

The Guild Season 2

by
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FADE IN:

INT. CODEX'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Codex yells off camera at Zaboo.

CODEX

No! Do not unpack my underwear! I will do it, Zaboo!

ZABOO (O.C.)

Not being pervy, just doing inventory!

CODEX

(into webcam)

Who knew? Somehow "you break it you bought it" applies to humans too. Zaboo's still here. Which, ironically came in handy today with all the moving stuff. Yeah, turns out his mom is a Real Estate Lawyer. With a grudge, so...she got me evicted! Yeah, it's been a great weekend. What am I supposed to do? He has nowhere to go, he's got no money and bottom line...the Guild needs him for raid DPS.

(BEAT)

Worst. Loot. Ever.

(BEAT)

OW!

INT. CLARA'S OFFICE - DAY

CLARA is at her computer with a children's book propped over the keyboard. She splits her attention between the book and the screen. Her KIDS stand on the other side of the kid gate.

CLARA

Once upon a time, the baby little chicken went to his Mommy and said, "Mommy...**HIS SHIELDS ARE DOWN! NUKE HIS FACE OFF!**" And uh...the mom, she said, "**CLUCK... CLUCK CLUCK I'M DYING!!!**"

INT. VARIOUS BEDROOMS/OFFICES - CONTINUOUS

TINKERBALLA

Bladezz get your stupid character
off me! Fight somewhere else!

Bladezz smirks in his own room.

Zaboo, laptop propped on his lap, leans over and points out
something on Codex's screen.

ZABOO

Dude, dude, you need to use Mass
Healing Prayer instead of spot
healing us like that. Obvious'd.

CODEX

Zaboo! I told you to play in the
kitchen!

ZABOO

I can't! I'm cookin' brisket in
there!

CODEX

How does that prevent you from
playing in there?

ZABOO

It's...it reeks of brisket. So
it's hard to focus.

INT. VORK'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Vork looks back and forth between the screen and a portable
deep fryer that is on the desk next to him. There's black
steam coming from it. He yells into his mic.

VORK

Codex! Zaboo! You're letting this
illicit cohabitation affect your
combat performance! Take him down!
I'm about to ruin 72 cents worth of
tater tots!

CODEX

(yells into mic)

We are not living together! I just
moved and he just accompanied me!
Smiting!

INT. VARIOUS BEDROOMS/OFFICES - CONTINUOUS

Bladezz clicks the mouse decisively.

BLADEZZ

Boom! Kill shot! 4k Crit!

Everyone celebrates the kill, except Vork, who's fishing blackened tater tots from his deep fryer.

TINKERBALLA

Measure your peen later. Link the loot, Vork. Let's go.

BLADEZZ

Tink, your face is so sweet and your tongue is so sour. You know, I got some pork you can spread that sauce on...

VORK

Bladezz!!

Vork is peeling tatertots. He clicks his mouse.

VORK (CONT'D)

Here's the loot...Holy guacamole.

Everyone leans into their screen and looks closely.

CLARA

(throws her kid's book)

Oh my God! It's the Orb of Nurr!
Yes! YES!

TINKERBALLA

Now this just got interesting.

CODEX

That's the orb that starts the new quest line, right?!

CLARA

Uh huh! And once you activate it, the orb lets you change your hair style and hair color anytime! Oh, my God! Oh, my God!

ZABOO

There's a 3% drop rate. Just a vanity item, though.

TINKERBALLA

Hell yeah it is! And I want it!

BLADEZZ

I'm with Zaboo on this one. I'm saving up for an item that won't shrivel my scrotum.

INT. CODEX'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

CODEX

(into mic)

You guys, I can't bid! I spent all my points last week on my new staff.

TINKERBALLA (O.S.)

You mean Zaboo?

ZABOO

I'll get an orb for you! I'll play all night if I have to! Adorb'd.

CODEX

(turns to Zaboo)

That's nice, but why don't you get online and find a job? Or a place to live? Not here?

ZABOO

Well, I did go online. I found us a new couch! It's really comfortable. God you're moody.

(BEAT)

I bet you're ovulating right now.

INT. VARIOUS BEDROOMS/OFFICES - CONTINUOUS

VORK

Taking bids on the Orb of Nurr!

Vork eats his tater tot innards with a plastic fork, dipping them into a giant Costco vat o' ketchup.

Tink types something into her computer and hits enter.

TINKERBALLA

Ok! I'm gonna do pink ponytails first...

CLARA
 (into mic)
 Wait, wait! I gotta see how many
 points I have left!

Clara searches for a piece of paper in the chaos around her.

GEORGE (O.S.)
 Honey? Honey?

INT. CLARA'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

GEORGE BEANE, 35 and weakly average, stands on the other side of the baby gate holding one of the kids.

GEORGE
 Sorry to bother you sweetie, but
 what should I be packing for the
 trip?

CLARA
 (searching, distracted)
 What?

GEORGE
 You know, the trip? To Vermont?
 Tomorrow?
 (BEAT)
 Your sister's wedding?

CLARA
 The wedding...right...trip. Well,
 you know, whatever we usually pack:
 Like uh, stuff to feed them, stuff
 to wipe up poop, toys...

TINKERBALLA (O.S.)
 That orb is mine, Clara!

CLARA
 (into mic)
 Watch it girlie or I'll cut your
 pretty little face!

INT. CODEX'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Zaboo points at a wallet-sized card as Codex looks on.

ZABOO
 Yup. You're totally ovulating
 right now.
 (MORE)

ZABOO (CONT'D)
 You're actually really
 fertile...like the banks of the
 Ganges River.

CODEX
 You...laminated my cycle.

ZABOO
 Kinko'd. Look, bottom line, for
 the price of rent, I could get a T1
 line installed! For us to use.
 Together.

CODEX
 We're not together! How many times
 do I have to tell you...wait? A T1
 line?

INT. CLARA'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

VORK (O.S.)
 Where are those bids?! I HAVE MY
 POLICIES! 30 SECONDS! I MEAN THIS
 IS, YOU KNOW, THIS IS...SERIOUS!
 Guys?

Clara is still searching frantically.

CLARA
 (into mic)
 Wait! I had my points on a blue
 Post-It! Damn it!!

GEORGE
 Honey, do you want me to help you
 find something?

George set down the baby and reaches down and opens the gate
 to enter the office. Clara turns her head in horror.

CLARA
 Nooo!

Babies flood into her office (stampede sound effects).

INT. CODEX'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

CODEX
 A T1 line?

ZABOO
Yeah. Fiber optic cables. 1.544
megabits per second...

Zaboo moves towards Codex.

CODEX
(hypnotized)
A T1. That's...so fast.

INT. CLARA'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Slow-motion chaos. Babies are eating cords and breaking computer equipment, laughing creepily. Clara flails around trying to protect the equipment.

INT. CODEX'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Zaboo and Codex are face to face.

ZABOO
...99.8% uptime...we could download
every unicorn movie ever made in
approximately 2.8 minutes...*maybe*
2.6...

Zaboo moves in on Codex, who looks hypnotized.

INT. CLARA'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Out of the corner of her eye, Clara sees a baby yank the DSL cord out of the wall.

CLARA
Noooooooo!

INT. CODEX'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Zaboo moves in on Codex, who looks hypnotized.

INT. CLARA'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Clara is shoved under her little desk, covered in babies. Slow motion trying to get the DSL plug back in the wall...

INT. CODEX'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Zaboo leans closer into Codex...a near kiss...

FADE OUT:

TITLE CARD: TO BE CONTINUED...

FADE IN:

INT. CODEX'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

CODEX

There was this Robert Frost poem I had to learn in college, something about two roads and...I forget. Ok, bad analogy. Anyway, there was a moment when Zaboo's face was like this...

Codex leans really close into the camera and makes a goofy kissing face.

CODEX (CONT'D)

...and I totally froze because I knew that what happened next could quite possibly be a horrible, horrible mistake. Like in those choose-your-own-adventure books. I always picked the ending where I died or got somebody killed. It was just like, so stressful. This was exactly like that, except lips were involved.

(BEAT)

I need to look up that poem.

INT. CODEX'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Codex and Zaboo are inches away from each other, moving together in slow motion.

ZABOO

(sexy whisper)

Zero latency....

Zaboo's tongue slips out of his mouth in slow motion...

INT. CLARA'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Clara, hair askew, finally gets the plug back into the wall. Vork's voice comes over the speakers.

VORK (O.S.)

Tink wins the orb.

INT. CODEX'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

CLARA (O.S.)
AUUUUUGH!!!

Clara's primal scream breaks the moment. Codex jerks away from Zaboo, whose face and tongue keep following her.

INT. CLARA'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Clara turns to her family and screams like an animal. George and the kids slowly back away.

GEORGE
 Kids, let's go play in the nursery.
 Mommy needs a moment.

INT. CODEX'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

CODEX
 (leans into the mic)
 What's wrong, Clara?! Are you in labor again?

Zaboo bounces up from the bed, frustrated.

ZABOO
 Ungh, Block'd! I've got perpetual Smurf balls down here!

INT. VARIOUS BEDROOMS/OFFICES - CONTINUOUS

CLARA
 I didn't get to bid! Vork the DORK gave the orb to Stinkyballa!

BLADEZZ
 Ooh, meowz time.

VORK
 I awarded the orb to the highest bidder within the time limit, per Guild rule #24 Paragraph 3 Section A!

Tink leans into the mic, looking smug.

TINKERBALLA

Yeah, for once Vork's anal-retentive bullshit is worth something.

VORK

Why thank you, Tink.

INT. CODEX'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Zaboo reaches out and turns down the speakers. Codex turns to see Zaboo dropping some computer chips down his pants.

ZABOO

Oops. I just dropped 8 Gigs of RAM...*down my pants.*

CODEX

Zaboo...it's not gonna work.

ZABOO

Come on! I mean, you're breaking my health meter here!

CODEX

What?!

ZABOO

I need to be BUFFED!! I need buffs! Buff me.

CODEX

Right. Ok. Let me try to explain this to you in a way you might understand. In life, you are a starting character. You are alone for the first time, and you're like, living off me! It's...it is not sexy! If we were to be together, as unlikely as that ever ever would be, you would have to do some major leveling, ok? A lot.

Codex turns back up the speakers. Zaboo looks stricken.

ZABOO

(stifles a sob)

You think I'm a star...I'm a...starting character?

INT. VARIOUS BEDROOMS/OFFICES - CONTINUOUS

CLARA

I can't believe you didn't wait for me to get back online! I was pinned down! First I had husband aggro, then then I had baby DPS!

Vork is playing online intently.

VORK

Procedures were followed. The Guild has no further comment.

TINKERBALLA

Relax, it's just loot!
(starts laughing)
Wait, forget I said that. It's LOOT! Here, lemme link it just in case you forgot the stats.

Tink clicks repeatedly on her mouse.

BLADEZZ

Ouch. And I thought Clara was the frost mage.

CLARA

No. I didn't get to bid! That's so unfair.

CODEX

Clara, the orb is bound to Tink's character now. Vork couldn't give it to you even if he wanted to.

CLARA

(suddenly calm)
You're right. You know, I don't know why I got so worked up. It's fine, Vork.

(covers the mic)
Someone will die for this.

ZABOO (O.S.)

Codex...

INT. CODEX'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Codex turns to see Zaboo kneeling beside her.

CODEX

Oh, my God...

ZABOO

Your quest is accepted. I'm leaving to go power-level myself and earn your love.

CODEX

Wait? You're leaving? Really?

ZABOO

Don't get me wrong, you still get me as hard as an old-school joystick, but you're right. You need to be the end of a long quest chain, not some quick turn-in. So goodbye, my love. I will return.

Zaboo starts to leave. Codex looks torn.

CODEX

Wait! Not that I'm stopping you. It's just, uh... Where are you going exactly?

ZABOO

I Googled a homeless shelter near Echo Park. They have dial up.

CODEX

Homeless shelter? Dial up?! You can't do that!

ZABOO

Well, what am I supposed to do? Okay? I found out my mom cancelled my credit cards when I was trying to buy you some lingerie online. Granny Panty'd.

