

DADDY ISSUES



MAR 2021

“SPRING” INTO ACTION

- HOW TO SPICE UP YOUR GAME- WITHOUT DICE!
- RON'S REEL REVIEWS: SPRING IS A TIME FOR LOVE
- PLUS! A SNEAK PEEK AT HENRY'S ROCKIN' SCREENPLAY!

MAKE YOUR OWN LUCK

FUN WAYS TO INTERACT WITH YOUR PLAYERS WITHOUT ROLLING DICE

DADDY MASTER



ANTHONY BURCH
DADDY MASTER

Since tabletop gaming is basically just an excuse to Fuck Around with your friends (with the potential of Finding Out), you should feel comfortable adding weird-ass gimmicks and alternate game modes into a session. Like, yeah, sure, use Dungeons and Dragons 5.0 as the backbone for most of your adventure just in order to give it some consistency, but not EVERY encounter has to be solved with combat or skill checks. What about a trivia game? What about a dance-off?

Here are some random ideas for goofy-ass minigames you can toss into any campaign to spice them up a bit.

DICE STACKING

As you head into the Lord of Chaos arc, it can be fun to stack some dice and say that something bad will happen if the tower ever falls. Like, if your players are sneaking through an area that's got tripwire alarms everywhere, maybe you don't need to make them repeatedly roll sneak checks. Maybe you stack a few

dice on the table, and every time the players do something risky, you add another dice. If the tower ever falls, your players suffer the consequences.

Actually, as I type this, I realize this is the exact opposite of the Jenga mechanic from Dread. Either way- it still works!

TRIVIA QUIZ

If you can find an excuse for it, why not throw a random trivia quiz into your campaign? We just recorded part of our Edge of the Empire campaign, and I thought it'd be fun to spice up a space fight with some weird Star Wars trivia questions (it'll make slightly more sense when you hear it in context). And it was great! We learned that Will knows way more about *Attack of the Clones* than anyone on earth.

You can't exactly throw these at your players all the time, but if your players are nerds- which, if you're reading this, they almost certainly are- then they'll probably appreciate a chance to flex their knowledge of silly facts.

PRISONER'S DILEMMA

Separate your players. Offer them a minor reward (or major punishment) if they choose to rat each other out, or a huge reward (or nonexistent punishment) if they stay silent. But if one or both of them chooses to stay silent, both will get the maximum punishment.

Then, sit back and watch them either agonize about what to do, or immediately decide to sacrifice themselves for the sake of friendship. Either way, you've stolen one of the oldest dilemmas in game theory to infuse your game with obvious stakes, AND you've given your

players an opportunity to express their characters in a high-tension environment.

MAGIC TRICK

I did this once in a Numenera game I was running, and it was a huge hit. The players thought they were being cheated by an NPC, but couldn't be sure. Instead of making them roll perception or whatever, I thought it'd be more fun to do something a little more hands-on.

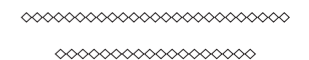
So I grabbed a deck of cards and told them, "I'm going to do a magic trick for you. And I'm going to do it twice in a row. And if you can figure out how I do it after watching it twice, then we'll say you can tell how this NPC is cheating you. Okay?"

They agreed.

So I did the magic trick twice. And they watched me closely. Midway through the second performance, they saw what I was doing. And they lost their MINDS.

It's one thing to have a dice roll tell you that you're smart: it's another to actually FEEL smart.

Anyway, those are some weird ways you can have fun with your players without ever needing to roll a single d20. Lemme know if you like these ideas and I'll list up some more of them next month.



DARRYL'S FOUR "GIVINGS" OF LENT



HEY TEAM! This is a special time of year for some folks around the world, and for your big man Darryl. It's Lent! So LENT me your ears for a second, while I tell you how I'll try to better myself during these next several weeks.

Now to be clear, many people don't observe Lent, and definitely not in this hellscape known as Faerun. And to be honest, with all the dragons, magic, and dead dads coming back to life that I've seen on this adventure, I'm not exactly sure where ole' Darryl lands on the "capital-G-God" question right now.

And if the only thing you know about Lent is that it's the 6 weeks you can get that cheesy fish sandwich at McDonalds for a dollar, well thats okay. Cause that's part of it. For some folks Lent is a time to "give up" something, like candy or having fun. But some folks also find more positive and active things to do rather just things to *not* do. To give instead of give up.

