

"OF GROCERY & NECROMANCY"

ARCANE VALLEY

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FADE IN

EXT. CREEPY FOREST - NIGHT

A hooded MERCHANT tiptoes through the creepy forest. He grasps a piece of paper tightly as an eerie fog shrouds the night sky.

A mysterious shadow jumps between the trees, stalking the Merchant.

As the tension swells, the Merchant gulps. The shadow jumps in front of him, revealing itself to be the silhouette of DRAXIOUS, a tall, intimidating magician.

The Merchant falls to the ground.

MERCHANT

(fearful)

What? *W-Who are you?!*

DRAXIOUS

(intimidating)

An impudent worm such as yourself
is not worthy to hear the name
DRAXIOUS!

Beat.

DRAXIOUS (CONT'D)

*...Which is who I am, since you
were wondering.*

Draxious takes out an ancient book that glows ominously. He opens it, revealing many missing pages.

DRAXIOUS (CONT'D)

And you, *lowly merchant*, have
something of mine...

Draxious snaps his fingers. Several zombie hands ascend from the dirt below the Merchant. They grab at his legs.

MERCHANT

(terrified)

You're a... *necromancer?*

DRAXIOUS

Did you expect anything less from
the GRAND MASTER OF SORCERY?!

Draxious laughs maniacally.

As Draxious continues to laugh, his voice is accompanied by a child.

Draxious stops laughing as PERCY, a kid with a colorful monster costume, stands next to him continuing to laugh.

DRAXIOUS (CONT'D)
(angry)
PERCY?!

PERCY
Yeah?

DRAXIOUS
You're supposed to hide in the forest while I interrogate the enemy!

PERCY
But I want to irritate him, too!

Draxious face palms.

DRAXIOUS
Fine. You already ruined the tone I was going for. Just say the thing.

Percy approaches the Merchant. Contrary to his goofy attire, Percy tries to wear a serious face.

PERCY
...A ZOMBIE PUN!

The Merchant continues to be dragged down by several zombies.

Beat.

MERCHANT
...What?

Draxious walks out of the shadows.

DRAXIOUS
No, Percy! I said say a zombie pun, not say "a zombie pun!"

PERCY
Ooohhhh. I don't get it.

MERCHANT
(whispering to Percy)
Hey, can you tell your friend to let me go?

The zombies begin to tug at the Merchant harder.

PERCY
*Sure! Draxious is nice and
 understanding!*

Draxious runs close to the Merchant.

DRAXIOUS
*Listen, fool! Hand over the spell
 if you don't want to be *dragged to
 the depths of the Nether realm!**

PERCY
 (to Merchant)
 What I tell ya?!

MERCHANT
 Spell?! What *spell?*

The Merchant is being pulled down faster. His hood falls off, revealing his green, Goblin-like face.

DRAXIOUS
 One of the many spells that was
 stolen from me, of course!

MERCHANT
I don't have anything of the sort!

DRAXIOUS
 I see. Take him away, my *Undead
 Empire!*

Draxious snaps his fingers. Nothing happens. Draxious lightly kicks Percy, who raises his arms in the air ecstatically.

PERCY
 Oh! NECROMANCY!

Dark energy emits from Percy's hands. The zombies begin dragging the Merchant below the ground- only his head and hands remain visible.

MERCHANT
 (to Percy)
 WAIT! Wait! *You're the
 necromancer?! Help me-*

The Merchant drops the paper he was holding. Percy grabs it.

DRAXIOUS
 I think the hooded fool has learned
 his lesson. Release him, Percy-

PERCY
 (interjecting)
 Woah! This spell is *wicked!*

DRAXIOUS
 (very excited)
Let the Grand Master see!

Draxious swipes the paper from Percy. It's a grocery list.

DRAXIOUS (CONT'D)
T-This is no magic spell!

PERCY
 Maybe the magic was in our hearts
 all along?!

Draxious gives a sour glance. He takes out his glowing book.

DRAXIOUS
 I could've *sworn* there was a spell
 in this forest!

PERCY
 (to the Merchant)
 Hey mister, do you have a *real*
 spell instead?

A Merchant-shaped hole is left in the ground. Percy and Draxious realize that they are alone.

PERCY (CONT'D)
 (obliviously)
 Ah, he must've run on home!

DRAXIOUS
 Right! That's... *definitely what*
happened!

Beat. Draxious grimaces.

Percy realizes that Draxious's book continues to glow. As he moves the grocery list closer, the book glows more.

After several seconds, Draxious notices Percy's tomfoolery.

DRAXIOUS (CONT'D)
 P-Percy? What are you doing?