CODEX

(into mic)

Everyone! Tell Zaboo not to go live on the streets like a hobo!

ZABOO

(leans into mic)

I have to set forth and blossom into my manhood so I can get some!

INT. VARIOUS BEDROOMS/OFFICES - CONTINUOUS

Vork is playing, very intent on his computer screen.

VORK

I can't be bothered by Guild drama right now. I need to earn 5000 gold by 5:00 pm GMT!

BLADEZZ

Dude, that's a lot of dough. Am I blackmailing you and forgot about it?

VORK

I'm freelancing to provide game-gold for a fellow in *Beijing*. I didn't realize it would be so hard to balance it with my own game obligations. I'm way behind!

TINKERBALLA

You're gold farming for a Chinese dude? Is it opposite day?

VORK

I need the mad money in case we go back to that extortion hut, Cheesybeards! Besides, the exchange rate is very favorable right now.

CODEX

(thoughtful)

Hey...Zaboo has tons of gold, that's all he does besides obsess over me.

ZABOO

It's true, I'm a machine for both those things.

Codex looks at Zaboo, an AHA moment.

CODEX

And you need a mentor with a penis.

Vork examines his vat 'o ketchup.

VORK

Damnit! I think my ketchup keg has expired!

CODEX
(into mic)
Hey, Vork? Problem solved. You
need a roommate!

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

INT. CODEX'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

CODEX

Vork and Zaboo rooming together?
It's perfect! I don't know why I
didn't think of it before. Post-
traumatic stress probably? Vork
was a little reluctant at first,
but he finally came around after he
got a screenshot of Zaboo's game
bank and two reference letters.
From Bladezz and Clara. What a
weird credit approval process.
Anyway, it's perfect, um, they both
have the same interests...well,
interest and...getting Zaboo out of
my apartment? Priceless! I'm
alone! I'm gonna go run around
the house naked!

Codex drops the robe off her shoulders and dashes out of
frame. CUT BACK TO: Codex pulling a robe around her
shoulders, slightly out of breathe.

CODEX (CONT'D)

17 seconds. Personal best.

EXT. VORK'S HOUSE - DAY

Zaboo and Codex walk down the street toward a ragged old
Craftsman house. It's a VERY sketchy neighborhood. There
are boarded-up houses around them, bars on the windows.

CODEX

No wonder I had to GPS this area.

ZABOO

No worries. I've played quite a
bit of console in my day, so I know
how to navigate urban landscapes.

Zaboo makes the black power fist to a passing low-rider.

ZABOO (CONT'D)

Black power! And Brown Power!
Both powers!

CODEX
(paranoid)
Zaboo!

Codex pulls Zaboo up to the front door of the house. Zaboo tries to clear trash out of her path.

CODEX (CONT'D)
Well, this is interesting. Uh,
okay okay, calm down, it's fine.

ZABOO
I have to clear a path.

CODEX
Okay...

ZABOO
Don't want you to hurt yourself.

Zaboo knocks on the front door. Vork answers.

VORK
Greetings Guildies! Before you
enter I do need you to sign these.

He shoves a sheaf of papers and pens at Zaboo and Codex.

ZABOO
SWEET!

CODEX
What is this stuff?

VORK
Just a formality, litigation
releases, Non-Disclosure Agreement.
Standard procedure.

CODEX
To enter a house? I don't think
that's standard.

VORK
I require it of everyone. Even
dates. Hypothetically speaking.

ZABOO
See? A man sets his parameters and
sticks to them. Lesson number one.
All right. I'm blossoming already!

Gunshots ring out from somewhere. Codex signs quickly.

CODEX
Cool! Let's get inside! Now!

INT. VORK'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Zaboo and Codex step into an old-fashioned living room. There's a Grandpa chair in a corner that, unlike the rest of the room, is covered in dust.

VORK
I don't usually have visitors. The last ones took Grandpa away in a hearse.

CODEX
Sorry.

Zaboo sits and a cloud of dust flows up from the chair.

ZABOO
This is where we can smoke pipes and drink cognac. Like men!

VORK
Grandpa passed away in that chair.

ZABOO
(bounces up and down)
I can see why man! It's HELLA comfy!

VORK
Follow me.

INT. VORK'S HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Vork leads Codex and Zaboo down the hallway.

VORK
This is my bedroom. If you enter it I will immediately call the police and have you charged with trespassing and aggravated assault.

Vork casually indicates a door to his right.

VORK (CONT'D)
Bathroom.

ZABOO
(to Codex)
Parameter'd.

They walk down the hall and Vork points to another door.

VORK
This *would* be your bedroom.

CODEX
Would?

VORK
Per architectural design. But the
practical application is
not...actionable at this moment.

ZABOO
I'm sure it's fine!

Zaboo opens the door and a bunch of shoes fall on his head.
The room is packed to the doorjamb with furniture and shoes.

CODEX
What the hell, Vork?!

Vork pokes his head back in.

VORK
It's amazing what functional items
people throw away each day.

Vork leaves, Codex and Zaboo follow after.

INT. KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

They enter a small kitchen that is filled with bulk items on
the counters. Large cans of peas stand next to huge tubs of
Mayo.

VORK
Rent is due on the 15th of every
month, 300 gold pieces transferred
to my character in-game. Also,
I'll need 400 pieces of ore for a
deposit. 200 non-refundable.

Codex opens the fridge. It's full of bags of ice.

CODEX
Why is there ice in your
refrigerator?

VORK

I don't have electricity. I find it more cost-effective to purchase ice through government-issued food stamps.

CODEX

You don't have electricity?!

VORK

Once I became a non-paid professional Guildmaster I had to cut the fat from life.

CODEX

Vork! Electricity ISN'T FAT!

ZABOO

(jumps in)

It's fine. I'm fine with roughing it! I'm good with the gold. Just where do I crash?

VORK

(LONG BEAT)

I hope you're not allergic to birds.

INT. ZABOO'S PORCH-BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Vork, Codex and Zaboo stand in a narrow screened-off porch area. It's dirty and small and filled with bird cages. Containing lots of birds. There's a shoddy looking dresser and a dirty toddler bed lying on the ground.

VORK

(proudly)

I made the usual alley rounds this morning and furnished it.

CODEX

(looking down at the bed)

That's is from an alley?

Zaboo turns to Vork.

ZABOO

Ah, pigeons. Cool!

VORK

Not pigeons, SQUAB!

Vork grabs a nearby plate of cooked chicken legs.

VORK (CONT'D)
Drumette?

ZABOO
Yes sir!

CODEX
Oh, my God.

VORK
No worries. The majority have been tested for bird flu.

Zaboo jumps into his new toddler bed.

ZABOO
Now, see... So, here's my only concern...I mean, you have no electricity...so you log on how?

INT. VORK'S OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

Vork unlocks the door to his office. It reads "Daddy's Doghouse" on the door. Codex and Zaboo enter.

VORK
This shed technically belongs to the house behind us, but every year I've moved my fence back three inches and it's now completely on my property.

CODEX
How did they not notice?

VORK
Fortunately, the gentleman has Alzheimer's. And an excellent open wifi connection.

A kitchen timer suddenly dings.

VORK (CONT'D)
(turns to computer)
Our time is over. This social exchange has been mutually beneficial, Zaboo you owe me 300 gold pieces.

ZABOO

Yes! Can do!

Vork puts his headset on and ignores them. Codex pulls Zaboo aside.

CODEX

Ummm. So let's say that you're a puppy and I'm finding you a new home. I don't think I would leave you here.

ZABOO

You seem concerned, are you concerned about me? Did it work already?! Should I move back in??

CODEX

No! No, that's not what I'm saying! I just..

VORK

Codex! Stop malingering! We have a 2 p.m. raid!

CODEX

(rushing)

Feed and water him twice daily!

Codex turns to go. Zaboo grabs her arm stopping her.

ZABOO

Oh hey, babycakes, don't worry. You're still my primary quest line.

Codex smiles awkwardly and rushes out. Zaboo noisily drags a nearby chair over to the desk, pulls out his laptop and sits.

ZABOO (CONT'D)

All right, let's do this! Search:
"How to Make a Lady Wild For You."
(sighs contentely)

EXT. CODEX'S APARTMENT - LATER

Codex runs up the stairs as an ASIAN GUY approaches from above. She doesn't see him as she hits the landing and forcefully bumps into him. The force of the bump somehow causes him to tumble past her dramatically, bumping down the stairs.

Codex stars at him, horrified and then lets out a whimper.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

INT. CODEX'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Codex talks into her webcam.

CODEX

I'm not an aggressive person but I admit it, I like killing things. But only in-game! I've been over it with my therapist and I won't pretend it's not a form of sublimation. "Bam! Rent Check! Die, Meter Maid!" Thing is, I would never do anything like that in real life. I'm a strict...theoretical vegetarian, so when I saw that guy fall down the stairs, most of me wanted to burst into tears and run the opposite direction. But a *tiny tiny* part of me was like, "Dude! I just owned that guy!!" Tiny part. I swear.

EXT. CODEX'S APARTMENT - DAY

Codex runs down the stairs as Wade "GUNS" WEI, 25 and hot, stares up at her from the pavement.

CODEX

Oh gosh! Are you ok? I'm sorry! Don't move! Don't move! Uh...

Wade does a fancy "kip up" to get off the ground.

WADE

No worries, Red. Just practicing for my gag tomorrow.

CODEX

Your what?

WADE

I'm playing a salty pirate.

CODEX

Okay...

WADE

Wade Wei, Apartment 20. Stunt Man by trade. Call me Guns.

CODEX

Wow. A stunt guy? That's cool.

WADE

I know. I gave you a little scare there. Can't say I'm sorry. That meant it played.

Wade flashes her a smile.

CODEX

Okay. I'm Codex. No! I'm...Cyd. Cyd Sherman. I'm apartment 16.

WADE

Right. Just moved in with your husband.

CODEX

No! No! Not! Uh, that was just a temporary roommate situation.

WADE

He introduced you guys as "The Shermans". Mentioned flatware patterns...some kind of wedding registry.

CODEX

Wow, that's...funny. No, no, that was just a joke! He is not here anymore, thank God! I mean, he's still a friend, it's just um...well, there were some misconceptions on his part...

WADE

You're cute.

CODEX

I definitely don't know how to respond to that.

Codex's cell phone buzzes. She pulls it out and looks at it.

CODEX (CONT'D)

Ooh! Oh gosh! I have to go, I'm sorry. I'm late for this, uh...online appointment. No, that sounds weird, but it's hard to explain, I...

(spazzes back and forth a little)

(MORE)

CODEX (CONT'D)

I've got to go.
I've...got...to...go...

WADE

See ya 'round, Red.

He turns and jumps off the balcony. He rolls when he hits the ground and gives a wave. Codex gapes for a beat then rushes inside.

INT. CODEX'S BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Codex sits down at her computer.

CODEX

(into mic)

Sorry everyone! I ran into a...

(off mic)

Really cute

(on mic)

...Neighbor.

ZABOO (O.S.)

(yells)

I'm working on a strategy to earn
your love, my priestess of passion!

Zaboo is taping up pictures of Codex, floor plans and other data on a huge cork board like an FBI strategy session.

VORK

Please don't disturb my Excel loot
tables.

TINKERBALLA

(reading the screen)

You guys, the quest to activate
this orb is balls! I'm not Old
McDonald, I don't have time to farm
all this crap!

BLADEZZ

You know Tink, if you ever need a
man to season with that spice...

TINKERBALLA

I just got rid of one, I'm not
rebounding with someone straight
out of puberty, thanks.

CLARA

You broke up? Dish, dish!

TINKERBALLA

Yeah, I dumped him. He was totally smothering me. Called me like, two times last week.

CODEX

Tink, Clara, can I see you in the other channel, please?

CLARA

Sure! One sec!

INT. CLARA'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Clara's husband and kids are waving at her through the window near her desk. Clara turns towards them.

CLARA

Bye, my preciouuses. Eat lots of cake for mommy!

GEORGE

Say bye-bye to mommy, she's going to get....

Clara leans forward and slams the window shut and flips the catch. She picks up a beer bottle and slams it on her desk.

CLARA

(normal)

Clara's ready to go!

