

INN BETWEEN

Episode: Bonus episode, "Session Zero"

Transcript provided by Ria Couoh.

(00:00) INTRO:

HANNAH Hi everyone! Hannah here, with a couple of things before *maybe* my favorite bonus episode I've ever written.

TESSA It's that good, is it?

HANNAH I sure like it!

TESSA Well then, I'll get going with the Patreon shoutout. We would like to thank Amaya Nyx for being our patron.

HANNAH *Great name.*

TESSA Amaya Nyx!

HANNAH (*ghostly voice*)

Amaya Nyx!

TESSA A-mah-yah Nyx!

HANNAH Hey, Tessa?

TESSA Oh, right, we have more to do.

HANNAH If you'd like to become our patron, go to patreon.com/thegoblinshead.

TESSA What's the other matter?

HANNAH Stick around *after* the episode for a promo from a friend of ours, The Heart Pyre. That's P-Y-R-E.

It's a wonderful fantasy story where you, the listener, get to decide what happens next.

TESSA They get to choose their own adventure?

HANNAH Sure, you could put it like that.

TESSA Oh, I can't wait!

HANNAH And now, with no further ado...

TESSA Right then, let's go someplace... *familiar*.

HANNAH Ooh, mysterious!

TESSA Well, you wrote the thing.

HANNAH I know! Let's go!

AUDIO (00:55): INN BETWEEN THEME PLAYS IN THE BACKGROUND.

AUDIO (01:52): INN BETWEEN THEME FADES.

(01:54) SESSION ZERO.

SFX (01:55): CHAIRS SQUEAKING AGAINST FLOOR, CLOTHES RUSTLING.

TERESA Alright, everyone, I have a general idea of what this campaign is going to look like but, as usual, I need your characters to make it absolutely perfect.

ALEX (*excitedly*)

So! Is it a big bad evil guy or a MacGuffin this time?

RIVER You always make it sound so reductive, Alex.

ALEX I can't help it if all stories are ultimately all stories are the same story!
It's just lit theory!

EM It's kind of mean.

ALEX Em, the theory is not mean. It's not like... a bad thing.

(decidedly)

Teresa! I like your campaigns!

TERESA Thank you!

(beat)

It's a MacGuffin.

ALEX *Score!*

MICHAEL I... do like a clear objective.

CAL As long as there's stuff to hit!

TERESA I don't think you'll be disappointed. Okay, who wants to go first, Cal?

CAL Yeah, okay! I'm sure you'll all be *real surprised* that I'll be your tank for this campaign!

MICHAEL *(subtle sarcasm)*

Ah, no one could have predicted.

ALEX *(obvious sarcasm)*

Complete shocker!

CAL Yeah, yeah. I'm doing a dragonborn fighter, she/they pronouns.

MICHAEL And your... tragic backstory this time?

CAL Oh! Thank you for reminding me! Teresa, can I DM you about some lore?

TERESA Oh, I love lore. Of course!

CAL Cool, that's all I'll say 'til then.

ALEX *(offended gasp)*

I can't believe you're withholding your tragic backstory like this!

CAL *(self-satisfied)*

It's so much more fun for me when you find it out by accident.

RIVER What about the math?

CAL What?

RIVER The math! What math will you be inflicting on us this time?

CAL I... don't know what you're talking about?

ALEX Oh, *come on*.

EM Base twelves, statistics...

CAL Oh, that! Uhm...

(sheepish)

Economics?

RIVER *(through laughter)*

Horrifying!

ALEX You're a *monster*.

CAL Not my fault you guys can't math!

EM Can I go next?

TERESA Of course! What you got, Em?

EM I'm playing Phoebe, she's a dwarf artificer, some *really* good chewy mechanics. Also, gadgets!

TERESA Who doesn't love gadgets? Cool, okay.

EM Oh! And you remember that thing I sent you? About disability mechanics?

TERESA ... Yes, I bookmarked it.

EM *(passionately)*

I'll DM you with the rest of what I'm thinking. I'm in love with her already.

