

CHARACTER CLASS Ep. 1 "I'll Allow It"

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EXT. TRISDALE, AMERNIA - DAY

(Animated)

Lush, green fields. Trisdale. Wide open plains stretch for miles. Unnaturally bright, colorful flora. A double moon fills the sky in this magical world of Amernia.

A faint shadow of a DRAGON flies through the smoke of a volcano in the distance.

EXT. RUTO, TRISDALE - DAY

A fluorescent purple bird's sweeping view leads to an ornate CITY perched on the top of a waterfall. Elven construction.

ELVES, draped in flowing, regal clothing, effortlessly mull about the city in perfect posture.

Focus zeroes in to a beautiful residence adorned with an ornate "E" above the door.

INT. EVENWORTH MANOR - DAY

ELDORELLE EVENWORTH (60's, elegant high-elf woman) in an immaculately, beautiful dress stands up from a table with nothing but a BOOK on it. The grand home sparkles with superb craftsmanship and gorgeous design.

The book is open to pages filled with aggressive handwriting akin to a madman. The only decipherable sentence reads "They will all die."

With an emotionless face, she waves her hand over the book. The writing DISAPPEARS.

Closing the book, she walks away. On the cover is an ornate "H" that could almost be mistaken for a 96.

MAX (O.S.)

WHAT?!

INT. BRIAN'S APARTMENT, LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

(Live action)

MAX (30's, any ethnicity, dapper skater clothes, no hair out of place) in disbelief, sitting at a large GAMING TABLE. DICE, Character Sheet and a book reading "Players Handbook" (PHB).

A set of 7 multi-sided dice neatly positioned and perfectly straitened out in front of him. These dice have been well loved. Clearly old and almost illegible.

Next to Max, BRIAN (mid-late 30's, any ethnicity, balding early, dressed for comfort with an oversized nerd shirt) is at the head of the table, lit by a single bright overhead lamp.

An elaborate DM SCREEN and LAPTOP is in front of him, the Dungeon Master.

BRIAN

Max, it'll be fine, dude. Just don't make a big deal out of it.

1970's and 80's furniture with out-dated, bachelor decor fill the apartment. Nerdy KNICK-KNACKS, and framed PHOTOS with Brian and Max at a gaming convention, along with other random smiling FRIENDS, playing D&D.

SNACKS, SODA and a BATTLE MAP with miniature role-playing FIGURINES, placed in strategic positions, neatly fill the table.

MAX

It is a big deal Brian! How could you agree to this? Without even asking me!

TUCKER (Any ethnicity, Big, greasy, unkempt, late 30's/early 40's) rounds the corner with a bowl of pretzels.

He sets it down in a symmetrical presentation, sits, pulls out his laptop and D&D stuff, neatly setting it up in front of him.

TUCKER

Is this coming to a close soon? No fighting on game night.

MAX

Tucker, it's kind of about tonight.

TUCKER

Then discuss it calmly.

MAX

(calmly)

Fine. Brian, you're an ass-hat.

STEVE (any ethnicity, early 30's, attractive, geek-cheik hipster) bursts in from the door chanting:

STEVE

D-and-D! D-and-D!

BOB (Any ethnicity, late 20's, petite, gothic tomboy) joins the room following Steve, with her book, a tablet and DICE BAG, singing a conga-style rhythm:

BOB

New campaign starts to-night! New campaign starts to-night!

Steve drops his backpack and sits at the table like he owns the place.

Before taking anything out of his bag, he chaotically grabs a handful of chips, creating a mess of Tucker's snack display.

He sits across from Max, on the other side of Brian.

Bob stops her singing abruptly.

BOB

Steve, get out of my seat.

STEVE

Why is this *your* seat?

MAX

I think squatters rights kick in way before the 4 years she's put in to that seat.

STEVE

I know, but why can't we change it up?

They look at Steve in antipathy.

TUCKER

That's weird.

MAX

Yes. It IS weird.

Steve rolls his eyes and changes seats. Bob sits in HER seat.

BOB

Okay, kids. You ready to play?

MAX

I am, but I think we're expecting someone? Right Brian?

The rest of the group, disgusted, look to each other in confusion.

STEVE

Who?

EXT. BRIAN'S APARTMENT - NIGHT, CONTINUOUS

LAUREN (any ethnicity but same as Steve, early 30's) sits in her car, still running. If not for the Yoshi shirt she's wearing, she wouldn't fit in with anyone inside. She's gorgeous and in-style.

She checks her flawless makeup in the rearview mirror, puts the car in park, stopping to think. Does she want to be here?

No. Changing her mind, she puts it in gear and drives forward.

Only getting about 10 feet, suddenly she stops. No, she'll stay. She backs up and turns the car off.

INT. BRIAN'S APARTMENT - NIGHT, CONTINUOUS

Back at the table.

TUCKER

I'm playing Oa Tams the second, an elf cleric.

In animation, like a Player vs Player video game select screen: OA TAMS, a fit, elf, dressed in religious robes, stands at the ready with a QUARTERSTAFF.

STEVE

Junior. Nice to meet you. I'm Lady Bry-anne of Martin.

They all laugh.

Animated PvP select green:

LADY BRY-ANNE OF MARTIN, a building of a woman. Brutish Drow in a scantily clad leather bikini, stands at the ready, with a MACE in her hand.

BRIAN

Funny. What's your real name?

STEVE

That *is* her real name. She's from the house of Martin.

BRIAN

You're naming your character Brian Martin?

(pointing to himself)

STEVE

Lady Bry-anne of Martin.

BRIAN

(unamused)

Fine.