She clicks her mouse (leaves the main channel).

BLADEZZ

Why do chicks have to talk in private like that? Do they need to synch their periods or something?

Zaboo sits at the desk and throws his legs on the table.

ZABOO

Codex probably needs lady support. Being apart is, quite frankly, tough on both of us. She's totally crying right now.

INT. LADIES ROOM - CONTINUOUS

CLARA

Stunt man?! Oh, my God! I was always so into Chuck Norris! I wanted his moustache all over my body!

TINKERBALLA

I've only pushed ugly people down the stairs! Jealous!

CODEX

Yeah, I don't normally interact with guys with muscle tone, but...there was definite eye contact.

TINKERBALLA

Is that unusual for you?

CODEX

(happily)
Yeah. It is.

CLARA

Did he touch you? Did he grab the back of your head and thrust his tongue down your throat?

TINKERBALLA

Clara, gross! Did he?

CODEX

Uh no, I went to help him up but he jumped off the ground by himself. Like when an orc gets stunned, then bounces up to start cleaving.

CLARA

Oh my GOD, hot!

TINKERBALLA

Totally hot!

INT. MAIN CHANNEL - CONTINUOUS

ZABOO

Ok Vork, what steps do I need to take to win Codex's love? I tried wiping my pit sweat on her pillow for like a week, so clearly the pheromone route is a no-go.

VORK

I am sexually neutral with regard to Guild members. A position of authority is an intoxicating equation for females. I wouldn't want to abuse it.

BLADEZZ

Dude, take the Bladezz train to success: Give her crap. Now that she's single, Tink will be all over it.

ZABOO

Hmm, the old bag o' douche technique? See, with Tink, I would just finish her orb quest for her. She's a total mercenary like that.

BLADEZZ

(thinking)

So, I could be 400 Fernbrush, 62 Lynx hearts, 8 Horror Fangs and like 300 more components away from the Orient Express to paradise?

ZABOO

Yeah dude. If only Codex were that easy! Type high-five my brother!

They both type to each other.

VORK

Warning: Women, in general, only yield short-term returns. They are not a suitable vehicle for long-term investments. Also, in my experience, very low drop rate. All I can say is have fun grinding.

BLADEZZ

Oh, I will.

VORK

I meant grinding for game ingredients!

BLADEZZ

Sure you did.

VORK

Bladezz!

INT. LADIES ROOM - CONTINUOUS

TINKERBALLA

Go after this guy. Figure out the encounter and down him.

CODEX

I just got rid of Zaboo, I'm not looking for a guy right now. Besides...he's prettier than me.

TINKERBALLA

Codex! You can't let reality get in the way of what you want!

CLARA

Yeah! Like, I want to get my own orb...

TINKERBALLA

Ugh! Get over it!

CLARA

...**BUT** it's my stupid sister's wedding this weekend! So I just told my husband that the groom squeezed my boob last summer and totally got out of the entire trip!

CODEX

Ew, he squeezed your boob?

CLARA

No. I lied. Bonus, hubbie had to take the kids 'cause they're the stupid flower girls! I'm so happy right now!

CODEX

You skipped your sister's wedding?

CLARA

Half-sister. Look. The point is, lie and good things happen!

TINKERBALLA

Okay, good lesson. Let's play now.

They click over to the main channel.

INT. MAIN CHANNEL - CONTINUOUS

CLARA

Back! Let's get Mommy an orb!

VORK

Clara, we are scheduled for PVP from 2-4 pm. We can't put one person's loot needs above the group.

CLARA

But I skipped my...riiiiight!

Clara grabs a laptop near her and opens it up.

BLADEZZ

Hey Tink, you know... I have dagger skills, I could help you with the orb stuff.

CODEX

Was that Bladezz?

TINKERBALLA

(dubious)

You'd do some of this work for me?

BLADEZZ

Well yeah, you know. Nothing more than I'd do for any other smokin' Guildie. Meaning, just you.

TINKERBALLA

(sweet as pie)

Oh my God! That would be totally sweet! Thanks!

Clara is tapping furiously on her keyboard and trackpad.

VORK

What the...who the...how...huh?! Someone just killed me right in the middle of the Guild hall!

CLARA

That's so weird! Why would someone do that?

Clara takes a chug of beer.

CLARA (CONT'D)
(to herself)
This is gonna be a great weekend!

FADE OUT:

EPISODE 5: FADE IN:

INT. CODEX'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

CODEX

I'm not used to getting hit on very much. A few years ago when I cut my hair *really* short, this girl asked me out to dinner and it wasn't until she got her hand like, WAY up my leg that I started suspecting something was up. For the record, it did not turn me on, it just tickled. I should have shaved. Anyway, after getting used to Zaboo's...bolder statements of interest, I can't really tell if the stunt guy was into me or not! I should shave my legs just in case. Oh no, that might jinx it. I should do it anyway. Ugh, being a girl is so much work!

INT. VORK'S OFFICE - DAY

Vork is at his computer playing, and making egg-mcmuffins in an egg mcmuffin maker. He looks really annoyed. Zaboo is shirtless and facing a full-length mirror with a sweatband on his head. He's lifting two large mustard containers like barbells and grunting loudly.

ZABOO

Arrrgh...one. I embrace the tiger within me. Ugh...two. I am predator not prey. I am the God Shiva, the God of masculinity and destruction... Okay, that's good.

Vork sighs loudly to share his frustration. Zaboo pauses, grabs a can of spray-on Pam and oils up his biceps.

ZABOO (CONT'D)

Yeah Vork, the internet is basically telling me everything I need to know about becoming a man. #1: Buff it up. When Codex sees my curves, she's gonna be enamored. Back when she was twelve she used to have a huge crush on Dolph Lundgren in He-Man.

(MORE)

ZABOO (CONT'D)

Now it's my turn.
"I HAF ZEE POWEEEEEEEEER!"

Zaboo drops his "weight". Vork looks more irritated.

ZABOO (CONT'D)

I never realized how awesome it is
being a man! Doing man things.
With other man.

VORK

(curtly)

Another reminder, re: this morning:
Men only shower together if there's
more than one shower. I.E., a gym,
not a residence.

ZABOO

10-4. Besides that little bump
though, we're basically having the
time of our lives.

VORK

(under breathe)

300 gold, 300 gold...damn it! I
just got killed again! I swear I'm
being stalked!

INT. CLARA'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Clara's office is a mess of open chip bags and Dorito dust is
all over her face. She's laying on her stomach on the floor
with her laptop. She giggles evilly and shoves some chips in
her mouth.

INT. VORK'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

VORK

This ganker, Teats4Tots, seems to
know every detail of my schedule!
Look, I've mapped out the kill
pattern on the game atlas using a
borrowed NASA simulation program.
Same places each time!

ZABOO

Sucks. Hey, let's you and me go
wrestle! Or shoot things.
Javelin, archery, golf...anything
phallic, some kind of phallic
sport, really. MEN! Let's do
chest bumping!

VORK
Please don't. Don't.

Zaboo attempts a chest bump.

VORK (CONT'D)
Oh boy...

Vork looks even more peeved.

INT. LADIES ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Codex is practicing scales on the violin and playing the game at the same time. She hears faint voices through the speakers, leans to turn them up and keeps playing.

TINKERBALLA
...after you're done gathering those 200 blood mushrooms for my orb quest, make sure to polish off that Calc homework I faxed you, it's due in the morning.

BLADEZZ
Oh you know, I could come over and deliver it into your hot little hands myself. And I could bring the homework too.

Tink giggles girlishly into the mic.

TINKERBALLA
Bladezz!

BLADEZZ
Ciao Balla.

Bladezz logs off and Tinkerballa immediately morphs her giggle into extreme gagging noises.

CODEX
What's going on? Why is Bladezz doing homework for you?

TINKERBALLA
Hey. Oh, he thinks he's gonna get a virtual lap dance out of it, but all he's really gonna get is a trouser tent and maybe a "Best Wishes" e-card.

CODEX

Tink, you shouldn't flirt with him
to make him do stuff for you!
That's...gross!

TINKERBALLA

You're one to talk! Dangling your
carrot crotch out for Zaboo to lure
him into Vork's crack shack.

CODEX

He was stalking me from my own
apartment! Something had to give!

TINKERBALLA

So you made him think he had a
chance with you to get what you
want. Gee, sounds familiar.

CODEX

No! It's...different.

TINKERBALLA

It's not but don't feel guilty
about it, you were done with him.
Codex, men are meant to be used for
their skill sets. Need to pass a
Biology test? Date a Biologist.
Or your Biology TA. They don't
even need names as far as I'm
concerned. Fred, Joe and Ryan
might as well be called Moving Van,
Pharmacist and Oil Change. You
just have to pick the right tool
for the right job. And believe me,
they're all tools.

CODEX

Are you for real?

TINKERBALLA

Yeah.

Codex starts to rebut Tink but a loud motorcycle noise
interrupts her.

CODEX

Oh, the stunt man's home! He
drives a motorcycle.

TINKERBALLA

Go go! And I need to hear the whole combat log. IN DETAIL!

CODEX

Yeah, but we're in the middle of clearing this orc cave, the two-headed King M'angoroth is right there...so...

TINKERBALLA

Codex, sometimes getting laid is more important than killing an Orc King! Go! And be confident!

CODEX

Ok. If I get rejected, what's the down side? I'll cry a lot. I'll probably do that anyway.

She runs out of the bedroom.

INT. CODEX'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Codex dashes to the front door, then looks panicked. Codex flings the front door open and runs to sit in a nearby chair.

CODEX

(to herself)

Confident.

She starts playing her violin impressively. After a beat Wade pops his head in her apartment.

WADE

Dude, is a cat dying in here? Ha! Just kidding.

Codex turns and acts surprised (badly).

CODEX

Sorry! Was I too...AUGH!

Codex screams in terror when she sees Wade's face in the doorway. Half his face is chewed off and burned in a hideous fashion, eyeball hanging on his cheek. It's horrible. Codex keeps screaming and hides her face.

CODEX (CONT'D)

Oh, my God! What happened to your face?!

WADE
What? Oh! Ha! My face?

CODEX
Yes, your face!

Codex does anything but look at Wade's face.

WADE
I just got off the set of my latest flick, "Necrotic Fury". Today I played the main bad-ass Zombie. Big action sequence. First, I jump off this car, then this guy attack me to the right so I...

Wade does some impressive punches and kicks around Codex's head while narrating them.

WADE (CONT'D)
...bash him in the face. Another guy comes and attacks from the left. I duck under, punch him in the stomach. Natabam. Spin hook. Then he tries to stake me so I pull a Matrix move. I duck underneath, he goes for my legs...I aerial over it. Jump up, knee him in the face and start eating his brains out.

He ends with an arrogant little squat move, then shakes it off, stretching his neck.

WADE (CONT'D)
Upshot is, I get killed by a blowtorch to the face. Flick is gonna be tight though.

CODEX
Awesome. Okay, well, I can't really look at you so, um, goodbye!

WADE
(not taking the hint)
Did you ever make your appointment yesterday?

CODEX
Oh God. Um...I just have this game I play online...it's nothing important.

WADE

You had an appointment for gaming?

CODEX

(laughs)

No, no, I didn't say that...that would be...weird. Right?

WADE

Pretty much. Gaming is for fat guys who live in their Mom's basements. Soft and doughy when I punch them.

CODEX

Right. You're so right.

WADE

(leans in)

My roommate's got a console though, you should come by and check it out. I'll just watch. And check you out.

Codex avoids looking at Wade like the plague.

CODEX

Oh. Ew. Maybe later when I can't see your entire eyeball.

WADE

Aw, it's just makeup. Come on, touch it.

He leans his face in for her to feel. Codex backs up, panicked, face still averted.

CODEX

No, no I...can't do that.

WADE

Come on, it's cool...

He grabs her hand and startles her into looking up at his messed up bloody face. He places her hand on his cheek. Codex looks up finally and looks into his eyes, a bit smitten.

CODEX

Oh, it's soft and stuff.

Codex smiles a little, then throws up all over him.