CAL Why do you do that?

EM Do what?

CAL Why do you build the real min-max'ed character and then socially nerf them?

EM I didn't nerf Rosie!

RIVER I don't know, a criminal who desperately needs to be liked is *pretty* nerfed.

EM *(with dawning realization)*

Oooh...

Because it's interesting! And just because I like to have an interesting character *doesn't* mean I have to roll bad.

MICHAEL Hm, can't argue with that. I'll go next.

TERESA Go ahead, Michael.

MICHAEL I think, uhm...

(mildly)

I think you all are going to hate this one.

RIVER You said that about Sterling.

ALEX *(excitedly, loving)*

Ah! My *boy!*

RIVER And then you said it about Zara.

ALEX *(brimming with passion)*

My girl!

TERESA *(laughing)*

Sorry, Michael, but you keep trying to make awful, hateful characters and they always end up the party darling.

MICHAEL I mean it this time. Because... with your permission, I'd like to play an NPC we've met before.

ALEX *Don't you dare.*

MICHAEL Wait, sorry, what?

ALEX Don't you do it, Michael, don't you steal my idea!

MICHAEL You... also want to play an NPC?

ALEX If you steal mine, I swan to John—

TERESA Hey, *Alex*. Let Michael speak.

If you both want to play the same person... maybe we can work something out.

CAL What? Like two minds in one body?

EM How would you RP that?

TERESA Shush, it's Michael's turn.

MICHAEL Uhm, I really enjoyed being a sorcerer, so I think I want to play... Larkin.

ALEX *(delightedly)*

You want to play your own evil twin?

MICHAEL No, see, Larkin is the *good* twin. Or, at least, he thinks he is!

RIVER *(teasing)*

Oh, that's *insufferable*.

MICHAEL *Exactly.*

CAL We are going to found family the heck out of this guy!

ALEX *(chuckles)*

(excitedly)

Get his ass!

RIVER I'm glad I'm not the only one doing a repeat class.

CAL I mean, I also did that.

ALEX Yeah, but we all expected that! You playing a... warlock again, River?

RIVER Definitely not. We need a healer this time. No offense, Alex.

ALEX None taken! I... *could have* prepped more healing spells for Tode.

MICHAEL *(pointedly)*

Oh! You could have, could you?

ALEX Come on, nobody *died!*

MICHAEL We all almost died in the demon fight!

RIVER *(with fake disappointment)*

So, nobody wants to hear about my cleric?

EM *(gently)*

I do, River.

CAL Yeah, ignore them.

RIVER Their name is Rukes and they're a cleric of Sune, that... love goddess we were talking about in the chat?

TERESA *Lore!* Yes!

RIVER Yeah! I liked the ideas we were coming up with, so I thought the dynamic there would be fun to explore!

MICHAEL With this party, we're going to need a calming presence.

RIVER *(innocently)*

Who said they were a calming presence?

EM Don't forget, River's characters *always* have terrible secrets.

CAL *Yeah...* What is Rukes hiding?

RIVER I'm *offended* at the very suggestion.

ALEX Which just means she'll talk to Teresa *later...*

TERESA Oh, she already did. You're going to like Rukes.

RIVER Thank you!

TERESA And... last but not least?

ALEX *(beat)*

(snaps his fingers)

Oh, it's my turn!

MICHAEL So... I didn't steal your idea?

ALEX Oh, no, my friend.

(darkly)

I have something *much* worse in mind.

CAL Don't leave us in suspense!

ALEX All right. I want to play... dramatic pause.

(beat)

Max!

MICHAEL What?

TERESA *(thrilled)*

No.

ALEX I liked being a nature boy! *But* I miss being a lovable scoundrel. Therefore...

(dreamily)

Max!

EM *(quickly)*

This party's going to be incredible!

CAL You absolute mad lad!

MICHAEL As... long as you don't break out your guitar again.

ALEX Hey, I'm great at guitar!

EM *(dubious noises)*

MICHAEL *(noise of disbelief)*

ALEX *(scoffs)*

And you call yourselves my friends.

