

**INN BETWEEN FEED DROP****DRAGON'S REST S01 EPISODE 01**

Transcript adapted by Ria Couoh.

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**(00:00) INTRO:**

NARRATOR Hail, traveler! This humble inn bids you welcome.

Our rooms are cheap, our ale cheaper, and the stories are on the house. What say you to tales of high magics, great deeds, and impossible heroes?

Really? Ah. I've never gotten this far, honestly. Most take their drink and leave... without a tip, mind you. Unfortunately, I don't have many such legends to share, though, I do know where they start.

You see, all great adventures must begin with the heroes meeting in a tavern. The drink softening their hard edges, the beds offering respite for the journey at hand. I know of one such tap house...

It is the one you and I stand in now! A place known to all, as the Dragon's Rest!

AUDIO: THEME MUSIC PLAYS.

NARRATOR (*opening narration*)

In the city of Far Water, heroic hopefuls seek out their maiden quests in seedy bars. But this is not their story. This is the story of those who make their home within such a tavern. The servers, minstrels, drunks, and more, whose lives center around the Dragon's Rest.

This week's tale... *Freelance Heroism.*

**FREELANCE HEROISM.**

NARRATOR Once upon a time, the Dragon's Rest was still owned and operated by a retired hero, an orc, Shax.

SHAX            Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, and then the evil wizard was dead, and you got the girl. I've heard it before. Just take the beer.

BAR PATRON #1    But everyone else loves that story...

NARRATOR    Shax may have lacked the hospitality expected of a barkeep. However, she did possess the grit which one needs when serving alcohol to emotionally stunted maniacs with god complexes. Or the unemployed bards responsible for those complexes...

SHAX            Nolan, your mead.

NOLAN          Ooh, cheers!

SHAX            It's on the house if you promise not to play your lute today.

GILROY          Ah c'mon Shax, let her play! How's she supposed to get any better with you holding her back.

NARRATOR    This new player in our story was known as Gilroy. Shax had found it hard to maintain many regulars, as her clientele made their living risking life and limb. Conveniently, all Gilroy had interest in risking was his liver.

SHAX            She's welcome to improve in her own home, but if I have to hear it here, I'm leaping off the King's Spire. No offense, Nolan.

NOLAN          None taken, Shax.

GILROY          Just give the girl one song!

SHAX            No.

GILROY          Boo-- Let her play, c'mon! Let her play! LET HER PLAY! C'MON! LET HER PLAY!

PATRONS        LET HER PLAY! LET HER PLAY!

SHAX            SHUT IT!

AUDIO: BAR GOES QUIET.

SHAX            How do you do that?

GILROY          Mmm... natural charm?

SHAX ONE SONG! And I'm cutting you off, Gilroy.

GILROY Inhumane.

SHAX Go on, Nolan. Make it a good one!

AUDIO: NOLAN PLAYS BADLY.

NOLA C'mon! Somebody dance! It's lively!

PATRON #1 MY MUM HAS MORE LIFE IN HER! AND SHE'S BEEN DYING OF PLAGUE FOR THE LAST WEEK!

AUDIO: MUSIC STOPS.

NOLAN Oh... Baldric, I'm so sorry. Are you doing okay?

PATRON #1 I -- It's actually been really hard.

NOLAN This one goes out to my man, Baldric!

AUDIO: MUSIC RESTARTS.

PATRON #2 YOU SUCK!

AUDIO: MUSIC STOPS.

SHAX HEY! You all asked for this! Pipe up again, and you're dancing along at spear-tip!

AUDIO: MUSIC RESTARTS.

GILROY Oooh, you are testier than normal today.

SHAX So why are you testing me?

GILROY If I didn't, then no one would. What is it?

SHAX I love the Dragon's Rest, I do. I don't know what I'd do if I didn't have it... BUT, I MEAN, THE STORIES! Everyone here comes in with a new embellished self-legend to assault my ears with daily.

GILROY That's why you never ask for mine?

SHAX You actually have to leave the bar to have adventures, Gilroy.

GILROY Aha, you-- You don't know everything, I've got stories!

SHAX If I don't find some way of dealing with this by the harvest ceremonies, then I'm selling the joint.

GILROY Wha-- Hold on! So you're going to give up one of the best alehouses in all of Far Water, unless someone can-- can what? Get this crowd to stop being their own troubadours? I would not wager pocket lint on those odds, but I'm no betting man.

AUDIO: MUSIC STOPS.

NOLAN I thought you lost your left shoe in a card game last week?

GILROY And I'll lose my right one up your ass, Nolan!

AUDIO: SCENE TRANSITION MUSIC.

NARRATOR Now, all stories need a hero. Heroes should be strong, dashing, and preferably from the dominant race of whatever nation you're in. Due to Far Water's mostly human demographics, our protagonist fits one third of that bill. A young man named Billy Barlow.

TOWN-CRIER HARVEST CEREMONIES WILL BE HELD AT THE 28TH OF LENAY!  
DON'T MISS THE BLACK KNIGHT AT THE KING'S TOURNAMENT! ENJOY  
APPLE BOBBING FROM THE BOILING ACID LAKES BENEATH THE  
CASTLE! TICKETS ARE 40 CROWN, OR YOUR FIRSTBORN! HARVEST  
CEREMONIES WILL BE HELD ON THE TWENTY-EIGHTH OF LENAY--

BILLY Excuse me!

NARRATOR There he is.

BILLY Sorry to bother you, I really was enjoying the professional shouting you were doing.

TOWN-CRIER Have you been crying?

BILLY Hmm? Oh yes, I've never been to a city so big. I've never been to a city at all! I'm just... taken by the grandeur of it. I'm looking for a good inn.

TOWN-CRIER "Hello" works for me. Maybe ask them about their day?

BILLY        No, uh, sorry, a tavern.

TOWN-CRIER     There are-- There are plenty of hostels and bars... just walk about.

BILLY        Every one I've walked into hasn't been quite the right fit.

TOWN-CRIER     You don't look like a particularly wealthy--

BILLY        I'm sorry! I don't mean luxury. I'm looking for a place, where adventures can be found!

TOWN-CRIER     Right, well there's a pub not too far up the way like that. You should know, it's no easy-sipping lounge.

BILLY        Then it's just the place.

TOWN-CRIER     Hang right on Bear Street, then bear left on Hangford.

BILLY        THANK YOU!

SFX: BILLY LEAVES.

TOWN-CRIER     He won't last till dawn. HARVEST CEREMONIES WILL BE HELD ON THE TWENTY-EIGHTH OF LENAY--

AUDIO: SCENE TRANSITION MUSIC.

GILROY        Ooh, your favorite is walking over.

SHAX        Who? Oh, gods.

SFX: MAGNUS ENTERS.

MAGNUS     Hallo, Shax.

SHAX        Ale, Magnus?

MAGNUS     Howsabout company instead?

SHAX        Innkeeper is an old profession, but I think you've mistaken me for the oldest.

MAGNUS     Have you heard of the great beastie I felled in the sewers this morning?

GILROY (gasp)  
Your mom finally croaked?

SHAX (laughs)

MAGNUS My mother is one of the finest beauties the dwarven folk have ever produced!

SHAX And I'm sure that's a very normal thing dwarves say about their mothers. Now do you want a drink, or a room?

MAGNUS I'll take a round for my mates.

NARRATOR It was at this moment, that Billy Barlow stepped through the doorway of the Dragon's Rest, fingers thumbing through a raggedy leather-bound tome.

BILLY Right, so what does Reginald do at this point? "He entered the bar, and approached the mysterious figure with the beard and inquired about a quest." Well, simple enough. Hello there, kind stranger!

GILROY Mmm-mm, I've got no coin for you, man.

BILLY No, sorry, I--

SHAX For him? You've no coin for yourself, Gilroy! Do you want me to read your tab off?

GILROY Mercy, please.

BILLY I'm sorry but--

SHAX Oh right, here's two crown, and I can get you some stale bread if--

GILROY Shax, don't give him the stale bread! He's hungry.

SHAX You just turned him away, full stop!

BILLY I'M NOT A BEGGAR!

GILROY Why are we giving you stale bread, then?

BILLY I don't know!

SHAX Well, what can I get you?

BILLY Oh! Well, my name is Billy, Billy Barlow, and I'm on a quest, or, rather, a quest for a quest. I'm seeking--

SHAX Eh-yeah, there's a gig board in the back if you need work.

BILLY Thank you!

SFX: BILLY EXITS.

GILROY You know, I will-- I'll actually take some of that stale bread.

SHAX Six-thousand-five-hundred and thirty-seven.

GILROY What's that?

SHAX Six-thousand-five-hundred and thirty-seven crown. That's how far in the red you are.

GILROY OH, SHAX, GODS! Why would you tell a man something like that?

SHAX Maybe in the hopes that he'd wanna to balance the ledger?

GILROY (nervous chuckling)

Okay, alright, let's not get crazy.

SFX: BILLY ENTERS.

BILLY These are FANTASTIC! I've chosen this one.

SHAX We usually leave them up so others can see them.

BILLY Oh, I'm so sorry! I didn't realize--

SHAX Kid! This is a werewolf hunt! Are you sure you're up for that?

BILLY More than anything!

SHAX You have a weapon?

BILLY I do!

SFX: STRANGE METAL ON WOOD SOUND.

SHAX            That's... quite the sword...

BILLY            My mother forged it. She ran low on iron, so she mixed a little clay in to fill it out.

GILROY            What does she make chamber pots out of? You have to wonder.

SHAX            I'm just not sure it's really... werewolf-fighting material...

BILLY            Of course, I need a silver blade.

SHAX            Sure, it's that. Is-- is... Is this your first time doing the whole lone adventurer thing?

BILLY            It is... But I've practiced so much.

GILROY            Hmm... What kind of practice?

BILLY            My mother and I would spar for an hour every morning.

SHAX            She made TWO swords like this?

BILLY            No... She used a cooking ladle.

GILROY            Ah, well, that is werewolf-prepping if I've ever heard of it.

SHAX            You might want to start with something simpler. There's one from an old man. He needs help getting down his steps in the morning.

BILLY            Not very... heroic, really.

SHAX            I mean... different kind of hero?

GILROY            Maybe... it's just a ploy. This old man is secretly a wisened monk and by helping him with even this small task, you'll show him how humble you are. You could be his latest pupil!

BILLY            You think so?

GILROY            Or, hold on, he could be a necromancer, seeking subjects to test his dark magic on! You could be the one to stop him!

BILLY            That would be incredible!

GILROY            Or he's a dragon! In disguise! And you could nab his hoard!

BILLY        My gods! I COULD!

GILROY       OR... it's just an old dude with bad legs. It's probably the legs thing.

BILLY        (sigh)

This isn't what I thought adventuring would be like at all.

GILROY       Look man, if you're disappointed now, wait till you find out how shit our feudal economy is for freelancers. Ugh.

SHAX         It's not as glamorous as some say, Billy, ask anyone here.

GILROY       Actually, our feudal economy is shit for people with steady jobs too.

SHAX         It could become glamorous, with a lot of hard work, but the work comes first, and it's not always fun.

GILROY       Ooh, and if you're unemployed it's awful! You know, this feudal economy, actually, isn't that great...

SHAX         Gilroy.

GILROY       Sorry, just becoming aware of our society's failings.

BILLY        So-- so... What are you saying?

SHAX         That you might want to go talk to an old man about some stairs.

AUDIO: SCENE TRANSITION MUSIC.

NARRATOR    It wasn't long before Billy found himself at the old man's home, staring into his novel once again.

BILLY        I wonder if Reginald ever dealt with anything like this... ah let's see.

SFX: PAGE TURNING.

BILLY        No... no... oh... well there's this... "Reginald was ready to help when those who needed it called. No matter the need." Ah yes, I forgot about that one.

SFX: KNOCK ON DOOR.

OLD MAN (from inside)

EHHH? Who is it!?

BILLY My name is Billy Barlow! Of Havenbrook! I've come to assist you in this, your hour of need!

OLD MAN Eh, I can't hear you! I'll be down in a minute!

(labored breathing)

AUDIO: SCENE TRANSITION MUSIC.

NARRATOR As Billy awaited his elderly employer...

SNIVELING HIGH ELF So then, I fired three arrows in rapid succession, and as with all archers of my ilk, I hit every one.

SHAX Mhmm.

SNIVELING HIGH ELF The jabberwocky dropped like lead and the entire village cheered for me. My father will be positively beaming.

SHAX Yup.

SNIVELING HIGH ELF I'm looking forward to imbibing these fine refreshments. Edymyr, Delsaran, S'onteil, Ail're! I bring the succor of fermented grapes!

SFX: SNIVELING HIGH ELF EXITS.

GILROY So... corks in the ears?

SFX: POP POP.

SHAX I don't think a foot of lead could have blocked that out.

GILROY Even if it did, you'd never be able to smile and nod at all the right places.

SHAX You studied magic. Is there a spell that can make adventurers more tolerable?

GILROY Mages have sought after such an enchantment for generations to no avail. Plus, I can't cast anymore. Remember?

SHAX Right.

SFX: NOLAN ENTERS.

NOLAN Shax-Shax-Shax-Shax! I think I made that song a little better, listen!

AUDIO: BAD LUTE PLAYING.

SFX: POP POP.

NOLAN Why did she do that?

GILROY She couldn't find a foot of lead.

AUDIO: SCENE TRANSITION MUSIC.

BILLY This house looked a lot smaller on the outside...

OLD MAN It's only 54 steps.

BILLY There must be 4 flights in here!

OLD MAN Nearly 5 if you count the lead-up to the attic. Well, you want the crown or not?

BILLY Right, sorry.

OLD MAN Now let's start by just seeing if you can get me to my bedchamber from here.

BILLY Do you prefer to put an arm on my shoulder? Or should I lift each leg for you?

OLD MAN I know what I'm about, boy, just make sure I don't fall.

SFX: FOOTSTEPS UP STAIRS.

BILLY I thought if I just move to here then, sorry 'scuse me, I'll have a better angle to--

OLD MAN Why are you stepping in front of me? No, watch where you're going! That's my suit of armor! WOAAHH!

SFX: FOOTSTEPS STOP.

BILLY            Only 46 steps left!

OLD MAN       Ohhh, we've only made it 8 steps? I go faster alone!

BILLY            But would you be as safe?

AUDIO: SCENE TRANSITION MUSIC.

GILROY         Ooh-ooh Shax! Listen, listen, there's a new one!

PARTY MEMBER #1 So it's decided, we'll handle this ogre together.

PARTY MEMBER #2 As a party, yes. I don't believe I could take it with my magic alone.

PARTY MEMBER #3 And my bow works best when the creature is kept at range from me.

PARTY MEMBER #1 Then a drink together tonight, a battle tomorrow, and then we'll go our separate ways.

GILROY         Aww, how much you wanna bet they stumble into a found-family style bond?

SHAX            I truly couldn't care less.

GILROY         We could use that energy around the bar. A kind of welcoming atmosphere.

SHAX            Half the patrons are hired killers, the other half just haven't been hired. I wouldn't call it a family joint. ALSO you don't work here, Gilroy! Stop giving suggestions for atmosphere.

GILROY         You know, why don't I?

SHAX            You'd pour yourself a shot for every drink you served. You wouldn't make it to the first rush.

NOLAN          What about me? I could play music for everyone!

AUDIO: LUTE PLAYING.

SHAX        If I decide to close the bar down after all Nolan, I'll be sure to hire you for it.

NOLAN      Like a going-away concert?

SHAX        More of a please-go-away concert. Please-go-away-or-she'll-keep-playing-concert.

AUDIO: LUTE STOPS.

GILROY     Mmm, I'm serious though. I think you need an extra pair of hands.

SHAX        The only people who can handle serving adventurers are other adventurers. And if they're adventurers, then why would they be slinging booze?

GILROY     You work here.

SHAX        I'm retired.

GILROY     Point stands, you need someone.

AUDIO: SCENE TRANSITION MUSIC.

BILLY        Woo, see! You did need me! We made it!

OLD MAN    (panting)

I haven't been in this much pain in decades. Fetch me a muscle salve from that cabinet.

BILLY        Of course.

BILLY        Okay, uh, here it-- Oh, this is quite a nice sword to leave in the back of a dusty cupboard.

OLD MAN    Never-mind that. The salve!

BILLY        I've only read about weapons like this...

OLD MAN    Enough with the blade.

BILLY           Why?

OLD MAN       Given me a world of trouble in my time, I prefer not to think of it.

BILLY           What sort of trouble?

OLD MAN       They say when you're given a hammer, all the world looks like a nail.

BILLY           But this is a sword?

OLD MAN       Not very sharp, eh?

SFX: CLATTERING.

BILLY           OW! It certainly is! Look, I'm sure if you wield it, it would feel like embracing an old friend.

OLD MAN       I really don't--

BILLY BARLOW   Pleaseeeeeeeeeee...

OLD MAN       No!

BILLY BARLOW   Pretty pleaseeeeeeeeeee...

OLD MAN       That's not helping.

BILLY BARLOW   I won't even ask for the crown for today. I'd give anything to see a fighter take up their old mantle for a moment.

OLD MAN       By all rights, I shouldn't pay you for your services today anyway...

BILLY           Pretty pretty pleassssseeee...

OLD MAN       OH, GIVE IT!

BILLY           It's beautiful.

OLD MAN       I used to think so too.

BILLY           Give it a good swing!

OLD MAN       It's well-balanced, I'll give you that. The grip is just right.

BILLY           Do you have any, uh, techniques you recall?

OLD MAN A few...

BILLY What's that one called?

OLD MAN This is the "ol' Left and Right"!

BILLY But you're just slashing up and down?

OLD MAN Perfect element of surprise! This is the "Get Back Ye Surly Foe of Indeterminate Origin"!

BILLY Sort of a mouthful...

OLD MAN Unfortunately it was less effective when I knew where they were from.

BILLY Does that ruin the attack?

OLD MAN No. But it, it just kills the mood. YAH! I'm starting to remember how fun this was!

BILLY That's the spirit! Just, oh, be careful of the stairs.

OLD MAN We used to call this move the Coward's Friend.

BILLY Right behind you, sir!

OLD MAN Even when you were retreating, you still had a good offense ready--

BILLY WATCH OUT BEHIND YOU, the--

SFX: OLD MAN TUMBLES DOWN STAIRS; CRASHES INTO ARMOR.

BILLY Are you okay?

OLD MAN MY ARMOR!

AUDIO: SCENE TRANSITION MUSIC.

GILROY You pushed him? Down a flight of stairs?

BILLY NO!... He fell.

GILROY      The one thing that you were there to prevent?

BILLY        Gods, I am a sorry excuse for a hero.

NOLAN        At least he let you keep the sword.

SHAX         Why did he?

BILLY        Oh, he said it was the final straw for it and I. He never wants to see either of us again.

GILROY       I can't understand why he'd part with it. Not even sure what metal it is, but, it's strong!

SHAX         Gilroy, put that down.

GILROY       Hey! You don't have to plug your ears, Shax, if you don't HAVE any! C'mere, c'mere, I just need two swings...

SHAX         Billy, that sucks about your job. Adventuring isn't for everyone. Why don't you just go back home and... do whatever it is that people in your village do?

BILLY        They're all farmers and I don't have the patience for it. Besides, I spent the last of my coin just getting to Far Water.

SHAX         I don't know what to tell you.

BILLY        That's alright. Sorry for troubling you with my tale. I'm going to sit in the corner... figure out what's next.

SFX: BILLY EXITS.

SHAX         Why are you looking at me like that, Gilroy?

GILROY       Come ON! He's perfect!

SHAX         For what?

GILROY       What if he worked here?

SHAX         Should we ask his last employer for a recommendation?

GILROY      You're not a fragile octogenarian! You're Shax! You're a hard-edged, life-learned business woman. He can't just drop you down a flight to break you.

SHAX          What makes him qualified to tend bar?

GILROY      Oh my gods! The menu is like three drinks, Shax.

SHAX          Four!

GILROY      The fourth is water!

SFX: BILLY ENTERS.

BILLY          Shax! Gilroy! I was over there moping, but this BRILLIANT fellow brought my spirits right up.

SFX: MAGNUS ENTERS.

MAGNUS      Hallo.

BILLY          Okay, tell them the tale you told me!

MAGNUS      I was just telling the youth how once I fought off a pack of TWENTY DIRE-HOUNDS!

BILLY          Mangus here--

MAGNUS      Magnus, boy.

BILLY          Magnus told me all about how enormous they were! Twice as tall as him!

GILROY      So, normal-sized?

MAGNUS      Tread... lightly.

BILLY          His broad-axe was all that stood between him and gruesome death! He savagely fought them with pure warrior aggression. Isn't that just amazing?

MAGNUS      Isn't it, Shax?

SHAX          Hold on, you actually listened to a story from Magnus?

BILLY          Yes!

SHAX           And you enjoyed it?

BILLY           More than anything!

SHAX           Billy, how would you like a job?

AUDIO: SCENE TRANSITION MUSIC.

NARRATOR   As Master Barlow's journey is just beginning, my tale is ending. I thank you for humoring an old man.

Another? I-- I must say no traveler has ever... well then! Bring your friends, your family, your best drinking buddy! I've many tales to tell... of the Dragon's Rest.

AUDIO: SCENE TRANSITION MUSIC.

SFX: KNOCK KNOCK.

SHAX           We're closed for business!

MYSTERIOUS WOMAN   (from outside)

                  This business needs no rest.

SHAX           Well I do, from cryptic drunks like you.

SFX: EXPLOSION AND SPLINTERING WOOD.

SHAX           WOAH!

MYSTERIOUS WOMAN   I will not be ignored, Shaxator.

SHAX           What do you want?

MYSTERIOUS WOMAN   I am... a collector... and your establishment is ripe for collecting. I am happy to offer you a competitive sum for this property.

SHAX           The bar?

MYSTERIOUS WOMAN   The Dragon's Rest, yes.

SHAX            Not for sale. If you came one day earlier, we might have had a deal.

MYSTERIOUS WOMAN    Unfortunate. If this reinvigorated passion eludes you in days to come, do not hesitate to call upon me.

SHAX            How would I--

MYSTERIOUS WOMAN    When the night is black and your greatest armor doffed, THEN shall we once again meet.

SHAX            Cool. So do you have an address, or...

MYSTERIOUS WOMAN    Yes, yes, here's my card.

SHAX            Thank you that's much more---

SFX: MAGICAL WOOSH.

SHAX            WOAH! Could have said goodbye...

AUDIO: CREDITS ROLL.

**END OF TRANSCRIPT**