Sorry. CODEX (CONT'D)

FADE OUT:

EPISODE 6 - FADE IN:

INT. CODEX'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

CODEX

I have a squeamish stomach, ok?! I always have! I feel faint at the sight of really bad acne or raw chicken livers or people's toe hair.

(She starts to gag a little, then stops)

Gross. And it's not even a good story 'cause I can't say, "I was soooo wasted" like any other good puking tale. If there is such a thing. Bright side: at least I won't have to make room for dating around my gaming schedule; that suck.

(BEAT)

I want to die right now.

INT. CLARA'S OFFICE - DAY

Clara's hair is held back with little girl barrettes, sticking up all around her head. She's wearing the same outfit from the day before, but it's wrinkled and dusted with crumbs. There are empty Chinese takeout containers and soda/beer cans piled high around her computer and empty liquor bottles as well. She is drunk.

CLARA

(laughing)

I'm Codex! "Blilleaaaahhhhhh!"

(keeps laughing)

"Blilleaaaahhhhhh!"

INT. LADIES ROOM - CONTINUOUS

CODEX

Okay Clara, thanks for the support! Oh god, he probably hates me now.

TINKERBALLA

Why, 'cause you puked all over him? Naw. He probably got a stiffie instantly.

CLARA

(drunkenly)

I've been playing for 48 hours straight, humiliation is super funny to me right now! You're so hot...blllleaaaaahhhhhh!" Whoa, almost threw up for real that time.

TINKERBALLA

Clara, you need to take it easy. You've been online for like what, 2 days straight?

Clara starts to nod off but jerks back up.

CLARA

I'm not wasting one minute of my "ME" weekend! Besides tryin' to get me an orb, I got this side project goin' on!

Clara grins evilly and clicks.

INT. VORK'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Vork enters the office pushing a shopping cart full of groceries. Zaboo is at the desk, busy on his laptop.

ZABOO

Oh sweet...chow time!

VORK

...you owe me an extra 89 gold for meals but I will give you the option to trade me in-game food as long as it's level 31 quality or above.

ZABOO

Consider it done. Dude, you're getting killed right now.

Vork rushes over to his computer.

VORK

What?! I was AFK!! Have you no honor, Teats4Tots?! This harassment is neutering my business hours!!

ZABOO

Who'd want to gank you like that?

VORK

I have many enemies. Starting with my 7th grade rival for class president, Kenny MacEntyre, to a 12 year-old newbie who I chided for 4 hours straight after he killed a Yeti Chief I needed for a quest turn-in.

ZABOO

Heinous'd.

VORK

Indeed. I could use your help in scouring the Grasslands of Aerinor to hunt down this vengeful beast of a player!

ZABOO

Cool. I just finished making a website dedicated to Codex's toes, shrimpingcodex.com, so my lady homework is done for the day!

INT. LADIES ROOM - CONTINUOUS

CODEX

What am I gonna do?! The only way I can avoid this guy here is to go through my bathroom window, which is two inches too small for my head!

Clara is drunkenly swinging around in her computer chair.

CLARA

When I switch camera views really quickly I get really dizzy! Do it with me, you guys! Wheeeee!

Codex frowns as Clara's voice comes over the mic in weird stops and starts as she twirls around towards the mic.

TINKERBALLA

Codex, men think with their little heads, not their stomachs. Just flash him some of that albino skin and it'll be history.

CODEX

It can't be that easy, I puked beef burrito on him!

TINKERBALLA

Listen to me: Women have all the power in sex!

CLARA

That's why **male** prostitutes don't make house calls!

CODEX

They don't?

CLARA

At least not to this zip code.

INT. VORK'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Vork and Zaboo are in the middle of playing together. Vork looks frustrated and confused.

ZABOO

Dude, get this mob off me, it's interrupting my blast!

VORK

I'm trying!

ZABOO

You're running the opposite way!

VORK

My controls aren't responding properly! I don't understand!

ZABOO

Oh! Duh'd. While you were house-wiving I remapped all your hot keys. You were moving the total newb way.

VORK

(volcanic)

You-did-what?!

INT. CODEX'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Codex, wearing a low cut tee shirt, fluffs her hair and adjusts her webcam on herself.

CLARA (O.S.)

(screams)

MORE CLEAVAGE!

CODEX

I don't have more!!

TINKERBALLA (O.S.)

She means get more out!

Codex pulls her shirt lower into the webcam as her phone rings. She looks confused, then answers.

CODEX

Hello?

INT. BLADEZZ'S GARAGE - CONTINUOUS

Bladezz is wearing a Bluetooth earpiece and working on something on the table in front of him (out of frame).

BLADEZZ

Hey Codex, got your digits from Zaboo. So, when do you think that a woman is sufficiently bought and will perform sexual services?

INT. VARIOUS BEDROOMS/OFFICES - CONTINUOUS

CODEX

Bladezz?! Um, I'd say you're WRONG and I would say you need to learn more about relationships!

BLADEZZ

Relationships? You are so missing the point. Look, Tink wants me, it's obvious. But waiting to hit it is uh...maxing out my life in a lot of ways and...

DENA, Bladezz' sister, leans over. She holds up a partially decorated laptop bag. Bladezz and she are applying jewels to it with hot-glue guns.

DENA

Stupid! You're making the hearts all crooked!

BLADEZZ

I don't care, just hurry! Her sister's birthday is Monday so she wants this in the mail ASAP!

DENA

I don't participate in shoddy
craftsmanship!

She starts hitting him with a stencil.

BLADEZZ

Dena! OUCH! OUCH! Mom!

DENA

USE THE STENCIL! DO IT!

CODEX

(interrupts)

Bladezz, um, you ever think Tink
might be using you?

BLADEZZ

Whoah! Okay, you had your chance
to ride the Bladezz train. Just
'cause we're on the phone together?
Skanky.

CODEX

(grossed out)

You're right. You totally deserve
each other. She'll come around,
okay? Just hang in there. Bye.

She hangs up her phone decisively.

INT. VORK'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

VORK

Zaboo! You don't touch a man's key
bindings! That's an ultimate
violation!

ZABOO

Yeah, well, don't tell me how many
times I can flush the toilet a day!

VORK

I can't subsidize your bowel
movements, I have to get an
accurate measurement to split the
bill! And I've had it with you
telling me how to play my class!

ZABOO

Yeah, well Fire Thrust is better
than Reave Blade. So deal with it.

VORK

Are you out of your mind? That's like saying a savings account is better investment than a laddered CD. You are insane!!

ZABOO

Damn it's fun to spar with you mano a mano like this! Get this much testosterone in a room and it's fireworks! Bew! Bew bew!

Vork looks livid.

INT. CODEX'S BEDROOM - DAY

Codex adjusts her shirt (pulls it up a bit from where Clara wanted her to have it) but still looks very uncomfortable. Vork's voice comes over the speakers.

VORK

Codex?! Codex! I need you in the officer channel! Now!

Codex looks torn for a second, then quickly turns down the speakers and exits.

EXT. CODEX'S APARTMENT - LATER

Codex walks clumsily out to yard area in high heels. Wade is doing some martial arts patterns. It's hot. Codex tries to pose sexily, it doesn't quite work.

CODEX

Hello there.

Wade finishes a badass move with a flourish and turns to her.

WADE

Hey! How's your stomach.

Codex looks crestfallen.

CODEX

Oh. Fine. I'm feeling better.

She starts to leave but Wade stops her.

WADE

(at her breasts)
You're definitely looking better.

CODEX

Oh! Ding! So...what kind of moves are those?

WADE

I'm just loosening up before sparring practice. My next job is on "Joust a Minute", a mini-series about Knights.

CODEX

Cool.

WADE

I gotta use this polearm weapon in a dueling sequence.

CODEX

Like a halberd?

WADE

Yeah. Whoah, how'd you know about that?

CODEX

Strangely, weaponry is an area I know a lot about.

Codex smiles at him, relaxed for the first time.

WADE

Sexy.

Wade reaches up and around his head and quickly jerks his head. There's a sickening crunch.

CODEX

(thrown)
Oh, my God!

WADE

(grinning)
Ha! Gotcha! See?

He pulls a water bottle from under his arm.

CODEX

Ah. Uh...that was very clever.

WADE

Here, I can do it to you.

CODEX

No, that's cool I'm...ungh.

Wade grabs Codex by the head and pretends to yank her neck to the side. A sickening crunch happens again. Codex stands upright unsteadily. Codex puts a hand on Wade's arm to steady herself. He immediately flexes his bicep.

CODEX (CONT'D)

Oh. Oooh...

There's a moment between them...that is quickly broken by a voice off-camera.

VORK (O.S.)

Codex, is this man bothering you?

Vork stands over Wade's shoulder. Codex looks shocked.

CODEX

Vork?! What...no! He's just...puttin' me in a headlock!

VORK

Then we need to talk.

FADE OUT:

EPISODE 7 - FADE IN:

INT. CODEX'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

CODEX

Talk about an aggro wipe. And Vork called me Codex right in front of Wade, so he's probably like, "What's with this girl and her alias, is she a CIA agent or something?" Ok, he wouldn't think that. Would he? That would be cool actually. The good thing is that Clara and Tink seemed to be right, guys will overlook anything if there is cleavage involved. That's not that flattering...anyway, if I could just stop Guildies from showing up places, I might have a chance with this guy!

(BEAT)

I know...big "if".

INT. CODEX'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Codex and Vork enter Codex's apartment. Vork heads straight for the dining room table with Codex shuffling behind.

CODEX

Hi! Vork! Did I...give you my address? Ever?

VORK

I got it from a print-out that Zaboo decouped to the bottom of his bedroom squab cage. Along with many unflattering photos of you. And various hair samples. I don't know if you're aware of this, but he has a slight fixation.

CODEX

Thanks for the heads up.

Vork studies a vase with a magnifying glass.

CODEX (CONT'D)

Can I help you?

VORK

Why are you dressed like a harlot?

CODEX

Why are you here?

Vork sits and removes paperwork from his briefcase.

VORK

Codex, I'm going to need to invoke the state's Lemon Law. Zaboo and I are turning out to be incompatible as roommates.

CODEX

No! Vork, this is a great uh, revenue stream for you! Don't just throw it all away! Let's talk this through logically.

VORK

(suddenly enraged)

There is no logic with him! He is irrational! Like a lobotomized troll! It is scientifically proven that Thunder Cleave IS directly affected by the Death Reach feat, but he **still** denies that there's a one-on-one correlation! And he uses my hair products without asking!

CODEX

What hair products?

VORK

I get flyaways!

(looks at her breasts)

Cover yourself, woman!

Codex puts an arm over her chest.

CODEX

Ok, I'm gonna go change. Are you hungry? There's stuff in the kitchen. Anything you want.

Vork suddenly looks intrigued as Codex dashes out.

VORK

Anything?

INT. CODEX'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Codex is changing as she hears a voice coming from the computer. She turns up the speakers.

ZABOO (O.S.)

...so the real turning point was today when I created a new character, Zaboo 2.0. I didn't equip any weapons, just went around punching stuff. Manly'd. Well anyway, we can put the gas bill in my name and...

CODEX

(into mic)

Zaboo, who are you talking to?

INT. VORK'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Zaboo is playing on his laptop, loud punching noises are coming from his computer.

ZABOO

You, my sweet! I've finished levelling and I'm coming home!

CODEX

Home? Here!?

ZABOO

Yup, I'm ready! Poor Vork is gonna be hella disappointed. We've been having this awesome back and forth about the Reave Blade ability. Good timez. With a z.

CODEX

But Zaboo, you just left a few days ago so...

ZABOO

Yeah I know, sorry it's tken me so long! But I've been working on myself 24/2 and believe you me, I'm totally worthy of you now! I've lost three-fourths of a pound, I've studied all the kama sutras, I even invented some of my own positions. Including one I like to call the QWERTY Sanchez. Cyber Sutra'd.

Zaboo continues enthusiastically as Codex turns down the speakers and puts her head between her legs to calm down.

ZABOO (CONT'D)

So let me tell you about the QWERTY Sanchez...

Codex reaches for the phone and then stops. She looks conflicted.

CODEX

I can't believe I'm doing this.

She picks up the phone handset and dials.