And while I was researching what a introverted tween boy who likes Fortnite and what other boys would like for his birthday, I learned about the 4 gift rule: give something they need, something they want, something to wear and something to read. So I figured I would jump on that "list of 4 bandwagon" that seems all the rage in grocery store magazines and tell you all the four "gives" I will be doing this lent.

That made sense, right?

1. GIVING UP

The Lent classic. Some folks give up meat (hence that tasty-as-butter fish sandwich they have going on sale at the McD's. I mean, honestly, its not much of a sacrifice to give up meat if you're just gonna pound down three whole fish sandwiches covered in cheese and tartar sauce, clocking in at 380 calories each. Like, that's definitely not the point of giving up meat. Its not like at the gates of heaven Saint Peter is gonna say, "Hey, really big of you to give up the bacon at breakfast!" and not point out that you threw a fiver down on the counter of your local golden arches and ate enough calories for 3 meals.)

But anyways. I'm giving up charleston chews. Not that I have any, anymore anyways.

2. GIVING OUT

I'll round up the change at the grocery store or the Panda Express, but I really could be giving out more of myself. Not just money, but time and effort. Henry is is really passionate about a lot of earth stuff and rocks and helping people, so I thought I would ask him where I could volunteer and help out. It would also just be nice to have more to do during the day when the family's out. Also, not a bad excuse to hang out with my buddy Oak. (I guess that's more of a selfish reason to do it. So maybe it won't count...)

3.. GIVING IN

Kind of hard to come up with 4 different "gives". I'm not even sure what I meant by this. But I guess "giving in" means trying to lower my walls a bit. You always hear that

on TV, when someone is trying to help someone. They say, "You gotta lower their walls," or break down your walls? Something like that. Seeing how open Ron is, and how much Terry responds to that, makes me think I could lower my walls a little bit more so Grant and Carol can climb on over them. Just hopefully they like what they see.

4. GIVING YOURSELF A BREAK

My dad would always tell me I need to give myself a break. Which I always thought was weird. Cause, I mean, compared to him I feel like I was never doing enough. He was working a tough job, and yet always found time to spend with me and sis. Not to mention he was the perfect husband. I swear, somehow my parents had more date nights during my highschool years than I ever did. I feel like he never gave himself a break. He was always doing something to help his family or a neighbor. And I just want to do that too.

But it is tiring. And now that I don't even know if I'll see Carol again, and Grant and I are stuck in this dangerous world. Giving yourself a break could mean dying. Maybe this wasn't a good idea. Maybe it should have only been three givings. Or, if anything, I should figure out a few more that will actually be helpful.

Anyways. These are the ways I'm going to better myself this Lent. Whatever your beliefs, I wish you the best, and hope you find the motivation to work on yourself, and be the best you you can possibly be. Just being half the man my dad was, would make a big difference.

RON'S REEL REVIEWS



MORE
FILM REVIEWS
FROM
RON STAMPLER

HI, I'M RON. Here are the Perfect Movies for Valentine's Day! Valentine's Day has already passed but maybe next year.

KATE & LEOPOLD (2001)

DIR. JAMES MANGOLD

Kate and Leopold is a romantic movie. In this movie two people fall in love. Kate is a woman currently living in New York City right now. Leopold is a man/duke in the 1800s right now. They get to be in the same movie because there is a time machine invented by Kate's ex-boyfriend. So Leopold is transported into the present (the present is 2001) and Kate is single and they fall in love because they aren't nice to each other but in a funny way. Sometimes when you aren't nice to each other it's funny and romantic but you also need to be in love. In the end they stay in the past because Kate decided to get married and she probably didn't think about how limited the options were for women back then because she was in love.

3.5/5 STARS ★★☆☆

BENNY & JOON (1993)

DIR. JEREMIAH CHECHIK

Benny and Joon is a romantic movie. In this movie two people fall in love. Joon is a woman living with her brother Benny because she sometimes does strange things that other people think are "crazy." But Joon and Benny are not the people who fall in love, so don't worry about that.



Joon falls in love with a man named Sam. Sam is like Joon in that he is a little strange and people don't always understand him. This movie is cool because it's nice to know that two strange people can fall in love if they are both hot and in a movie.

3.5/5 STARS ★★☆☆

JULIE & JULIA (2009)

DIR. NORA EPHRON

Julie and Julia is a romantic movie. It's not romantic in a sexy way but more in a "that makes me feel good about people" sort of way. Julie is a blogger and Julia

is a cooker. They have similar names but are very different. Julia is living in the past and Julie is living in the present (the present is 2002). Julie is trying to cook everything Julia cooked in her cookbook. It is a lot of recipes and seems very time consuming and hard. In the end they are both happy because they are the type of people who like to cook.

3.5/5 STARS ★★☆☆

ZEUS & ROXANNE (1997)

DIR. GEORGE MILLER

Zeus and Roxanne is a romantic movie. In this movie two animals fall in love in a platonic way. One animal is Zeus who is a dog. The other animal is Roxanne who is a dolphin. Roxanne saves Zeus when he falls off a boat and is about to be attacked by a shark. This is good for their friendship but it does beg the question why the people in this movie aren't very helpful to the animals. While Zeus and Roxanne could never have any meaningful relationship due to the oxygen barrier (dolphins are in water and dogs are on land), they do make great pen pals. They don't have pens but they communicate anyway.

3.5/5 STARS ★★☆☆

ROMEO + JULIET (1996)

DIR. BAZ LUHRMANN

Romeo and Juliet is a romantic movie. In this movie two people fall in love. Unfortunately, this is not good for their families because they live in two houses both alike in dignity and alike in how much they hate the other house. Romeo and Juliet fall in love but their families are giving them a lot of sh*t for it and people die. Eventually Romeo and Juliet die, too. Things probably would have been better if they hadn't fallen in love, but my wife Samantha says if love were a smart choice then it would only be for smart people and love is for everybody. This movie was written by William Shakespeare but it has modern actors like Leonardo da Vinci. Shakespeare is truly a very good writer because he wrote this movie way before it would ever get made. I hope someday I am able to have the confidence of Shakespeare.

3.5/5 STARS ★★☆☆

MOOD MUSIC

TOP SONGS FOR VALENTINE'S DAY ROMANCE

MOOD MUSIC

HEY FOLKS. Now, while I consider Christmas music to be the sexiest music ever written (at least, the way me and the boys in the Trio play it), I acknowledge there's plenty of other great songs that might put you in an amorous mood. Since love is in the air, I thought I'd share with you some of my tried and true non-Yuletide musical hits that are guaranteed to get you and anyone else within earshot into a seductive mindset. These are all songs I love because of how they speak to the most powerful emotion of all- love between human beings!

RICK JAMES - MARY JANE

From his sultry vocals, to the oft underutilized flute part, this one's an instant classic and it's easy to see why this was one of his early hits. What I like is how honest the lyrics are- no hidden layers of meaning here- he loves a woman named Mary Jane, who is a free spirit ("*...Not the kind of girl that you can just tie down*").

D'ANGELO - BROWN SUGAR

D'Angelo, the undisputed king of neo soul, changed the shape of R&B with his work, and the title song off his debut album combined the forces of hip hop and soul in a genre-defining package. Just like Mary Jane, this is a straightforward love song- D'Angelo pines for a woman named Brown Sugar. This person is so unique that making love to her turns his eyes red (probably from crying or all that romantic emotion!)

TOM PETTY - YOU DON'T KNOW HOW IT FEELS

Here, Tom Petty yearns for a lost love ("*There's someone I used to see / But she don't give a damn for me*"). This yearning is so powerful, it drives him to commit crimes against a prison ("*Let's get to the point / Let's roll another joint*") - "roll" being slang for to "roll up" on someone or something, and "joint" being well known slang for prison. Can you imagine loving someone so much you'd want to commit a crime against a bunch of criminals!? Probably not! That's why the song is called "You Don't Know How It Feels," I bet!

BOB MARLEY - KAYA

From the moment he wakes up, the first thing on Bob Marley's mind is the love for a person named Kaya... just because the rain is falling! In fact, his love for Kaya is so powerful it elevates his mood "*so high, I even touch the sky.*" I don't know about you folks, but find someone in your life that elevates your mood so much, you feel like you're flying- that's my advice to you!

RUSH - THE TREES

Rush is one of the most unique bands in history in that their songs can go from "The greatest rock song ever written" to "the worst rock song ever written" in a single song, but The Trees isn't about something as trite as human relationships. It is clearly about marijuana ("trees" as in "smoke trees" is slang for marijuana). It's a different kind of love, for sure, and the song relates the story about a bunch of talking strains of marijuana arguing amongst themselves. I bet you they were "under the influence" of a certain chemical when they wrote this one, ha!

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That's what I got! Load these up onto a playlist and I guarantee you you'll be moving and grooving in no time flat! Next issue will be coming out around 4/20, so maybe I'll talk about my favorite songs that are about marijuana!

# MOVIES ROCK!

MOVIES ROCK!

## HARRISON THORNE AND THE TREASURE OF GEOLOGY

By Henry Oak

### INTERIOR OF AN ABANDONED UNDERGROUND MINE IN THE AMAZON RAINFOREST (AT DAYTIME)

This scene takes place in a fictional abandoned underground mine in the Amazon rainforest, south of the Purus river near the town of Canutama.

Approximately fifty meters deep under the earth, a large deposit of "Alexandrite," a rare and valuable variety of the mineral *chrysoberyl* known for its color-changing properties, protrudes from a rocky outcropping.

HARRISON THORNE, an expert geologist and professional gem hunter who is also handsome and tall, shines his L.L. Bean Trailblazer Sportsman 420 Headlamp onto the precious gem. Harrison smiles as he pulls a magnifying glass out of the cargo pocket of his rugged Columbia hiking shorts.

HARRISON THORNE  
(calling out to his  
partner, Esmerelda)  
Esmerelda, check this out!

ESMERELDA ESTRELLAS, a professor of geology at the local *universidad* ("university") who is beautiful and smartly dressed in a Patagonia Capilene Cool Lightweight Shirt, Outdoor Research Ferrosi Convertible hiking pants, and pair of Salomon X Ultra 3 GTXs hiking shoes, approaches Harrison and examines the Alexandrite.

ESMERELDA ESTRELLAS  
*Dios Mio* ("my god"), you were right,  
Harrison. That's Alexandrite, one of  
the rarest gemstones in the world.

HARRISON THORNE  
Yes. I had a feeling we might find  
some down in this old abandoned  
emerald mine, since Alexandrite  
wasn't discovered until 1833 but this  
emerald mine dates back to the late  
1700s.

ESMERELDA ESTRELLAS  
Wait a second, Harrison... I heard  
that Alexandrite was named after Tsar  
Alexander the Second of Russia. But  
he didn't become the Tsar until 1855!



HARRISON THORNE

You really know your history, Esmerelda! Though historical accounts differ, it is widely thought that Alexandrite was named in honor of the future Tsar Alexander II because it was discovered on his 15th birthday.

ESMERELDA ESTRELLAS

Talk about a cool birthday present! I didn't even get a *quinceanera* ("15th birthday party" - a cultural tradition and rite of passage for many young women in Latin America) when I turned fifteen.

With the careful application of his 22oz Estwing Rock Pick with Pointed Tip & Shock Reduction Grip, Harrison begins to remove the Alexandrite from the outcropping.

HARRISON THORNE

A sample of Alexandrite this big will fetch quite a sum! More than enough to pay for that new Earth Sciences Learning Annex at the local public *biblioteca* ("library".)

ESMERELDA ESTRELLAS

The children will be so excited to learn more about the amazing world beneath our feet.

Crack! Harrison frees the Alexandrite from the rocky outcropping. But then, a crackling sound is heard throughout the mine!

HARRISON THORNE

Wait a second... do you hear that crackling sound...

ESMERELDA ESTRELLAS

Yes, I do. It's one of the first signs of imminent geotechnical failure in mining structures.

HARRISON THORNE

Um... in English please!!

ESMERELDA ESTRELLAS

It's a cave-in, Harrison!

HARRISON THORNE

Of course! Rampant deforestation spurred on by corporate greed and government malfeasance has turned much of this area into a floodplain.

ESMERELDA ESTRELLAS

And given the increased severity of weather events brought on by man-made global climate change, it was only a matter of time until a storm of sufficient size saturated the floodplain with enough water weight to collapse the mine!

HARRISON THORNE

Run!

The ground begins to rumble as the movie does an action scene where Harrison and Esmerelda escape the collapsing mine.

#### EXTERIOR OF THE COLLAPSED MINE (AT DAYTIME)

This next scene takes place outside of the same mine. Harrison and Esmeralda make it out just in time before it collapses!

ESMERELDA ESTRELLAS

We made it!

HARRISON THORNE

It's a good thing you knew the warning signs of mine collapse before we went inside.

ESMERELDA ESTRELLAS

Still, it just goes to show that old abandoned mines might seem like cool places to go exploring, but they can turn deadly in an instant.

HARRISON THORNE

You're right. The next time we go rock hounding, we'd do well to stay away from such a place, no matter how tempting. After all, no gemstone is worth more than a human life!

BAD GUY

Oh, I BEG to differ!

