too much. I shoulda just come out and said, "**Do you want to get together tonight for a date?**" Sure, part of me is like, *is he really the jerk I thought he was before, or was that just a facade* hiding a really cool dude who made me feel pretty and awesome and who I impulsively **went waaaay too far with?** I'll just wait for him to call me. *Our I could text him? Email? In-game mail? IM?*

(looks down)

That's a weird sound...

The picture goes dead.

INT. CODEX'S BEDROOM - DAY

Zaboo is fixing Codex's computer. Codex looks at her phone.

ZABOO

And you are set! Man, Bladezz used some janky parts in here... I think some of it was from an ATM.

CODEX

Thanks for looking at it.

ZABOO

No problemo. I hope that I'm not like, parachuting into Fawkes territory or anything. I know this is like boyfriend-ville.

CODEX

Uh, no. He... it's early so I didn't want to bother him.

ZABOO

Look at how far we've come, huh? From star-crossed lovers to inseperable BFFs. Rollercoaster'd.

CODEX

I wouldn't describe it... either of those ways, but thanks.

ZABOO

And... in support of your budding romance, I had this painting commissioned for you... best friend. Voila'd!

Zaboo pulls out a canvas scroll. He unfurls it to reveal a painting of Fawkes and Codex posing together in airbrushed glory like a romance novel cover.

ZABOO (CONT'D)

Yeh I know, I was speechless too. This friend of mine who does van-art whipped it right up for me. The likenesses are pretty special. And could potentially go on the side of a van.

CODEX

Yeah, it is special... thank you.

ZABOO

I know the guild has been giving you at ton of flack for dating this guy but I'm in support. Put me on Team Codex-Fawkes! Team Cawkes! I'm thinking about making t-shirts.

CODEX

Uh, no, we should play.

ZABOO

Oh yeah, let's play. For sure.

A phone beeps. Both Codex and Zaboo grab their phones to check.

ZABOO (CONT'D)

Oh, huh, voicemail. Ugh! It's my mom again! She's being so creepy! Listen:

Zaboo holds up his phone and plays back a message on speaker.

AVINASHI (V.O.)

Hello Sujan! It is my birthday soon, and for me the best present would be just to hear the sound of your voice! Goodbye!

ZABOO

She's insane!

CODEX

It sounded okay to me.

ZABOO

Okay? You met my mom. You know that "okay" would never be used to describe her. Ever.

CODEX

Look, sometimes people change. They might have been jerks, but then something happens and you find out they aren't, so if something else happens that makes you suspicious that they really ARE the jerks that you thought they were, you should really give them the benefit of the doubt, and wait for them to call you.

ZABOO

Are we still talking about me?

CODEX

What?

ZABOO

Huh?

CODEX

Yes. Yes, you should give your mom a chance.

ZABOO

Ok. You're right. Wow. This is really great. I love being in the friend zone. I never knew women could be such pals.

She clicks on the computer while she's talking. Clara's evil cackle comes through the speaker.

CLARA

VORK IS A LOSER! VORK IS A LOSER!

CODEX
 (into mic)
 Why the hateful chanting?

INT. VARIOUS OFFICES - CONTINUOUS

VORK
 My iron ingots are not selling in
 the trading house! I've only made
 two thousand gold so far towards
 the Guild Hall!

CLARA
 And Tink and I teamed up, to clean
 up! Up to five thousand gold
 already!

TINKERBALLA
 With Clara's tailoring and my
 enchanting we're making sets of
 Uber Fishing Gloves. They're
 selling like hotcakes 'cause of all
 the Sea Festival quests this week!

CLARA
 We also have a bit worked out. We
 invite the guy to a private chat
 channel called "Fishy Lips". Then
 Tink goes...

TINKERBALLA
 (sexy)
 "You WANT these gloves."

CLARA
 Then I go: "You NEED these gloves."
 Then we say really quick:

TINKERBALLA
 (sexy)
 WANT.

CLARA
 (sexy)
 NEED.

TINKERBALLA
 (sexy)
 WANT.

CLARA
 (sexy)
 NEED.

TINKERBALLA
 (normal)
 50 gold. Pay up.

CLARA
 We sell a pair every time.

ZABOO
 Lady voice'd. I'll buy a 3 pairs!

TINKERBALLA
 Later. Clara!
 (sexy voice)
 Customer!

Tink and Clara click out of the channel.

VORK
 (raging)
 Can I turn them in for auditory
 prostitution?!

ZABOO
 For selling fish gloves? Seems
 drastic, dude.

VORK
 I can't let them win! We need a
 defensible Guild Hall, not a
 glitter-infested puffy-paint
 palace! And where is Bladezz?

CODEX
 He has a job. He's at
 Cheesybeard's.

VORK
 Maybe he and I can team up. I do
 need someone with a work ethic!

INT. CHEESYBEARD'S KITCHEN - DAY

Bladezz heaves a wrapped frozen chicken down the aisle of the kitchen. It bowls into a bunch of plastic cups and lands at the feet of Jeanette and OLLIE, slightly crazy manager of Cheesybeard's. He's an older white guy with a hook for a hand. Bladezz looks up, guilty. Jeanette smirks.

OLLIE
 Quite a heave ho in that left arm!
 Good toss, lad!

JEANETTE

That's it?! You chewed my ass off last week 'cause I served wilted lettuce!

OLLIE

Don't mutiny, Jeanette. I'll make you walk the plank!!

Ollie glares and exits. Bladezz slowly reaches over and dings the kitchen bell like an asshole.

BLADEZZ

Order up, Jeanette.

INT. VARIOUS OFFICES - MOMENTS LATER

Codex and Zaboo are still playing on their computers. Codex's is not working well and she's frustrated.

CODEX

No, Zaboo! I don't want to talk about what Fawkes smells like!

ZABOO

I bet it's like a combination of nutmeg and rawhide.

CODEX

He's not a gingerbread cowboy!

Clara and Tink log back into the chat channel.

CLARA

We're back! Fifteen more sets of gloves, sold!

VORK

ANEURYISM!

CODEX

What is going on with my computer? My character is leaping around the screen like a crack-filled ferret!

TINKERBALLA

Why don't you get your new boyfriend to buy you one. I can't BELIEVE he went out with you again!

CLARA

Oh that's right! Codex, how did your date go last night?

ZABOO
Yeah, let's dish!

CODEX
I...it's a long story... Dating is,
it's the dating world is
complicated and sometimes you -

Codex's computer starts making a horrible noise.

CODEX (CONT'D)
My computer crashed!

CLARA
Codex, Fawkes is riding by right
now with the whole Axis of Anarchy!

VORK
(dourly)
Probably on their way to purchase a
DELUXE GUILD HALL with a sensible
color scheme!

CODEX
(into Zaboo's laptop)
Don't message him! STUPID
COMPUTER!

ZABOO
(into mic)
I'll just log onto your character
on with my laptop!

He types and hands over his computer to Codex.

CODEX
Wait, you have my password?

ZABOO
Sometimes I go into your backpack
and re-arrange all the items in
your inventory. Inventory Tetris'd.

CLARA
Slash wave at him!

TINKERBALLA
(amused)
YYou just got blown off by a guy
riding a mastadon.

CODEX
Maybe he's on auto-follow. Or
didn't recognize me.

ZABOO
 (pats shoulder)
 Yeah, you know, a human red-haired
 female priest with an elite Herald
 Tunic isn't UNcommon...

CLARA
 Well maybe you should...

CODEX
 Call him! You're right. Because
 we're dating. I should be able to do
 that.

Codex walks out.

ZABOO
 You go, girlfriend. Friend-girl.

CLARA
 I was gonna say, "why don't you
 just get drunk and show up at his
 doorstep." But calling is good
 too.

INT. CODEX'S BATHROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Codex enters the bathroom as she calls Fawkes and closes the
 bathroom door behind her.

FAWKES
 (into phone, curtly)
 Journaling.

CODEX
 Hi, it's Codex. So, did you get
 your jacket?

FAWKES
 I did.

CODEX
 (BEAT)
 I kind of thought you'd pick it up
 yourself.

FAWKES
 "You can't undo the past... but you
 can certainly not repeat it."
 Bruce Willis.

CODEX
 So do you wanna set a time now? To
 go out? Together? For a date?

FAWKES

Yeah...I thought I made this clear
between us: I don't date.

CODEX

What? No! It was certainly NOT
clear! 'Cause...I don't do...one
time deals!

FAWKES

Well apparently, in this case, you
do.

CODEX

Wait, so...

Fawkes hangs up.

CODEX (CONT'D)

Oh my God. I really am a hoe bag?!

Off of Codex's horrified face in the bathroom mirror...

FADE OUT:

EPISODE 4:

INT. CODEX'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Codex stares into the computer, shocked.

CODEX

I'm not a slut. I am not. I am a good girl. The worst thing I've ever done is sniff a permanent marker. But it was only fifteen seconds tops, and the whole time I was screaming inside, "Stop! Cancer! Stop!" What did I misunderstand about that date? We got along great. Oh, that rhymes. With a little logic and a mild panic attack, I convinced Fawkes to meet me for a non-date-deductible business meeting. I'm gonna figure out what happened. Deal with him calmly. And then we will go out again. We have to! A one-time deal? What is the Guild going to think? I'm their priest! I have a virtual reputation to uphold!

INT. CHEESYBEARD'S RESTAURANT - DAY

Fawkes and Codex are in a booth. The place is deserted.

CODEX

I just wanted to figure out some of the nuances of the other night. Um... why are we not going out again.. again?

FAWKES

Codex, you bested me in one-on-one combat in Kylandia Arena and for that you have earned my respect. However I have a strict one-date only policy.

CODEX

Ok, that part. Why?

FAWKES

I am an Epicurean. It is my goal in this life to experience all that woman-kind has to offer. I sample once and then I move on.

CODEX

But I...we have a lot in common.

FAWKES

Such as...

CODEX

Well the Game! And we both use the internet to play the Game and we both... you know what? There is definitely something here or I would have never have let you plug into my port.

FAWKES

Oh, we had great chemistry. That is undeniable.

CODEX

See! That's something! I mean, if you're saying we're all base and animal-y and stuff. Wait, you're not a Furry are you?

FAWKES

I haven't gotten to that part of the list yet, no.

CODEX

Ok so, let's go out again! I mean look at us right now. This is like SO super-fun!

Jeanette pops up at the table to set down food.

JEANETTE

Honey, don't beg a guy to date you. That is just sorry business.

FAWKES

"Out of the mouths of babes."

JEANETTE

Ooh, you are yummmmm-y!

Jeanette exits.

CODEX

Ok, you don't wanna see me again, fine, I can deal with that. But the thing is, I kinda told the Guild about us...

FAWKES

You told your Guild about our one night of passionate monkey sex.

CODEX

It kinda came up in conversation.
So I'm just gonna tell the Guild
that we're still going out for just
a little while longer and I would
appreciate it if you would cover
for me. Could you do that for me?
Please?

FAWKES

Wow you've really put a lot of
thought into this.

CODEX

Yes. All night, last night.
Obsessively.

FAWKES

OK. What's in it for me?

CODEX

I make good brownies...

Bladezz walks up to the table with his phone out.

BLADEZZ

Hey, our only two customers. I
wanted to stop by to see what's
causing all the Guild turmoil.

Bladezz holds the camera on them in the booth.

FAWKES

(intrigued)
We're causing turmoil in your
Guild?

BLADEZZ

Oh yeah, Tink's having a fit, Zaboo
almost had a heart attack.

FAWKES

Really?

Fawkes grabs Codex and leans her over, kissing her neck.
Bladezz snaps a pic.

FAWKES (CONT'D)

Post that on your Guild's forum.

BLADEZZ

Yes, sir!

Bladezz exits.

FAWKES

Ok, I'll cover for you.

CODEX

Thank you. Thank you very much.