PERCY
 Ha ha! Your book's glowin' like a
 jack-o-lantern!

Draxious snatches the grocery list from Percy.

DRAXIOUS

Hm? Why is the Grimoire reacting so violently?

PERCY

(gasps)

Maybe we have to complete the list for the *real* spell page to appear! Like a quest!

DRAXIOUS

Percy, that's just plain moronic! There's no way-

Draxious reads the fine print on the list which says "collect all items for spell."

DRAXIOUS (CONT'D)

Uh- Although to be fair, I'm sensing a powerful aura from this page! *It's telling me that we must complete the list for the spell page to appear!*

PERCY

What!? Why didn't I think of that?!

DRAXIOUS

Because you, my pupil, lack courtesy. Maybe if you would've *helped* that poor Merchant, your sorcery skills would've increased!

Draxious looks at the Merchant-shaped hole.

PERCY

Wowza!

DRAXIOUS

Let's move! Who knows what new spell this may be?! It could be telekinesis, or shapeshifting, or-

PERCY

Necromancy!

Percy raises his hands in the air. Two skeletal fists erect from the ground, mimicking Percy's excitement. One of them almost hits Draxious.

DRAXIOUS

D-don't say that! You might kill *other* pedestrians.

PERCY

What?

DRAXIOUS

Nothing.

EXT. VILLAGE ENTRANCE - LATER

Draxious and Percy walk into a busy village. Draxious holds the grocery list in front of him and reads it out loud.

DRAXIOUS

Now! Let's see... Milk, eggs and butter... Easy! We can find those at the market!

PERCY

Capitalism!

INT. MARKET - MOMENTS LATER

Draxious and Percy walk into a large tent. A stout SHOPKEEPER with a lisp sits behind a desk, surrounded by various goods.

SHOPKEEPER

Yo, wathup wandering travelerth?!

PERCY

Howth it going, thir?

Draxious slaps Percy in the back of the head.

DRAXIOUS

Don't be rude, Percy. Ahem.

(to Shopkeeper)

MEASLY SHOPKEEPER! DIRECT ME, THE GRAND MASTER OF GROCERIES, TO YOUR FINEST BREAKFAST AND DAIRY INGREDIENTS!

SHOPKEEPER

Oh! They're right over there!

The shopkeeper points to several baskets of milk, eggs and butter.

DRAXIOUS

Excellent!

Draxious and Percy grab the ingredients and take them to the counter.

SHOPKEEPER

That'll be twenty theven buckth!

DRAXIOUS

WHAT?!

PERCY

Inflation!

SHOPKEEPER

Yeah, the economy hath been on a
thteady decline ever thince the war-

The shopkeeper mumbles in the background as Draxious and Percy whisper to each other.

DRAXIOUS

(whispering)

Percy! Do you have any cash on you?

PERCY

(whispering)

No! You said money is a fraudulent
social construct set up by the
government to trick us!

DRAXIOUS

(whispering)

Ugh... You learn from the best.

PERCY

(whispering)

Should I use my *Necromancy*?

A small zombie hand comes out of the ground between Percy and Draxious.

DRAXIOUS

(whispering)

Of course not! Your black magic is
too... uh-

Draxious kicks the hand back into the ground.

PERCY

(whispering)

Too fun?!

DRAXIOUS

(whispering)

Uh, your magical abilities are not
up to par for this situation! Let
me show you some *real* magic!

Draxious and Percy look back towards the Shopkeeper.

SHOPKEEPER

-But anyway, that's enough
politically from me!

DRAXIOUS

Listen, shopkeeper, what if I told
you I could compensate you in ways
beyond mortal conception!?

SHOPKEEPER

...Like?

DRAXIOUS

A front row seat to the Grand
Master of Sorcery's astounding
magic show! Marvel at Arcane
Valley's most elusive illusions...
Created by yours truly!

SHOPKEEPER

Mmm... No thankth, that'll be-

DRAXIOUS

Pick a card!

Draxious pulls out a deck of cards.

PERCY

Oh, I love this trick!

The shopkeeper gives a distasteful glance. He picks a card.
Draxious proceeds to shuffle the deck poorly.

DRAXIOUS

And now. Is THIS your card?!

SHOPKEEPER

No.

DRAXIOUS

Uh... This one?

SHOPKEEPER

...No.

Draxious sweats.

DRAXIOUS

AND FOR MY FINAL TRICK, WE SHALL
DISAPPEAR!

PERCY
What? *Really!?*

DRAXIOUS
BEHOLD MY SORCERY!

Draxious throws a smoke bomb. He grabs Percy and runs away.

SHOPKEEPER
(sigh)
It's always the magicians...