Oh no! The BAD GUY (I am still figuring out who the bad guy should be, but most likely it will be someone who represents one of the forces causing harm to the natural world ((such as the palm oil industry)) as well as toxic masculinity) was waiting for them outside the mine and has a GUN!

BAD GUY (cont'd)

I'll take that Alexandrite... and your lives!

What will happen to Harrison and Esmerelda? Will the children of Canutama get a new Earth Sciences Learning Annex? Or will the Bad Guy sell the gem and use the profits to expand the deforestation efforts of his palm oil corporation (again still figuring this part out)?

Find out... when HARRISON THORNE AND THE TREASURE OF GEOLOGY becomes a major best selling world wide motion picture!

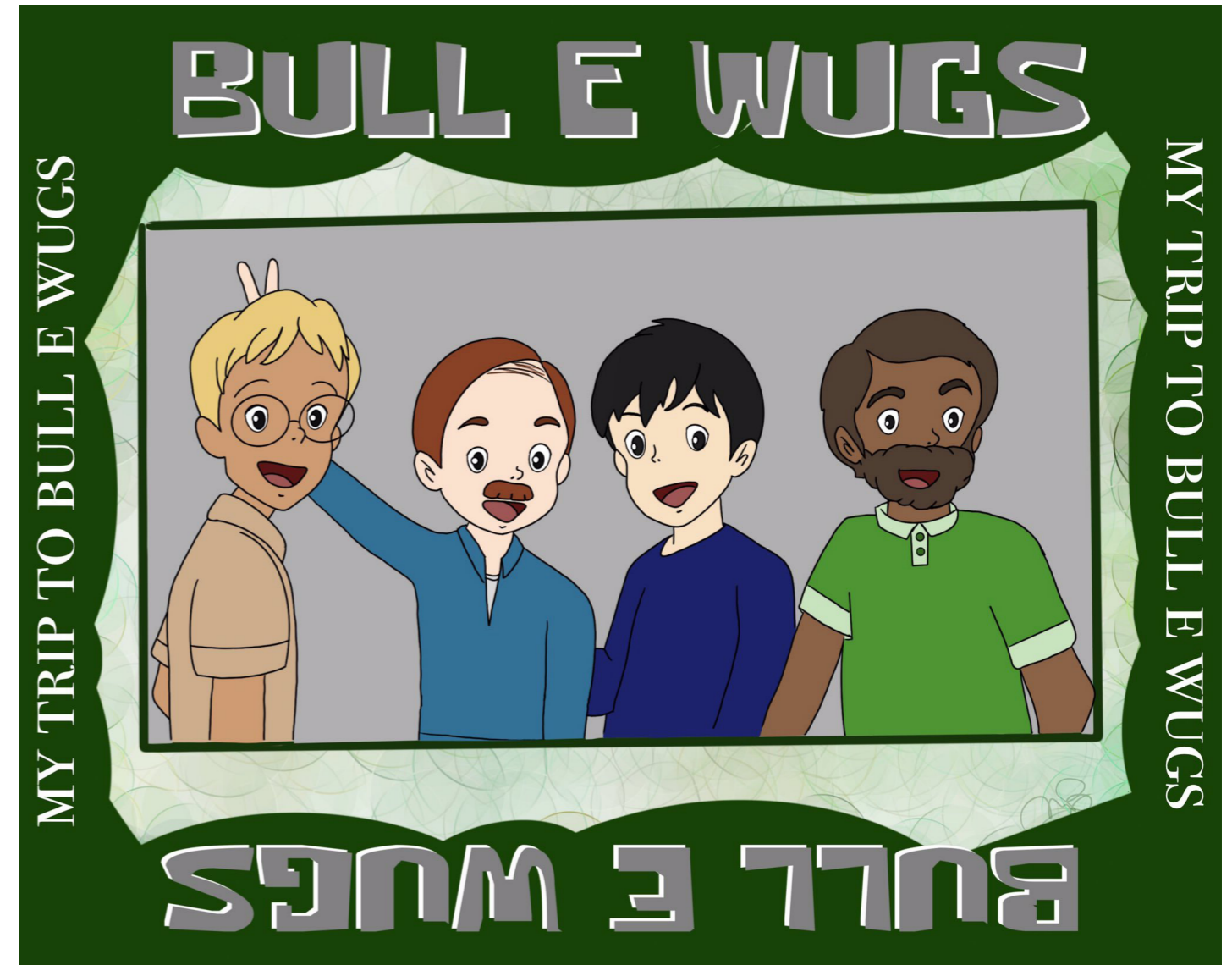


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FAN ART!



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FAN ART!



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