EXT. BRIAN'S APARTMENT - NIGHT, CONTINUOUS

Lauren starts the car again, but her indecision stops her.

Making up her mind for the last time, she confidently shuts off the car, gets out, grabbing her BAG and hastily walks up to the door.

INT. BRIAN'S APARTMENT - NIGHT, CONTINUOUS

BOB

I'm playing Bitsy Blackwell, the
Drow Rogue.

Animated PvP Select Screen:

BITSY BLACKWELL, a petite, short, drow, dressed in dark leather armor and a hooded cloak, stands at the ready. Not far from Bob IRL.

MAX

My character, Slade Evenworth, is
a High Elf Paladin.

Animated PvP select screen:

SLADE EVENWORTH an athletic, flawlessly handsome elf, clad in shiny, ornate silver armor.

On his chest is a crest made up of three elements. Fire, water and earth. A bow and quiver on his back. An elven sword and shield in his hands, at the ready.

Lauren knocks softly, waits half a second and walks in on her own.

LAUREN

Hey guys, sorry I'm late.
(to Steve)
Hey Stink!

STEVE

Hey Sis, and don't call me that.

Bob nods at Lauren as a silent greeting.

BRIAN

(Polite smile)
Hey Lauren.

TUCKER

Hi. I'm Tucker.

LAUREN

Hi Tucker--

MAX

So, why are you here?

BOB

Oh no.

LAUREN

You left this at my place.

She reveals a NOTEBOOK from her bag, labeled "Max H. Plummer D&D notes." Max expectantly stares at her, impatiently waiting for her to continue.

LAUREN (CONT'D)

Brian said I could play.

MAX

I know.

Max turns to Brian. Brian shrugs at him. Max widens his eyes and clenches his lips threateningly.

BOB

Well, this won't be awkward at all.

TUCKER

You ever played before?

LAUREN

Does Zelda count?

MAX

Not even close.

LAUREN

Then, nope. I'm a virgin.

STEVE

Yeah... right.

BRIAN

Inappropriate.

MAX

Well, thanks for bringing me my notebook. It was not nice to see you. Now if you don't mind-

LAUREN

Excuse me?

TUCKER

No fighting on game night!

Max acknowledges Tucker and calmly turns to Lauren.

MAX

Lauren? Borrow you for a second?

Lauren, reluctant, agrees and retreat into the hallway.

After they leave the room, Bob, sarcastically matching Max's tone, picks up some POTATO CHIPS...

BOB

Steve? Borrow the dip for a second?

They laugh.

INT. BRIAN'S APARTMENT, HALLWAY - NIGHT

Max and Lauren whisper.

MAX

Why are you doing this?

LAUREN

Oh, c'mon Max, you said you wanted to be friends.

MAX

And you just ignored the fact that maybe, just maybe, this might be awkward?

Steve saunters past, headed for the bathroom.

STEVE

(sarcastic)

Why is it awkward? You just have to communicate, strategize and collaborate with each other.

MAX

You're a dick.

Steve struts into the bathroom.

STEVE (O.S.)

Yes, I am.

LAUREN

It's only awkward if you make it awkward.

MAX

(raising his voice)

Don't do that. Don't do the whole-

Tucker looks over toward them from the table. Max stops himself. He continues in a whisper.

MAX (CONT'D)
Oh, my god. I can't believe this
is happening!

LAUREN
It's happening. I'm playing
tonight.

Max snatches the note pad from Lauren's hands. She reaches over and pulls out a CHARACTER SHEET from it...

LAUREN (CONT'D)
(Cheekily)
Oops! This one's mine.

She shoots him a snarky smile heading back into the living room.

INT. BRIAN'S APARTMENT, LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Lauren looks back at Max, taunting him.

LAUREN
You playing?

Max still in disbelief, shoots her an irritated look.

LAUREN
(to the table)
Where can I sit?

Nobody says anything. They look at each other trepidatiously, unsure of what to say.

Bob, uncomfortable with the awkward silence, stands up, abandoning her seat.

BOB
Right here, we can make fun of
Steve.

LAUREN
You two were a cute couple.

BOB
We were hooking up. Not the same.

Lauren smiles, and makes herself at home in Bob's seat. While Bob is grabbing a chair, Lauren pulls out her PHB and Character Sheet. Uncertain as to what to do with them, she scans everyone else's setup.

Bob pushes Steve's stuff aside to make room for her next to Lauren.

INT. BRIAN'S APARTMENT, HALLWAY - NIGHT

Max stands still, in shock. Steve sneaks up behind him.

STEVE
(slapping Max on the butt)
It's not gay if you say good game.

TUCKER (O.S.)
I heard that!

The slap snaps Max back into reality. He sulks into the living room, incredulously.

INT. BRIAN'S APARTMENT, LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Max and Steve settle back into their seats. Steve barely notices his stuff is messed up.

LAUREN
You didn't wash your hands,
Stinky!

STEVE
My penis wasn't dirty.

LAUREN
Gross!

Steve is proud of his joke.

TUCKER
Don't touch *my* dice.

Simultaneously, everyone moves their DICE and FIGURINES closer to themselves, away from Steve.

MAX
Can I get a saving throw against
Lauren playing?

Everyone chuckles.

TUCKER
That's an idea. Maybe you should
roll to see if she joins the game?

MAX
Yeah! Thanks Tucker.

TUCKER
Team Max.

LAUREN
Oh Jesus.

BOB
Team Lauren.

LAUREN
Thanks.

They all look to Steve.

STEVE
Undecided.

LAUREN
Stinky!

STEVE
I'm leaning Max.

MAX
So, let's put it to a roll. She
has to get a critical to play.