EXT. VILLAGE - MOMENTS LATER

Draxious and Percy run back into the village.

PERCY
Wow! I haven't seen that spell
before!

DRAXIOUS
I just invented it now! Maybe one
day you'll be a Grand Master of
Sorcery yourself!

PERCY
Nah!

DRAXIOUS
Well, we seem to have gotten
everything on the list-

Draxious and Percy notice a missing fourth item on the list
called a "fang of the goblin man."

PERCY
What's a "fang of the goblin man?"

DRAXIOUS
Erg... The powerful aura from this
list must've momentarily blinded
me, preventing me from noticing
this fourth item!

PERCY
What are the odds?!

DRAXIOUS
Alas, we must find this "goblin
man," and procure his *oh so*
valuable fang!

PERCY
 And then we'll become ULTIMATE
 NECROMANCERS!

Percy extends several bone limbs from the ground in excitement. They whip across the village causing massive damage to the buildings.

DRAXIOUS
Percy! Are your ears defective? I told you not to say that word in public! Yell something else, like, I don't know... witchcraft!

PERCY
Witchcraft!

DRAXIOUS
 There! At least that way we can blame your magic on someone else!

The village erupts into a fiery blaze. Zombies run amuck.

DRAXIOUS (CONT'D)
 And speaking of being burned at the stake, look at what you've done to this village! It's in ruin!

PERCY
 Oh no! The zombies are partying too hard! This was a *grave* mistake!

A MAN runs by. He abruptly stops.

MAN
Oh, I get it! Ha ha!

The man is immediately grabbed by a zombie and pulled underground. Draxious covers Percy's eyes.

PERCY
 What? *I don't get it!*

All the villagers begin to be dragged underground as well.

PERCY (CONT'D)
 Something smells like... not being alive.

DRAXIOUS
 ...I'm *very* dead inside.

Draxious takes his hands off of Percy's eyes.

PERCY

What are we gonna do about this fire? Can't you save the village, Draxious?

DRAXIOUS

I could, but I must concentrate my energy on the task at hand!

PERCY

But I thought you said we need to help people?!

DRAXIOUS

(sweating)

Well, I mean... *yeah*, but like, we're pretty busy with this quest already, ya know?!

Beat.

DRAXIOUS (CONT'D)

Plus, it doesn't look like there's anyone here to save.

Various people-shaped holes fill the village.

PERCY

Oh phew! My zombie friends must've saved 'em all!

DRAXIOUS

(under his breath)

Saved... Not the verb I'd use...

Draxious and Percy walk to the town entrance.

EXT. VILLAGE ENTRANCE - MOMENTS LATER

Draxious and Percy begin to leave the village.

DRAXIOUS

Welp. Let's go hunt down this *goblin man*.

PERCY

Where do you think he is?

DRAXIOUS

Hmm... If you were a goblin man, where might you reside?

PERCY

I don't know! Maybe like a spooky forest or something!?

DRAXIOUS

Yes! Yes! Now, if you were a goblin man, what might you look like?!

PERCY

Hmm... I'd have green skin... I'd be short! I'd have big teeth, too! *Maybe I'd be a merchant who goes grocery shopping late at night and is fearful of the living dead-*

Draxious visualizes Percy's words in his head. The goblin man is the Merchant whom they met earlier.

PERCY (CONT'D)

Yeah, I don't know. I give up!

DRAXIOUS

(worried)

Percy! I... know where we can find the goblin man.

PERCY

Wow! I knew you could do it, Draxious! After all, you are the braaaainsss!

DRAXIOUS

Percy, we're done with the *pun* thing.

PERCY

Huh?

DRAXIOUS

Never mind. Let's get out of here before you mess something else up.

PERCY

Necromancy!

DRAXIOUS

Percy! WHAT DID I JUST SAY?

PERCY

Sorry! Witchcraft!

DRAXIOUS

A-alright.

EXT. CREEPY FOREST - LATER

Draxious and Percy find the hole where the Merchant was dragged underground.

DRAXIOUS
This is it! Let's go!

PERCY
Holy moly! How do we get down there?

DRAXIOUS
Magic of course! First we-

Draxious trips and falls face-first into the hole.

INT. UNDERGROUND CAVE - CONTINUOUS

Draxious lands and hurts himself. Percy follows, being lifted down via a long string of skeleton hands.

PERCY
Great thinkin', Draxious! *I wish I could fly!*

Draxious gets up. All his bones crack. He notices a lone skeleton in the center of the cave.

DRAXIOUS
Ah! There he is. Percy it's... time for me to come clean about something...

Draxious and Percy approach the skeleton.