CODEX (CONT'D)

Dr. Hammond? Hi, it's Codex...uh, Cyd. It's Cyd Sherman. Remember? You dumped me last week?

THERAPIST (O.S.)

Hi Cyd. Let's just call it separated.

CODEX

Whatever. I need help. Over the phone. Immediately.

THERAPIST (O.S.)

Okay well, if you just make an appointment...

CODEX

(desperate)

I'm going to hang myself with an ethernet cord!

THERAPIST (O.S.)

Cyd! That's not a mature response to any situation.

CODEX

Tell me about it!

(rushes through)

Uh...anyway, I am obsessed with someone. They're not interested in me, but for some reason it does not matter, I am completely oblivious to their feelings.

THERAPIST (O.S.)
 So you're aware that you're
 oblivious?

CODEX
 No. This is just a...brief, lucid
 moment.

THERAPIST (O.S.)
 Well, in relationships, the way a
 person loves others is learned,
 primarily, through their parents.
 So it sounds like...

CODEX
 (cuts her off)
 Bingo. Call waiting, one sec.

Codex sets the phone down and leans into the mic.

CODEX (CONT'D)
 Zaboo! Zaboo. I think that you
 were smothered as a kid and now,
 hence, you are smothering me. It's
 obsessive and occasionally scary.
 And it's a really selfish kind of
 love.

There's a silent beat over the mic.

CODEX (CONT'D)
 It's your mom's fault.

ZABOO
 (Zaboo gets an AHA)
 Wow, Codex. That's deep. Freud'd.

Codex turns down the speakers again and lifts the phone.

CODEX
 Back! Next question.

INT. CODEX'S APARTMENT - MOMENTS LATER

Codex walks down the hall in mid-question.

CODEX
 ...and you think these control
 issues are causing...

Codex barrels around the corner to see Vork piling kitchen
 equipment on the counter. Vork looks up.

VORK
Nice frozen yoghurt maker.

CODEX
(covers phone speaker)
Vork, I meant FOOD! Not
appliances!

VORK
You said anything!

Codex rushes to repeat what she's hearing on the phone.

CODEX
Um, anyway...I think that...**your**
feelings about this
roommate...**ZABOO**...are reflective
of destructive control issues. And
that **I**...I mean...**you**, need to
consider this an opportunity to
uh...something about comfort zone.

VORK
Interesting theory.
(BEAT)
Are you sure I can't have the fro-
yo maker?

CODEX
Yes. Meaning, no you can't have
it. I'll be right back.

Codex runs back into the bedroom.

INT. VARIOUS BEDROOMS/OFFICES - MOMENTS LATER

Zaboo has tears streaming down his face, dramatic music
underneath.

ZABOO
It *is* selfish love, but it's still
love! Damn it! I'm taking so much
damage!

Pull back to reveal that Zaboo is playing on his laptop and
the dramatic music is coming from the game.

CODEX
Are you *playing*?!

ZABOO

Yeah. These ice elementals keep
owning me! I'm so vulnerable!

Codex's attitude takes a 180. She sits down at the computer.

CODEX

Ooh, I can log in, and buff you
against elements...no. No. You
have to freeze to death. Tough
love. One sec.

She gets up and starts to leave.

CODEX (CONT'D)

Back! So let's wrap this up. I
have been living alone since my
grandpa died, and I'm fussy, kind
of like an old lady with a penis,
and...

THERAPIST

A penis?

CODEX

Uh...

THERAPIST

Cyd, I'm going to take a wildly
insightful guess here: This isn't
about you, is it?

CODEX

...no.

THERAPIST

I *should* say this is a reflection
of your pathological need to solve
other people's problems while
avoiding your own, but forget it.

(BEAT)

I'll be billing your insurance.
Twice.

Codex sets the phone down, dejected. Vork appears next to
her.

VORK

Codex, I appreciate the efforts
you're taking to make the situation
work.

(MORE)

VORK (CONT'D)
 I've discovered some very
 surprising things about myself
 today: Namely, that I'd really like
 a yoghurt maker. But, I still
 feel...

Vork glances at the computer monitor and snaps to attention.

VORK (CONT'D)
 What the...?

CODEX
 What?

VORK
 Official game bulletin.

Codex reads off the screen.

CODEX
 Inform you...maintenance
 tonight...4 hours...server shut
 down.

VORK
 SERVER SHUT DOWN?!

CODEX
 Four hours!? That's ridic...

Codex turns to Vork...but he is already gone, the yoghurt
 maker sitting in his place.

FADE OUT:

EPISODE 8 - FADE IN:

INT. CODEX'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

CODEX
 When we saw that the server was
 going down...there's never been a
 man in history so eager to escape a
 girl's bedroom. The good thing is,
 Vork dropped the whole Zaboo thing
 and rushed home to implement his
 GEMA strategy. Stands for Guild
 Emergency Management Agency. I'm
 serious. I wonder if this is a
 sign; the server is trying to tell
 me something. Save me. Or just
 get me off the computer. Or hook
 me up. Not with Vork, God!

(MORE)

CODEX (CONT'D)

No, no, that's not what I meant. I don't know what I meant.

(BEAT)

That was such a bad visual.

INT. VARIOUS BEDROOMS/OFFICES - DAY

VORK

Order! Order!

Vork bangs an official looking mallet on his griddle. Everyone reacts to how loud the noise is through their speakers except Clara who's snoring loudly on her keyboard.

TINKERBALLA

(yells into headset)

OUCH!

Zaboo is sitting next to Vork, plucking his eyebrows.

ZABOO

(into mic)

Codex...I enjoyed our "us" time together today. But only barely.

CODEX

Uh. Thanks?

In the office Zaboo gives Vork a thumbs up.

ZABOO

She thinks I'm smothering her, she vag'd out on me earlier. So I'm giving her what she wants. "Talk to the Hand'd."

VORK

My interest in what you're talking about is low to moderate. I'd like to bring to order...

TINKERBALLA

(interupts, sweetly)

Hey Bladezz! I got some packages in the mail today!

BLADEZZ

Oh, yeah? You likey?

TINKERBALLA

(savage)

Are you deaf?! I wanted the mauve purse!

Tink pulls an expensive pink purse out of a nearby box.

BLADEZZ

(panicked)

They didn't have mauve, there was a purpley one and a pinky one! All those woman colors look alike!

CODEX

He's sending you stuff in the mail now?

TINKERBALLA

Shut up, Codex.

ZABOO

(loudly to Codex)

I'll never send you stuff.

Zaboo gives the thumbs up to Vork.

BLADEZZ

OK, look, send it back to me and I'll get them to exchange it!

TINKERBALLA

Actually...I think I want both now.

(sweet again)

Can you arrange that, pretty please?

BLADEZZ

Uh, yeah, sure! Whatevs!

(BEAT)

But do you think this time I could give them a real address instead of a PO Box?

TINKERBALLA

No. And while you're at it, can you throw in a couple more gift certificates too? Thanks hero.

VORK

No more interruptions, don't make me issue citations! Clara! Are you here? CLARA?!

Clara bounces up from a slumber, keys from the keyboard stuck to her face.

CLARA
 (mid-cheer)
 GOOO RAVEN CREST HIGH!!!!
 (BEAT)
 What?

VORK
 As you all know the server is going down, and we need to formulate a plan to work through this horrible time. Together.

TINKERBALLA
 (dryly)
 Like after 9-11.

VORK
 Very similar. Since this is a fixed window of downtime, I will hold off on declaring martial law...

CLARA
 Declaring what?

VORK
 And I've decided to open this up to suggestions as to how we can spend our time most efficiently. Like a democracy. Reminder: This is not a democracy.

CLARA
 Let's go to the Fenridge tavern and drink ale!

ZABOO
 The server will be down, Clara!

CLARA
 What? NOOO! It's my "ME"
 WEEKEND!! I want an orb!!

Clara lifts up her keyboard violently and a flood of chip crumbs comes sprinkling out.

TINKERBALLA
 Why are we wasting time on a meeting? Without the game, there's no Guild, and with no Guild, you are not the Guildmaster, VORK! You have no power!

VORK

I...well...I just...

Vork looks like someone hit him with a truck. He leans back in his chair looking like death.

ZABOO

Whoah, low blow'd. Hey, Bladezz. I'm working on strengthening my core via male bonding. So why don't you come over here and tear up the house with Vork and me?

BLADEZZ

Yes! Bladezz is ready to partay! I'll have my Mom drop me off.

ZABOO

Yeah, have her do it at the Burger Hut down the street. It'll go over better that way. And don't wear any bandana-type clothing. Gangsta'd. You'll get shot.

CLARA

I want to come! I want to come! Guild party! Fun!

Vork struggles to sit upright and yells into his headset.

VORK

No! Under no circumstances! Five people in the house...I don't want the Fire Marshall here! No!

CLARA

But I'm super fun at parties! I used to haze girls at my sorority with bungee cords and squirt guns full of mayo! My idea!

ZABOO

Clara, sometimes guys need to be together and do deep stuff, like bonding and crap. If we have to have the game IV ripped from our veins then we just have to use the time to man up. This is my task and I will accomplish it.

Clara gets a murderous look on her face.

CLARA

Fine! Then we'll...do something lady-ish without you losers! Girls, let's do dinner! How about somewhere we can all go to the bathroom together and pee!

Codex takes a deep breathe and smiles.

CODEX

I...actually have plans.

CLARA

What?

BLADEZZ

What?

VORK

What?

ZABOO

What?! Not that I care.

CODEX

It's just...I want to unpack. There's just so many cute things around here, I don't want to *trip and fall* over them. Again. Got it?

TINKERBALLA

Oh, you don't want to **STUNTMAN** your growth.

CLARA

(confused)

Why don't you just shove things against the wall?

CODEX

But it's a good opportunity to get to know the new...*apartment*...people.

Long beat.

TINKERBALLA

She's got to **open her box** for the neighbor!

CODEX

Right. No. Maybe. But no. Okay.
I'm just logging off.

The phone in Clara's office rings.

CLARA

Ugh. What now!?

ZABOO

(formally)

Codex, I won't miss you for the
four hours we are parted.

Codex logs off, then turns and picks up a pretty dress from a
pile of clothes.

INT. CLARA'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Clara is on the phone with her husband GEORGE, a keyboard key
still stuck to her face. George has toilet tissue stuck in
his nose.

CLARA

Why would he punch you?!

GEORGE

Because I confronted him about
squeezing your boob!

CLARA

Oh. That.

GEORGE (O.S.)

And your sister is really upset
too. Why didn't you tell me you
are her matron of honor!

CLARA

'Cause frankly I found it rather
rude, hello! Matron!?

(rushing)

Anyways, I have to go. Hearing
your voice is making me feel
really, really lonely.

She hangs up on him quickly and looks at her watch.

CLARA (CONT'D)

Ugh! Two minutes of "me" time
GONE!

EXT. WADE'S APARTMENT - MOMENTS LATER

Codex stands outside an apartment door, wearing the slutty dress. She stuffs a pair of fake cutlets in her bra. They aren't fitting right. She tries to adjust them, then takes them out and is caught holding them when the door suddenly opens. She looks up.

CODEX

(quickly)

Oh hi, I...

Standing in the doorway is an INCREDIBLY HOT CHICK, RILEY.

RILEY

Oh, we don't need any. Thanks.

Codex spots Wade inside the apartment as Riley shuts the door in her face.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

INT. CODEX'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Codex holds up the fake jelly breast cutlets to the camera.

CODEX

What a d-bag! Leading me on when he's got a girlfriend!? Grandma was right: Guys think a woman is just a life support system for a vagina. So after being loomed over by...Stupid Tall Hot Girl, I ran home, logged on with Tink and Clara...cried a little...and then while I was really vulnerable, Clara convinced me that girls' night was a good idea. And it is! Why should the boy Guildies have all the fun? Screw those men...people. I should let my therapist know I'm reaching out to reinforce my connection with other women.

Codex reaches for the phone and dials. She waits a beat.

CODEX (CONT'D)

Call blocking?

