

INN BETWEEN

Episode: Season 5 episode 1, "The Lowlifes"

Transcript provided by Ria Couoh.

(00:00) INTRO:

HANNAH Hi, everyone! Hannah, here!

Welcome to season 5! We have patrons to thank before we meet our new adventurers.

TESSA You mean we have adventurers to meet before we meet the adventurers? A little pre-meeting meeting?

HANNAH Yes? Sorry, do you have somewhere else to be?

TESSA I'm just anxious to get started! We've waited so long.

HANNAH Well, go on then!

TESSA We would like to thank Nika for her support. Brave Nika, the courageous monk artificer fighter!

HANNAH (*dubious*)

The courageous...

No. It's fine. Sure. Thanks, Nika!

TESSA Oh, Nika has more than that going for her!

HANNAH I thought we were in a hurry?

TESSA Yes, right. We must also thank Keegan, the brave wizard rogue!

HANNAH Now, how does that work?

TESSA I would have thought you of all people would understand multiclassing!

HANNAH Well, yeah, but...

No, you know what? It does not matter at all. Thanks, Keegan.

TESSA If you would like to support us, go to patreon.com/thegoblinshead.

Now, enough waiting! Let's go to the Inn!

AUDIO (00:56): INN BETWEEN THEME PLAYS IN THE BACKGROUND.

AUDIO (01:53): INN BETWEEN THEME FADES.

(01:56) THE LOWLIFES.

AUDIO (01:57): BACKGROUND SOUNDS OF A TAVERN.

SFX (01:59): CHAIR SCRAPES AGAINST WOODEN FLOORS.

MAX Innkeep Tessa! Funny running into you again!

TESSA (*unhappy*)

Yes, hilarious.

MAX (*playful*)

You're not following me, are you?

TESSA Oh, not me. It's the Inn.

MAX The Inn's following me? Like it followed Rosie and them?

TESSA Evidently it likes you.

MAX Well, who wouldn't?

TESSA Who indeed? Would you like an ale?

MAX Make it five. I'm expecting company.

TESSA Oh, have you made peace with the other adventurers?

MAX *(quieter, losing their amusement)*

No. No. I think I'm done with friends... for a while.

TESSA Then who are we expecting?

MAX A few... means to an end.

TESSA Means to an end? What are you saying?

MAX Just that I have my own ideas on how this will go.

SFX (02:46): SLOW, HEELED FOOTSTEPS ON WOOD.

MAX Make one of those ales a dark lager, if you would?

TESSA Alright.

SFX (02:51): FOOTSTEPS STOP.

YAK *(in a slow, deep voice with a slight hiss to it)*

I'm *touched*. You remembered.

MAX Ah! Y'k'ty! You're looking so much better than the last time I saw you.

YAK Yes, dangling off a cliff really takes the shine out of my scales.

MAX Glad you survived the drop.

YAK Oh, you doubted?

(unamused)

Then why'd you let go?

MAX It was either that or go down after you! And I'm not as sturdy as you, Yak.

YAK You aren't, are you?

SFX (03:17): A PAUSE.

YAK *(laughs)*

MAX *(chuckles)*

SFX (03:23): CHAIR SCRAPES AGAINST WOODEN FLOOR.

YAK *(pleased sigh)*

Really, though, I was glad to hear from you. I wasn't sure you were going to get out of that one.

MAX *(playful)*

No walls can hold me.

YAK *(fondly)*

No troubles, no fear.

MAX Oh, *Yak*. You read my mind! Thank you for joining me.

YAK Ah, you're always a good time. Who else is coming?

MAX I have a magic expert, an artificer and a healer.

YAK Anyone I know? Is your... magic expert *Cybilene*?

MAX N–no. I've actually never met any of them.

(muttering)

(bitterly)

And I'm out of *Cybilene's* good graces.

YAK Holy Molt, what did you do?

MAX *Me?* Why do you assume it's me? *She's* the one who stabbed me in the back!

YAK *(flatly)*

Really.

(flatter)

Cybilene.

MAX You don't believe me?

YAK Cybilene's one of the only nice people in business.