PERCY
It's okay... I already know.

DRAXIOUS
Oh. Well, it's brave of you to admit-

PERCY
I know that you talk to yourself sometimes.

DRAXIOUS
Percy! That's not was I was gonna say!

PERCY
Oh!

Draxious struggles to pull a fang from the skeleton.

DRAXIOUS

...Remember that merchant from earlier tonight?

PERCY

You mean the guy who played with my zombies?

DRAXIOUS

Yes, well... See the thing is... He didn't *play* per say-

PERCY

And then he ran home!

DRAXIOUS

NO! What I'm trying to say is he was k-

PERCY

Well if he didn't run home, did he *fly* home?

DRAXIOUS

PERCY! THE MERCHANT WAS BRUTALLY ATTACKED AND KILLED BY YOUR LEGION OF UNDEAD-

PERCY

Oh, there he is right now!

Percy points behind Draxious. There is a colorful house in the cave. The Merchant is watering his garden. He turns around.

DRAXIOUS

What?! I-I!

MERCHANT

Oh, it's you guys. Thanks little man for making that hole in the ceiling! *Now it's not so dark all the time.*

DRAXIOUS

I thought you were mauled by the undead!

MERCHANT

What!? *Oh, no!* These zombies we're just looking for people to party with! The whole village came too!

The zombies and the villagers party in the background.

The lone skeleton gets up, yawns, and joins the party. He startles Draxious in the process.

DRAXIOUS

U-uh-uh-

PERCY

Wow! This party is poppin', Mr...

Percy reads the Merchant's name tag.

PERCY (CONT'D)

Goblin Man! You're the Goblin Man?

MERCHANT

Please, Goblin Man was my father's name. Call me Antonio!

PERCY

Wowie Zowie! Say Antonio, can we have one of your fangs to complete a quest?

MERCHANT

Nah.

PERCY

Darn it!

DRAXIOUS

How's about a trade? In exchange for one of your *trivial fangs*, I'll compensate you with something ten times its worth?!

MERCHANT

Uh-

Draxious busts out a bunch of cheap magic tricks.

DRAXIOUS

A private viewing of The Grand Master of Sorcery's *newest* card trick! Behold the most astounding illusions man has ever fathomed-

MERCHANT

Nah! You know what? Just take it.

The Merchant pops a fang out and tosses it to Draxious.

DRAXIOUS
 Whatever. You're not worthy to
 witness my power, anyway.

PERCY
 He sure wasn't *dead-icated* to his
 fang!

DRAXIOUS
Stop.

Draxious and Percy arrange the ingredients into the shape of
 a pentagram around the grocery list.

MERCHANT
 Oh! That's where my grocery list
 went!

DRAXIOUS
 Don't expect us to return it any
 time soon... or ever!

MERCHANT
 That's okay. I can't read!

The Merchant laughs and walks away.

DRAXIOUS
 Now. ANCIENT GROCERY LIST OF YONDER
 MAGIC! ACCEPT THESE FETCH QUEST
 ITEMS AS SACRIFICE AND REVEAL TO US
 A SPELL OF THE DARK ARTS!

The list glows. It absorbs the ingredients. As the list
 materializes a spell page, a fart noise is heard.

The page magically flies into Draxious's ancient book.

DRAXIOUS (CONT'D)
 A-ha! Now let's see what kind of
 all-powerful spell this is! What
 kind of inhuman malevolence can be
 summoned by my fingertips!

Draxious reads the page.

DRAXIOUS (CONT'D)
 "Spell of... summoning grocery
 lists." *Oh.*

EXT. CREEPY FOREST - LATER

Draxious and Percy exit the cave.

DRAXIOUS

Well, that was a waste of time.

PERCY

Did you already master the new spell, Draxious?

DRAXIOUS

Obviously. Why don't you try to learn something for once?

PERCY

Mmm... Nah!

DRAXIOUS

(laughing)

If you don't practice, how else are you to be a GRAND MASTER OF ALL SORCERY?

PERCY

Sorcery shmorcery! I wanna be a NECROMANCER!

Zombies immerge.

DRAXIOUS

(shocked)

Well... Keep your dirty corpses to yourself! You're *dead* to me!

Beat. Percy looks upset. After several seconds, he lights up.

PERCY

Ohhhh! *Zombie pun!* I get it!

Draxious face palms. Percy laughs with the zombies. Draxious notices his book glowing again.

DRAXIOUS

Ha! A new spell has revealed itself! I know this'll be a good one, I can feel it!

PERCY

Necromancy!

DRAXIOUS

No! No! Noooo!

Many zombies appear and cover the screen.

FADE TO BLACK.