INT. CODEX'S APARTMENT - EVENING

Classical music is playing. There are purple and white fairy lights hung and the table is set out with snacks in girly bowls and frilly napkins. Codex is in the kitchen, dressed super casual and piping a pink and white cake that says "Girl Power". The doorbell rings. Codex rushes and opens the door. Tink stands on the doorstep dressed to the nines and carries a decorated sparkly laptop. She's playing with her phone and doesn't look up as she enters the apartment.

CODEX

Hey! Wow, nice dress! I thought we were going all casual and man-hating.

TINKERBALLA

I have a date at 7:30.

CODEX

But that's like a half-hour from now!

TINKERBALLA

Ya, I was hoping for some more traffic. Could you give me a heads up so I can jet on time? Thanks.

Tink sits on the couch and opens her laptop.

CODEX

But, I made us a low-carb dinner! I got out my scrapbooking scissors!

TINKERBALLA

(sarcastic)

Ooh, scrapbooking!

And doorbell rings.

TINKERBALLA (CONT'D)

(doesn't look up)

I'm not getting that.

Codex opens the door. On the doorstep are two SLACKER DUDES. They wave and enter and start chomping down on snacks.

CODEX

Um, excuse me? Uh, this is a private residence...

One Dude thrusts a hand-written leaflet in Codex's face. It reads "SINGLE LADIES! FREE DRINKS! 264 W 17TH APT. 210!"

CODEX (CONT'D)

Oh wow.

(reads)

Uh...this is my address. And approximately my face.

SLACKER #2

So where's the brew?

CODEX

I have chamomile tea...

CLARA (O.S.)

Beer incoming!

Clara and another SLACKER DUDE barrel in with a keg, hitting Codex.

CLARA (CONT'D)
I'm sorry. Hehe.

CODEX
(holds out the flyer)
Ouch! Clara, did you make this?!

CLARA
Yeah, sorry I gave you ugly face.
I sketched it on a Gummi high.

She spots the Slackers.

CLARA (CONT'D)
Dudes! You made it!

They "dap" Clara and carry the keg into the apartment.

CODEX
Um, thanks...very much. CLara, do
you know these guys?

CLARA
Not a clue. But the Guild ladies
are havin' fun tonight! The boys
got such a head start on us,
they're probably loaded and havin'
a good ole time already!

INT. VORK'S OFFICE - EVENING

The room is dark. Vork is at a slide projector, a crudely drawn fight-strategy is projected on the wall. Zaboo is watching with Bladezz, who bounces his leg impatiently.

VORK
...and in the third stage of
encounter with the Spider Lord
Grakanesh, it's necessary to
station magic users at both cave
entrances. Zaboo, you're here...

Vork points to a crudely drawn heart on the slide.

ZABOO
Dude, why am I a HEART?!

VORK
Your name begins with a Z, and you
are, therefore, the last to be
assigned a symbol. It was the only
one remaining.

ZABOO

The only one?! There are like a million symbols you could have drawn! You gotta give me something manly like a trident, or a beard! I mean come on man, you're supposed to be supporting me!

VORK

I'm tolerating your presence, what more do you want?

ZABOO

For one, I'd life to move my bed! It's hard to wake up to birds doin' it! It kind of gets into my dreams!

VORK

The squab were here first! Next slide please...now this is a whole 'nother hobby entirely...

Bladezz stands up and turns on the lights.

BLADEZZ

Alright, Bladezz signed up for man night, not bickering old fart night.

VORK

Pardon me for being goal-oriented, but I didn't design this evening for leisure. This is a prime opportunity to refine our fight strategies offline. So get your head out of my craw!

Bladezz gets his 360 out of a backpack and walks over to Vork's *really* old TV in the corner of the room.

BLADEZZ

Better idea. I'm gonna hook up my console and we're gonna kill things.

(fake casual)

And of course I'm willing to take a friendly wager or two on body counts.

ZABOO

Now we're talking! Testosterone'd.

Zaboo stands up and turns on the TV to see grey fuzz.

BLADEZZ

Man, these jacks back here are
all...jacked.

ZABOO

Ya, and it's all black and white.
What the...

Bladezz comes around the front of the TV.

BLADEZZ

Black and White?! No way! Whoah.

Bladezz and Zaboo stare at the set in fascination for a beat.

ZABOO

How do you think they get the color
out of it?

VORK

(defensive)

It has antennae capability, which
is the most important thing! That
will come in handy during a nuclear
fallout or a race war.

BLADEZZ

All right so...no console. What do
we do now?

(fakes finding cards)

Oh wait, lookie here, I have some
cards! Wanna macho it up? Let's
play some poker.

ZABOO

Sure! What site you wanna log-on?

Zaboo and Vork head to their computers.

BLADEZZ

No, like real cards! Like
actual...paper... Hello?

VORK

What is the advantage of that? The
interface is better online, it's
cleaner. And we don't have to look
at each other.

ZABOO

Ditto'd.

Zaboo and Vork silently click at their computers.

BLADEZZ

(BEAT)

All right. I'll be right back.

Bladezz leaves the office.

INT. CODEX'S APARTMENT - LATER

Clara shoves the couch Tink's sitting on against a wall. Tink doesn't even look up.

TINKERBALLA

Clara! You jostled my trackpad finger!

Strangers are filing in, greeting Codex.

CODEX

(to strangers)

Hi, nice to meet you...Clara! I don't KNOW these people!

CLARA

That's the point of the party, duh! So you can get your mind off the Stunt Guy spitting you out like you were a cheap piece of gristle! And you can meet your new neighbors! Like the ones from the restaurant next door: Enrique, Jared, this is Codex!

CODEX

Hi. Hola?

Clara waves at two VALET DUDES entering in red valet suits. People keep flooding in and Codex looks panicked.

CODEX (CONT'D)

Clara! How many flyers did you hand out?!

CLARA

Hundreds and a spam bot newsletter. Listen, I haven't had a night out without a kid on my boob in the past 3 years. So let's take this and make it crazy! Right, Tink? This is gonna be awesome!

TINKERBALLA

(looks at her phone)

Sure. For the next 10 1/2 minutes.
Partay.

INT. VORK'S OFFICE - LATER

Zaboo and Vork are on their computers in the office,
completely silent save for key taps.

ZABOO

This is a great party man. I'm
sorry I insulted your squab
earlier. This place is way more
fun to crash at than at Codex's. A
lot less tears. Maybe I can start
clearing out the guest room by
auctioning off stuff online! I bet
I could have my own room around
2012. Oh man.

VORK

(suddenly alert)

Money? From articles I get for
free?

(BEAT)

I like you.

ZABOO

Uh, dude, what happened to the
network?!

VORK

I lost my connection too.

(looks around wildly)

What the...where's Bladezz?

Vork gets a look of sheer rage on his face.

ZABOO

Uh, oh.

EXT. VORK'S OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

Shot of "Daddy's Dog House" from the outside.

VORK (O.S.)

(VOLCANIC)

BLADEZZ!!!!!!

INT. CODEX'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Codex's apartment is filled with people. She's trying to play hostess with a tray of appetizers.

CODEX

...these are cheese toast spell books, that's cream cheese bread, the basil represents a life bar, oh, and the cookies I cut out in the shapes of weapons. That's a mace.

The PARTYGOERS just stare at the plate. After a beat, they walk away. Codex approaches Tink, who's still on the couch with her laptop.

TINKERBALLA

(looks at the tray)

Cool. Gimmie one of those froasted broadswords.

She takes it.

CODEX

You know what? Clara's right, the party is working. I haven't thought about Wade all night! Accept just now. Damn it. Well, at least I'm not depressed 'cause I'm too busy worrying about strangers going through my medicine cabinet.

TINKERBALLA

Relax. All the good stuff's gone anyway.

Codex spots Wade and the Hot Chick enter.

CODEX

Oh, my God! The stunt guy's here! And he's with Stupid Tall Hot Girl!!

Tink wipes her face and looks at Codex.

CODEX (CONT'D)

I'm sorry, did I spit on you?

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

INT. CODEX'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

CODEX

I've never felt comfortable at parties. I just...I don't enjoy meeting people. Well, meeting strangers. I guess strangers are technically people too...I mean, people I'll never see again! Or at least I hope I won't after I develop a crush on one of them and then they turn out to be jerks and then show up at my party uninvited. Or accidentally invited by my crazy drunken Guildmate. Whatever. I'm certainly not giving them any of my Healing Potion Punch.

(BEAT)

Maybe this is the reason I don't have a lot of friends.

INT. VORK'S HOUSE - OFFICE

Bladezz is standing in front of Vork and Zaboo.

VORK

You got the neighbor to encrypt his wireless?!

BLADEZZ

Yeah. It was easy sauce. The guy let me right in. He was acting really out of it. He kept callin' me Betty and askin' me if the muffins were cool.

VORK

Bladezz, that was my lifeline!
(doubles over)
Uch, phantom limb pain.

BLADEZZ

Look guys, all I'm saying is let's get some offline action! Now look, I got the password and you can have it...before I go home.

ZABOO

Well, just look at it this way, at least the connection will be better. Less lag.

VORK

Don't justify his heinous activity! This is domestic terrorism! You're going to Vorktanamo Bay!

BLADEZZ

What?

ZABOO

What? All right, Vork, come on. Chillax man.

Vork goes to his desk and sits down, looking sullen.

VORK

Fine. But for the record, I refuse to enjoy myself.

BLADEZZ

Great! So, what you guys want to play? We've got Texas Hold 'Em, Five Card Stud...

ZABOO

Stud! Stud, totally Stud. Cause we're studly studs. Stud'd.

INT. CODEX'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Codex points out Wade and the Hot Chick to Tink.

CODEX

That's him! With his ginormous Hot Chick girlfriend!

TINKERBALLA

(spots Wade)

He's Asian? And hot?

(puzzled)

That makes you more interesting.

CODEX

He's got some nerve bringing that girl here who he prefers over me!

Codex leaves Tink to find Clara, who's flirting with one of the partygoers.

CODEX (CONT'D)

Clara! The stunt guys here! He's
in the doorway.

CLARA

(drunkenly)

That anus face! I'll show him to
reject my best friend in the entire
world! Lemee at him.

(suddenly sober)

Oh, he's smokin'!

PARTYGOER (O.S.)

Ooh, body shots!

CLARA

I'm there!

Clara leaves Codex to be faced with Wade's Hot Chick.

HOT CHICK

Hey! Your party right? I'm Riley.
I think you tried to sell me
something earlier.

CODEX

Oh Riley? That's the name of one
of my alt characters. Cuts deep.

RILEY

Wade said you were a gamer. That's
bitchin'!

CODEX

Ya, his roommate's a gamer too,
right?

RILEY

I'm his roommate. So yeah.

CODEX

Oh...oh! Stupid. Ow. I thought
you were his girlfriend.

RILEY

Oh no no no. Just roommate. And
occasional fuck buddy of course,
but mostly roommate.

CODEX

(thrown)

That, I did not see coming.

RILEY

It's hot to meet another girl who games! It's tight! What games do you play?

CODEX

You know, role-playing games mostly.

RILEY

Oh. I'm a FPS girl. Halo. BOOM! Headshots. I'm ranked and stuff. That's truth.

CODEX

Well, I kill stuff too! It's just...I wear prettier outfits.

They stand there awkwardly for a beat.

RILEY

Cool. I'm gonna grab a drink.

She exits.

INT. VORK'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Zaboo, Vork and Bladezz sit around Vork's desk. Bladezz spills jelly beans on the table.

BLADEZZ

All right, each candy is one dollar. One **real** dollar that you pay up at the end of the game.

VORK

A dollar?! This pile alone exceeds my net worth after Capital Gains!

ZABOO

(mouth full of candy)
I think I just ate 10 bucks.

BLADEZZ

Okay you guys, I thought this was men's night, not little girl's panties night.

Vork holds up a timer, sweat beading on his forehead.

VORK
 96 minutes til the servers up...96
 til the servers up...

BLADEZZ
 Okay look, look. Fifty cents a
 bean, I'm okay with that. Let's
 just get started.

Bladezz starts handling the cards expertly. A few beats.

ZABOO
 (suspiciously)
 Yeah, I'm detecting magic...

BLADEZZ
 Sack up or pack up, ladies.