STEVE
Ooooooh!

BOB
That's ridiculous. She just has to
beat you. Max versus Lauren.

All eyes look to Brian.

BRIAN
I'll allow it.

STEVE
Ooooooh!

Silence.

Everyone looks to each other, in agreement.

Breaking the silence, Max hastily grabs his 20-sided DIE.

MAX
Any modifiers?

BRIAN
Nope.

Lauren slowly reaches in Steve's pile of dice. She picks up two
6-sided DICE.

TUCKER
No, sweetie, this isn't Shadowrun.

BRIAN
D-twenty please.

LAUREN
What does that mean?

Max rolls his eyes.

BOB
The twenty-sided die.

Lauren searches for the right die.

Steve hands her a D20. She peers at his FINGERS, grimaces in disgust and reluctantly takes it.

Everyone's faces show eager anticipation. Max rolls his 20-year old, worn DIE...

A 19!

MAX
YES!

Lauren rolls. In slow motion, the twenty-sided DIE tumbles end over end on the table.

The DIE slows and lands with a "20" on top.

She smiles.

End cold open.

INT. BRIAN'S APARTMENT, LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Seated around the table, everyone is ready to play.

BOB
Are you sure you want to play a magic user your first game?

MAX
Are you sure you want to play at all?

LAUREN
(making fun of Max)
I feel petty, oh so petty. I feel petty, and witty-

Brian interjects, changing the subject. He starts speaking in a dramatic fantasy story telling tone.

BRIAN

We are in the land of Trisdale. A continent in the world of Amernia.

TUCKER

Ah, Home-brew. Nice.

LAUREN

What's home-brew?

MAX

Jesus, Brian. Did you prep her at all?

BRIAN

She can ask questions, dude. Chill.

BOB

It's when the DM writes his own world and modifies the rules to fit his story.

LAUREN

Why is this home-brew?

STEVE

Because Amernia and Trisdale don't exist in the WOTC canon.

BRIAN

In this land, Elves and Drow weren't always sworn enemies. They used to live in harmony-

LAUREN

What's a Drow?

TUCKER

A dark elf.

STEVE

Their alignment is usually chaotic evil or chaotic neutral.

LAUREN

Wait, alignment?

MAX

Oh jeez!

BRIAN

Like their moral alignment. Remember?

LAUREN

Oh, right. Ooh, that sounds fun!
Can I switch to Drow?

BRIAN

That's gonna change your backstory
we worked on, but that's fine.

(Fantasy tone)

The high-elves Eldorelle and Eldir
were the leaders of Trisdale, in
the capital city of Ruto, An elven
city atop a waterfall. Long ago,
the miscevious Drow, Havaiis
started acting strange and asking
about the evil goddess Llolth.
After causing trouble in Ruto,
Havaiis disappeared, never to
return. After years and years, he
became somewhat of a Myth among
the elves of Ruto. One day, while
hunting for deer...

EXT. TRISDALE, DRAGON LAKE - DAY

(Animated)

A gorgeous, light blue LAKE. Pulling out, the rivers running
from it, resemble the shape of a dragon. A bright, green forest
lining the clear water. In a clearing of this unnaturally
beautiful forest is a DEER, peacefully munching on some grass,
with an angelic ray of sun slicing through the treetops.

SLADE, walks into frame, fixated on a target with an ARROW
docked in his BOW. A DEER.

OA follows him, annoyed.

OA

(Tucker's Voice)

I don't know why we have to do the
hunting. Isn't this a Ranger's
job?

SLADE (Max)

It's our dinner, Oa.

OA (Tucker)

Oh, that makes more sense. Because
we're out here on a quest...?

SLADE (Max)

(baiting)

Um, yeah a quest to...?

BRIAN (V.O.)
 You're looking for sacred elements
 for your ritual to the Goddesses.

SLADE (Max)
 ...find the sacred elements for
 our ritual to the Goddesses.

OA (Tucker)
 Right, the Goddesses...? That I
 worship... are...?

Baiting Brian to finish his sentences, he finally gives up...

OA (Tucker)
 Brian, who are the Goddesses?

BRIAN (V.O.)
 Oh, sorry. Um... Adustum, Aqualine
 and Terradur.

SLADE (Max)
 Yep.

The DEER hears them and runs away into the thickness of the
 forest.

SLADE (Max)
 Rats!

Movement in a nearby BUSH catches their eye.

Oa and Slade snap their heads toward each other. They silently
 communicate to investigate with a swat team gesture.

They inch forward with caution. Slade, quietly places his BOW
 on his back. He swiftly draws his SWORD and SHEILD. Oa readies
 his STAFF out in front of him.

BRIAN (V.O.)
 Bob, roll a hide check.

DICE ROLLING is heard.

BOB (V.O.)
 Shit. Critical fail.

The bush Slade and Oa are staring at suddenly turns into BITSY
 BLACKWELL holding a small BRANCH in front of her with her eyes
 closed.

OA (Tucker)
 A Drow!

SLADE (Max)
Stand up, Drow!

Bitsy, unaware, continues to crouch and close her eyes.

BITSY (Bob)
You'll have to find me first!

Slade stands there, perplexed. He points at her.

SLADE (Max)
You're there.

Bitsy slowly opens her eyes looking up to see Slade staring at her. She stays crouched, looking at him, sheepishly.

OA (Tucker)
He said stand and face us!

From behind her, an imposing silhouette slowly rises. LADY BRY-ANNE OF MARTIN ascends, MACE in hand.

Oa and Slade's eyes slowly move up her massive body, intimidated.

BRY-ANNE (Steve)
Hammer?

BRIAN (V.O.)
Dude, you're not that dumb. Your intelligence score is twelve.

BRY-ANNE (Steve)
Oh. Hey, there you are, Bitsy!

BITSY (Bob)
What the hell are you wearing?

BRY-ANNE (Steve)
It's my lady armor.

BITSY (Bob)
How do you expect to defend yourself in a fight with that bikini?

BRY-ANNE (Steve)
It's mage armor.

BRIAN (V.O.)
No it isn't.

BRY-ANNE (Steve)
But it looks good.

Lady Bry-anne, feels the disapproving eyes and looks around to find everyone staring at her in disgust.

BRY-ANNE (Steve)
Fine. I'll go the armory at the next town.

A la Count Rugen in Princess Bride, Slade readies his SWORD, then suddenly turns to run away.

Slade gets just a few paces, before he STOPS, dead in his tracks in front of:

SARIAH BLACKWELL (thin, dark cloaked drow) stands imposingly in front of Slade. She's holding a magician's long staff with a cobra head at the top. She looks like a female version of Jafar from the animated Aladdin.

SARIAH (Lauren)
Where you going, elf?

SLADE (Max)
Oh, just you know... Away!

Just as Slade starts to dart away, he stops, realizing he's surrounded.

OA (Tucker)
We're out numbered Slade. It's best we play cool.

BRY-ANNE (Steve)
We're not here for you, elves.

BITSY (Bob)
You don't have to tell them that, Bry-anne. We have the upper hand.

BRY-ANNE (Steve)
That doesn't mean we have to let them live.

Bry-anne charges at Oa. Oa turns his back, bends down on one knee, PRAYING. Bry-anne swings her MACE at Oa.

Just before it slams down on Oa, a glowing opaque APPARITION of a saintly warrior appears in front of him. It blocks the attack, protecting him.

Everyone breaks into battle.

Chaos!

BRIAN (V.O.)
 So you guys are just gonna fight
 each other?

Slade slashes his SWORD down onto Sariah, cutting her arm.
 Without hesitation, in a one-two he bashes her with his SHEILD,
 knocking her on her ass.

With her prone, he makes a break for it.

BRIAN (V.O.)
 I guess so.

Bitsy pulls out her CROSSBOW, and poises on one knee. Releasing
 a bolt through the air, it whizzes by Slade, missing by an inch
 and lands into a nearby BUSH.

A loud, high-pitched SCREAM comes from the bushes, stopping
 everyone.

BRIAN (V.O.)
 (in a feigned female voice)
 AAAHH!

Record Scratch.

They all stop and lower their WEAPONS. Ears first, they
 approach the whimpering BUSH, elbowing and pushing each other
 to get there first.

Behind the bush is a small, crying CHILD, ASPEN (12, human
 girl) with half a shackle on her wrist, a small bag on her
 side, dressed in rags. A CROSSBOW BOLT pierced her bleeding
 thigh.

OA (Tucker)
 Are you okay?

ASPEN
 (Brian's little girl voice)
 No.

OA (Tucker)
 I can help you.

BITSY (Bob)
 Don't touch her you filthy elf!

OA (Tucker)
 I'm a healer.

BITSY (Bob)
 Oh, okay, then.

Oa reaches out to her, Bitsy SMACKS his hand away.

BITSY (Bob)
I was being sarcastic, you daft moron!

OA (Tucker)
She wouldn't be hurt if it wasn't for you. She needs my help.

Bry-anne SMACKS Oa. Hard. He flies through the air, 10 feet away. Bry-anne bends down and picks up Aspen in her arms.

ASPEN (Brian)
Are you going to hurt me?

SARIAH (Lauren)
No, sweetheart. We would never.

Oa brushes himself as he stands up.

OA (Tucker)
What do you think a crossbow bolt to the thigh is?

SARIAH (Lauren)
Not on purpose.

Slade materializes from the forest.

SLADE (Max)
Hello again. Guys, umm... we might have something that will actually unite us.

SARIAH (Lauren)
Like what?

SLADE (Max)
A common enemy.

Behind him, is 4 NAGA (Monsterous, snake creatures with human faces)

BITSY (Bob)
Great job leading them to us, genius.

BRIAN (V.O.)
Everyone roll initiative.

INT. BRIAN'S APARTMENT, LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

(Live Action)

Around the table, everyone is checking their SHEETS and rolling DICE.

LAUREN
What's initiative?

BRIAN
It determines the order of turns
in the battle.

Steve points to a spot on Lauren's sheet.

STEVE
Right here. Add this to your d-
twenty roll.

Bob GULPS down the rest of her beer, making 3 empty bottles
next to her.

LAUREN
I hope you didn't drive.

TUCKER
Next door?

LAUREN
Oh. Right.

BOB
I don't have a car, anyway.

Bob gets up and goes to the kitchen.

STEVE
(to Bob)
I'll have one with ya. Where are
the Cheetos?

EVERYONE
Are there any girls there?

LAUREN
What?

MAX
Inside joke.

BRIAN
It's from an old D&D youtube
video.

Bob stumbles back in with 2 BEERS, 2 SHOT GLASSES and a bottle
of VODKA.

LAUREN
Jesus, Bob.

BOB

Hold on, I gotta go pee.

The group is all looking at their notes and thumbing through their books except Lauren.

LAUREN

So, how long have you guys been playing?

MAX

(Without looking up)
Brian and I have been playing since we were kids.

BRIAN

(Joking)
I used to babysit him.

Max looks up and shares a smile with Brian. He then fiddles with his twenty year old, tattered D20, looking at it fondly.

STEVE

They would have "sleep overs" together. Statutory, Brian.

BRIAN

Dude, I'm only 2 years older than him.

STEVE

Your bald head says otherwise.

Brian gives Steve the middle finger.

MAX

No, I'm not gay.

TUCKER

(teasing)
What's wrong with being gay?

Bob walks in.

BOB

Woah, who's homophobic?

She sits down at the table, cheers' Steve; they DRINK.

TUCKER

Hitting it pretty hard tonight, eh, Bob?

STEVE

Your mom's hitting it pretty hard tonight.

MAX

You guys know I'm an ally. Tucker?

Tucker just stares at him, teasing.

MAX

I'm just saying I'M not... Brian, can we get on with the game?

STEVE

(taunting him)

Max wants to get on with the game because he feels uncomfortable.

LAUREN

(instigating)

Max, do you feel uncomfortable?

MAX

Shut up, Lauren. Why are you even here? And Steve was the one who said it isn't gay if-

BRIAN

Save the hostility for the game guys. We just started a battle.

STEVE

I want to know why Max is disgusted by being thought of as gay.

MAX

Wait, what?

LAUREN

Okay, enough Stink.

STEVE

What? And don't call me that.

LAUREN

You're instigating!

STEVE

(Mocking Lauren)

You're instigating.

LAUREN

(disappointed)

Really?

BOB
 (Gesturing to Steve)
 Try having sex with that.

LAUREN
 Ew! God!

Bob takes a big swig of BEER.

TUCKER
 Bob, maybe slow down a bit?
 Tucker looks disapprovingly at her.

BRIAN
 Okay, we are in game...

EXT. TRISDALE, DRAGON LAKE - DAY

(Animated)

Bry-anne sets Aspen down, and rushes to the NAGA.

Oa runs to Aspen, gently placing his hands on her. A FORCE FIELD around Aspen forms from Oa's hands.

Bry-anne SLAMS her MACE down on the head of a Naga, clocking it good. While engaged in melee, Bry-anne turns toward Slade continuing to fight without looking in front of her.

BRY-ANNE (Steve)
 So... Elf?

A Naga BITES at Slade, missing. He parries and SLASHES back at the Naga cutting it's HEAD off.

SLADE
 (annoyed)
 What? Kinda busy here.

BRY-ANNE (Steve)
 Any strong feelings about gay elves?

SLADE (Max)
 Oh, come on!

Distracted by Bry-anne, he lets his guard down and a Naga takes a big BITE of his SHOULDER.

SLADE (Max)
 AHH!!

Bry-anne laughs.

Sariah shoots FIREWORKS from her fingers at the Naga. They seem undeterred.

Bitsy APPEARS from the shadows behind a Naga. In a quick effortless slash, she cuts its head off.

BITSY (Bob)
Maybe you should try a better
spell, Sis!

BRY-ANNE (Steve)
Wait, you two are sisters? Brian?

BRIAN (V.O.)
I'll allow it.

BRY-ANNE (Steve)
Oh. I thought you meant like
sister in Lloth.

SARIAH (Lauren)
Is that who we worship?

SLADE (Max)
Dirty drow swine!

Bry-anne CLUBS a Naga stopping it from biting Slade.

BRY-ANNE (Steve)
Woah there, elf. A Drow swine that
saved your life. So, about those
gay elves...

SLADE (Max)
Man, drop it.

Oa pulls the BOLT out of Aspen's leg. She winces. He puts his hands on the wound, PRAYING.

A Naga BITES Sariah.

SARIAH (Lauren)
AHH!

Sariah grabs the Naga with both hands. The whites of her eyes turn completely BLUE. Glowing bolts of electricity run throughout the Naga's entire body. The Naga slumps down to the ground. Smoke trails from lifeless Naga body.

BRY-ANNE (Steve)
Nice.

Bry-anne flexes her muscles and bashes 2 Naga together, killing them both.

BRY-ANNE (Steve) (CONT'D)
 Hammer!

Clear.

The entire group stands there, breathing heavily amongst 4 DEAD and bloody Naga on the ground. Still catching his breath, Slade looks at Sariah and abruptly breaks the silence.

SLADE (Max)
 I don't trust you.

SARIAH (Lauren)
 Feeling's mutual.

Aspen stands up fully healed, in tip top shape.

OA (Tucker)
 See? All better.

BITSY (Bob)
 How do I know you didn't put some
 elf curse on her?

OA (Tucker)
 Why would I do that?

BITSY (Bob)
 Pee break.

Bitsy walks into the woods. Oa offers his HAND to Bry-anne.

OA (Tucker)
 Let's start over. Oa Tams.

BRY-ANNE (Steve)
 Lady Bry-anne of Martin.

Brian groans OS. Bry-anne grabs Oa's hand, shaking it too hard, wiggling his limp arm around like a lifeless naga.

SARIAH (Lauren)
 Sariah... What's your last name
 Bob?

Bitsy yells from off screen, in the forest.

BITSY (Bob)
 Blackwell!

SARIAH (Lauren)
 Sariah Blackwell.

SLADE (Max)
 Slade Evenworth.

SARIAH (Lauren)
 (pointing to the woods)
 That's my sister Bitsy Blackwell.

SLADE (Max)
 Interesting name for a drow.

SARIAH (Lauren)
 She's a runt.

OA (Tucker)
 And who are you little girl?

ASPEN
 I'm Aspen Lygum.

They smile at her fondly.

BRIAN (V.O.)
 By the way, none of you have ever
 seen a human before.

Their smiles turn into confusion.

BRY-ANNE (Steve)
 Your ears look funny.

ASPEN
 Your ears look funny.

SARIAH (Lauren)
 Are you an elf?

ASPEN
 No I'm a little girl.

They all look at each other bemused.

ASPEN (CONT'D)
 I'm human.

ALL EXCEPT ASPEN
 Hoo-man?

OA (Tucker)
 And what brings you here, hooman
 Aspen?

ASPEN
 I'm trying to find-

Bitsy returns sipping on a WATERSKIN.

BITSY (Bob)
I made you this little dolly to
play with.

Bitsy hands her a little DOLL made of grass.

 ASPEN
Thanks? I'm a little old to play
with dolls.

 BITSY (Bob)
Rude.

 SLADE (Max)
Why do you have half a shackle on
your wrist, Aspen?

 ASPEN
(matter of fact)
Because I couldn't get it off.

Slade looks at her as if to say "that wasn't very helpful"

 SLADE (Max)
Seriously, Brian?

 BRIAN (V.O)
Ask the right questions.

 OA (Tucker)
Who put that shackle on you?

 BITSY (Bob)
Jill! Ha ha.

 BRIAN (V.O.)
Shut up, Bob.

 SARIAH (Lauren)
Who's Jill?

 ASPEN
It was Captain Black Blade.

 BRY-ANNE (Steve)
Who's that?

 ASPEN
He was my owner.

 SARIAH (Lauren)
You're a slave?

ASPEN
I was a slave. I escaped. And I'm
never going back.

BITSY (Bob)
I don't blame you. Stick it to the
man!

Aspen looks at her confused, from the nonsensical sentence.

ASPEN
Maybe we should leave before more
of them come.

BRY-ANNE (Steve)
Yeah, good idea.
(To Slade)
Dude, do you know what I thought
he was gonna say her name was?

SLADE (Max) and BRY-ANNE (Steve)
Jill!

Bry-anne stops. Her face goes blank as she "disengages,"
sitting down, facing away from the group.

BRY-ANNE (Steve)
Hey, Brian? When we gonna meet
Jill?

BRIAN (V.O.)
Guys, seriously, let's just play
the game.

Sariah disengages.

SARIAH (Lauren)
No, really, who is this Jill? Is
she Brian's ex-wife or something?

BRIAN (V.O.)
Please!

Slade disengages.

SLADE (Max)
No, she's the one who stole
Brian's heart like forever ago.

Bitsy disengages, swaying a little.

BITSY (Bob)
Is she pretty?

Oa looks around at everyone sitting down, getting concerned.

BRIAN (V.O.)
 Suddenly, three more Naga appear
 from the lake.

Three NAGA slither into the area. Oa looks at them, frightened.

OA (Tucker)
 Uh, guys! A little help here!

BRIAN (V.O.)
 Max, your turn.

SLADE (Max)
 I love you, dude, but it's been a
 year.

The Naga get closer and Oa BACKS UP, away from them.

BRY-ANNE (Steve)
 Put your big boy pants on,
 graduate High School and make a
 move already, man.

OA (Tucker)
 Seriously, guys! I'm a first level
 cleric! I'm squishy!

BRIAN (V.O.)
 Slade just stands there. Bob?

BITSY (Bob)
 I take out my wand of "Who the
 fuck is Jill?"

She pulls out a WAND from her BAG with the inscription on it
 "Who the fuck is Jill?" And takes a huge swig on her WATERSKIN.

BRIAN (V.O.)
 That doesn't exist.

The wand disappears.

BRIAN (V.O. CONT'D)
 Now it's the Naga's turn. It hits
 you, Brian-

BRY-ANNE (Steve)
 Lady, Bry-anne!

DICE ROLLING.

BRIAN (V.O.)
 It hit's you, Lady Bry-anne, for
 twelve points of damage.

The Naga BITES an unmoving Bry-anne. And poises itself for another attack, HISSING at her.

BRY-ANNE (Steve)
Ouch. What's so special about this Jill?

DICE ROLLING.

BRIAN (V.O.)
For its second attack, he hits you again for... wow! Thirteen points of damage. You're unconscious.

Bry-anne FALLS OVER, eyes closed.

STEVE (V.O.)
Okay, guys. Lay off the DM.
(In a parents voice)
Is she a nice girl? Do I know her parents?

BRIAN (V.O.)
It slithers down for unconscious Bry-anne's mace.

INT. BRIAN'S APARTMENT, LIVING ROOM - NIGHT
Sitting around the table, everyone is staring at Brian.

STEVE (V.O.)
Whoa!... Not cool, Brian.

Brian rolls his dice.

BRIAN
And he takes it.

STEVE
Dick. What's this Naga thief's name?... Jill?

BRIAN
It takes the mace and kills Lady Bry-anne with it.

Record scratch. Everyone turns their full attention to Brian.

WHOLE TABLE
What?!

TUCKER
Spare the dying!

BOB
Holy Shit.

Bob PASSES OUT face first into the table.

Everyone stares at Bob, a little surprised. Steve breaks the silence.

STEVE
(pointing to Bob)
Hammered.

BRIAN
Ok, I guess that's where we have to end the game tonight. Who's turn is it?

MAX
I took her home last time.

TUCKER
I'll do it.

STEVE
Thanks, man.

Tucker picks up Bob, heading for the door, carrying her. Lauren leans in to Brian.

LAUREN
(quietly)
She do this a lot?

BRIAN
Only on the bad days.

Tucker carries her out.

Max, Steve and Lauren collect their things while Brian cleans up.

MAX
Well, now you know what D and D is like, so you don't have to come back.

LAUREN
I'll be here next week.

MAX
What? Why are you doing this, Lauren?

LAUREN
I want to play.

MAX

Of course you want to play, now
that we're broken up.

LAUREN

Look, Max, I'm just trying to have
fun.

MAX

If you really wanted to play that
bad, you could have just gone to
any game store and joined someone
else's campaign, instead of
invading mine!

STEVE

Uh, Brian's campaign.

Max gives Steve a death stare. Brian avoids eye contact,
pretending he doesn't hear them.

STEVE (CONT'D)

Yeah, I'll go.

Steve leaves, fist-pounding Brian on his way out.

STEVE

Thanks for the game, Bri.

LAUREN

I don't know anything about game
stores.

MAX

Exactly!

LAUREN

Just because I don't know much
yet, means I can't play?

MAX

It means you can't play in MY
game.

LAUREN

Brian's game.

Max gives her a fed-up "Really?" Look.

LAUREN (CONT'D)

I just wanted to try something
new, I don't understand what the
big deal is.

MAX
Don't make it seem like I'm
overreacting!

LAUREN
You are. Just because we broke up-

MAX
You dumped me.

LAUREN
Oh, don't look at it like that.
You were unhappy. I cut the cord.
You were gonna leave soon anyway,
I just beat you to the punch.

MAX
But I didn't. You did.
(gradually raising voice
until yelling)
And then you choose to just pick
up the nerdiest game ever invented
to "try something new" and you
want to play it with me. What the
hell is wrong with you? This isn't
normal!

LAUREN
And you're not overreacting?

Defeated and irritated, Max walks out. Lauren follows.

Brian sighs with a guilty look on his face and continues
cleaning up.

EXT. BRIAN'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Max storms down the walkway, Lauren on his heels.

MAX
Why are you following me, Lauren?
I am not used to getting this much
attention from you.

LAUREN
Knock it off, Max. What did I do
to you that was so wrong?

Max stops and turns towards her. After staring at her for a
beat, he takes a deep breath.

MAX
I'm still in love with you,
Lauren!

LAUREN

Then why are you being suck a dick?

MAX

Um, Hello? I don't want you here every week making it harder to get over you. How is this concept lost on you?

LAUREN

Have you ever thought that I'm not ready to get over you?

Silence.

They stare at each other not sure what to say.

MAX

You want to get back--?

LAUREN

No. I just-

Lauren can't muster up the courage to admit what she's feeling, and composes herself, avoiding vulnerability.

LAUREN

I told you, I want to be friends with you.

Max, frustrated and confused, gives up and walks away.

Lauren watches him leave.

EXT. BRIAN/BOB'S COMPLEX - NIGHT

Tucker carries Bob through the hallway. Once getting her to the door, thoroughly exhausted, he puts her down.

BOB

I can whalk, yuh know.

TUCKER

(windded)

Why didn't you say so earlier?

BOB

Cuz you're beein my knigh in shininn namor. Damian's uh lucky guy. You comi nin?

TUCKER

Yes.

(MORE)

TUCKER (CONT'D)
I have to make sure you get in bed
all right.

BOB
(flirty)
Yeah ya do.

Tucker, rolls his eyes, sighs, and opens the door.

INT. BOB'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Bob walks through the door, TRIPPING on the threshold and FALLS
DOWN FACE FIRST.

She lays there, still, for a few seconds, before she mutters
softly into the floor.

BOB
Ow.

Tucker winces in sympathy.

BOB (CONT'D)
I love you, Tucker.

TUCKER
Love you too, Bob.

He flips her over on to her back, in an attempt to help her up.

BOB
The test results came in today.

Tucker stops and looks at Bob sympathetically. She just stares
at the ceiling while Tucker wells up with empathy.

INT. MAX'S HOUSE - DAY

Max, Brian and Tucker sit at the kitchen table. The table is
littered with painting supplies and tiny brushes. A magnifying
glass with a light in front of each of them. They're painting
miniatures.

MAX
Why can't we just have a clean
break?

BRIAN
Is that what you want?

MAX
I want to stop feeling like this.
(MORE)

MAX (CONT'D)
At least with Jill, you don't have
this back and forth.

BRIAN
I don't have anything with Jill.
She doesn't even know I'm in love
with her.

TUCKER
You really just need to go for
her, man.

Brian sighs.

BRIAN
I don't know. There's a lot of
grey area around-

TUCKER
Ooh, grey! Can you pass me the
grey?

BRIAN
Sure.

MAX
Why didn't you just say no?

BRIAN
Huh?

MAX
To Lauren. You can say "No,"
Brian. You're the DM.

BRIAN
Dude, just be an adult about it.

MAX
This isn't adult behavior, Brian!
Who does this? She's my Ex!

TUCKER
To be fair, you're not exactly
being adult about it either.

MAX
I want you to kill her character,
so she leaves our game.

TUCKER
I rest my case.

MAX
Thanks, team Max.

Tucker rolls his eyes.

BRIAN
I'm not going to do that.

MAX
Why? What if I called Emily and invited her to our game?

BRIAN
Well, I'm the DM, so I'd get to say no.

MAX
Exactly!

TUCKER
Remember when we were in the Victor's Cave and that fire demon was gonna kill us all?

MAX
That was awesome! Steve didn't have any spells left, so he pissed on him.

They laugh.

BRIAN
I can't believe he made that constitution roll.

TUCKER
You didn't want Steve playing with-

MAX
Why can't you just be my best friend?

TUCKER
Oh, we're back to that. Nevermind the point I was making.

MAX
You shouldn't have even said yes to her playing in the first place!

BRIAN
I've already worked her character into the story. It's better for the campaign.

MAX

Except when she quits like she does with everything else in her life. Dude, her being here is putting your best friend through torture. Why would you ever go along with this?

BRIAN

Okay, fine. I'll think about it.

MAX

That's all I'm asking.

TUCKER

Just putting this out there.

He takes a long pause, making sure the other two are hanging on the edge of their seats before continuing.

TUCKER

What if she stays?

Max wrestles with denial and acceptance.

INT. STEVE'S PLACE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Steve is on the couch and Lauren is lying on the floor with D&D papers.

LAUREN

So, if I don't like my current spell list, I can just prepare different spells at the end of a long rest?

STEVE

(unenthusiastic)
Uh-huh.

Lauren takes a second to realize her brother is not in the same head space as her.

LAUREN

Stinky?

STEVE

Don't call me that.

LAUREN

I'm trying to understand this.

STEVE

Why?

LAUREN
What do you mean?

STEVE
It just seems like a weird thing
for you to get interested in.

LAUREN
It's fun.

STEVE
And it has nothing to do with the
fact that it drives Max totally
crazy?

LAUREN
That's an added bonus, sure.

STEVE
Why are you doing this Lauren?

LAUREN
What?

STEVE
Look, this game means a lot to all
of us. It's our escape from the
brutal cruelty of life. And I
don't think it's very fair to the
rest of us to sabotage it for a
little revenge scheme on an ex-
boyfriend.

LAUREN
Alright, I'll admit, it started
off as that. But after talking to
Brian, and hearing the passion he
has for this, I thought this could
really be fun. And it is. Besides,
when I was younger, I wasn't
welcome at the D&D tables, so I
played video games instead.

STEVE
Okay, but this is more than just a
game to us. We schedule our lives
around this.

Lauren sympathizes with her brother and gives him a look of
understanding.

LAUREN
This isn't just a revenge game. I
had fun.

STEVE

And you're not just going to give up if you don't get it right away?

LAUREN

Why do you think I'm studying?

He stares at her dubiously.

STEVE

You're going to commit?

LAUREN

Harder than you with women.

STEVE

Fuck you.

LAUREN

I love you.

STEVE

I hate you.

LAUREN

Cool. Now about my witch...

STEVE

You're not a witch, you're just a female wizard.

LAUREN

I like to think of her as a witch.

INT. BRIAN'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

All gathered around the table listening intently to Brian.

BRIAN

(in a little girl voice)
...and then I just ran as fast as I could.

Tucker rolls his DICE.

TUCKER

I rolled a seventeen intuition. Is she-

BRIAN

She's telling the truth.

EXT. TRISDALE, DRAGON LAKE - DAY

They all surround Aspen. Lady Bry-anne is alive, but has a big SCAR on her face now. 7 DEAD Naga on the ground.

SLADE (Max)

Maybe we should get out of here before even more Naga come out of the lake.

OA (Tucker)

Duh. Aspen, we can protect you in our city.

BITSY (Bob)

Oh, no you don't, Elf. Our caves are much better protection with our drow warriors by her side.

SLADE (Max)

Our city is closer.

SARIAH (Lauren)

How do you know that? Do you have a map?

OA (Tucker)

Do we have a map?

BRIAN (V.O.)

No.

SLADE (Max)

Not yet. How many days journey is your city?

BRY-ANNE (Steve)

Two days.

OA (Tucker)

Ours is one.

DROW

Fine!

SLADE (Max)

Aspen, would you like to come to the waterfalls of Ruto with us?

ASPEN

Okay!

They all start walking together.

Suddenly, Slade stops.

SLADE (Max)
Where are you three going?

BITSY (Bob)
We're going with you.

SLADE (Max)
Oh, no you're not. We can't lead
Drow to our front gates.

BRY-ANNE (Steve)
We know where Ruto is. Havaiis is
from there.

SARIAH (Lauren)
Yes. Havaiis is our...?

BRIAN (V.O.)
Leader.

SARIAH (Lauren)
He's our leader.

SLADE (Max)
Yeah, we know.

BITSY (Bob)
We just want to make sure Aspen
gets there safe.

OA (Tucker)
Slade, what's it gonna hurt?

SLADE (Max)
Fine!

They walk east, into the FOREST.

TUCKER
Wait! Our sacred elements for our
ritual!

SLADE (Max)
Oh, right. Brian?

BRIAN (V.O.)
The algae from dragon lake.

Slade runs to the lake shore, scoops some GREEN SLIME in a vile
and sees a little TREE FROG perched on long blade of grass.
Looks over his shoulder checking to see if anyone is watching.

The coast is clear.

He catches the TREE FROG and puts it in his bag and runs back to the group.

SLADE (Max)
Okay, let's go. I'll make dinner tonight.

They head off together.

Slade stays back at the end of the line. He stealthily looks in his bag at a SCROLL of "Finnik's deadly poison." The first ingredient is a TREE FROG.

He puts the SCROLL back in his bag and walks on.

We pull up from the forest, revealing it's vastness. We follow the gorgeous dragon shaped lake west, just over the tree tops.

Past the forest, is an open field. At the mouth of the lake, a WATERFALL with a massive elegant CITY atop.

We pull further back, seeing the entire land of Trisdale. DESERTS, FORESTS, MOUNTAINS, PLAINS, VOLCANOES, CANYONS, BEACHES, CLIFFS, A SWAMP and a few ISLANDS off the coasts. The entire magical land of Trisdale is ahead.

Just outside of a forest in the south is a lone, human man with a sword and shoulder length hair, dressed in black. He runs full-sprint northbound, with a determined scowl.

FADE OUT.