FAWKES

(stands)

I don't want you feel ashamed about what happened between us. You are in elite company. Last year at Comic-Con, I bedded the creator of the comic: "Circuitra: Robot Princess."

Fawkes exits.

CODEX

(calls after)

Oh, I love that...never mind.

INT. VORK'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Vork is setting up an elaborate fantasy world map on the wall with elaborate stickies on it. Zaboo is taking a quiz from a women's magazine.

VORK

I've notated every single gold vein on the game atlas. If you camp the lower southern quadrant...

ZABOO

Vork, I can't help you with the Guild Hall, buddy. I'm neck-deep in my quest to understand women! And this Ladies' Quiz I'm not the star of my own life, I'm just a supportive side kick.

VORK

No one in the world would find that interesting.

ZABOO

Question number 8: Your best friend's boyfriend broke up w/ her. Do you A) pamper her with a trip to a relaxing day at a spa, B) take her out for salsa dancing, or C) comfort her with a tear-jerker movie and ice cream?

VORK

"C."

ZABOO

Why "C?"

VORK

The majority of multiple choice answers are always "C." In addition, comfort requires emotional commitment and salsa dancing is performed in poor-lighting. Now get out your pickaxe out and start mining!

ZABOO

Ugh. Fine.

Vork sits down at his computer and starts to play. Zaboo's phone rings the alarm sound.

ZABOO (CONT'D)

Aww, dude. It's my mom. I mean, what should I do?

VORK

If you're not mining you're dead to me.

ZABOO

Alright, I'm gonna answer it. I have you on speaker-phone, I'm not alone.

Avinashi is in her kitchen decorating her own birthday cake that says "Happy Birthday to Me".

AVINASHI

Sujan? It's so nice to hear your voice! Did you get the cyber-vite for my birthday?

ZABOO

Uh, yes, but I'm not gonna make it and i noticed you invited Dad and he's dead so he's probably not gonna make it either.

AVINASHI

That's alright. This call is the best present I could ever have.

ZABOO

(BEAT)

OK...is that it?

AVINASHI

That's all. Goodbye.

Zaboo clicks the phone off and looks weirded out.

ZABOO

What? No guilt trips? No screaming? What's going on? Is she being held hostage?! Is there a ransom? I'm not going to pay it.

VORK

I said nothing, corpse. Carry on.

Zaboo shakes it off and turns to his checklist.

ZABOO

Question number nine. If your friendship was a food...

VORK

"C."

ZABOO

"C."

INT. CHEESYBEARD'S RESTAURANT - MOMENTS LATER

Codex is leaving money on the table as Bladezz saunters up. He's cramming a ton of chewing gum into his mouth.

BLADEZZ

He stuck you with the bill? I need to take lessons from this guy.

CODEX

Shut up, it was a great second date. We're SO into each other. Why don't we talk about something that's actually your business. Like, my computer that you supposedly fixed which barely works! How am I supposed to play?!

BLADEZZ

Oh, OK. Give me fifty bucks for the second house-call, I'll come over and check it out!

CODEX

Fifty bucks?! I told you I'm really poor! You're supposed to be my friend!

Codex starts slapping at Bladezz uselessly.

BLADEZZ

Jesus, woman! You need to be
tranqued!

CODEX

(keeps slapping him)
I'm sorry, I'm just really stressed
out right now! I just HAVE to have
a computer! For the Guild Hall and
for living! It's like...SO
important!

Codex starts crying. Bladezz gets super uncomfortable.

BLADEZZ

OK. Don't leak! If you quick
dough, Bladezz will hook you up.

Bladezz sticks the huge chunk of half-chewed gum under the
table as they exit.

INT. CHEESYBEARD'S OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

A cheap version of a Captain's cabin on a pirate ship. Ollie
has his back to Codex, staring at a wall painted with a sea
mural like he's looking out to sea. Bladezz is nearby.

OLLIE

So Sherman, eh? Just who are you
to Simon, lass?

CODEX

I...it's complicated. We...

BLADEZZ

She's my cousin.

Ollie turns to reveal his hands steepled. One has a hook.

OLLIE

The one who had the boob surgery?

BLADEZZ

She made them smaller.

OLLIE

Went too far. So you ever work in
food service?

CODEX

I used to be a musician.

OLLIE

Musician, eh? I used to be a semi-
professional Pirate Balladeer.

Ollie sings a snippet of something loud and inappropriate.
There's an awkward staring moment between them. Codex nods.

CODEX

That's a lovely baritone.

OLLIE

Oh I also sing first tenor! Well
I'd like to throw you a life
jacket, lass, but I'm not hiring
right now. Business is in the
bilge.

BLADEZZ

Come on, boss. She's old and
reliable-looking. Can't she swab
something?

CODEX

(spots a computer)

Look! You have a computer! Drool.

OLLIE

That? I never turn on the blasted
contraption!

CODEX

Wait you've never turned it on?!
Poor thing! Um...do you need it?

OLLIE

Oh, why yes. It serves well as a
paper weight.

CODEX

Could I sit here and use it...to
help you? With business?

OLLIE

How?

CODEX

Uh, websites! Yes, websites and
social networking. They can all
get people into your restaurant.
Right? Yeah.

OLLIE

You can do that?

CODEX

Yes.

OLLIE

Well, flog my jolly boat.

BLADEZZ

(steps in)

Whoah, whoah. Ok Im cool with throwing you a bone, but if there's fun, white collar work done, I'll be the guy paid to do it.

OLLIE

Oh no, laddie. I gotta have you where I need you. Grub master, below decks.

BLADEZZ

But...

CODEX

Then let me use it. I'm the lassie for the job!

OLLIE

Never say ol' Black Ollie won't parlay with progress! Missy, I'll give you a split of booty IF and only IF you can crew up those tables. Deal?

Ollie reaches out with his hook to shake on the deal.

CODEX

Aye aye, Captain!

OLLIE

Arrrggh!

CODEX

Arrrggh!

Codex looks bemused and happy at the same time. Bladezz glares at her.

FADE OUT:

EPISODE 5:

INT. CHEESYBEARD'S - DAY

Codex talks into her webcam.

CODEX

Bladezz got me a job! That he's pissed at me for getting, but whatever. A job. It's been so long, feels weird coming out of my mouth. Job. Job. Jooob. I'm not technically qualified, or getting paid up front which is so like me, but I can do this! I mean, "Social media" can't be that hard. Every bozo on the internet claims to be an expert. AND I think I worked out the whole Fawkes thing! So, by the end of the week I'll have a brand new computer and be innocuously broken up in a face-saving manner. Life is pretty good right now!

(BEAT)

Oh, why did I just say that!? I just totally jinxed it.

INT. VARIOUS OFFICES - DAY

Codex is in the Cheesybeard's manager office using a headset.

CLARA

I can't believe you got a JOB, Codex! I'm SO jealous! Is it glamorous? Are you wearing a pencil skirt?

VORK

The important question is: can I get a discount on foodstuffs? Namely, discounted to free?

CODEX

It's a little early to be asking for free stuff, I have to get paying customers in here first. But it is nice to have a working computer again.

(pets monitor)

I named her Harriet.

CLARA

Do people hate Cheesybeard's food that much? I thought their cosmos were good.

ZABOO

(reads off screen)

These comments are horrible. "Leaky disaster." "Tastes like butt pirate butt."

CODEX

I know! And Ollie doesn't even own the domain name. I had to get Cheesybeards.info!

INT. CLARA'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

CLARA

You get to buy domain names?!
You're such a jet-setter now! WAH!

Clara whines into mic. WIGGLY pokes his head into the room.

WIGGLY

What's wrong, are you guys...oh. I thought that was one of the kids.

CLARA

Honey! Codex got a job! She's working from WORK and having so much fun right now!

WIGGLY

You have a job, honey. It's the most important one of all: Being a mom.

Wiggly looks into the kitchen to see Blake and Gabby shoving legos into a (PROP NO-OPERABLE) blender unsupervised.

WIGGLY (CONT'D)

Gabby!

Wiggly runs off camera, Clara turns back to the computer.

CLARA

(into mic)

Meh. Oooh, Codex! I saw that picture of you and Fawkes that Bladezz posted! Talk about a two-hander, heh. What?

TINKERBALLA

I don't wanna see that disaster porn on the forums! Some of us have sensitive stomachs.

Zaboo is in Vork's office braiding the hair on a Wig Warmer.

ZABOO

Don't worry, Codex, I'll create a separate forum topic for you to post pictures and video. For those of us who, you know, want to celebrate your love. Also, I've been doing my friend research, and have learned how to braid hair in eight different styles. Mostly from "Hairly Legal" magazine.

CODEX

No, Tink is right. I think from now on, I'll keep my relationship with Fawkes on the down-low, for the good of the Guild.

(crafty)

No matter how it's going.

Codex's rolling chair is pushed out from in front of the computer by Bladezz, who takes her spot.

INT. CHEESYBEARD'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

BLADEZZ

I have to keep up with Guild Hall farming. Move.

CODEX

Stop being mad at me! I can't help it if Ollie offered me a job that's better than yours!

BLADEZZ

I'm the rogue, I'm supposed to do the backstabbing here!

CODEX

A lot of the bad internet comments are specifically about you! "Horrible food." "Cooked by sleepy-looking feather-haired kid."

BLADEZZ

(runs hand through hair)

They're called layers, hater.

(into Codex's mic)

(MORE)

BLADEZZ (CONT'D)

You guys can weep, because I'm up to 25k on the Guild Hall farming. Get ready for bloody axes and iron maidens.

TINKERBALLA

Correction: fairy and unicorn tapestries. Clara, check our numbers?

CLARA

Tink and I are up to 60k! Eat it!

VORK

60k?! I've been practicing classic Keynesian Economics, and I'm only up to twenty-seven! In addition, I haven't left this chair in two days!

Zaboo looks at a jug of liquid on the desk.

ZABOO

Ah, that's cause you been pounding energy drinks.

VORK

That's urine. From my penis. I can't waste valuable mining time.

CLARA

We added sexy music to our Fish Gloves chat channel. And tell people our real-life names are Darla and Pancake.

TINKERBALLA

Look forward to filigree out your BUTTHOLE! And cupid add-ons.

ZABOO

Ugh. Rococo'd.

INT. CLARA'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Clara turns and Wiggly comes over to the desk with Blake.

CLARA

Are you still here?

WIGGLY

Don't be mad, honey. You and Tink seem to have a great business online, isn't that enough?

CLARA

Yeah but...hey! What if Tink and me started a REAL business?

WIGGLY

What kind of business?

CLARA

(into mic)

Tink! Wiggly just had a great idea! We work so good together we have to start a REAL business!

WIGGLY

Uh...I said nothing...

INT. VARIOUS OFFICES - CONTINUOUS

TINKERBALLA

Like, out-of-game?

CLARA

Yeah! Making REAL money!

TINKERBALLA

I like that word. "Money."

BLADEZZ

We know.

TINKERBALLA

What could we do?

CLARA

Wiggly will help us with the stupid details. He does this for a living!

WIGGLY

Honey, I'm in pharmaceuticals. On salary. I've never...

CLARA

Tink, come over, he's already making ideas! Wiggly will put out a cheese tray!

TINKERBALLA

As long as you lock up the babies, I'm game.

CLARA

Wiggly, cheese tray!

CODEX

Looks like I started a real-life leveling trend.

Vork is cleaning himself off with handiwipes.

VORK

Good job, Codex. Keep going so I'm the only one unemployed. I want the game and all its assets to myself.

INT. CHEESYBEARD'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

In the Cheesybeard's office, Ollie pokes his head in.

OLLIE

Hard at work in here, aye lass?

CODEX

Uh, yeah, we're working hard, right?

Bladezz uses a pepper shaker to pepper her.

OLLIE

Cause I give no quarter to stowaways.

Ollie lifts his hook up. There's an apple on it. He removes apple and brandishes hook again.