Vork pulls out his accounting hat and puts it on.

VORK
 (grimly)
 Just deal.

INT. CODEX'S APARTMENT - MOMENTS LATER

Codex, looking for someone in the crowd, turns and finds
 Clara yelling at a Guy who's drinking.

CLARA
 Chug! CHUG CHUG CHUG CHUG!

CODEX
 Hey! Wade is single! Stupid Tall
 Hot Girl is just a roommate f-
 buddy!

CLARA
 Fantastic! Go tear his pants off!

From across the room, Tink leaves Wade and comes up to Clara
 and Codex.

TINK
 Codex, did you know stunt guy did
 motion capture for **OUR GAME**?

CODEX
 (grabs Tink)
 What? Really?!?!

TINKERBALLA

When an elf swings a two-
hander...that's him.

CLARA

(gasps)

Oh my God. Could it get hotter?!
And the roommate she's just an f-
buddy!

TINKERBALLA

(nods understandingly)

It's meant to be.

CODEX

But I can't approach him alone! I
don't solo well.

CLARA

We can be your wing-women! We'll
sell you good, right Tink?!

CODEX

Well, she has to go.

TINKERBALLA

Aw, screw it. This is more
interesting.

CODEX

I thought you had a date.

Tink whips out her phone, texts, then slams it shut.

TINKERBALLA

Not anymore I don't.

CODEX

Really? Oh yes, we're gonna do
this. I'm sweating.

CLARA

Go!

They exit together, 3 abreast, slo-mo trio, Charlie's Angels-
style.

INT. VORK'S HOUSE - NIGHT

The guys are playing poker. Bladezz is looking much less
confident. Vork lays down a set of cards.

VORK

Three of a kind, I believe?

Bladezz throws down his cards.

BLADEZZ

F that! How'd you beat me?! You have the street smarts of a cartoon princess!!

Vork pulls the pot to him. He has a huge pile.

VORK

I simply play the odds. When I surmised that you were going for a straight that included a four, I noticed that I had three of those fours in my hand. Which means the probability of you achieving that straight with that four was 1.8 percent.

BLADEZZ

(lays head on table)

OMG! Seriously?! I'm supposed to be the ringer here! I'm out!

VORK

But I was just getting to a portfolio level of winnings!

BLADEZZ

I have no money! I maxed out all my Mom's credit cards buying stupid crap for Tink!

ZABOO

You can charge Gorgon Ears for the orb quest?

BLADEZZ

No like real crap! Like purses, and tuition and hockey tickets! That's why I'm playing this game in the first place! Oh my God, I'm so going to military school next year.

VORK

Women. Can't live with them, they will not go out with me.

(MORE)

VORK (CONT'D)

I'd be happy log on immediately and act as a mediator between the two of you in order to reacquire the objects in question.

(BEAT)

Give me the password.

Zaboo scrolls on his phone and reads intently.

ZABOO

Hey actually, Clara's hanging with Tink right now. It says on her status update: "Tink and me playing wing-women at Codex's; gonna get her laid!" Wait a second, get who laid?! Codex?! But I'm not even over there! What does that mean?!

VORK

Trouble. When I visited Codex today she was interacting with another male. It was akin to a mating ritual. Had they been Baboons her nether-regions would have been slightly swollen and ruby-red.

BLADEZZ

She's pugging already? Well that has to hurt.

ZABOO

Holy crap'd! Someone's mining my ore! We gotta get over there right now!

(to Vork)

You're driving!

VORK

I don't wanna!

BLADEZZ

Password.

VORK

Why are we still talking?!

They all head out.

INT. CODEX'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Codex, Tink and Clara are laughing and hanging on Wade's every word.

WADE

...Yeah, I put some of my stunts online. That video with my arm on fire has like 500 hits. Practically viral...

Codex nods and motions to Clara and Tink to "get to it." They jump in to "sell" Codex.

TINKERBALLA

Let's cut to it. She's doable, right?

CODEX

Uh, wait...

CLARA

(jumps in)

All her ex-boyfriends before this were gay, so she's probably a virgin, at least with a few positions.

TINKERBALLA

I'd do her.
(to Codex)
Not really.

CODEX

(covering)

Um hey guys, put the brakes on! I'm sorry, my friend here has had a lot to drink.

(to Tink)

And the other one's just kinda rude.

WADE

No problem. I'm used to taking a pounding from all sides. But I give as good as I get.

TINKERBALLA

(to Codex)

See? Cheesy double entendre. He's into you.

CLARA

Yeah, and nerd girls are easy! You could basically ignore her. A little attention goes a long way with this one!

(MORE)

CLARA (CONT'D)

So let's cut to the chase, when are we going to arrange the humpity bumpity?

CODEX

Clara! Ok forget it. You guys clearly don't have the social skills to make this work! And quite frankly, neither do I so...

WADE

Make what work?

CODEX

I'm sorry! My friends clearly are trying to...uh, hook us up. It's cause I told them I thought you were attractive, in an objective kind of way, and it was only because we were conversing a couple of days ago, which I thought was good, I thought it was a sign, and then I vomited on you, which was not good, and I thought that was a sign and then I...just...when...and then I...and you. I just...I think I might have to go too. I hate people!

Codex runs off, upset.

TINKERBALLA

I cancelled my date for that?

Tink walks off. Clara turns to Wade.

CLARA

(sexy)

So...stunt guy? That's cool. Have you ever touched Chuck Norris?

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

INT. CODEX'S BEDROOM - EVENING

Codex talks into her webcam, very upset and crying.

CODEX

I just owned myself at my own party! Which I didn't want, nor organize, but still...it's just...I don't know what my problem is! It's like there's another person living inside me who has a personal vendetta against me. And who can make my mouth move...

Wade sits into the webcam shot on the bed next to her.

WADE

Another online appointment, Red?

CODEX

(shocked)

Um.

WADE

Your blonde friend's doing handstands on your coffee table.

CODEX

It's ok. She's limber.

Wade leans in and takes Codex's chin in his hand.

WADE

Don't cry, your eyes are your prettiest feature.

He surveys the rest of her face.

WADE (CONT'D)

Yeah. Definitely.

CODEX

(sniffs)

Did you really do motion capture for the game?

Wade moves in for a kiss.

INT. CODEX'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Vork, Bladezz and Zaboo enter Codex's party. Zaboo is wearing an ascot.

VORK

Who knew Codex had so many friends.

(BEAT)

This is how the Black Plague started.

Clara spots them and flings herself at the guys.

CLARA

Hey Guildies!

ZABOO

Clara! I just read your status update! Why are you trying to get Codex laid?!

BLADEZZ

Yeah. She's our priest, don't corrupt her! Or at least do it with another chick and somewhere I can watch.

Vork pulls his kitchen timer out of his suit pocket.

CLARA

Don't worry. She put her foot way up in her mouth and tanked it. Gonna have to scrape her off the carpet with a butter knife.

ZABOO

My love! I will comfort you!

Zaboo dashes off into the party.

VORK

I'm glad I had cause to visit this location earlier today. Had I not already familiarized myself with local landmarks, I would be completely in the dark.

CLARA

That wouldn't be unusual for you.

VORK

Excuse me?

CLARA
Free food over there!

Vork immediately exits frame. Clara turns to Bladezz.

CLARA (CONT'D)
So, is this your first crazy party?

BLADEZZ
(lying)
No. Bladezz gets invited to all
the keggers.

CLARA
Yeah, I remember my first booze-
fest. It was wild. I did a lot of
stuff I had to live down later. I
almost got kicked out of the 5th
grade...

Bladezz sees Tink standing across the room.

BLADEZZ
(interrupts)
I believe I have just spotted my
ride.

Bladezz exits.

CLARA
I'll just stay here.

INT. CODEX'S APARTMENT - MOMENTS LATER

Zaboo struts around the party, interrogating people.

ZABOO
Have you seen Codex? Nothing?

INT. CODEX'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Zaboo enthusiastically opens the door to Codex's bedroom and
sees Codex and Wade kissing on the bed. He freezes and
whimpers.

INT. CODEX'S APARTMENT - MOMENTS LATER

Bladezz approaches Tink who is messing around on her phone as
a GUY hands her a drink, obviously about to hit on her.

BLADEZZ

Yo.

(to Guy)

Strawberry daiquiri.

TINKERBALLA

(to Guy making drinks)

Make that a virgin.

BLADEZZ

(leers at her)

If that's what turns you on, I can fake it. I have been taking acting classes.

TINKERBALLA

Gross. What are you doing here? Dropping off the keys to that scooter I wanted?

BLADEZZ

Listen, I really gotta cut back on the spending a bit. I'm kinda tapped out right now. But I did get the orb stuff you wanted. I sent that to you...

TINKERBALLA

Cool. So, we're done here. Don't ever message me again.

BLADEZZ

What?!? I sent you everything you wanted! You owe me naked time!

TINKERBALLA

Bladezz, just consider this a little life lesson. Some boring girls are gonna come into your life and give you everything you want. And then some more interesting ones will come along and take everything you own. I'm the taking kind. Just be glad that you're young and don't have a lot of stuff.

BLADEZZ

(shakes head)

How can you be such a beeyach?

TINKERBALLA

My hard exterior masks a soft, nougat-y center.

BLADEZZ

All right. Ok, I respect the ownage, after all I am the master. But you think I can have the airline voucher back? I can't really pay for that. Or any of the other stuff I got you.

TINKERBALLA

(laughs)

Bladezz. If I did that, it wouldn't be a lesson.

Tink pats his face as she leaves. Bladezz stands there, owned.

INT. CODEX'S APARTMENT - MOMENTS LATER

Zaboo stands in the doorway of the bedroom, and finally musters the strength to talk.

ZABOO

HEY you...sir! Remove your tongue from my woman!

Codex jumps back from kissing Wade and turns to see Zaboo.

CODEX

Zaboo! What the hell! I thought you were at Vork's running a men's training camp!

ZABOO

And I thought you were not making out with other guys! I guess we were both ill-informed!

WADE

(stands)

Little dude, the lady would like to be here with only one man. And that man is definitely me.

ZABOO

Correction. The lady is on layaway for me!

CODEX

(stands)

Both of you, stop referring to me as "the lady!"

ZABOO

Ok. I know what men do in this situation.

Zaboo removes his ascot and casts it on the floor.

ZABOO (CONT'D)

I challenge you. I will see you yonder!

Zaboo turns and exits. After a second his head pops back in.

ZABOO (CONT'D)

By yonder I mean, just outside. For fighting.

Zaboo leaves again.

CODEX

(calls after)

Zaboo not a good idea!

Wade looks at her and grins.

WADE

I can't promise I won't break anything of yours. OR his.

Wade exits, leaving Codex looking panicked.

INT. CODEX'S APARTMENT - MOMENTS LATER

There's a ruckus in the apartment. People are backing off to make space for Zaboo and Wade who have faced off on opposite sides of the room. Codex rushes up and tries to stop Zaboo.

ZABOO

Pardon me. Excuse me. Clear out. There's a fight.

CODEX

Excuse me. Excuse me. Zaboo, you do not want to do this.

ZABOO

My love, I was defaced in your eyes, man-wise. And I get it, I was not there in your need for sexual intercourse. But I need to avenge myself! But don't worry, I won't hurt him with my newly cut man-muscles. They are razor sharp.

Clara pops over.

CLARA
Fight, fight, fight fight!

ZABOO
Fight, fight, fight!

CLARA
I know, right? I can't believe
you're gonna take on the Stunt Guy!
Oh my gosh, this is the best party
since my senior prom when I
accidentally set my date on fire
and I had to pee on him to put him
out! We got married.

ZABOO
Yeah, I....Stunt Guy?

Zaboo turns and sees Wade, now in the center of the room,
suddenly tear open his shirt and starts whipping off
impressive kicks and punches.

ZABOO (CONT'D)
Ooh, so those are abs.

CLARA
Yeah, they are.

ZABOO
Excuse me.

Zaboo rushes across the apartment to Vork and Bladezz.

ZABOO (CONT'D)
Guys, I need your help.

BLADEZZ AND VORK
(not concerned)
Mmmmm...