MAX *(increasingly angry, with great disdain)*

Well, *apparently* if it comes to choosing between a *lifelong friend* and some *unkempt hermit* from Gods know where, *claiming* to be a long lost *brother*—

YAK *Ooh.* She would fall for that scam.

MAX *Killiker* did too!

YAK Now that's a mess. I'm sorry, Max. That's got to hurt.

MAX Easily my worst defeat. And you know I don't admit defeat easily.

YAK I do know this about you.

MAX But if I'm good at one thing, it's bouncing back! *This* venture I have in mind could be the last one *you* ever need to do.

YAK One last score, eh?

MAX If you were looking for one.

YAK Not about to let you retire me that easily. I don't buy for a second that you're about to either.

MAX Oh, no. This is sort of... a multipart scheme for me.

SFX (05:15): SLOW, SOFT FOOTSTEPS. CRUTCHES AGAINST WOOD.

YAK What did I say? You're always a good time.

PHOEBE *(in a soft, nervous voice, almost frightened)*

Excuse me?

YAK *(startled)*

Oh! Sneaky!

PHOEBE Oh. Sorry... Sorry.

MAX You must be the artificer!

YAK *(reprimanding)*

Just because she's a dwarf doesn't mean she's an artificer, Max.

PHOEBE I am, actually. I am an artificer.

MAX *(unkind laughter)*

Now who looks stupid? I was expecting her.

Here, pull up a stool, we've got drinks coming.

SFX (05:45): CRUTCHES TAP. CHAIR SCRAPES AGAINST WOODEN FLOOR.

PHOEBE Thank you.

(nervously)

How long until we leave?

YAK Eager beaver?

MAX We'll wait until everyone else gets here. Relax a moment.

PHOEBE I'll try.

YAK How do you know the others aren't already here?

MAX *Because I'm told at least one of them...*

SFX (06:02): DOOR CREAKS OPEN.

MAX ...Is a tiefling.

LARKIN Excuse me, Innkeep! I'm looking for someone called... Maximilian Allerus?

MAX You found them! Join us over here, would you?

TESSA Here are your drinks.

SFX (06:16): GLASS CLINKS.

YAK Thank you, ma'am.

MAX Everyone, this is our magic expert.

LARKIN How do you do?

YAK Oh, so polite.

MAX See? Cybilene's not the only one.

YAK *(amused)*

Max, pretty manners do not kindness make.

LARKIN I'm... I'm sorry?

YAK *(sigh)*

Shaping up to be a pretty tame group between these two and the healer.

RUKES *(distantly)*

Hey, hey! Innkeep!

SFX (06:40): FINGERS SNAP.

RUKES *(annoyed)*

What's a person of god have to do to get a drink around here?

MAX Oh, ye of little faith.

(calling out)

Hey, are you Rukes?

RUKES Who's asking?

MAX Why don't you come over here and find out?

SFX (06:55): FAST, DETERMINED FOOTSTEPS.

RUKES Livingston, I presume.

MAX Some people spell it "Max." Here, this is for you.

SFX (07:02): SOFT THUD. THICK GLASS SLIDES AGAINST HARD SURFACE.

RUKES *(placated)*

Oh, well, I'm definitely Rukes. Cheers.

MAX Right, then! A round of introductions! I am Max the Brigand, the host of our little excursion.

RUKES And our excursion is what, exactly?

MAX Niceties first, my clerical friend. You've been awfully quiet, artificer. Why don't you go next?

PHOEBE Oh, uhm... I'm Phoebe Achnelith. I'm an artificer, like he said. I... don't have much else to say.

MAX That's plenty for our purposes.

YAK One question, those crutches of yours, do they slow you down?

MAX So judgmental.

YAK Merely for accommodation purposes, you understand.

PHOEBE My... my crutches do the opposite of slow me down. That's not really what they're for.

YAK Well, naturally.

RUKES *(derisive)*

Naturally.

PHOEBE I'm slower than most walking.

MAX No trouble there. We're in no hurry!

(pointedly)

And now that we've been *judgy*.

YAK *(defensively)*

For *accommodation* purposes.

MAX Why don't you introduce yourself, tiefling?

LARKIN Uh, sure, I suppose! Um, I'm Larkin Mallon. I was told you needed a magic expert and I'm a student and practitioner of arcana.

YAK What kind of magic do you "practition," exactly?

LARKIN Uh, sorcery.

PHOEBE *(faintly)*

Oh, gods.

YAK *(exaggeratingly scandalized)*

Max, you said this wouldn't be a dangerous gig.

LARKIN Now, that's a common misconception. With careful practice and discipline, a sorcerer need never lose control. I assure you; I am not a danger to anyone.

RUKES Oh, yeah. That's uh, that's believable, for sure.

LARKIN *(nervously)*

P—please, you can trust me.

MAX You wouldn't be here if I didn't think so. Relax. Now, our muscle.

YAK Oh, is that all I am to you?

MAX Not hardly.

YAK Thought not. I'm Y'k'ty, everyone. I'm here to keep us in one piece.

RUKES Ah, I'm...

(chuckles)

I'm sorry. Did you say Yakkety?

YAK *(annoyed)*

Y'k'ty.

If your silly little ape mouth can't pronounce that properly, you can just call me Yak.

RUKES *(subdued)*

Fair enough.

MAX And Rukes?

RUKES Yeah, I'm Idzy Rukes. I'm here because I heard you needed a healer who doesn't ask too many questions, and I promise not to ask more than my due.

LARKIN Who's your god, Rukes?

RUKES Sune.

YAK *(dryly)*

Sune. Goddess of... love and beauty.

RUKES The very same. Is it not obvious?

YAK Not in the least.

RUKES Hey, you're not so pretty yourself, lizard.

- YAK *(cheeky)*
- No accounting for taste.
- MAX Let's not fight yet, my friends. We'll have time for that on the road. Unless you don't want to hear what it is we're doing.
- RUKES Please, tell us what is it us lowlifes are getting up to.
- LARKIN *(scoffs)*
- Lowlifes?*
- RUKES Don't get your small clothes in a twist, devil boy. I'm including myself.
- (mockingly)*
- Say if you, uh, if you get angry enough, does, uh, does smoke come out of your nostrils?
- LARKIN *(slowly)*
- I suppose we'll never know, seeing as I don't get that angry.
- YAK Please. What is the gig?
- MAX You are all going to like this.
- (dramatic pause)*
- Have you ever heard of Idris' Staff of Storms?
- LARKIN There are... *several* staffs of storms with some prominence in lore. There's—
- PHOEBE Not like Idris' Staff, though. He was the sort of hero who gets a constellation.
- MAX Points for Phoebe! Your typical Staff of Storms casts some very powerful spells. Isn't that right, Larkin?
- LARKIN Uh, yes! Definitely.

MAX But Idris' doesn't stop there. His Staff controls the weather proper. Not just a spell shot off here or there, total control. No restrictions and no recharges.

LARKIN No way.

MAX Believe it, Mallon! *That* is our quest.

RUKES And I hope you plan to elaborate on that.

MAX I believe you and your ilk are fond of saying that patience is a virtue? Now, the journey itself won't be much of a struggle. We're going through known territory with plenty of civilization.

YAK *But* something tells me the Staff isn't just in some dungeon for the taking.

MAX Also correct! It's currently in the possession of a dragon.

PHOEBE Oh!

YAK *(gleeful)*

A dragon.

LARKIN Wow.

RUKES What *kind* of dragon?

MAX Chromatic. Blue. Very old. People say they've been there maybe a thousand years?

RUKES Shouldn't we have heard of them then?

MAX *(lightly)*

Maybe you have! They go through cycles apparently where they go dormant for a century or two before driving everyone out of the surrounding area, *usually* just when people have started to doubt that there even *is* a dragon.

PHOEBE I don't understand. Why do you need an artificer?

MAX *Because this dragon's name is Dhorighet the Trapper. They like to tinker!*

PHOEBE Oh.

(pleasantly surprised)

Really?

MAX Now, there is one stipulation.

RUKES What's the catch then, oh fearless leader?

MAX All I care about is the Staff. That's *my* take.

LARKIN But I thought that was the whole point of the quest!

MAX For me, yes, and I can't do it alone. But the Staff isn't the only thing the dragon has.

RUKES *Ah, I see.*

YAK How much treasure do you think a dragon can hoard in a millennium?

LARKIN My gods.

MAX If I get the staff, the rest of you can split the hoard four ways.

LARKIN You're serious?

RUKES *(disbelieving huff)*

How do you pass up on a payout like that, Max?

MAX Money is temporary, friends! You should set your sights higher.

YAK *(unimpressed)*

Higher. Than two hundred fifty years' worth of treasure, Max? Are you out of your gourd?

MAX I told you, this is a multipart scheme for me. But that's not the question at hand, is it?

LARKIN And that question is...?

MAX Are you in?

PHOEBE Yes.

MAX That's one! I like you, Phoebe.

PHOEBE Thank you?

YAK How can I say no?

MAX How, indeed. And you, Larkin Mallon?

LARKIN This isn't the sort of opportunity you pass up.

MAX Excellent! And now our holy Rukes?

RUKES Oh, sure. Why not?

MAX Then, in answer to your question, Phoebe, we can leave right now.

LARKIN *Now?*

SFX (13:46): SMALL COINS CLINK.

MAX We've got plenty of daylight left! Might as well get a head start. See you soon, Tessa!

TESSA (*flatly*)

Yes, I'm sure you will.

SFX (13:54): CHAIR SCRAPES AGAINST WOODEN FLOOR.

MAX Let's go, lowlifes!

YAK I think this is going to be *fun!*

SFX (14:00): SEVERAL PAIRS OF FOOTSTEPS.

LARKIN Rukes, can I have a word?

RUKES Sure.

SFX (14:05): FOOTSTEPS FADE AWAY.

RUKES Which one would you like?

LARKIN Why are you lying about being a healer?

RUKES *(disbelieving)*

Oho. You're going to regret that, boyo.

LARKIN I have a vested interest in making sure we survive this.

RUKES So, you're going to call me... a liar.

LARKIN I know magic. You don't have any.

RUKES *(venomous)*

Well, you know a lot less than you think, sorcerer.

LARKIN Are you a cleric, or aren't you?

RUKES Why did you pull me aside, mm? You planning to blackmail me?

LARKIN *(scandalized)*

No! What? No! Why would I...? I...!

(seriously)

Look, I just want to know that we're going to make it, okay? How can I be sure?

RUKES *(pointedly)*

The same way I know you're not going to blow us all up to smithereens.

LARKIN T... Trust you?

RUKES Trust me.

SFX (14:53): FOOTSTEPS.

LARKIN Not likely.

AUDIO (14:57): BACKGROUND SOUNDS OF TAVERN FADE AWAY.

(15:00) OUTRO:

(15:01) NEXT TIME ON...

AUDIO (15:02): INN BETWEEN THEME PLAYS IN THE BACKGROUND.

TESSA Next time, on Inn Between...

MAX The journey won't be dangerous. All we have to do is get there!

YAK Look out! Gnoll archers!

MAX Of course, there's bound to be hiccups!

(15:17) CREDITS:

HANNAH This episode, "The Lowlifes", was written and directed by Hannah Wright with assistant director William Wright. The show is produced and edited by Katherine Ayers.

The voice of Max is Malcolm Jay. The voice of Yak is Emma Laslett. The voice of Phoebe is Soulara Jane Joslin. The voice of Larkin is Mason Amadeus. The voice of Rukes is CJ Tanuan. The voice of Tessa is Hannah Wright.

Our theme song is by Eli Hamada McIlveen, and our artwork is by Gabrielle Buxman. Our transcriber is Ria Couoh. Sensitivity reading this episode by Soulara Jane Joslin. Special thanks to Emma Wright for foley assistance.

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

If you like the show, gather the worst people you know for a long-term camping trip! Or leave us a review.

Thanks for listening!

AUDIO (16:14): 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.

(16:29) POST-CREDITS:

AUDIO (16:30): BACKGROUND SOUNDS OF TAVERN.

TESSA I wish you'd be more judicious about who you choose to follow. I don't understand this one at all.

SFX (16:35): OLD WOOD CREAKS LOUDLY.

TESSA Oh! Don't you sass me!

AUDIO (16:41): BACKGROUND SOUNDS OF TAVERN FADE AWAY.

EPISODE ENDS.