INT. VORK'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Zaboo is checking his cell phone in Vork's office.

ZABOO

Codex is gonna look so slamming with this fishtail braid! And then, I texted my mom "Happy Birthday" and then she wrote back, "Thank you!" I'm officially a "woman whisperer."

In Vork's office, a siren and flashing light goes off.

VORK

Visitors.

Vork presses a button and silences the siren and light. He picks up a tazer and heads for the door as Zaboo's phone alerts him to a new text message. He picks it up, puzzled.

ZABOO

VORK! No no no... don't open the
door... DO NOT OPEN THE-

Vork opens up the office door. Avinashi is on the doorstep.

AVINASHI

Hello! I'm came to celebrate my
birthday with my son!

Vork stares blankly at her. Zaboo appears behind him.

ZABOO

Mom?

AVINASHI

Sujan?

ZABOO

Hi mom.

(to Vork)

Press the button when I do that.

Press the button

FADE OUT:

EPISODE 6:

INT. CHEESYBEARD'S OFFICE - DAY

Codex peers into the webcam furtively, her back is to the sea mural so it looks like she's at the beach.

CODEX

I thought it would be cool, being able to log on from work but Ollie keeps ambushing me! It's making me totally paranoid!

(looks behind her)

This webcam is gonna look like a cheap seaside horror film. Anyway, I've been doing alot of web stuff for Cheesybeards, and...

(looks around paranoid)

What was that noise? Ollie's so stealthy for a pirate! Why can't he have a peg leg instead of a sharp, shiny hook? And what's the deal with that thing anyway, is it real or a costume? How do you find out? There is just no protocol... What came first, the pirate or the hook?

A hook comes into frame and Codex sees it and screams. Bladezz pops his head in and removes the fake hook.

BLADEZZ

ARRRR!!! Avast ye, Sherman...erf.

Codex shoves his face out of frame and shuts off the camera.

INT. VORK'S OFFICE - DAY

Zaboo's mom is in Vork's office looking amazingly sweet and smiling as she hugs Zaboo close. She does not let go.

ZABOO

Mom, you can't just show up to my place uninvited!

VORK

Correction: MY place.

AVINASHI

But you wished me happy birthday in the texting, Sujan. I thought you'd want to celebrate!

ZABOO

No!

Zaboo extracts himself really awkwardly from her embrace.

ZABOO (CONT'D)

Look, I'm not going home with you,
OK? I'm here, hanging with my
homie Vork!

Zaboo slings his arm on Vork's shoulder, who doesn't look up.

VORK

Don't touch me.

ZABOO

OK.

AVINASHI

Why do you assume such things? I
just came to invite you to dinner?

ZABOO

So you can drug me and then stuff
me into a trunk? Just like when
you kidnapped me from science camp.
They were not going to clone me!

AVINASHI

Let's dwell on the positive. Oh,
this is a pretty fishtail braid!

ZABOO

It is a difficult technique to
master. Lots of ins and outs...
Stop messing with my mind!

INT. CHEESYBEARD'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Codex pops her head outside the office, a bit paranoid. The restaurant is empty. Codex walks back to the computer and puts her headset on and logs onto The Guild chat to hear Zaboo and his mother are arguing in Hindi.

INT. VARIOUS OFFICES - CONTINUOUS

CODEX

Vork, are you watching a Bollywood
film?

VORK

It's Zaboo and his mother. She's
arrived uninvited.

(MORE)

VORK (CONT'D)
 (in Hindi)
 "Shut up!"

ZABOO
 How many languages do you know,
 dude?

VORK
 All of them.

CODEX
 What?! But we downed that boss!
 What does she want?!

CLARA
 It's her birthday and she's there
 to be friendly and celebrate!

CODEX
 That's a weird respawn.

Wiggly pokes his head into Clara's office.

WIGGLY
 Honey, your angry Asian friend is
 here.

CLARA
 Oh, Tink's here for our business
 meeting! Wiggly! Pretend you're
 my put-upon assistant.

WIGGLY
 I asked you to stop calling me
 Wiggly. I don't game anymore!

CLARA
 Oh, Wiggly. Fetch me a water, boy!

They exit.

INT. VARIOUS OFFICES - CONTINUOUS

VORK
 Codex, now that we're alone, I want
 you to join forces with me to earn
 money for the Guild Hall.

CODEX
 Join forces how?

VORK
 As a healer I can rent you out to
 priest-less groups...

CODEX

No, I'm not letting you pimp me out
for your Guild Hall!

VORK

Plan B: I can transcribe episodes
of Dynasty from my VHS collection
and we can re-enact scenes in the
common area for tips.

CODEX

Who would pay us for that?

Ollie walks into the office. Codex covers the mic.

VORK

The story lines were sordid and
compelling. People could watch
between tournament bouts!

CODEX

(into mic)

Um, thanks sir, but I don't think
that's appropriate for our
organization at this time.

Bladezz saunters into the office with a garbage bag over his
shoulder. He saunters over to the computer.

BLADEZZ

Cleaned out the rat traps, boss.
What do you want to do with them?
Tomorrow's special?

Bladezz deliberately yanks out Codex's headphones.

BLADEZZ (CONT'D)

Oopsie! My bad!

Vork's voice comes over the speakers.

VORK

Our communal environment is at
stake!

CODEX

Sir, appreciate your passion, but a
charity project isn't something we
can help with right now...

Zaboo and Avinashi's voices blare through the speakers.

VORK

Foreign talkers! Please!!

CODEX
(to Ollie)
Outsourcing.
(into mic)
We'll get back with you.

Codex clicks the computer desperately and disconnects.

OLLIE
There's an empty galley out there,
Sherman. Is this project ever
going to put into port?

CODEX
No! I'm working hard! I created a
MyFace account... and a Tweeter
account.

BLADEZZ
I caught that, by the way.

Bladezz lifts up his phone and reads off it.

BLADEZZ (CONT'D)
"Our burgers are Pirate-licious"?
Out of your three followers, two
unfollowed you and the third just
left a comment saying "gay."

CODEX
I'm still getting the hang of it.

BLADEZZ
And a lot of nasty remarks on that
Yelp Review site. It is so hard to
keep people happy.

CODEX
(stands)
If you'll excuse us for a second.

Codex pulls Bladezz out of earshot to Ollie.

CODEX (CONT'D)
I know you're leaving those nasty
comments. "NotBladezz69?" Duh.

BLADEZZ
I'm just trying to keep you on your
feet while I flip burgers in the
Bung Hole.

CODEX
Ok. Let's deal. What can I do for
you, besides quit?

Bladezz grins.

CODEX (CONT'D)
Don't smile like that.

INT. CLARA'S LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Clara and Tink sit on the couches across from Wiggly.

WIGGLY
So, Tink... is that your real name?

Tink stands up and starts to leave.

CLARA
Honey, stop grilling her!

WIGGLY
Tink I'm sorry. Please, forgive me. I didn't mean to be so... invasive.

Tink flops back into the couch.

CLARA
Let's get down to business. Can we get a 1-800 number? I've just always wanted one. 1-800-GET-CLARA it's just so easy to remember!

WIGGLY
Well, that might be jumping the gun just a bit. First let's figure out, like, what is it that you two want to do together?

CLARA
Something!

TINKERBALLA
That makes a ton of money.

CLARA
With no effort.

WIGGLY
OK, yeah we're going to have to narrow it down just a bit more. Clara, you're a mom, and... Tink what is it that you do?

Tink starts to get up again.

CLARA
Honey!

WIGGLY

Tink, I'm sorry! Please, Tink.
Stop. No more grilling, OK.

Tink sits back down.

WIGGLY (CONT'D)

I don't have much to work on here,
but... You're both women, and you
game together...

CLARA

Oh, my God. What a great idea!
Women making REAL money from
gaming.

TINKERBALLA

I'd be into that.

WIGGLY

That's not really the plan...

Clara jumps up and exits into her office.

CLARA

I'm gonna go make business cards.
This is official now!

INT. CHEESYBEARD'S OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

Ollie, Bladezz and Codex are grouped around the computer
monitor watching something.

OLLIE

Har! Dogs with a laser! That
floods my poop deck!

CODEX

And that's online video, Ollie.

OLLIE

A commercial for the internet? And
you know how to do that without
making it look like a shipwreck?

CODEX

It doesn't matter. That video has
seven million views. Think about
all those burgers!

OLLIE

Aye, good point, lass. I'll have
to franchise! Expand the fleet!

CODEX

Well, let's not get carried away...

Bladezz immediately pulls out a demo reel from his pocket.

BLADEZZ

And lucky for you, you have a professional actor. On this demo reel is a monologue I did from "Huck Finn" that gave my grandma a stroke. Literally.

OLLIE

I like this idea. I like this idea a lot. Do it. Do it. In the meantime, let's watch more dog videos!

Ollie resumes watching.

INT. VORK'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Zaboo is at his laptop. Avinashi leans over his shoulder.

AVINASHI

You are so good at game running, Sujan!

ZABOO

I'm not paying attention to you!

VORK

For someone who claimed to be able to crack the woman code, you are entirely incompetent right now.

ZABOO

Yeah, you're right. Mom, I will go to your birthday dinner. But, I'm bringing my friends. Vork?

VORK

Who's paying?

AVINASHI

(confused)

Well, it's MY birthday...

Vork turns away, suddenly uninterested. Avinashi adjusts.

AVINASHI (CONT'D)

...so of course I will be paying for it!

Vork immediately gets his briefcase out and stands, ready.

VORK

Let's go!

Codex, is online and looks up into the monitor.

CODEX

Hey, finally got the computer back.
Never show an old person a dog
video. It's like entering a
recursive loop you can never
escape.

ZABOO

(into mic)

Hey Codex! I need you to come to
my mom's birthday dinner tonight.
Gotta have my back, bestie.

CODEX

Uh...I have...a date with Fawkes,
because, you know, we're dating.
So that's what we're doing. We're
dating.

ZABOO

Sweet! Bring him right along!

CODEX

But, but...

ZABOO

Directions texted. See you there.

Zaboo logs out. Codex looks defeated.

CODEX

I'm such a slow thinker!

INT. FANCY RESTAURANT - EVENING

Codex sits opposite Avinashi and Vork, next to Zaboo who is
seated at the head of the table.

CODEX

Hey everyone, Fawkes couldn't make
it. It's a really funny story, I
wrote it down on my hand...

Someone walks up beside her and takes a seat next to her.
Codex looks to see Fawkes who puts his arm around her.

FAWKES

What's a funny story, kissy face?

VORK
More bread please.

FADE OUT:

Episode 7:

INT. CODEX'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Codex stares into the camera from her bedroom.

CODEX

I've never gotten into "Real-Time Strategy" games. It's hard enough responding to a turn-based scenario, but adding a real-time element? How is THAT fun?! I have a hard enough time coping with REAL-LIFE in real-time! Like, if I'd had a pause button I could have come up with an actual good excuse why I couldn't go to dinner, or coped better with the fact that Zaboo sent Fawkes the restaurant info! And he actually showed up! I was speechless, I had nothing. My resources were totally maxed. Let's face it: I got zerged.

INT. FANCY RESTAURANT - EVENING

Fawkes is seated next to Codex, across from, Avinashi and Vork. Zaboo sits at the head of the table. Fawkes kisses Codex on the cheek really loudly and annoyingly.

ZABOO

This does not nauseate me at all.

FAWKES

I am so glad that I was able to cancel my...
 (reads off Codex's hand)
 "Emergency Anarchist's club meeting downtown."

CODEX

Thank you...muffin... face. But you didn't have to do it. REALLY.

ZABOO

Fawkes, meet my mom.

FAWKES

(to Avinashi)
 Enchanted. You know, with Bruiser dating Bladezz' mom, the mothers of the Knights of Good have become epic items.

(MORE)

FAWKES (CONT'D)

You should all get together and do a swimsuit calender.

VORK

My mother is dead. Employing her as Miss September would simply be inappropriate.

AVINASHI

So, Sujan, Tell me about your new life. Tell me all about it.

ZABOO

I game. Then I game some more.

AVINASHI

Oh, wonderful!

ZABOO

And then I moved out of Codex's place, on a quest to, you know, become a man...

AVINASHI

Your father would be so proud, Sujan!

ZABOO

Well, then Codex threw me over for a this anus face stunt guy, then I started dating a hard-core bisexual FPS gamer chick, she took my V-card, and then she started dating this paraplegic goth girl, and now I'm staying at Vork's in a toddler bed underneath a bunch of pigeons...

VORK

Squab.

ZABOO

Squab... trying to understand women!

FAWKES

It was worth the trip just to hear that.

VORK

(to Avinashi)

Just to clarify, you're paying for this ENTIRE meal?

AVINASHI

Yes, for the 50th time, yes.

VORK
Happy Birthday to me!

INT. VARIOUS OFFICES - CONTINUOUS

Tink and Clara are playing online with Bladezz.

BLADEZZ
Ladies, start drafting your press releases on how you knew me when. Codex is filming a Cheeseybeard's commercial tomorrow for which she's starring - moi. I'm going to have to film a sex tape after this to capiltalize on my fame..

TINKERBALLA
Now I have to go bleach my brain.

CLARA
Tell him about our company, Tink!

TINKERBALLA
Bladezz? Pass.

CLARA
We wanted to make money off of gaming, and we thought of a niche no one was serving: Tees for pregnant gamers! Say hello to "PreggamERS!"

TINKERBALLA
PreGAMERs.

CLARA
PREGGamers?

TINKERBALLA
PreGAMERs.

CLARA
Pregamers?

TINKERBALLA
(to Clara)
Let's work on that name later.

CLARA
(into mic)
We have a bunch of slogans already: "Newb on Board", "Mini-Boss", "Don't Frag My Baby." That one was Tink's. Women of all ages will want one!

BLADEZZ

All ages? Gimme one for Dena, her middle-school teachers will FLIP! Where you selling them?

CLARA

We still haven't figured out the work-y, icky parts.

TINKERBALLA

Oh I can't wait to design the logo. Some 8-bit baby with a machine gun.

Bladezz looks up, as a knock on the door is heard off-camera.

BLADEZZ

(into mic)

Oh, dudes, my acting coach is here. We need to run some facial expressions in the mirror tonight. This time we're doing number six: Nic Cage puzzled.

DENA walks up, wearing all white.

DENA

Terrible. I can't believe I'm missing my Bocci Ball tournament for this.

Bladezz gets up and exits.

CLARA

Tink, we'll need more t-shirt models. Text Codex and tell her to get the unprotected nasty on tonight!

INT. FANCY RESTAURANT - CONTINUOUS

A waiter is taking orders. Vork is intent on the menu. Codex is looking down at her phone at a text.

CODEX

Tink? What the eff?

VORK

(to waiter)

The pork tenderloins, do they freeze well or do I need to vacuum seal them?

WAITER

I don't know.

VORK

Then I'll only have seven of them.

The waiter exits.

AVINASHI

Well, it *is* my birthday so I do have one small request.

ZABOO

(under his breath)

I knew there was a catch.

AVINASHI

I have been going to these meetings at AA.

ZABOO

Mom, when did you start drinking?

AVINASHI

I haven't been drinking, but Codependant's Anonymous is full of very whiny people. So, as a step in my process, I have to go through each one of the things that I did, and apologize for them.

FAWKES

Well, that's very interesting.

ZABOO

I really appreciate that Mom.

(raises glass)

Hey, a toast. To new beginnings, starting with...

Avinashi pulls out a tablet and reads off it.

AVINASHI

As a step in my process, I must make amends for all the things I did that were an embarrassment to you, Sujan. I'm sorry.

ZABOO

Mom, I appreciate that.

(raises glass)

A toast, to new beginnings--

AVINASHI

To begin with, I took you to modeling class. No, I forced you into it, though your runway walk was quite jaunty I must say. I apologize for that.

FAWKES

We're learning all sorts of exciting things about you today aren't we?

AVINASHI

And then at your bris...

FAWKES

Excuse me, isn't a bris a Jewish tradition?

ZABOO

Yeah, we're Hinjews. So, uh, yeah...! Yes, it is! So Codex--

AVINASHI

We had it when he was ten years old, and invited his entire modeling class! I apologize for that, too.

ZABOO

No, you know what, it's fine.

FAWKES

You are a market researcher's wet dream. Please continue.

ZABOO

Dude, inappro! OK?

CODEX

Yeah, sweet...face. *That is quite enough of you!*

FAWKES

I'm sorry, honey bunny, am I making everyone upset?

VORK

I'm not upset.

FAWKES

Really? How's the construction of your Guild Hall coming? The Axis just bought ours. Deluxe.

VORK

(enraged)
Sassafras!

CODEX

Honey, come help me in the kitchen.

FAWKES
What?

CODEX
Whatever, come on!

FAWKES
Excuse us.

Codex throws her napkin down and exits. Fawkes follows.

INT. BLADEZZ' GARAGE - CONTINUOUS

Bladezz stands in front of a full length mirror. Dena stands behind him with a cane. She taps his legs and face as he practices his movements.

DENA
Mel Gibson scared! John Malkovitch
happy! GO GO!

BLADEZZ
My eyelid is starting to twitch!

DENA
Robert Pattinson ecstasy!
Pathetic! You call yourself an
actor?!

INT. FANCY RESTAURANT - LATER

Vork is taking food off other plates and putting them in to-go containers. Avinashi is cutting Zaboo's meat and reading off her tablet.

AVINASHI
And I'm so sorry I made you
practice all that opera singing in
at the mall food court...

ZABOO
Apology accepted for everything.
Please, don't cut my meat, c'mon...

VORK
Why would you not want your meat in
amenable bite-sized portions?

Avinashi starts cutting Vork's meat.

VORK (CONT'D)
Thank you. I am still in shock
that the Axis of Anarchy has
already purchased their Guild Hall!

AVINASHI

Are you purchasing real-estate Mr. Vork, because that is my specialty.

VORK

I have been buying and selling in-game products, but the profit margins are too thin.

AVINASHI

Why not make your fortunes in the commodities market?

VORK

The game doesn't have anything like that.

AVINASHI

Could you create one?

VORK

Well I don't...wait a second...you may be of value to me. I'm shocked.

EXT. FANCY RESTAURANT BATHROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Codex confronts Fawkes in front of the bathroom door.

CODEX

What are you doing here? I shouldn't have to be dealing with anyone but PRETEND "you"! That was the deal!

FAWKES

Well I've never had the experience of being a boyfriend before. So, I thought this could be a no-strings opportunity.

CODEX

I thought you only did stuff with a girl once, remember?

FAWKES

Ah, but tonight I'm role-playing myself.

CODEX

That is such BS! Admit it, this is a second date! You like me!

Taken off guard by Codex's candor, Fawkes starts to answer genuinely but quickly catches himself.

FAWKES

I... Is there a fainting couch in the ladies room?

CODEX

A what?

FAWKES

Since I'm role-playing MYSELF, if you were to role-play YOURSELF, then it would be the first time for role-playing US to do it on a fainting couch.

Codex looks at him in disbelief.

CODEX

Ok, thanks for playing along, but tomorrow I'm announcing to the Guild that we are officially broken up.

FAWKES

You're breaking off the fake relationship with the pretend "me"? Hm. This is indeed a meta meta moment.

CODEX

Yeah, I guess.

(BEAT)

It was barely fun while it didn't last.

Fawkes holds out his hand for a handshake. Codex looks surprised but takes it and shakes his hand, smiling. Suddenly, Fawkes pulls her in close, simulating the van art pose but with actual heat this time. He kisses her.

FAWKES

Just a little reminder of what you're passing up.

Fawkes EXITS. Codex looks around.

CODEX

Is there a breeze in here?

FADE OUT:

EPISODE 8:

INT. CHEESYBEARD'S OFFICE - DAY

Codex looks into the webcam at Cheesybeards.

CODEX

One of the most common types of romance novels is about "the reformed rake," a devilish man-whore who sleeps with anything that moves until he meets the one right girl who makes him hang up his man parts to settle down for a long, one-lady life. She usually ends up pregnant in the epilogue. Thank God I called it off with Fawkes thing before that. Now I just have to make up a good story to tell the Guild about our equitable parting, and I can close the book on the whole thing. Meanwhile, I'm filming that commercial with Bladezz tonight. So, I have to learn how to make a film in...

(looks at wrist)

11 hours. I just looked at my wrist, and I'm not wearing a watch. So dumb.

INT. OLLIE'S OFFICE - DAY

Codex is talking into her headset, fiddling with a camera.

CODEX

Yeah, pregnant gamer tees are a great idea! I don't understand why people wouldn't be into it.

INT. CLARA'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Clara sits at the computer wearing a clearly handmade t-shirt that says, "My Husband Crit my Ovaries". Tink tries out a pregnant gamer t-shirt that says "Still Levelling" and an arrow points downwards to her stomach. She pulls out a pillow from underneath her shirt that was making her look pregnant.

CLARA

We went to like, four game stores wearing prototypes, and everyone thought it was a reality show prank!

TINKERBALLA

Except one guy who wanted us to pose for his weird fetish web site.

CODEX

Do I want to know?

CLARA

(typing)

MakingitwithBabymakers dot com.
Ooh. Nice website.

TINKERBALLA

Hey, what's up with Vork? He created a password-protected channel and he's been in there with strangers all day.

CODEX

(reads screen)

"Vork Torgothian Average" channel?

INT. VORK'S OFFICE - DAY

Vork is at his computer. Avinashi is set up right beside him with a clipboard. Zaboo is at the end of the desk with his laptop. There is yelling coming from Vork's speakers, "BUY!" "SELL"! Like a stock market.

VORK

(to Avinashi)

What do you advise me on Wart weed?

AVINASHI

Invest.

VORK

I need Wart Weed at 50 gold. Need Wart Weed at 50 gold.

But sell silver, I believe player "GankMasta" is planning on flooding the market. He is a miner, correct?

VORK

Correct. Got silver for a hundred gold. Got silver for a hundred gold. I have to say Mrs. Zaboo...

AVINASHI

Avinashi.

VORK

I'll never remember that. This is brilliant. By creating a derivatives market of the Torgothian economy, we've added an intriguing new level of game play that will net me a tidy sum with each trade.

ZABOO

Sounds complicated, and scammy.

VORK

It's the free market at work. Your mother is a brilliant woman.

AVINASHI

It is my pleasure to help you in any way, Mr. Vork. Gherkins?

Avinashi pops open a huge jug of pickles and tries to feed gherkins to Vork.

VORK

Hold on a minute, woman! I don't know where your fingers have been!

Vork reaches down and pulls out some rubber gloves. Avinashi puts them on and feeds him another gherkin.

VORK (CONT'D)

(mouth full)

Tolerable.

Zaboo taps the keyboard. And talks into the mic.

ZABOO

What's up ladies?

CODEX

Oh nothing, just trying to learn film-making in 24 hours.

ZABOO

Things are going awesome here. My mom is so focused on Vork that she's totally ignoring me.

(to mom)

Mom, gherkin. Mom!

Zaboo leans in like a dolphin and makes dolphin noises, trying to get a gherkin fed to him, but Zaboo's mom ignores him.

ZABOO (CONT'D)
 Man, she always feeds me when I
 dolphinize. This is great. Hmm, I
 really want a gherkin now though.

Zaboo grabs a gherkin, eats it, and turns to his laptop.

ZABOO (CONT'D)
 Man, life is perfect!

INT. VARIOUS OFFICES - CONTINUOUS

CLARA
 Zaboo! Your mom and Vork hooked
 up? What's in the water lately?