RIVER So, it's a dragonborn fighter with a yet to be determined tragic backstory, a *rowdy* mercenary ranger, a tiefling sorcerer with *some* kind of complex, and a dwarf artificer!

ALEX And, apparently, a cleric with a secret who is not calming at all!

TERESA Sounds like the perfect party to me! Let's roll some stats!

ALEX *Yeah!*

SFX (08:26): DICE ROLLING.

SFX (08:29): PAPERS SHUFFLING.

TERESA So, do you want the stat block I made for Max, or do you want to start over?

RIVER I already rolled my character!

EM Do I need a high wisdom if we have Rukes?

CAL I'm going for some feats this time!

(08:38) OUTRO:

AUDIO (08:39): INN BETWEEN THEME PLAYS IN THE BACKGROUND.

(08:42) CREDITS:

HANNAH This episode, "Session Zero", was written by Hannah Wright and directed by William Wright. It was produced and edited by Katherine Ayers.

The voice of Teresa is Hannah Wright. The voice of River is Claudia Elvidge of The Beacon and Starfall. The voice of Em is ItMe from the amazing microfiction show InCo. The voice of Cal is Tal Minear from Sidequesting, Someone Dies in This Elevator, Re: Dracula, and...so many others. The voice of Alex is Austin Mowat. Maybe you know him from something? And the voice of Michael is C.S.W. from the show Incarnation Read.

Our theme song is by Eli Hamada McIlveen and our artwork is by Gabrielle Buxman. Our transcriber is Ria Couoh.

Transcripts for this and every episode can be found on our website, thegoblinshead.com.

Find and follow us on Twitter, [@inn_between](#). Or support us on patreon, at [patreon.com/thegoblinshead](#).

If you like the show, craft an intricate meta-narrative of your favorite story. Or leave us a review.

Thanks for listening!

AUDIO (09:54): MUSIC ENDS.

HANNAH This story was created in the traditional territory of the Arapaho, Cheyenne, and Ute peoples, and edited in the unceded territory of the Salish, Kootenai, and Kalispel peoples.

(10:12) POST-CREDITS: THE HEART PYRE.

Transcript adapted by Ria Couoh.

MUSIC (10:13): LONELY DUSTY TRAIL BY JON PRESSTONE.

AUDREY What would you do if one day you came home to find your hometown destroyed by fire? What if people told you that it isn't the first time something like this has happened? That more towns have disappeared like this, but somehow no one has tried doing anything about it.

When Rena comes home to the ruins of her town and finds a strange artifact in the debris, she can't shake the feeling that something isn't adding up. That it couldn't just have been an accident that caused this tragedy.

And so, she sets out to discover what actually happened, encountering other people on her journey that know that the authorities aren't telling them everything.

But luckily, Rena isn't alone on her quest for the truth because *you* can help her take the right path.

SFX (10:58): TRANSITION SOUND - PAGE TURNING.

AUDREY It began with the smell.

She frowned down at the ground, her smile falling from her lips, her nose picking up something that hadn't been there a second ago. She looked up and sniffed the air. She couldn't place the smell but as she got closer to her village it grew stronger.

Her frown deepened as she realized that she was smelling fire. Not a cozy, wooden fire that fills your heart with warm feelings of home. It was a vile, biting smell that brought horrible news with it.

It smelled of burned wood, scorched dirt, hot metal, and behind it all was a smell that Rena's mind didn't dare place. Something that made her stomach tighten and turn. It smelled like scorched hair, melted fat and boiling blood.

The smell tore its way to her nose and clutched itself to her lungs so that it would never leave her mind again.

SFX (11:56): TRANSITION SOUND - PAGE TURNING.

AUDREY The Heart Pyre is an interactive fantasy audio drama, where after each episode, listeners can vote for how the story should continue. Find the podcast on your favorite listening platform and follow it on social media to get the latest updates, or go to theheartpyre.com to find transcripts, character art, a map of the kingdom, and other information.

EPISODE ENDS.