

DADDY ISSUES

A photograph of a man with a beard and a young girl with braided hair, both looking down at a large, golden-brown roasted turkey on a black tray. The man is wearing a blue button-down shirt, and the girl is wearing a black and orange plaid shirt. The background is a bright, out-of-focus indoor setting.

NOV 2020

A TOTALLY STUFFED ISSUE!

- AVOID A THANKSGIVING "FOWL" WITH GLENN'S TIPS!
- SET THE DINNER TABLE WITH A ONE-SHOT!
- PLUS! MONSTROUS MOVIE REVIEWS!

LET'S WRITE A ONE-SHOT!



ANTHONY BURCH
DADDY MASTER

So, every so often I run a one-shot for the “elite”-tier members of our Patreon. Since I create the one-shots pretty much out of whole cloth for a group of players I don't necessarily know all that well, I thought it might be interesting to explore my process for creating these doofy one-off experiences. Maybe my own crappy process can help you with your own adventures in DM'ing.

1. COME UP WITH A FUN, ONE-SENTENCE PREMISE

For my one-shots, I try to have a quirky, gimmicky premise that guides the whole experience. Stuff like, “rescue an orc child by defeating his captor in a fatherhood contest,” or “rescue Walter the Immortal from a The Warriors-style gang meetup”. In this instance, my one-sentence premise is, “The Great British Bake-Off but fantasy and violent.” What does that mean? I have no idea. Not yet, anyway.

2. THINK OF FUN, OPEN-ENDED THINGS FOR YOUR PLAYERS TO DO

As I tend to favor improvisational roleplaying over pure stats-and-rules-and-actually-reading-the-Dungeon-Master's-Guide roleplay, I like to build in some form of nonlinear puzzle or obstacle that I haven't planned a particular solution for. In my first

one-shot, I asked the players to “prove they're a better father than this orc lord.” Some players tried to negotiate with him on the definition of fatherhood. Others tried to toss around a football better than the orc.

So- if we're doing the Great British Bake-Off, what are some puzzles that would naturally lend themselves to that premise? An average episode of the show is broken up into three parts: the signature challenge (where contestants show off a personal specialty of theirs), the technical challenge (where bakers have to create a technically difficult dish with incomplete instructions), and the showstopper (where bakers have to make an amazing creation featuring certain key ingredients).

Maybe we can translate these challenges into DnD gameplay. So, food... maybe they have to hunt for ingredients? Maybe they're near a forest of ingredients? But I don't want to force them to just keep doing combat over and over to harvest ingredients, so what if... what if the forest had, like, different zones for the different flavors? The Sour Patch, the Savory Field, The Sweet Treat Sleet Sheet, The Salt Mines, and the Bitter Swamp?

And then maybe each of these places is run by an NPC the players can interact with, either by killing them or convincing them to give the players ingredients. The Sour Patch Child. Steakman. Sweetie the Marshmallow. Saltbae. Grapeshoot (a grapefruit with a gun).

So the first challenge allows the players to create anything they want using the available ingredients (which I'll vaguely categorize as “any taste sensation you can think of exists in one of the areas of the forest”), the second will force them to create something incredibly difficult (maybe by catching a rare animal of which there is only a

single one... or by asking for something literally impossible “I want a solid substance that I can drink. Like soup you could hold in your hands”), and the third will basically be a boss fight.

3. THINK OF A PLOT TO JUSTIFY THE FUN STUFF YOU JUST THOUGHT UP

So, food. What's food got to do with anything? Well, what if it isn't just about food? What if all of these dishes are part of a horrible ritual of some sort? Maybe a demon resurrection?

And there was that stupid demon bread in one episode of the podcast- I think we called him Red Bread Redemption- so what if Mary and Paul are Scary and Maul, two cultists who want to resurrect Red Bread Redemption and are using you to do it? Maybe they're luring people to join the competition with the promise of a huge gold prize or a magical item or something.

It's a really loose plot, but it provides the player with an initial goal of “win the cooking competition,” provides a plot twist in the form of “you're actually summoning a demon,” and- at least for the audience who will be playing this- also provides a connection to the main lore of the podcast.

4. COME UP WITH STAT BLOCKS FOR YOUR ENEMIES

Just kidding. Lie about it all and make it up on the fly.

5. RUN THE ONE-SHOT!

And that's it! With the basic conceit of the one-shot and a bunch of individual pieces of content, I can pretty much improvise my way through a session by latching onto what the players say and what they seem to find interesting. It'll be messy and loose, but if you're messy and loose all the time, then you can just pretend that's your “style” and people will stop expecting you to get any better.



GET STUFFED

GLENN'S NO-FAIL TURKEY TIPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL THANKSGIVING FEAST



TURKEY TIPS

HOW'S IT HANGIN' FOLKS. Glenn here with some tips on how to make sure you get yourself a top notch turkey day. Now when it comes to the main event, a lotta folks frankly do it wrong and they don't even know it (the bigger crime if ya ask me). I always say: If you're gonna do something wrong at least know you're doing it dumb and bad. Luckily if you follow my tips, you'll have yourself a real nice time - one you can definitely write home about.

1. PUT WEED IN A BUNCH OF BROWNIES AND SERVE THOSE FIRST UP

They say that "hunger" is the greatest "spice." They're wrong- it turns out, wouldn't you know it, it's weed. Weed is the best spice. If your first course is a bunch of "enhanced" brownies, you basically buy yourself a whole lotta leeway for the rest of the night. Heck, had a T-Day back in the 80s where it was basically four of Glenn's Bonky-Time Brownies, three quarts of Ben and Jerry's, and an entire bag of Tim's Cascade Jalapeno chips. Woke up the next morning with a lot of crumbs and a half thawed out turkey just sitting in the sink. What I'm saying is you play your cards right, you might not even need to cook!

2. GO FIND A CHINESE RESTAURANT AND ASK THEM TO DEEP FRY THAT TURKEY FOR YOU

If there's one thing you can count on on a national holiday, it's Chinese restaurants being open. Now I make it a point to be a name-basis "your usual booth, sir?" kind of regular of at least two different Chinese joints around wherever I happen to be, so this one takes a little bit of social leg work to make sure all the pieces are in place. Anyway, you can load up some dumb Alton Brown video where he teabags a turkey into a buncha boiling oil using some weird ladder thing like he's some kind of Home Depot cooking MacGuyver, OR you can ask Don Ling over at Jade Pagoda on Arrow Highway to fry you up a turkey real nice in exchange for some cold hard cash off the books. Plus, you get that special infused flavor like the turkey's got the strength of a thousand Chinese meals (this effect is amplified by point #1, see above).

3. MASHED POTATOES SHOULD BE MOSTLY BUTTER

I once got on a YouTube binge trying to figure out the best mashed potatoes, and I realized pretty quick that there's a real simple formula for mashed potatoes: the more butter you use, the better it tastes. If you wanna really go wild, throw some cream cheese in there. Like basically it's a whole stick of butter for like two potatoes and then some cream cheese in there and a bunch of salt and pepper and now you're a potato god (this dish is made better by point #1, see above).

4. THE ONLY DRINK YOU EVER NEED IS WILD TURKEY (FOR THE THEME) AND MARTINELLI'S (FOR THE TASTE).

Basically mix the bourbon with apple cider and some lime juice in whatever amount feels right and you got yourself a primo themed cocktail (this cocktail is made better by point #1, see above).

5. GET YOUR CHILL OUT PLAYLIST FIGURED OUT BEFOREHAND

Ain't a Thanksgiving without my main man David A. droning on about Planet Earth while you sink into the couch! I got my Blu-Ray set of Planet Earth basically cued up ready to go the moment the festivities begin, and this fine English gentleman is basically low-key the soundtrack to the perfect Thanksgiving.

Anyway, hope you all have a chilled out time this year doin' T-Day right, GC Style!

RON'S REEL REVIEWS



MORE FILM REVIEWS FROM RON STAMPLER

HI, I'M RON. These are my movie reviews. Please note I did not make these movies I am just reviewing them by saying how good or bad they are. Normally I rate movies on a star system. For example, I'll say, "Mission Impossible is 1/5 stars because the mission ended up being possible." It is now Halloween as I am writing these, and instead of the star system, I will be using a pumpkin system temporarily. Please enjoy.

-Management (Ron)

THE BIRDS (1963)

DIR. ALFRED HITCHCOCK

THE BIRDS is a movie about birds. Although it may sound like a friendly movie because some birds are friendly (my wife Samantha has a bird feeder and really likes watching birds eat), the birds in this movie are not friendly and it is a scary movie. Basically a woman meets a man who is mean to her in a pet store and she follows him to his house and all of the birds start killing people- but the birds from the pet store stay nice. The woman and the man are no longer mean to each other, and although nothing can stop the bird massacre everyone lives happily ever after.

3.5/5 PUMPKINS 🍷🍷🍷🍷🍷

THE FLY (1986)

DIR. DAVID CRONENBERG

THE FLY is a movie about a man who turns into a fly. He turns into a fly because of a science experiment and his girlfriend is mostly supportive.



3.5/5 PUMPKINS 🍷🍷🍷🍷🍷

THE HAUNTING (1963)

DIR. ROBERT WISE

THE HAUNTING is a movie about a haunting, specifically in a house. In fact, this movie is based on the novel "The Haunting of Hill House," and the house that is haunted is called Hill House. This is one adaptation but there are actually a few different adaptations. Here's how to tell them apart. The one from the 60s is in black and white and the one from the 90s is not good and the one from last year is very long.

3.5/5 PUMPKINS 🍷🍷🍷🍷🍷

THE WITCH (2015)

DIR. ROBERT EGGERS

THE WITCH is a movie about a goat that talks to people. Because that is not a thing that goats normally do, and because the goat has a deep, mean voice, this is a scary movie. It is set in history where there are no ways for the FBI to see who is a witch.



Basically a baby goes missing and his family is unable to find him, which (or "witch" hehehe) is why they think a witch has taken him. While the family is looking for the witch, their other kids get witch-sick, which (or "witch" hehehe) is basically when they die. The daughter of the family eventually is accused of being a witch and goes to hang out with the goat, which (or "witch" hehehe) is how she actually becomes a witch.

3.5/5 PUMPKINS 🍷🍷🍷🍷🍷

THE MUMMY (1999)

DIR. STEPHEN SOMMERS

THE MUMMY is about a mummy, which is a monster and not just the way England people say Mommy! Hehehehe. I have first hand experience with mummies, unfortunately, because my wife is a mummy (not just a mommy hehehe) and it really hurts my heart to think about. It is a scary situation knowing that she is in the future somewhere where she is all wrapped up and not wearing comfortable shoes. That is why this movie is so scary. There are lots of movies about mummies I think, but I have not seen any, because, like I said, I don't want to.

0/5 PUMPKINS 🍷🍷🍷🍷🍷

DON'T MAKE ME PULL OVER

A CHILLING CAUTIONARY TALE
BY HENRY OAK

DON'T MAKE ME

HEY THERE, GHOSTS AND GHOULS! It's that spookiest of seasons, and Henry Oak has a special treat for you... no, it's not candy, it's a story so CHILLING it'll freeze you to your bones... or at least make you think twice before acting all crazy in the car! So turn the lights down low, light a couple spooky candles, and prepare for a scare. 'Cause it's time to tell a little tale called...

DON'T MAKE ME PULL OVER!

Once upon a time, two rowdy boys were makin' a ruckus in the back of their dad's car.

"Hey!" said Dad, lookin' at them in the rear view mirror. "Keep acting like a coupla' goofballs and I'll pull this car over."

The rowdy boys smiled at each other. Dad had made this threat before, and they didn't believe him. So they went on makin' a ruckus.

"Hey!" said Dad, glarin' at them in the rear view mirror. "I mean it, you two. I'll pull this car right the heck over and we'll turn around and go home."

But Dad was taking the boys to the geology museum to learn fun facts about rocks. And they didn't want to go. So they went on makin' a ruckus. Laughin' and hootin' and fightin' and shovin'. Louder. And louder. And louder.

And they could see Dad in the rear view mirror, gettin' madder. And madder. And madder. And the vein on his head got bigger. And bigger. And bigger. And the rowdy boys laughed harder. And harder. And harder.

Until all at once Dad whirled around to face them, and shouted, "THAT'S IT! I'm pulling this car—"

HONNNNNNNNNNK!

With his eyes off the road, Dad didn't see his car drifting over the double yellow line. Or the truck bearing down on them! Dad mashed the brakes and swerved away.

The rowdy boys shut their eyes in terror. They heard the tires screech. They heard Dad scream. And when they opened their eyes...

... everything was fine. The car was rollin' down the road. And all was quiet inside.

The two rowdy boys couldn't even look Dad in the eye. They knew they had messed up real bad, distracting him like that. "Dad must be real, real mad," they thought. So they stayed as quiet as church mice for a long, long time.

But that awful quiet tension was too much to bear. And after a while, it even became kinda funny. It was so scary what happened, that you almost had to laugh. So the boys let out a giggle. Then a chuckle. Then a full on guffaw.

They were laughing so hard, they didn't even notice when the car pulled over and turned around. They were having such a good time, they didn't even wonder why Dad wasn't saying anything.

But when they looked out the window, they stopped laughing real quick.

There was an accident up ahead. There were ambulances everywhere. A truck had smashed head on into a car. And as they drove on by, the boys saw that it was THEIR car. And the boys saw a Dad, crying. It was THEIR dad. And he was crying over two dead boys.

IT WAS THEM!

"That's what happens to boys who get rowdy in the car..." said a voice from the front seat. And when the boys looked up, they saw DEATH in the rear view mirror. And as they cried and cried, he put on his blinker, and merged onto Highway ROUTE SIX SIX SIX, a direct express way... to HECK!

THE END...?



A TIME TO BE THANKFUL

BY DARRY S. WILSON

HEY FOLKS! Darryl Wilson here! It's been a bit of a tough and rowdy time out here in the fantasy hellscape I guess I now call home, and so I thought it would be nice to bring some holiday cheer. I mean, from all that stuff with Henry's family, and Glenn fighting death, not to mention I'm still uncertain whether or not Ron was almost drowned as a kid by his dad. It just seems like, with Thanksgiving coming up, now's a good time to look at the silver linings.

Thanksgiving is definitely in my top 10 favorite holidays, and having a chance to really think about all the things I'm grateful for is a big reason why.

Okay. I have an easy way to categorize what I'm thankful for.

The three F's: Family. Friends. Food. Here we go.

FAMILY

Carol: I'm thankful for you being such a wonderful mother to our little scamp. You've always been there for me during the toughest times, even when I have been difficult. And I'm thankful for the way you formed some sort of attack squad with the other moms to try to save Grant and me. We're gonna find a way to stop you from becoming a mummy. I promise.

Grant: Thank you for being the best son in the whole world. Thank you for being you. I have never wanted anything more, and I'm glad. That you're you. You know what I mean. I love you. Being proud of you every day is one of the great joys in my life.

Mom and Dad: Thanks for everything. I miss you both. I'll start crying if I write more.

FRIENDS

Darnell: I don't always say it or show it, but I hope you know I think you're a great coach. Thanks for being a wonderful role model to Grant. I would be even more thankful if you took a look at my playbook.

Henry: Thanks for being the best teammate a man could ask for in this crazy game called life in the Forgotten Realms. We get on each other's nerves sometimes, but gosh darnnit, just knowing you're there with me trying to do your best gets me through these tough times. Also, thanks for opening up my eyes to some of the more... interesting parts of life. I may not wanna partake or even understand half of the stuff you do, but I'm glad I'm learning about it.

Ron: Thanks for stepping up! I admit, I was a little bit worried when you joined our carpool because of, well, you know. We are a bit different, and I didn't even think you cared about sports. Which it ends up, you don't. But that's okay cause you care about your son! And sometimes you even care about our sons. But every day on this adventure you've been there when you've been needed. And that's what it's all about. Thanks buddy!

Glenn: Thanks for saying you'll teach me guitar.

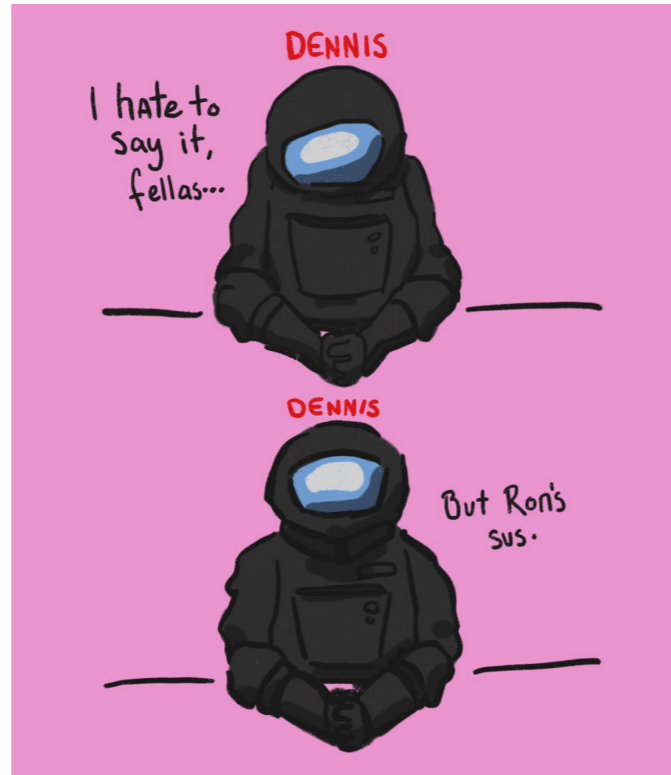
FOOD

What is there to say beyond food is the best thing ever. Thank you to steaks for being so wonderful. Whether marinated or with just a dash of salt. You're always ready to make meal a real event.

Thanks to beer for being the perfect frothy delectable drink it is. Thanks to chips, and pastries, and everything else you can chow down on.

Especially thanks to Charleston Chew. Before I took a chewy bite out of you, I never knew something could have all the texture of an eraser, and the flavor of old chocolate. But you do, and my life is better for it.

Everyone, have a delicious Thanksgiving, and be thankful for what's on the table and who's sitting around it.



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Mel Tsai
TUMBLR: shypufferfish

TUMBLR: St-froy



Should'a
Stayed
Dead