ZABOO
 No! Never that! They're working
 together on the Guild Hall. See
 Vork's got this awesome plan laid
 out...

Vork leans over and slaps duct tape over Zaboo's mouth.

VORK
 What happens in shed stays in shed!

CLARA (O.S.)
 I'm not worried. We're up to 300k
 in savings!

Vork leans into Zaboo's laptop, crowding into his space.

VORK
 What?! But you've been offline all
 day! How are you keeping up the
 pace of your earnings potential?!

CLARA
 Tink and I have a Secret weapon.

Clara looks over at the other side of the office where GABY
 AND BLAKE are sitting at tiny desks using tiny net-books.

CLARA (CONT'D)
 Blake and Gabby, keep collecting
 cotton for Auntie Tink! Kill the
 monsters!

BLAKE
 Kill the monsters!!

TINKERBALLA
 Boys are stupid!

GABY
Boys are stupid!

TINKERBALLA
These kids are growing on me.

CLARA
(into mic)
The Sea Festival is almost over,
but by that time Tink and me will
be serving tea to the Guild in a
bitchin' fairy palace!

INT. VORK'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

VORK
(to Avinashi)
I was visualizing custom gargoyles
with my face superimposed, but that
dream is slipping from my grasp!

AVINASHI
Keep trading, the plan will work.

Avinashi gets out a back massaging stick and uses it on Vork.

VORK
Mrs. Zaboo, I don't... ooh...

AVINASHI
Do not resist, you are deserving of
pampering. I cleaned out your
kitchen earlier. I threw out many
expired large cans of food.

Vork leaps up and runs out the door, yelling.

VORK
YOU WHAT?! KEEP YOUR HANDS OFF MY
CHOW!

INT. VARIOUS OFFICES - CONTINUOUS

Tink's phone dings, indicating a new Text. She reads the
message and starts laughing.

TINKERBALLA
Oh my God. Venom just sent me a
picture of Fawkes with some chick
in a giant panda suit.
(reading)
"Check out Fawkes' date last
night."

She shows the picture to Clara.

CLARA
Awww! How creepy!

TINKERBALLA
So gross...wait...*last night*?

She starts texting furiously.

CLARA
What? What a man-skeev! That jerk-face is cheating on Codex?!

TINKERBALLA
She wishes.
(into mic, pointedly)
So Codex. How's everything going with Fawkes?

Happy to have an opening, Codex rearranges her face to look sad.

CODEX
Um, sad news. Ah, we decided to break it off. This morning. Over brunch. Prosciutto omelets, to be precise.

ZABOO
What? Really?

CODEX
Yeah, it was a mutual decision, let's not talk about it anymore--

TINKERBALLA
Codex you're a total liar!

CODEX
What are you talking about? Why?

TINKERBALLA
Venom just texted me and told me that Fawkes has been going out with girls all week! You guys were never dating, you were just a one-night stand.

Zaboo rips off the duct tape and spits a gherkin clear across the room.

ZABOO
That just made me poop a little. Oh, it's back in. Turtle-head'd.

CLARA

Codex, you're so wiley! Like that coyote..what's his thingy...

CODEX

OKAY! Fine, Tink, you're right. I was lying the whole time! I am a hoe-diddy hoe bag. But, I only did it because I cared about what you guys think about me. And now you've made me feel worse than I already did before, so thanks a lot! I'm...going to go home to eat lots of calories!

Codex logs off, upset. There's an awkward beat online.

TINKERBALLA

I hate it when I'm right. Wait, no I don't.

ZABOO

Tink! Schadenfreude'd.

CLARA

Gesundheit.

INT. VORK'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Vork runs back in, with several large cans in his arms.

VORK

I was able to run down the garbage truck, but I could salvage no green beans. This is a disaster!

ZABOO

Vork, Codex was lying about her and Fawkes the whole time! And...I don't feel happy about it. I just feel bad for Codex.

Zaboo jumps up and starts celebrating.

ZABOO (CONT'D)

I'm a good friend! Yes! YES!

VORK

Very supportive.

ZABOO

Get these shoulders ready, 'cause she's going to cry on them. Here I come Codex!

Zaboo rushes out of Vork's office as Vork turns to Avinashi.

VORK

Go get them. And you. Expiration dates are mere suggestions, like late fees and traffic lights.

INT. CODEX'S BEDROOM - DAY

Codex and Zaboo sit on her bed eating kettle corn and wearing white clay face masks.

CODEX

If I think too hard about what's going on right now, I might be a little creeped out, but I actually appreciate you coming over.

ZABOO

No problem. God, this mask is tightening up all over my face. Man, I'd never put this on another part of my body. Well, maybe.

CODEX

Why did I think lying was the best thing to do? Why did I hook up with him at all?!

ZABOO

Don't kick yourself. He has some great equipment.

CODEX

How do you know?

ZABOO

I inspected him on the server, boot to helm.

CODEX

Oh yeah, right. His character's armor is very sexy.

ZABOO

Totally.

CODEX

(gets up)

I gotta get back to Cheesybeard's and film that stupid commercial. "Work is the solace of sorrow." Oh, God. That was a quote.

ZABOO

I knew it! You're not over him.
Well, everything is happening just
as I imagined. But don't worry
best friend, I've prepared for
this. Fawkes!

Zaboo gets up and opens the door to reveal: Fawkes. He's
holding a bouquet of "found" road-side flowers.

FAWKES

"It takes one to forgive, two to
reconcile." Generic Greeting Card.

ZABOO

He's good.

CODEX

What are you doing here?

FAWKES

I wanted to see how this scene
played out.

ZABOO

See, the sidekick always reunites
the heroine with the hero!

CODEX

Not if the heroine thinks the hero
is a total tool-bag.

ZABOO

But I was just trying to get rid of
the mopey montage part of your
sadness.

CODEX

Well, yet again your attempts are
totally well-intentioned, but
overboard and inappropriate.

FAWKES

Are you sure that you're over me?

CODEX

(to Fawkes)

And YOU! Stop trolling me in real
life!

Codex pushes them out the door and slams the door. A beat.

ZABOO

Bye Fawkes.

Codex opens the door and throws the romance painting out at Zaboo.

ZABOO (CONT'D)

I got it from this guy who does van
art. The likenesses are pretty
special.

FADE OUT:

EPISODE 9:

INT. CHEESYBEARD'S - NIGHT

Codex looks into her webcam, she looks tired.

CODEX

I'm not gonna talk about the Fawkes thing. Or how everyone in the Guild now thinks I'm a liar. And forget about Zaboo, I'm not talking about THAT either. I mean, how dense do you have to be to think that-- See? I'm talking about all the stuff I said I wasn't going to talk about! We just finished filming the Cheesybeard's commercial! We've been up all nihgt. Bladezz is gonna edit it and add some graphics and stuff before he uploads it. I'm kind of excited to see it. Maybe I'll discover a hidden talent for filmmaking and win an award! Do film festivals have a category for best local internet commercial?

(BEAT)

Heh. I was daydreaming about the acceptance speech. Stupid.

(BEAT)

I would defintely wear something strapless...

AFTER CREDITS FOLLOWING COMMERCIAL PLAYS:

INT. CHEESYBEARDS OFFICE - NIGHT

Open on POV of telescope roaming around the office across cluttered papers and office supplies, eventually landing on a burger. Reveal that BLADEZZ, in a pirate costume, was the one searching through the telescope. With the sea mural behind him, he looks directly into camera and shouts...

BLADEZZ

Burgers ahoy!

CUT TO:

INT. CHEESYBEARDS KITCHEN - NIGHT

Bad MIDI-style music starts. Bladezz, a beat off the cut, walks towards camera. He speaks in a horrendous pirate accent.

BLADEZZ

Wanna know why my Roger is so--
Come on down to Cheesybeards for
all your pirate burger needs.
Enjoy! Wow, Cheesybeards really
knows how to serve it up! These
competitors can walk the plank!
Man overboard! Arrh, I'm a pirate!
So don't settle for shark bait,
walk the plank down to Cheesybeards
and taste-taste-TASTE taste my
pirate paddy.

DENA

Cheesybeards.

CUT TO:

INT. CHEESYBEARD'S OFFICE - DAY

Ollie looks over Codex's shoulder, watching the end of the
commercial. Bladezz also looks into the monitor, delighted.

OLLIE

Sherman, I'm scuttling this
project. You're fired.

CODEX

No! No! We put a lot of work into
this video!

OLLIE

It looks like a grog-dazed
orangutan made it. And what is
"Taste my Pirate Paddy?!" I've got
a dozen prank messages on the
machine and nothing but empty
tables out there.

CODEX

SOMEONE put in some editing magic
before they uploaded it without
telling me.

OLLIE

Don't pass the doubloon, Sherman. A
captain always goes down with the
ship.

CODEX

OK, just give me one last chance.
I will get people in here, I
promise!

OLLIE

Sherman, this place is all I got.
A man with one hand can't carve out
a business for himself every day!

BLADEZZ

Can't carve out anything if it's
his dominant hand, right?

OLLIE

(puts arm around Bladezz)
You're a hoot, lad. Never stop
talking.

(to Codex)

Two days, Sherman. Get butts at
the "Bounty Buffet" or we're
through.

INT. CLARA'S OFFICE - LATER

Clara and Tink are sitting in Clara's office surrounded by
boxes with various "Preggamers" tee logos on the side. We
see from an open box that they all contain black tee shirts.

TINKERBALLA

Clara, we agreed to print fifty t-
shirts!

CLARA

I DID order fifty! Then the guy
said fifty "gross", and I said
"Yeah, guys would think they're
gross." I thought he was flirting!

TINKERBALLA

A "gross" is ONE-HUNDRED AND FORTY
FOUR! Fifty gross is...THIS!

Tink gestures to all the shirts around them.

CLARA

Can't we return them?

TINKERBALLA

Sweat shops don't do REFUNDS!
We're out so much money!

Wiggly pokes his head in holding a bank statement.

WIGGLY

Honey, did you make a withdrawal
from our savings account?

CLARA

I needed seed money for the business.

WIGGLY

This is for the kids' college fund!

CLARA

All of them won't need to go, choose one!

(to Tink)

Don't worry, we'll sell them all!

TINKERBALLA

How do WE plan to do that?

CLARA

Shh!

(looks at monitor)

Jeez, the game trading house is out of control! Leather is up to 15 gold per stack? Is somebody hoarding it or something?

TINKERBALLA

Must be a server glitch.

INT. VORK'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Vork is at his monitor smiling evilly to himself.

VORK

Leather. I am the Torgothian King of Leather. The power is...

Vork laughs to himself as he spots the wig warmer in the corner of his eye. He leaps from his chair into a ninja pose, startled.

VORK (CONT'D)

Where is your mother? Did she place the wig warmer there as a decoy?! Find her! FIND HER!

Zaboo is stationed at the end of the table on his laptop, the Codex/Fawkes painting hung up nearby.

ZABOO

In a minute! I gotta get auction off this painting! It's just a constant reminder of my failure to become friends with Codex. I need a good, like, title description. Go!

VORK
 "Highland Ecstasy"?

ZABOO
 Oh yeah.

VORK
 Zaboo, your mother is obsessed with me. She wanted to go for a walk with no discernible destination this morning. Completely baffling.

ZABOO
 Dude, it's your place, tell her to leave!

VORK
 But I need her brilliant economic mind! One minute she's helping me create an empire, the next she's trying to re-arrange my novelty straw collection. It enrages me!

ZABOO
 That's the way she operates! She's like the Wobble Demons of the Ichtar Plain. She looks like a cute and cuddly bunny, but she it sucks the life force out of you as soon as you get within aggro distance. "Highland SEExtacy", that's catchy.

VORK
 Agreed.

Avinashi comes and unveils a tray of tofu and vitamins.