ZABOO
Listen, I just challenged that guy
over there to a duel over Codex,
and it turns out he's a real life
stunt guy! He ripped off his shirt
and it's just very clear that he's
been lifting mustard way longer
than I have.

BLADEZZ

Stunt Guy vs. Zaboo? You're gonna get your brains handed to you in a paper bag.

ZABOO

Thanks for the vote of confidence, dude. That helps. No, listen, I can do this. I fight stuff every day. I'm a man. I'm THE man! I'm Shiva! Shiva'd. Six arms.

VORK

Okay, not to quash your enthusiasm...

BLADEZZ

Naw, do it. Quash away.

VORK

...I don't see your game acumen translating to this situation. For one, you play a spell-caster, but as a real life human, you have no usable mana bar. It's merely an invention of the genre. However, the gaming life-bar *could* be analogous to the your body's blood content. Conceivably you could lose all that in a quantifiable manner as the result of a pummelling. He's clearly of the fighter class.

BLADEZZ

What Vork said. You're gonna bleed.

Wade calls out to Zaboo.

WADE

Are we doing this or what?

ZABOO

(calls out)

Yeah...see...I think there was a misunderstanding. I'm not really melee class so...

Clara appears behind him.

CLARA

Oh, come on Zaboo! Your Mom has a mean right hook! It's gotta run in the family!

Clara shoves Zaboo violently towards Wade, who grins, cocks a punch, and throws it at Zaboo.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

INT. CODEX'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Codex talks into her webcam.

CODEX

Zaboo's like a genie you can't shove back into the bottle! I mean, he shows up everywhere! Bad timing's an understatement! So I'm in my apartment and two guys are about to go at it over me and why am I feeling...

(BEAT)

So...incredibly...flattered? I'm terrible. It was awesome. I feel so guilty!

Codex slowly grins.

INT. CODEX'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Zaboo stumbles towards Wade, who cocks a punch, and throws it. The punch ends an inch from Zaboo's face, his eyes are scrunched shut. Wade looks confused. He throws a few more punches and kicks at Zaboo, but none of them hit. Zaboo opens his eyes a crack.

ZABOO

Not that I mind, but what the...

WADE

(shaking it out)

Gotta recalibrate. I'm too used to pullin' punches for the camera.

ZABOO

Nah, you don't need to recalibrate..ugh. That was a good recalibration.

Zaboo takes one to the gut, starts to speak, then dashes away dodging through the crowd. Wade follows.

They pass Clara who's watching and hooting. Vork, standing beside her, takes out his kitchen timer.

CLARA

GO ZABOOOO! Oh my gosh, I've never been into blood and revenge before, but since I've started tooling around as TeatsforTots I'm like, rabid for ass kicking!

Vork turns suddenly towards Clara, shock on his face.

VORK

TeatsforTots?! That's the toon that's been ganking me for a week!

CLARA

(panicked)
Uh, oh.

Nearby, Zaboo is dodging around party guests, evading Wade.

WADE

Come on little dude, this is a fight, not Whac-A-Mole.

ZABOO

Ok! I'm ready. I'm doing this for you, my love!
(shouts to Codex)
I HAF ZEE POWAAA! Uhrgh!

Zaboo lunges out with his fist extended and hits Wade's chest. Zaboo doubles over in pain, clutching his hand.

ZABOO (CONT'D)

OUCH! Uh, what do you have, a metal chest?

Wade stops sparring.

WADE

Come on, what kinda punch was that?

ZABOO

Ow, my thumb!

WADE

The thumb goes on the outside, see?

Wade holds his fist up. Zaboo imitates him.

ZABOO

On the outside! Okay, that's a good tip. See, my Dad was a pacifist...UHNGH.

Wade takes his upraised fist and pops Zaboo in the face.

ZABOO (CONT'D)

Aw, come on! I thought we were sharing a moment man.

Zaboo darts into the crowd, Wade follows. Across the room Vork is in a rage at Clara.

VORK

Clara, you're the one who's been tormenting me for days?!

CLARA

With good reason! You robbed me of that orb!

VORK

I'm horrified! I have dedicated my life to the well-being of my Guild and its members. To be subject to this kind of betrayal from one of my own...uuuuuuuuuugggggggghhhhhh. Now I know how King Arthur felt when Lancelot caressed his wife's genitalia. Excuse me.

Vork walks off, extremely upset and passes Bladezz, who's taking pictures of the fight with his phone. While framing, he sees Tink set down her laptop on the love seat and stand leave to take a phone call. He gets a thoughtful look on his face.

On the opposite side of the room Zaboo ducks behind Codex and uses her for a shield. Wade tries to get around Codex.

CODEX

Stop it you guys! Just stop it, just...oh my God, I'm gonna just shut up and stay really still for a second.

Vork walks up to Codex.

VORK

Codex! Were you aware that Clara has been stalking and murdering me for a week?!

CODEX

Vork, I'm kinda busy right now!

VORK

WHATEVER!

Vork, frustrated, exits out as Zaboo and Wade move to the center of the room.

ZABOO

All right buddy. Get prepared for the wrath of the Hinjew Gods.

Zaboo does a flourishing cartwheel, but ends up ramming into a nearby Partygoer.

ZABOO (CONT'D)

Ouch, ok! That was my one move. That didn't work out so well...whoah!

Wade comes after him and he darts away.

Vork is complaining to Bladezz, who's grabbing Tink's laptop off of the sofa.

VORK

...I can't believe the betrayal! Am I really that bad? I've never thought of myself as a bad man. Sure there was that night that I stayed at the Hitler Youth Camp by accident. Is it me, is it her? I'm having a crisis of spirit here!

BLADEZZ

Dude, don't be sad, get even.

Bladezz grabs Tink's pink laptop and disappears into the crowd. Vork watches him go, then, still traumatized, exits towards the bathroom.

Wade chases Zaboo back into the room

ZABOO

Help, help, help! Rub it in, that's great, you're cool. Hey, I recognize that last move...

CODEX

(urgently)

He did motion capture for THE GAME!

ZABOO
 (awestruck)
 Wait, what?! THE GAME! Oh wait,
 that was totally a Fire Gladiator
 move?!

WADE
 Yeah, I also did the Zombie Monks.

ZABOO
 Oh cool.

CODEX
 See! You can't win! Those Zombie
 Monks always own you!

Wade does some Zombie Monk moves and hits Zaboo with an
 elbow.

WADE
 She's right.

Wade pulls Zaboo away by his hair.

INT. CODEX'S BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Vork stands in the shower fully clothed. Water pours down on
 him as he sobs.

VORK
 Why, Clara. Why?!?!

The kitchen timer dings. He takes it out and throws it,
 still sobbing.

INT. CODEX'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Zaboo and Wade are still fighting. Zaboo blocks Wade's
 punches with a pillow, taking a pummelling.

Codex winces as the hot girl, Riley, leans into her.

RILEY
 The little one is kinda cute. I
 have a thing for underdogs.

Codex rolls her eyes and focuses back on the fight.

ZABOO

I still can't get over it man,
you're like THE Zombie Monk! You
know, I totally bought you were
dead, but infused with Lich Aura!
Lich'd.

WADE

Thanks, man. I did a lot of
character work on that one. Check
this out!

Wade does another fancy move that hits Zaboo hard.

ZABOO

Yeah, that was money. Spot on.

WADE

Used that in that movie
"Shapeshifter High" last year.

ZABOO

Really?!

WADE

Graduation scene. Fourth Were-
tiger to the right.

ZABOO

Man, I loved that movie.

On the sidelines Codex calls out.

CODEX

Um, don't keep fighting over me
guys, I'm totally not worth it!

Wade looks her over and makes a decision.

WADE

(to Zaboo)

She's got a point. She's really
not worth it.

ZABOO

Well there, I'm going to have to
respectfully disagree with you,
Codex is a fine prize of a woman.
And if you'd like to withdraw your
claim, I will accept it.

WADE

I'm cool.

CODEX

What?

ZABOO

Cool man. Well, it was really fun
doing man-moves with you. Bond'd.

He reaches up to high-five Wade, but misses.

WADE

You gotta look at the elbow. Never
miss.

ZABOO

Really?

They high-five successfully.

ZABOO (CONT'D)

You're awesome!

Wade walks over to Codex.

WADE

Nothing personal, the little guy's
got spunk and anyway, I usually get
paid for this.

CODEX

But...

WADE

See ya 'round, Red.

Wade disappears into the party as the crowd breaks up and the
party music starts again.

ZABOO

He's nice. Well, I'm sure you're
sufficiently aroused by now, so we
have a little time before the
server kicks back on. Maybe we can
blurrgh...

Codex looks livid as she shoves Zaboo towards the bedroom.

CODEX

Into the bedroom right now!

As she's pulling Zaboo to the bedroom, Bladezz returns Tink's laptop to the couch, and then begins crossing towards the exit, where he passes Tink. He turns to her, smiles, then exits. Tink gets a confused look on her face.

INT. CODEX'S BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Codex and Zaboo enter the bedroom. Zaboo starts undressing.

ZABOO

...good thing I got here in time.
I didn't know that feeding you all
that herbal lady-viagra would have
you rolling around with every
neighborhood hotshot.

CODEX

You were feeding me what?

ZABOO

Oh, they were rainforest herbs!
Organic'd.

CODEX

Did it ever occur to you that I'm
just not interested in you?

ZABOO

But you said if I levelled up I
could be with you!

CODEX

I just told you that so you'd move
out! Look, I'm sorry I couldn't
tell you that in a way that you
might understand. What that would
entail outside of a frontal
lobotomy, I have no idea. But I'm
sorry.

(BEAT)

I still like you as a friend...

ZABOO

Ugh. I've heard this speech a
million times before. "Zaboo, I'm
married, Zaboo I'm in San Quentin,
Zaboo, I'm your imaginary friend."
Are there no open and available
women on the internet?!

CODEX

Maybe. But I guess I'm just not one of them.

ZABOO

(takes a deep breath)

Oh, okay. I'm not gonna cry 'cause I'm a tough man now. You know, I thought it was differnt with you than those other ladies. Because I didn't care what you looked like, ya know? I fell for you before I even saw your face. But I will honor your wishes and leave this quest line unfinished.

(BEAT)

I guess my princess is in another castle.

Zaboo exits. Codex stands there, dejected.

INT. CODEX'S APARTMENT - MOMENTS LATER

Codex drops onto the couch.

CODEX

I finally broke it off with Zaboo. Ugh, life was so much easier before we met each other!

TINKERBALLA

Preaching to the choir.

Vork walks over, completely soaked and in despair.

VORK

Server is up now.

TINKERBALLA

Sweet.

Tink types on her laptop while Vork talks.

VORK

But what's the point? The Guild moral core is broken. Kaput. The Knights of Good should be renamed the Knaves of Hooliganism.

TINKERBALLA

(she types)

What the hell. My character isn't showing up on the login screen.

CODEX

Try relogging.

TINKERBALLA

I did!!!

(panicking)

Where am I?!

VORK

Bladezz was using that laptop earlier...

TINKERBALLA

(panicked)

What????!!! No! Nononononono!!!!
It's gone! He deleted my character!
Two years of my life, my gold, my reputation points! I don't exist anymore.

VORK

Hooliganism.

Tink bursts into tears. Codex stares, shocked.

Codex turns, looking for Bladezz in the crowd and spots Clara and Wade making out against the wall.

CODEX

Clara!!

CLARA

(turns and point at Wade)

Stunt guy!

Codex looks shocked. She walks up to Wade.

CODEX

(angry)

I'm so glad I didn't drop my loot for you.

She kicks him in the shins.

WADE

Ouch!

Codex turns and stomps to the apartment door then exits.

Clara and Wade go back to making out.

EXT. CODEX'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Codex shuts the door behind her and breathes deep. A slow smile spreads across her face, and she almost starts laughing. She turns her head mid-laugh, then something down the hall stops her.

CODEX'S POV:

Zaboo is sloppy making out with the Riley.

Codex's face drops. Music: The Promise by "When In Rome" starts playing as she continues to stare at them. Suddenly "Ghost Codex" leaves her body and starts running. The music fades as we...

FADE OUT: