

THE DAILY GRIND
EPISODE 1

Written by

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INT. CASTLE - VAULT - DAY

The vault is quiet. In the center of the room sits a glowing crystal atop a pedestal.

The walls of the vault are blasted open by an explosion. Standing outside is ERIN, a human girl in her 20's, AXEL, a tiny axolotl with a Russian accent and a giant sword, and JAVNAULT, a cowardly dragon with a wizard hat on his tail.

The dust subsides and the gang enters the vault. Erin looks at Javnault with disappointment.

ERIN

Could you have made that any louder, Javnault? *Christ.*

JAVNAULT

...Sorry.

AXEL

Why we not just use front door?

Beat. There is a front entrance right next to the giant hole.

ERIN

'Cuz they'd be *expecting* that, Axel. The plan was to sneak in, steal the power crystal and hope that it's capable of charging my phone.

Erin holds up her phone. It's out of battery.

ERIN (CONT'D)

So, let's carefully grab it and make our way-

Javnault drops and shatters the artifact.

JAVNAULT

Ah, man...

A loud siren rings throughout the castle. The hole in the castle wall is closed off by a magic forcefield.

ERIN

Or we can screw ourselves in every conceivable way.

INT. CASTLE - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Erin, Javnault and Axel sneak through the hallway looking for an exit. They turn to find the QUEEN towering over them.

QUEEN
You, wretched thieves!

ERIN
Hey, we're light vandals at best.

Axel steps forward with his chest up and sword in hand.

AXEL
I speck only in strength. I draw sword, you die.

The Queen gasps at the sight of the sword.

QUEEN
That sword... Are you the legendary heroes of Valencia?!

AXEL
No-

Erin covers Axel's mouth.

ERIN
Yup. T-That's- we're... exactly those people you said. Mhm.

QUEEN
Thank heavens you received my message! I'll inform you of the quest right away!

CUT TO:

INT. CASTLE - THRONE ROOM - LATER

The Queen sits on her throne with Erin, Axel and Javnault standing before her.

QUEEN
...And that's how our princess was kidnapped by those Barbaric gamblers from the north.

ERIN
Yeah, that's cool and all, but what's in it for us?

QUEEN
 If you're to save our fair
 princess, your reward shall be...
20 gold!

JAVNAULT
 (excited)
 Okay-

ERIN
 (cutting off Javnault)
Hell no!

Javnault makes an uncomfortable noise as he's shut down.

The Queen grabs an expensive looking pot next to her throne.

QUEEN
 ...This ornate pot?

ERIN
 If I can't smoke it, what's the
 point?!

QUEEN
 What about this... uh... ancient
 rope that fell from the sky?

ERIN
 Oh sick, a phone charger.
 (to Javnault and Axel)
 It's a thing from my world.
 Basically as vital as air.
 (to the Queen)
 Sure, bitch, we're in.

Queen
 Great. But you should know, this
 journey is not for those faint of
 heart. You must travel through the
 dark wood, across the barren
 wastes, and over the extremely-full-
 of-alligators swamp before you can
 even *hope* to reach the evil
 fortress of-

Erin and Axel are in the distance flying away on top of
 Javnault.

QUEEN (CONT'D)
 Oh.

INT. BARBARIAN CAVE - LATER

Heavy metal guitars wail as two enormous dinosaur men wrestle each other, surrounded by monsters and barbarians cheering raucously and throwing wads of money into the circle. An ANNOUNCER shouts commentary to the crowd.

The gang enters.

ANNOUNCER

Ooh! And Tricera-Dad takes the win!

The crowd goes wild.

JAVNAULT

(disturbed)

What the *heckers*? Who could possibly enjoy this kinda-

Erin and Axel are cheering in the crowd. Erin takes a swig of a large, alcoholic beverage and tosses gold coins into the circle.

ERIN

Put me down for Axel the Vanquisher! *Give 'em the pain train!*

Axel jumps into the ring.

AXEL

I have come to bring pain train. *Choo choo, motherfuck.*

Javnault approaches Erin.

JAVNAULT

Erin! What about the princess?

Erin makes a scale motion with both arms.

ERIN

Save princess? *Gamble a fat stack on Axel?*

Erin points at Axel, who is slicing Tricera-Dad to pieces. Erin then turns back to Javnault and shrugs. She continues to drink and roar with the crowd.

Javnault walks away. He finds the Princess at the top of a balcony. He takes his wand out and motions for a spell.

JAVNAULT

Don't worry, princess I'll save you-

Javnault's spell destroys the pillar holding the balcony. The princess falls to the ground, unconscious. Javnault cringes.

CUT TO:

Axel cuts Tricera-Dad's arm off in the ring.

ANNOUNCER

*Ooh! First his kids, now his arm,
what else could Tricera-Dad lose?*

Tricera-Dad lays defeated on the ground.

AXEL

You no speck in strength.
Therefore, *you are pussy.*

Javnault walks up to Erin with the princess unconscious on his shoulder.

ERIN

(nonchalantly)
Oh, what the fuck you actually
saved her?!

JAVNAULT

-NO SHE'S JUST SLEEPING. Let's
leave now and not later...

ERIN

Uh, I've got a lot of money riding
on Axel. There's no way we're
leaving anytime soon.

Tricera-Dad uses his remaining arm to fire a magical blast at Axel. Axel flies out of the ring and lands on Erin. Many coins drop out of her pockets.

Various monsters and barbarians begin to take notice of the princess on Javnault's shoulder, and the coins surrounding Erin. They begin to crowd.

ERIN (CONT'D)

On second thought, let's get going.

JAVNAULT

I thought you didn't care about
saving the princess?!

ERIN

It must be my infinite compassion
showing.

The gang is cornered in the back of the cave.

AXEL AND ERIN

Javnault!

Javnault uses his magic to blast a hole in the wall. The noise and debris startle the monsters.

JAVNAULT

Wow, I-I actually used the right spell!

ERIN

I mean, it's the *only* spell you know.

JAVNAULT

...C'mon, man.

Erin and Axel hop onto Javnault and they fly away.

INT. CASTLE - THRONE ROOM - LATER

Erin, Javnault and Axel stand confidently in front of the Queen.

QUEEN

I thank you, heroes, for rescuing our princess. As promised, your magical cord of- hmm, I can't seem to find-

ERIN

Oh, the phone charger? I stole that earlier. I didn't think we were actually gonna help you.

Erin pulls out the charger.

ERIN (CONT'D)

(to Javnault and Axel)
Come on, bitches. Adventure awaits... or whatever.

The gang exits the castle.

EXT. CASTLE COURTYARD - CONTINUOUS

The gang heads toward the gates to the castle.

ERIN

Wait what the fuck? This isn't even the right charger. Goddammit.

As they walk, a loud crunching noise is heard. Erin, Javnault and Axel look down. The ground is littered with skeletons in princess attire.

Axel and Javnault continue walking. Erin stops in her tracks.

Erin has a sudden realization and looks back into the castle. The music swells and the camera shifts between Erin, the Queen and the princess. After several seconds, the Queen turns into a Lovecraftian monster and eats the princess, leaving Erin speechless.

Beat.

ERIN (CONT'D)
(flabbergasted)
Wow, l-look at the time-

Erin holds up her phone. It still has no battery.

ERIN (CONT'D)
Uh, gotta...

Erin awkwardly stops talking and catches up with Javnault and Axel, exiting soon after.