AVINASHI
 Lunch time! Tofu burgers and B-12 vitamins!

VORK
 I do not eat this type of, quote, food, unquote. Mrs. Zaboo, this is not working. I need you to leave.

AVINASHI
 (looks at monitor)
 Oh, you have cornered the leather market! But with the price so high the customer base is sure decline.

VORK
 It will? What do I do?

AVINASHI

Oh, start a loan company. With that, you can get interest and trading fees. But, you were about to say something?

She smiles sweetly as Vork takes the idea in, conflicted.

VORK

(angry)
Nothing.

ZABOO

Wobble demon'd.

Codex's voice comes through Zaboo's laptop. It's distorted like a chipmunk.

CODEX (O.S.)

Can you hear me? Hi, guys?

INT. VARIOUS OFFICES - CONTINUOUS

In everyone's offices, Codex's voice is cutting in and out over the speakers and VERY high-pitched.

ZABOO

Hey, Codex! Great commercial!

CLARA

Yeah, it's soooo bad! I linked it to everyone I know!

CODEX

Ollie's so mad at me. I came home after lunch because I started crying in my scurvy fries.

TINKERBALLA

Codex, your mic is messed up. You sound like a chipmunk.

CODEX

I know, my computer's still not working. I thoroughly apologize for lying to everybody..

Her mic gets even more high-pitched and loud. Everyone starts talking at once.

TINKERBALLA

God, stop!

CLARA

Codex, seriously, I'm gonna boot you!

ZABOO
Yowch! Deaf! Deaf!

VORK
(yells over)
Zaboo! Shut that off!

CODEX (CONT'D)
You guys...
(bursts into tears)
...don't yell at me!

INT. CLARA'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Over the speakers sobbing comes through, cutting in and out from Codex's unreliable computer.

TINKERBALLA
You're not gonna let me boot her,
are you.

CLARA
It's super annoying, but we should
do something.

INT. CLARA'S OFFICE - LATER

Codex sits on one of the kids' baby chairs in Clara's office and uses Gaby's netbook. Tink is on her computer next to Clara. Clara is serving Codex lunch on a baby plate. It's finger hot dogs or some baby-like food. Codex drinks from a baby sippy cup.

CODEX
Thanks for letting me come over...
It's nice to know everyone in the
guild doesn't hate me for being a
lying whore-bag.

CLARA
We don't hate you, we're excited
for you.

CODEX
(coughs)
Clara! This is pure vodka!

CLARA
I'm a mom at heart. Drink up,
honey.

TINKERBALLA
I knew the whole Fawkes thing
didn't add up. He wanted YOU as a
girlfriend but only wanted to go on
one date with me?! Impossible.

CODEX

Wait? You went out with him too?!

TINKERBALLA

How do you think I got into their Guild so quick? I don't do trial periods.

CODEX

No wonder you were so mad at me. Listen, I know exactly how you feel. When you have sex with someone you think it's gonna be a long-time deal, you know?

TINKERBALLA

Sex? Let's be clear, he only got to second base with me. And my second base is really everyone else's first.

CODEX

Wow, you know when you play in an area that's way too high level for you, so you have to get killed over and over again before you wise up and go back to an easier area to play?

TINKERBALLA

Is this going somewhere?

CODEX

That's what I've been doing in real life. Fawkes was too high level for me, this job is too high level for me, I mean, why did I ever think I could get people to eat in a restaurant? I don't have that skillset. That's it, I give up. I'm not going back.

CLARA

I'd have Wiggly take the family, but it is the last day of the Sea Festival, so...

CODEX

It's OK. I have a backup plan to get a new computer.

TINKERBALLA

You're lying again.

CODEX

You're right. Can I take the sippy cup with me?

CLARA

Yeah.

CODEX

Thank you.

Codex exits. Clara taps her computer. Zaboo logs on.

ZABOO

Is Codex ok? Tell her I picked all the wrong dialogue options yesterday. If I could reload my save game, I totally would!

TINKERBALLA

She left, but I was nice to her and I feel good about myself. That's all that's interesting right now.

CLARA

She's totally bummed about the whole Cheesybeard's thing. She said she's not going back.

ZABOO

We gotta help her! And I have to participate in an extremely moderate way!

Clara reaches over and puts on her Squid Hat.

CLARA

We do! How to get people to the restaurant... Oh my God! My thinking cap just gave me a great idea!!

ZABOO

Yes! An idea! From Clara!

I know, right?

FADE OUT:

EPISODE 10:

INT. CODEX'S BEDROOM - EVENING

Codex stares into her video camera, sipping from the Sippy cup.

CODEX

Unggh... three relationships in my life have ended with a whimper. A boyfriend in high school, a boyfriend in college, and my cousin Christine. After a while we just stopped calling each other, they faded away... it was easier that way. No messy breakups. Well... Christine forged my signature and used it to take a bunch of credit cards out in my name, so, I guess that's a... whole 'nother story... Now, I'm adding one more name to that list: Ollie, Pirate Man. Maybe he won't even notice I'm gone... I hope he doesn't track me down and keelhaul me! I wish I had a working computer so I could look up what that word really means... Augh! It's Ollie! So much for a whimper! Rude! Augh!

INT. CHEESYBEARD'S - DAY

A banner over the stairs reads "FESTIVAL OF THE SEA"! Codex enters to see Zaboo under the banner. Tink and Clara are at a table nearby piled with Preggamers tees. Clara waves.

ZABOO

The fabric is milk resistant... Oh hey! Welcome to Cheesybeards and the "Festival Under the Sea" Festival!

TINKERBALLA

Zaboo! I told you to stop saying that! It's stupid and redundant.

ZABOO

Welcome to Cheesybeard's, and the Festival Under the Sea Event! That is not a festival.

CODEX

You guys! What is going on here?!

CLARA

We threw it together after you left my house! Thanks to my +20 to intelligence squid hat!

ZABOO

Yeah we spammed general chat, and everyone showed up to celebrate the last day of the Festival Under the Sea Festi- thingymabob.

CLARA

And Preggamers has a place to sell shirts to pregnant gamer ladies!

She holds up a tee: "8-bit baby" as a BIG GUY walks up.

BIG GUY

Awesome! I'll take one of those...

CLARA

Oh but...

TINKERBALLA

Clara! Give our largest size to the big man here. It'll fit fine.

ZABOO

(to Codex)

And Bladezz actually helped, in exchange for some stage space.

Across the room Bladezz, in his commercial outfit, poses for a picture with a TEEN GIRL and GIRLFRIEND. Above him is a hand-made sign that reads: "Photos: 200 Game Gold".

GIRL

My brother did a mash-up of you and Keyboard Cat! Can I have your autograph?!

BLADEZZ

Well, yeah. Which boob you want me to sign?

GIRLFRIEND

Omigod, he's just as skeevy in real life!

Bladezz beams as Ollie crosses towards Codex.

OLLIE

Ahoy! You've blown a fair wind!

CODEX

Um, actually I didn't...

Clara leans over to her and hisses in her ear.

CLARA
(whispers)
LIE! LIE! You're good at that
now, remember?!

OLLIE
What? Huh?

CODEX
Um, Thank you, Ollie. I've had a
lot to coordinate...from my home,
but I think everything has turned
out great.

OLLIE
You've packed the galley tighter
than a booty chest. Entertainment,
eh?

CLARA
Oh, Bladezz is gonna put on a magic
show later.

ZABOO
But the eight-bit band got cut
because we didn't want to go
overboard on anything.

Zaboo looks at Codex intently.

OLLIE
Band? No worries! We can drop
anchor for that, eh beauty?

He smiles at Codex, who looks perplexed. Underlap singing...

INT. CHEESYBEARD'S - MOMENTS LATER

Codex, now wearing the pirate wench outfit, miserably strums
a ukulele. She plays at a booth with Zaboo, Vork and Zaboo's
mom, as Ollie sings a violent pirate song. Zaboo's mom
tries to hold a milk shake to Vork's mouth.

VORK
Mrs. Zaboo I can handle my own
drinking, thank you!
(to Ollie)
Will not happen, sir.

OLLIE
You cheap bastard!

ZABOO
Great Uke playing, Codex!

CODEX
(hisses)
I only know three chords!

Ollie and Codex move on as a GAMER comes up to Vork's table.

GAMER
Sir Vork? I need to talk to you
about my Potion portfolio.

VORK
Fluffykins of "Gigglebunny Guild" I
presume?

Avinashi holds out a clipboard for Vork to consult.

GAMER
No one's investing in the Potions
market, it's hit bottom! I need
another week to pay my debt back.

VORK
Should have considered the long-
term repercussions before you took
out a game loan through my Knights
of Good Loan Out Corp.

GAMER
Seems unfair that you run the
stocks AND loans!

VORK
Are you trying to regulate me, sir?
Are you a socialist?!

AVINASHI
(whispers to Vork)
The price of Infinite Potion has
hit an all-time low.

VORK
Fluffykins, I suggest you start
grinding. The deadline stays.

Vork pounds his gavel on the table. The Gamer stomps off.

ZABOO
Vork, you can't keep manipulating
the game, you're bankrupting
people.

VORK

Amassing a fortune will benefit the
game economy in the long run.

ZABOO

Trickle Down'd.

VORK

The Guild Hall is within my reach!

Vork eats a french fry, triumphant. A bit of ketchup remains
on his lip. Avinashi grabs a napkin.

AVINASHI

Opsie, Mr. Vork. Allow me.

Vork watches in horror as Avinashi, in slow motion, dabs the
napkin on her tongue and then wipes his face the way a mom
would a little kid. The sounds of the licking and dabbing
are magnified eighty times. Vork is frozen in horror.

AVINASHI (CONT'D)

There, all better.

VORK

(sweating profusely)

Zaboo, I'm going to the men's
bathroom. Accompany me.

They exit.

INT. CHEESYBEARD'S - CONTINUOUS

Codex, strolling with Ollie, looks towards the next table and
spots Fawkes sitting with VALKERIE, VENOM and RILEY.

CODEX

Oh, no.

OLLIE

(approaches table)

Well! How 'bout a ballad, maties?

FAWKES

"Music is essentially useless, as
life is." Satayana.

OLLIE

(holds up hook)

How'd you like to scrape the
barnacle off me rudder, shark bait?

Ollie exits, leaving Codex standing awkwardly alone.

FAWKES

Nice hook.

CODEX

So, it's nice that...I'm seeing you.

VALKERIE

The "Lass" looks is making a comeback this season, but gratz! You manage to make it look super awkward.

RILEY

She looks ok.

(to Venom)

When are we getting you one of those, sweet. Be my wench.

VENOM

Any day of the week.

Riley and Venom hold hands and stare at Codex intently. Codex awkwardly pulls up her dress.

FAWKES

I was just pointing out the table where you begged me to date you. The whole experience inspired me to blog about the feminine ego. Got tons of upvotes on Reddit.

CODEX

Should I be impressed?

FAWKES

Well, it made the front page. So, yes.

CODEX

I don't need to suck up your snark anymore. So...go blow a fair wind out of your Arrrrg-holes!

Codex exits. Fawkes gazes after her.

INT. CHEESYBEARD'S MEN'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Vork and Zaboo are in the rest room. Vork is drying his face underneath the automatic dryer. Zaboo is at a urinal.

VORK

Dry, dry! I've been poisoned!

ZABOO

Dude that's what Mom's do, man, I mean she's been licking my hair since I was four years old in lieu of shampoo.

Sounds of Zaboo peeing.

VORK

But this is fifty percent of my wardrobe that I'll have to burn when I arrive home!...what are you doing?

ZABOO

I'm going to the bathroom 'cause we're in a bathroom.

VORK

This is a conference! Find a better time and place!

ZABOO

I'm in midstream

VORK

Just hurry up!

INT. CHEESYBEARD'S - MOMENTS LATER

Codex is walking across the restaurant as Fawkes turns her around.

FAWKES

Go out with me again.

CODEX

Are you kidding? Now!? Why, why, why now?

FAWKES

Contrary to my expectations, this entire experience has been very interesting to me. You're interesting Codex, and that has surprised me.

CODEX

Well, YOU'VE been a total d-bag. That has not surprised me. Why would I go out with you again?!

FAWKES

I...make good brownies.

Codex looks thrown as the waitress, Jeanette approaches.

JEANETTE

(to Fawkes)

Look at that! Good to see you again, cutie!

FAWKES

(uncomfortable)

Ah, the waitress. I'll have a glass of water please, room temperature, no ice, thank you.

Jeanette's face turns livid.

JEANETTE

Oh, no! You think you can get all up in Jeanette and then treat her like hired help?

CODEX

Um, you got "all up" in Jeanette?!

FAWKES

Well I was up until very recently an epicurean.

JEANETTE

I'm gonna give you something there's no cure for.

Jeanette grabs Fawkes and throws him over a railing.

INT. CHEESYBEARD'S MEN'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Vork is in the corner with his ears covered. Zaboo is still at a urinal. He stops peeing.

VORK

Your bladder's like the Hindenberg!

ZABOO

Okay, I'm done, I'm done.

VORK

Now look, Zaboo. We need to jettison your mom out of our lives completely. Tell me what repulses women, it seems to be your specialty you're very very good at it.

ZABOO

Well, I dunno, Codex says that I overdo everything so why don't you just go overboard, make a giant gesture that's wildly inappropriate and then she'll run the other way!

VORK

Go overboard, okay - formulating...

ZABOO

I know this guy who does van art, soo.. collect fingernail clippings, and make a necklace out of -

VORK

Stop! I've got it. Let's go.

Vork marches out.

ZABOO

Alright, I'm going. Oops, gotta wash my hands, it's the law!!

INT. CHEESYBEARD'S LOBBY - CONTINUOUS

Codex is looking over the balcony as Jeanette beats up Fawkes below. Tinkerballa stands next to her.

JEANETTE (O.S.)

I've had better sex with a bicycle seat!

TINKERBALLA

That satisfies something in my brain. Like, a lot.

CODEX

Jeanette must be a boxer.

JEANETTE (O.S.)

Mixed Martial Arts!

CODEX

I am such an idiot with men... this is a lesson. Paladins over rogues.

TINKERBALLA

You should make a men's litmus test. It was the one thing in chemistry I learned when I wasn't sleeping.

CODEX

A litmus test? What do you mean,
like a checklist or something?

TINKERBALLA

I do the negative: No misers. No
amputees. No cuddlers.

CODEX

That's a weird list. Okay, I can
do that - and then next time
someone asks me out, I will say
excuse me, and consult my list
before responding.

TINKERBALLA

Yeah, you better stick to online
dating.

DENA

(approaches)

Hey, wench. Bladezz needs you to
help him out with the magic show.

CODEX

Can't you do it?

DENA

I'm center stage or nothing at all.

Codex rolls her eyes and follows Dena to exit.

INT. CHEESYBEARD'S - CONTINUOUS

Codex steps on stage with Bladezz doing magic. He holds a
playing card out to Valkerie in the audience.

BLADEZZ

Is that your card?

VALKERIE

No.

BLADEZZ

(teeth gritting)

Are you sure? I believe it is.

VALKERIE

Prove it.

Vork marches up to his booth and slides in next to Avinashi.

VORK

I'll cut to the chase because I
want this to end. Mrs. Zaboo, will
you marry me?

AVINASHI

Oh my Goodness! Yes! Yes I will!

Vork stands stunned. Zaboo scurries up to the table, hands
wet.

ZABOO

So, what'd I miss?

Across the room, Bladezz finishes his magic act.

BLADEZZ

Ladies and gentlemen! For my next
trick, that I have NEVER done
before, I.. will eat - FIRE!

With a flourish, Bladezz brandishes a fire-eaters torch. He
indicates for Codex to light it on fire, which she does,
fumblingly. Bladezz waves it around as the crowd "oohs" and
"ahs." Cocky, Bladezz takes a premature bow, extending both
arms behind him. Codex and the audience watch in horror as
the torch hits the curtain which immediately bursts into
flames.

OLLIE (O.S.)

FIRE IN THE HOLE!

FADE OUT:

EPISODE 11:

INT. CODEX'S BEDROOM - DAY

Codex is staring into her Flip video camera.

CODEX

I can't believe Ollie fired us
because we set the restaurant on
fire...

(starts laughing)

I'm sorry. It's just...so lamely
ironic. I'm never getting a new
computer now! Oh, that sobered me
up. Someone filmed the whole thing
from the audience and posted it, so
now Bladezz is even more internet
famous. And if possible, more
irritating. This is a good life
lesson: Never try anything new or
you'll fail! What else is going
on... oh yeah, Vork is marrying
Zaboo's mom.

(laughs)

I'm laughing, because it sounds so
crazy. I think I'm hysterical.

INT. CODEX'S BEDROOM - DAY

Zaboo is in a fetal position on Codex's bed, rocking. Codex
has Zaboo's laptop open in her lap.

ZABOO

Codex, please, talk to him! I
can't become related to Vork! If
this happens, I'm gonna replace all
my organs with clockwork and sell
myself to a Steampunk museum!

CODEX

Stop-- Stop it! Zaboo, calm down.

(into mic)

Vork, you do not want to do this!

INT. VARIOUS OFFICES - DAY

Everyone is behind their computers. Tink is at Clara's.

VORK

Of course I don't. The very
thought of marrying this woman
makes my prostate throb.

Avinashi sticks her head into Vork's office.

AVINASHI

Fiancee Vork, the ASPCA has come and taken all your birds. Their sound is quite distracting.

VORK

I understand.

She blows a kiss and leaves.

VORK (CONT'D)

Mentally, I'm in hospice, waiting to die. Numb, so numb.

CODEX

So just tell her you changed your mind!

VORK

(typing)

A verbal offer of marriage is a contractual obligation. Herman Holden's word is his honor. HIS HONOR, by Jupiter!

CLARA

Codex, stop trying to ruin all my fun. I am sooo deep into wedding planning now! Horses ovaries for everone, nom nom nom!

TINKERBALLA

Don't you mean Hors d'oeuvres?

CLARA

Sure we can have those too.

CODEX

You're planning it?! Didn't you skip your own sister's wedding?

CLARA

Zaboo's mom is letting me be a BRIDESMAID not a MATRON. Plus we're having it at my house, so the commute is super easy!

CODEX

(to Zaboo)

Give it some time, Vork will come to his senses...

CLARA
So, 7pm tomorrow, I'm drafting the
Cyber-vite now...

ZABOO
Tomorrow?! What? Are you kidding
me?

CLARA
Wiggly's ordained so there's no
need to delay!

ZABOO
It sounds real-er now! Dry
heave'd.

Codex's doorbell rings. Codex freezes.

ZABOO (CONT'D)
I'll get it.

CODEX
If that's a subpoena from Ollie, do
not take it? I'm too delicate for
jail time!

CODEX (CONT'D)
(into mic)
Vork, stop this insanity!

VORK
From a practical standpoint, this
situation does have its advantages.
She's already set the precedent of
paying for meals. I think a
carefully worded pre-nuptial
agreement could establish
acceptable living parameters. How
do you spell "saliva"?

Zaboo walks into Codex's bedroom with a big box. Codex looks
up.

CODEX
What is that?

INT. CLARA'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Tink is next to Clara holding a spreadsheet.

CLARA
How much do you think an ice
sculpture of Vork's game character
and Avinashi in a Sari would cost?

TINKERBALLA

Clara, we sold twelve shirts yesterday, but we still have tons of stock left! What's our next step?

CLARA

Business talk is so fun! Lemme do one: "We must strategize to monetize." How fancy do I sound?!

TINKERBALLA

This isn't a game. We're supposed to be making money. But we're not doing that!

CLARA

That's ok. I'm done now.

TINKERBALLA

What?! With what?

CLARA

I think I should focus on being pregnant. I have to work in-game, and the kids like to hang out with me some, so it's a lot!

TINKERBALLA

But we have seven thousand shirts left!

CLARA

We can just put them in the wedding gift bags!

Tink storms out as Clara calls after her.

CLARA (CONT'D)

OK, remember to bring your mom's garter belt to the reception!

INT. CODEX'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Zaboo is in Codex's bedroom setting up the new computer, he's transferring data. The old one is connected to it with wires.

ZABOO

And you are... webcam'd!

CODEX

I can't believe you bought me a new computer. I...I should make you send it back.

ZABOO

No guilt, it's legitimately yours!
I paid for it by eBaying that
painting of you and Fawkes.

CODEX

Are you kidding? Who would buy
that thing?

ZABOO

An author, Yelena Caress, for her
new romance novel, "As His Kilt
Rises"!

CODEX

I read all her stuff! I'll
probably by that one in e-book.

ZABOO

You know, it was really tough just
becoming like, just your friend.
But I think our relationship has
been successfully ret conned.

Zaboo notices a piece of paper next to the computer.

ZABOO (CONT'D)

What is this? Litmus Test?
Kind...funny...smells
good...gamer...

CODEX

(grabs the notepad)

That's nothing! You are right, we
have come a long way. I mean, not
that a physical object can really
transform-- that's shallow...

(hugs Zaboo)

You are a good friend! OK I'm
logging on! For the first time!
I'm so excited!

INT. VARIOUS OFFICES - CONTINUOUS

VORK

Guildies, I'd like to focus your
attention on something very
important...

ZABOO

More important than you marrying my
mom?!

VORK

...I have earned half a million gold and about to purchase the Knights of Good Guild Hall.

Zaboo perks up and opens his laptop up.

ZABOO

Woot! Thanks for waiting for us to log back on!

BLADEZZ

Vork! How did you get that much money in such little time? HAXX!

VORK

Innovation, my friends. I am a titan of industry! A financial wizard! So very rich!

Vork laughs evilly. Reactions all around.

CODEX

But you've made everything so expensive in-game, nobody can afford anything anymore!

VORK

There has been a touch of inflation, but I expect the market to self-adjust within six months.

CLARA

Business words aren't fun when YOU say them!

VORK

Everyone gather to me and behold the glory that is the Knights of Good Deluxe Guild Hall!

Everyone clicks and stares into their monitor.

CODEX

It kinda looks like a prison.

VORK

(proudly)
You're welcome.

ZABOO

Now that we have it, what do we do with it?

VORK

We gather in it, son.

Zaboo freaks out.

ZABOO
Did he call me "SON"?

CODEX
This keyboard is so responsive!

INT. CLARA'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Tink marches back into Clara's office.

TINKERBALLA
I came back.

CLARA
You left?

TINKERBALLA
I just wanted to say that...
I...LIKE doing business with you.
Hanging out is fun. And, I'd like
to keep working together?

Clara stares at her. Tink musters all her strength.

TINKERBALLA (CONT'D)
Please?

CLARA
Oh, my gosh. Did you just use the
P-word?!

TINKERBALLA
Yeah. You're a stupid influence.

INT. CODEX'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Zaboo is trying to do yoga to calm down.

CODEX
Zaboo? OK, this quiet calm thing
you're doing right now, this is
freaking me out.

ZABOO
Codex, stop the wedding.

CODEX
OK.

ZABOO
You have to stop the wedding!

CODEX

Don't worry. I will do this.

(determined)

Nothing can get in the way of true
friendship, if you're determined
and truth is on your side!

INT. CLARA'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Vork, Zaboo, Codex and Tink are standing around in semi-formal dress. Codex is holding her violin. Gabby and Blake are throwing petals aggressively at each other.

CODEX

(to Zaboo)

I thought if I said it with
determination, something would come
to me.

ZABOO

This is the nightmare level. Just
CTRL-ALT-DELETE me.

Zaboo looks faint. Vork hands Zaboo a baseball glove.

VORK

Unfortunately, my new paternal role
will require us to spend more
quality time with each other. I am
not looking forward to enjoying
this sporting object in an outdoor
setting with you.

Bladezz enters the house wearing shades. He has a fake tan.

CODEX

Bladezz! What the?

ZABOO

Oh, the devil's here. That makes
sense.

BLADEZZ

Sorry I'm late. Been busy with fan
maintenance, baby. Live chats,
vlogging. The job of being me is
24/7 now.

Wiggly pokes his head in from the dining room.

WIGGLY

Uh, the bride is ready for the...
uh, yeah.

INT. DINING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

...everyone's computer is set up on the dining room table. The line up behind chairs in front of the computers.

WIGGLY
Please be seated.

They sit and all put on headsets. Wiggly nods to Codex. Codex plays a wedding march on violin. Clara and Avinashi enter from the kitchen. Avinashi looks around, confused.

AVINASHI
What is this?

CLARA
I made your character just like you, except taller!

Clara holds out her hands to indicate boobs. Avinashi looks very confused.

WIGGLY
We are gathered here today...

TINKERBALLA
We can't hear you!

WIGGLY
Sorry.
(He pushes the mic button)
We are gathered here today to join these two video game characters in cyber matrimony

And as Wiggly starts the sermon he morphs into a green screen background and then we're INSIDE the game.

INT. GUILD HALL - CONTINUOUS

Zoom out to see the Guild arranged in-game in their Guild Hall. It's austere and dim-looking.

AVINASHI
This is very...confusing.

WIGGLY
Yeah. Yeah it is.

FADE OUT:

EPISODE 12:

INT. CODEX'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Codex talks into the webcam of her new computer.

CODEX

So, we're all in Clara's dining room. I'm playing the wedding march into my desktop, and I look around and...we look like some freaky reality show. "Amazing Geeks" or "Nerdy Shore" or "The Biggest Losers" or...never mind. Zaboo tried so hard to be a good friend to me, I really owed it to him to try to do something to stop this wedding! And it's not because he gave me a new computer, okay? That's where I'm doing this from, do I look fancier? Sorry. We really have become friends. Despite his complete lack of social skills, Zaboo is a smart, funny guy! He's kind and considerate... oh, God. Those are all things on my litmus test.

(grabs a pen and paper)

I gotta make this list WAY longer.

(begins writing)

Good wardrobe, biceps, calloused fingers...no that's creepy.

INT. GUILD HALL - DAY

The Guild and Avinashi are standing in the Guild Hall.

WIGGLY

...and if anyone present objects to this union, speak now or forever hold your peace.

Codex, Tink, Zaboo, Clara and Bladezz all speak at once.

ALL

I OBJECT.

In Clara's dining room Wiggly looks up. Everyone else stares at him for a beat, then looks down again to their computers.

WIGGLY

I don't think you're supposed to actually answer. It's just a formality.

BLADEZZ

Well that seems pretty unanimous.
So who wants to run a dungeon?

CLARA

I said "no" because I want to move
to a different game area. The
screen shots in here are terrible!

TINKERBALLA

The thought of Vork with any woman
makes me want to toss my boba. But
Zaboo's mom, you're bat-shit crazy.

CODEX

I objected! I--did you see that? I
objected.

(to Avinashi)

If there's anything I've learned in
the last week it's that honesty is
the best policy. Or if you're gonna
lie you gotta cover your tracks
really well and make sure there are
no furies involved.
Anyway...Zaboo's Mom, are you 100%
sure you want to marry Vork?

AVINASHI

I have nothing to go home to but an
empty house. Even though I can't
abide the idea of touching Mr. Vork
in an intimate way, I am desperate!

VORK

Are you referring to my in-game or
out of game character?

TINKERBALLA

Your out of game character?
Meaning YOU?

AVINASHI

And this way at least I can be with
my son. Even though he doesn't want
me!

CODEX

So you're going to marry someone
you can't stand in order to be
close to someone who doesn't want
to be near you? Tink is right.
That's kinda bat-shit crazy!

A beat as Avinashi starts to lose it. Will she unleash the
fury of Season 1? Looks like it! Clara gasps in horror.

Tink nods and silently mouths "nice." Bladezz gives a silent "oh crap." Zaboo winces. Codex has resolve. Wiggly, sweating, swallows nervously, no idea how he got in this mess.

CODEX (CONT'D)
 (off Avinashi's stare)
 Oh!

WIGGLY
 Uh Clara, something bad is happening.

CLARA
 (whispers)
 Don't worry honey, she's only a level one. Two seconds and we can flatten her.

In Clara's dining room, Zaboo looks up at his mom and starts to take his headset off and go over to her, nervous.

ZABOO
 Mom...

She looks up and glares at him.

CODEX
 In game, do it in-game!

ZABOO
 Right.

He quickly puts back on the headset. Everyone looks down again. In-game Zaboo steps forward.

ZABOO (CONT'D)
 Mom, you came here to apologize to me for your past mistakes. But you're not the only one. I made a mistake too and that was believing that you couldn't change and--
 DUDES!

Zaboo looks over to the other side of the Guild Hall where Bladezz and Tink are fighting around a Dueling Flag.

ZABOO (CONT'D)
 Could you not duel for one second while I deal with this?

They reluctantly stop fighting and rejoin the group.

ZABOO (CONT'D)
 (to Avinashi)
 Look Mom, I'm sorry.
 (MORE)

ZABOO (CONT'D)

I was wrong to make you feel unwanted but you don't have to settle for this awful, awful future. You deserve better.

VORK

Uh, did I imbibe an invisibility spell? Hello!

AVINASHI

You are so like your father. Kind, loyal, smart. I wish I could make amends with him too.

Codex looks at Zaboo in the game. Game statistics like "INT: 24", "Crit Rating: 32%" float up and fade out above his head.

CODEX

(softly to herself)

Woah. Litmus Test'd.

Codex takes a surreptitious glance over at Zaboo in real-life, who is intent on his laptop screen. He looks over at Codex.

ZABOO

What?

CODEX

Nothing.

She quickly looks back at her monitor

ZABOO

Mom, you don't have to marry Vork just to hang out with me. Occasionally. On weekends. Or...every other weekend.

AVINASHI

I am so relieved. If I had to do that, I would have just drowned myself in a bathtub.

VORK

Then we should call it off. Another crime scene is the last thing I need in that house! You should know, however widows statistically have a higher suicide rate, and are more vulnerable to extortion schemes and home-invasions.

AVINASHI

(to Zaboo)

How do I hug you in this game?

ALL TOGETHER
Type slash hug.

Avinashi's character hugs Zaboo. Happy reactions all around. Suddenly, a VOICE emerges from off screen.

VOICE (O.S.)
Knights of Good? Direct me to your leader.

A magnificently armored HUMAN WARRIOR (in outline) steps forward in the Guild Hall.

TINKERBALLA
Oh my God! That's the Death Lion Breast Plate!

She starts to fan herself, turned on. Vork steps forward.

VORK
I am Vork, Guild Leader of the Knights of Good.

VOICE (O.S.)
I'm Kevinator. Official Game Master.

Pan up to reveal KEVINATOR, more geeky than you'd expect.

CLARA
A GM! In person!

The whole Guild, save Avinashi and Wiggly, flood around Kevinator shouting out comments and questions.

CODEX	ZABOO	
I have forty-five different magical...	Dude, you gotta nerf Reaver Fury...	* *

CLARA (CONT'D)	BLADEZZ
I got stuck in an area of Crag's Heap the other day, fell for like 10 minutes!	Dude, hook me up with some GM powers? I wanna drop people from the sky!

VORK
Here's my pitch: "Vork Two-Hander of Decisive Justice"...

Kevinator silences them.

KEVINATOR
Guys, I'm not here to help, I'm here to rip XP out of someone's poop chute!

Everyone steps back, disturbed.

AVINASHI

Excuse me, we are in the middle of
my called-off wedding--

Kevinator waves his wrist and turns her into a small dog. In
Clara's dining room Avinashi protests to the group.

AVINASHI (CONT'D)

What just happened?

CLARA

He's one of the people who work on
the game, bow to your Master!

Back inside the game.

KEVINATOR

Someone in this lame ass Guild is
running an illegal operation that's
pretty much screwing with the whole
server economy.

TINKERBALLA

Yeah, that would be Vork's
Torgothian Stock Market. Did you
get my complaint?

VORK

Tattle Tink! You're the worst in
the country.

KEVINATOR

Dude, I gotta shut you down. If I
see another forum post about
inflated herb prices I'm gonna
start destroying things. And I can
do that. Because I am a God here.

Kevin starts aiming lightning bolts all over, it's obnoxious.

VORK

You can't shut me down! It's the
free market in action!

KEVINATOR

Yeah? I'm gonna perma-ban you if
you don't. I can do that. You wanna
dance with me?

Kevinator starts to dance around Vork, provoking him.

ZABOO

(mutters to Codex)
Kevinator is kind of a dick.

VORK

FINE! But you sir...are a tyrant!

KEVINATOR

Read your Terms of Service: This game ain't a democracy.

Kevinator starts to stride out of the Guild Hall. Codex rushes after him.

CODEX

Wait! So does that mean the half million gold that Vork earned is technically illegal as well?

KEVINATOR

Heck yeah. I should take that back. And I can because I--

CODEX

Yeah you told us.

VORK

Ha! I sheltered it in physical assets. Eat that, FED!

CLARA

Vork used it to buy this Guild Hall.

KEVINATOR

This place cost half a million g's? Looks like a sodomy cell.

CODEX

Well, uh, maybe you can help us with that?

She leans in to whisper to Kevinator. Kevinator looks her up and down.

CODEX (CONT'D)

I'm a girl in real life and I look just like this.

KEVINATOR

Nice character design. Yeah, I can swing it.

Kevinator lifts his sword and the Guild Hall transforms into the most obnoxious fairy-rococo confection ever.

CLARA

Tink, it's our design! It's so beautiful! Honey, I want to paint our bedroom like this!

Clara and Tink run away holding hands, doing ballet leaps.

WIGGLY
Can I log off now?

VORK
First I got left at the altar, now
this. I want to sob on principal.

BLADEZZ
I wanna vomit, but it would match
the decor.

KEVINATOR
(to Bladezz)
Anyone ever tell you your character
looks like that Cheesy Pirate dude?

BLADEZZ
LOOK like that dude? Buddy, I AM
that dude.

KEVINATOR
No way! Say "Taste My Pirate
Paddy".

BLADEZZ
"Taste My Pirate Paddy".

KEVINATOR
Dude! You're the dude! Walk with
me.

They walk away.

INT. CLARA'S DINING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Codex stands up from her computer as Zaboo walks up.

CODEX
That was close. Good job.

ZABOO
Thanks best friend. Being nice to
my mom was a trippy experience.
Kinda like that movie Psycho but
with a happy ending.

Zaboo looks down at the computer monitor. Cut to in the
game: Codex's character is holding his character's hand.

ZABOO (CONT'D)
Hey! You "forward-slash hand-
holded" me!

INT. CLARA'S DINING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

CODEX

(caught)

I was just...trying it out.

Bladezz calls over from his computer monitor.

BLADEZZ

Man, Kevinator is all over me about being the Cheesybeard's dude!

TINKERBALLA

We know. You're insufferable.

BLADEZZ

But he wants me to come to the gaming convention, make me a guest! And I hooked us all up with tickets. You guys can be my man-servant entourage!

CLARA

A gaming convention?!

The Guild members rush back to their computers en-masse.

CODEX

There's gonna be a convention?
With the game!?

VORK

Where did my grief go?!

ZABOO

There's seriously a convention?!

CLARA

WE'RE GOING TO A CONVENTION!?!

WIGGLY

Yeah, honey, about that...

CLARA

(jumps on Wiggly)

WOOOT!

THE END: