


DADDY ISSUES

A man with a beard, wearing a black and white striped t-shirt, is carrying a young girl on his shoulders. The girl is wearing a red and black plaid shirt and blue jeans. She is holding a large white kite string that extends upwards and to the left. The background is a warm, golden sunset over a hilly landscape. The man is looking towards the right, and the girl is looking towards the left.

MARCH 2020

THE IDES OF MARCH!

GLENN TEACHES YOU ABOUT GUITAR PEDALS

HENRY SHOWS YOU HOW TO BE MORE COMPASSIONATE

PLUS! HOW TO MAKE A MEMORABLE NPC!

HOW TO MAKE A MEMORABLE NPC

TIPS ON SIDE CHARACTERS YOUR PLAYERS WOULD DIE FOR!



ANTHONY BURCH
DADDY MASTER

NPCs are going to be responsible for a lot of the narrative and emotional burden of your campaign. They'll be the ones giving your players the boring information about what they need to do next. They'll be the ones getting kidnapped and/or killed and/or seduced to the dark side when you need to give your campaign some dramatic stakes.

So, how do you make an NPC memorable and worth caring about? In my experience, you just need to follow these goofy rules:

Give them a stupid-ass voice. People like hearing their friends do stupid voices. The stupider the voice, the more likely it is that your players will care about, and remember, the character.

Make your voice high pitched. Pick a weird accent. Give them some sort of verbal tic. Just try to make

them sound distinct and ludicrous enough that you elicit a reaction from your players -- any reaction. If they hate the voice, that's great, too -- just make that NPC a turncoat and allow them the joy of killing said NPC, so they'll never have to hear his voice again.

Give them an obvious quirk. Scam Likely likes to scam people. Paeden always wants to fight, no matter what. The Library is a book pervert. Pick one or two really clear, obvious quirks, and let those define your NPCs. You can explore other avenues of their personalities once your players grow to actually care about your NPCs, but when you're first introducing them? Go broad and unsubtle and loud.

Don't be married to your NPCs, and don't do a ton of prep work for them. Nothing is worse than watching a DM force you to interact with an NPC they created just so you can experience the Deep and Fascinating Backstory that nobody in their right mind would care about.

Treat your NPCs like you'd treat Hearthstone cards: you want each individual one to accomplish a goal, but if it ends up failing at that goal, then you just play a different card. If you spend a lot of time on an NPC that your players then ignore or seem not to like, you'll feel crushed. Conversely, if you didn't think of much for your NPC other than the words "mustache" and "weird British stuffy accent," then it's not going to break your heart if your players ignore them.

Besides: not doing a bunch of prep work on an NPC gives you more time to create a larger number of them. If your players don't respond to one NPC, then no biggie -- just insert another NPC into the story.

Give them a unique relationship to your player characters.

I haven't done as much of this in DAD as I'd like, but it never hurts to give your NPCs a special connection to your players. Not necessarily in terms of "I'm your cousin," (because that's a superficial relationship that doesn't put either character in a specific emotional context), but in terms of emotionally charged relationships like, "I'm in love with you even though we just met." Or "I specifically want to kill you because the unnamed mook you killed three sessions ago was my dad." Or, "I've heard you're the best at [x] and I want to prove you're not as good as me." Giving your NPCs specific relationships to your PCs allows you to build your conflicts and set pieces out of specific character motivations, rather than arbitrary plot stuff.

(Again, I need to do way more of this in DAD. I'm just sort of realizing that as I type this.)

Anyway, that's about it. Be lazy, be unsubtle, and always prioritize your players' enjoyment over the story you wanna tell.

DARRYL'S BARREL

A GUIDE TO BEER PAIRINGS FROM
THE BREWMASTER DARRYL WILSON

How y'all doing fine readers over the age of 21. (Or 18 for you Europeans, certain Canadians, and well, I guess most of the rest of the world, actually.)

With St. Patrick's Day coming up, I thought I would share some of the best ways to enjoy a nice cold beer with your loved ones!

Before we dive in, let's look at some of the basic criteria for how I am judging good beer pairings. Some beers demand a food that contrasts its flavors. Other beers, usually milder varieties, benefit from food that compliments its flavors. Some pairings may work because a beer can act as a palate cleanser, such as for spicy foods. But regardless of what you are going for, you are always trying to avoid flavors that overpower each other.

Now, while these pairings are for my *own* delicious drinks, they should work for any beer of the style.

“Pail” Ale

Ah, the standard. The classic. Now, my pale ale, *Pail Ale* is a nice hoppy beer with just enough bitterness that makes every sip feel like you're traveling down a bubbly river towards flavor country. That makes pale ales an excellent palate cleanser and it pairs well with sour and slightly zesty foods.

Recommended Pairings:

Cheese Pizza
Sharp Cheddar
BBQ meats

You Don't Saison!

I know, with a fancy name like Saison, you might think “Darryl, are you trying to trick me into having wine?” Heck no! I would never spring that sour grape juice on you. I was weary of trying a Saison, but I'm glad I did. First off, despite the fancy name, this

delicious origin is the farmhouse. Brewed to perfection by working class people looking for a refreshing drink after working in the fields – Saisons are smooth, creamy and go down easier than just about any other brew. Makes it a perfect beer to pair with your favorite foods.

Recommended Pairings:

Margherita Pizza
American Cheddar
BBQ Meats

Bock ‘em, Sock ‘em

The Bock is a difficult beer, and the only lager I currently make. Cold stored for a few extra months to smooth out the complex flavors, Bocks are a rich dark malty version of the sort of beer that us Americans love. Its like a Budweiser and a medium-rare Steak had a kid, and then slathered that kid with some homemade BBQ sauce. It's a perfect drink for when your taste buds are feeling touch adventurous on a hot afternoon!

Recommended Pairings

Pepperoni and Mushroom Pizza
Aged Cheddar
BBQ Meats

4th Down Brown

You on the edge of your seat watching the big game? Is your team on 4th and long, and they're going for it? What beer are you gonna grab when your QB calls hike? Well, if you're at the Wilsons, it'll be my delicious Brown Ale. Now, some beer snobs turn their noses up at this simple brew. But for my money, there is no better session beer than a slightly chocolatey, velvety smooth Brown Ale.

Recommended Pairings:

Meat Lovers Pizza
Nacho Cheese
Nachos with BBQ Meats

Darryl's Big and Stout, Chocolate Stout for Stout Gals and Lads

There is nothing quite like the smooth velvety feel of a frothy stout. My *BSCS-SGL* is of the milder, Guinness variety of stouts. In my opinion, if you punch up a stout, you might as well call it a porter. This is a beer to sip, while enjoying good friends and good conversation, on a lazy pleasant evening. Great to pair with desserts, and sweet foods!

Recommended Pairings:

Hawaiian Pizza
Farmhouse Cheddar
Sweet BBQ
Ice Cream (replace that root beer with a stout, and enjoy a Beer float, why don't ya?)

There you have it! Next time you reach for a frothy cold one, remember - let the flavors of your foods compliment the beer, and you'll be scoring touchdowns with your taste buds in no time!



OAK'S ANIMAL FRIENDLY IDIOMS

TRY OUT THESE ANIMAL -APPROVED ALTERNATIVE TURNS OF PHRASE!

Hey, gang!

Recently, my pal Darryl asked me if there was a more “animal friendly” version of the classic idiom, “kill two birds with one stone.” The alternative we came up with - “free two wild birds that have been recently caught but are not domesticated that are in a cage with one key, and then you let them out and let them back into their natural habitat” - definitely has a certain pithy zing to it.

But it got me to thinkin’ - what about all the *other* idioms out there that involve chasing wild geese, catching tigers by their tail, and putting cats into bags?

Fortunately, the fine folks at PETA have put together a list of animal-friendly alternatives to some of our most commonly used sayings. But since they’re busy as beavers, I figured I’d help expand the list with a few additions of my own. So without further ado, here’s some *cruelty free idioms ala Henry!*

The phrase: “Can’t make an omelette without breaking a few eggs.”

What it means: “You don’t get something for nothing.”

Why it’s bad: Good news - it’s just not true anymore! A simple Google search for “vegan omelette” will bring you all sorts of yummy recipes with no egg-breaking required!

Try instead: “You can’t make tofu without grinding a few beans.” This variant is animal-free and conjures up the tasty image of a big brick of tofu. Who’s hungry?

The phrase: “The world is your oyster.”

What it means: “You’ve got the opportunity to do anything you wish.”

Why it’s bad: Easy there, pal. We don’t own oysters, we share the world with them.

Try instead: “The world is your buddy.” Because anything’s possible with a friend by your side!

The phrase: “Well, I’ll be a monkey’s uncle!”

What it means: “I am so surprised!”

Why it’s bad: This musty old phrase has its origins in the 19th century, when people used it to mock Charles Darwin’s Theory of Evolution. Alas, 4 in 10 adult Americans still don’t believe in evolution - and silly phrases like this one don’t help one bit! So let’s disinvite the “Monkey’s Uncle” from our next family reunion and leave him in the past where he belongs.

Try instead: “Well, I’ll be a monkey’s distant cousin through our last common ancestor.” Now, that’s more like it - not only is this variation scientifically accurate, it’s gender-neutral to boot!

The phrase: “The birds and the bees”

What it means: “The talk” - aka, sexual intercourse and reproduction.

Why it’s bad: Hmm, let’s see, *humans don’t lay eggs or spread pollen!* Not only are you confusing your kid about the facts of life, you’re teaching them bad science!

Look, gang, I’m not trying to go on a tear about this one, but it strikes close to home. A few years back at a family gathering, my brother-in-

law started talking to my beautiful boys Lark and Sparrow about “the birds and the bees.” The next thing ya know, Lark was “hatching an egg” in the potato salad and Sparrow was trying to pollinate a rosebush!

Try instead: Kids are a lot smarter than you think. They can handle the truth without a whole bunch of sugar coating. That’s why I recommend sitting them down at a young age to talk about “the special grown-up hugs that make babies sometimes.”

The phrase: “Shooting fish in a barrel.”

What it means: “This task will be as easy as slaughtering animals in a confined space.”

Why it’s bad: Yikes! Do I even need to explain this one? Who put these fish in a barrel? Why are we shooting them? This simile is as cruel as so-called “dolphin safe” tuna!

Try instead: I like to give this metaphor a modern twist - and score points with my sons’ gamer friends - by saying, “that’s as easy as Dark Souls 3 on Nightmare Mode!” By implying that I find the notoriously tricky Nintendo game Dark Souls easy, I sound like a really cool gamer who knows what the “high score” is! This is what’s called “a flex,” for your 411.

I hope these examples can inspire you to get creative and come up with your own idiosyncratic idioms. If you do, you’ll be “clever as a fox” in my book!

RON'S REEL REVIEWS



MORE FILM REVIEWS FROM
RON STAMPLER

**THE MUMMY (1999) &
THE MUMMY RETURNS (2001)**
DIR. STEPHEN SOMMERS

Samantha and I watched both of these movies on the same night and I can't remember which things happened in which movies. We were both a little distracted by each other if you know what I mean... ;)

What I mean is that Samantha told me that Brandon Fraiser has nice forearms, and so I started staring at my forearms and trying to pronounce the name of the actress who plays the character of Evelyn. Her first name is Rachel. I said her last name was Wise but Samantha said no it's Vice, so I said Vase? She said no Vice, and now I know how Rachel Weiss is pronounced. The CGI effects of this movie were stunning, very realistic and scary.

3.5/5 stars. ★★☆☆

BACK TO THE FUTURE (1985)
DIR. ROBERT ZEMECKIS

Back to the Future is a movie about a teenager who wants the best for his parents. Marty the Fly skateboards and knows a scientist named Doc. Doc says he knows a way that Marty's parents can be hotter in the present and let's him go back to the past (even though Doc is not a medical doctor) but sure enough, Marty puts the moves on his mom in the past and everyone lives happily ever after until the sequel which is in the future.

3.5/5 stars. ★★☆☆

BABE (1995)
DIR. CHRIS NOONAN

Babe is a movie about a pig. I know, I know...you thought the movie was going to be about a babe as in an attractive person! Good news! This pig is also attractive and is named Babe. It all makes sense.

Babe wants to be a dog but is a pig. He learns how to be a dog by talking to sheep and being polite. This felt like a strong moral lesson, because it means that you can achieve your dreams by talking to sheep.

3.5/5 stars. ★★☆☆

RATATOUILLE (2007)
DIR. BRAD BIRD, JAN PINKAVA

This is a movie about a rat who cooks using a man's hands. The man is a chef, which means that he is allowed to cook for humans, but rats are not allowed to cook for humans, so the rat in *Ratatouille* has to use

a human by controlling the human's hair with his rat hands. Using his rat hands on the man's hair to cook elegant dishes, he and the chef man make a wonderful team. The man in *Ratatouille* uses his own hands for other tasks, but not cooking. He wants a girlfriend. I know, I know...who wants a girlfriend when you can have a rat? Good news! At the end, the chef has the rat and his girlfriend and they make food with all of their hands.

3.5/5 stars. ★★☆☆

SEABISCUIT (2003)
DIR. GARY ROSS

If you think about it, this so-called film is just the Pixar classic *Ratatouille*, except in reverse (i.e. instead of an animal (in the case of *Ratatouille* - a "rat")) piloting a human, this movie is a human piloting an animal (in this case, a "horse"). I did not enjoy it!

3.5/5 stars. ★★☆☆

PRIMER (2004)
DIR. SHANE CARRUTH

This movie about time travel is very interesting and easy to follow.

5/5 stars. ★★★★★

Let's face it - the ideal scenario where you're plugged straight into a cranked tube amp and just filling up the entire mall food court with your screamin' hot saturated tube tones is generally frowned upon. Plus, sometimes, the song calls for something a bit different than a scorching hot fifteen minute solo over the bridge of Jingle Bells.

That's where the mainstay of every gigging guitarist comes in - the pedalboard!

Now there's tons of questions I'm sure you're asking - what order should I put them in? Do I need to use the FX loop of my amp? How important is an external power supply? And when it comes to pedals, there's really only one answer to all those questions: do whatever sounds good!

That said, there's some general rules of thumb you can follow:

Hard stuff first, spacey stuff last!

Start off your board with your distortions and fuzzes and overdrives, and feed that crunchy signal into the "modulation" pedals - i.e. the stuff that makes your tone sound like you're in space. That covers your reverbs, your choruses, your delays - my rule of thumb is if it's a pedal you turn on and can really zone out to, those should probably come later. And speaking of zoning out...

Loopers are great!

Recently, I've noticed a bunch of YouTube video recommendations on my usual UFO conspiracy fare for people doing these rad one-person performances with looper pedals. Looks like the internet's finally catching up to something pro guitarists have known for years - loopers are awesome!

Me, I run four different looper pedals because you never know

when you'll have a lick or need to lay down a drone tonal bed over something. Now these pedals never actually show up when I play gigs with the Trio, but often it gives me peace of mind to know that, at any point, I could stun the crowd for seven or eight hours with a bunch of great loop stuff!

Now Dillon, our current drummer, is usually like "dang it Glenn nobody wants to listen to yer dang shoegaze ambient soundscapes for eight hours straight we're trying to play Drummer Boy quit looping" but that's because his feet are tied up workin' the skins and he can't have a loop pedal.

That's why I have four - because I gotta make up for the fact that nobody else in the band uses them!

Boutique and vintage automatically sound better!

Now, I hear some of you out there saying "Come on, G-man, most guitar pedals represent simple electronic circuits using components that have been around since World War II! How much of a different could "vintage" parts possibly make, especially as most A/B testing reveals 99% of people can't hear the difference and the overall tone depends strongly on a host of other factors such as pick attack and playing technique that would completely obviate any slight differences between various builds, and plus, in situations where there is an A/B test in controlled settings, the variation in potentiometer components means that even the same pedal side-by-side with itself with identical knob settings can yield slight voltage differences in the signal path so as to make them sound different!"

To which I say - listen bucko I spent two grand on this Klon Centaur and I don't care what you say it sounds like it's worth every penny!

Have two tuners in case something goes wrong!

Tuners are so cool. Like - how do they know what the note is? It's magic. I run two tuners on my pedalboard just in case something's wonky (plus the second, more expensive tuner makes my guitar sound much better - I swear!) This way, I use a technique I call "tuning by consensus." If both tuners agree with each other, that means you're in tune!

I like to imagine there's like a little music UN somewhere and the tuners are little ambassadors and they're arguin' with each other like "no this D-string is out of whack!" and the other's like "no way it's totally great!" and they got those little translator dudes whisperin' in their ear and being like "hey this other tuner's a total tool, right?" and the tuner they're talkin' to is all trying not to crack up and cause a big ol' scene.

Anyways, I don't think you need two tuners, but I think it looks really cool because of all the lights and stuff.

Always say you built your pedals!

Folks might ask you about your pedals, but your tone is your tone, my dawgs. I always lie and say I built all my pedals by hand thanks to my electrical engineering degree from University of Phoenix Online (which was way better than the Offline university), to throw tone pirates off my scent. Sometimes they'll be like "What do you mean? That's clearly a TS-808 it even says TS-808 on it" to which I'll wink conspiratorially and be like "naw naw, that's just my special secret sauce overdrive housed in a TS-808 body just to throw tone pirates off my scent" to which they'll usually nod and be like "uh ok."

Disaster averted - rock on!

FANCY FOOTWORK

GLENN CLOSE'S GUIDE TO MAXIMIZING YOUR PEDAL BOARD!



GLENN & NICK CLOSE
DISNEYLAND 2020

AM I A PRETTY
PRINCESS NICK??



Above: The dads and the kids, by @honeybeaaaah on IG
Below: The dads read the letters, by @peachilyarts on Tumblr

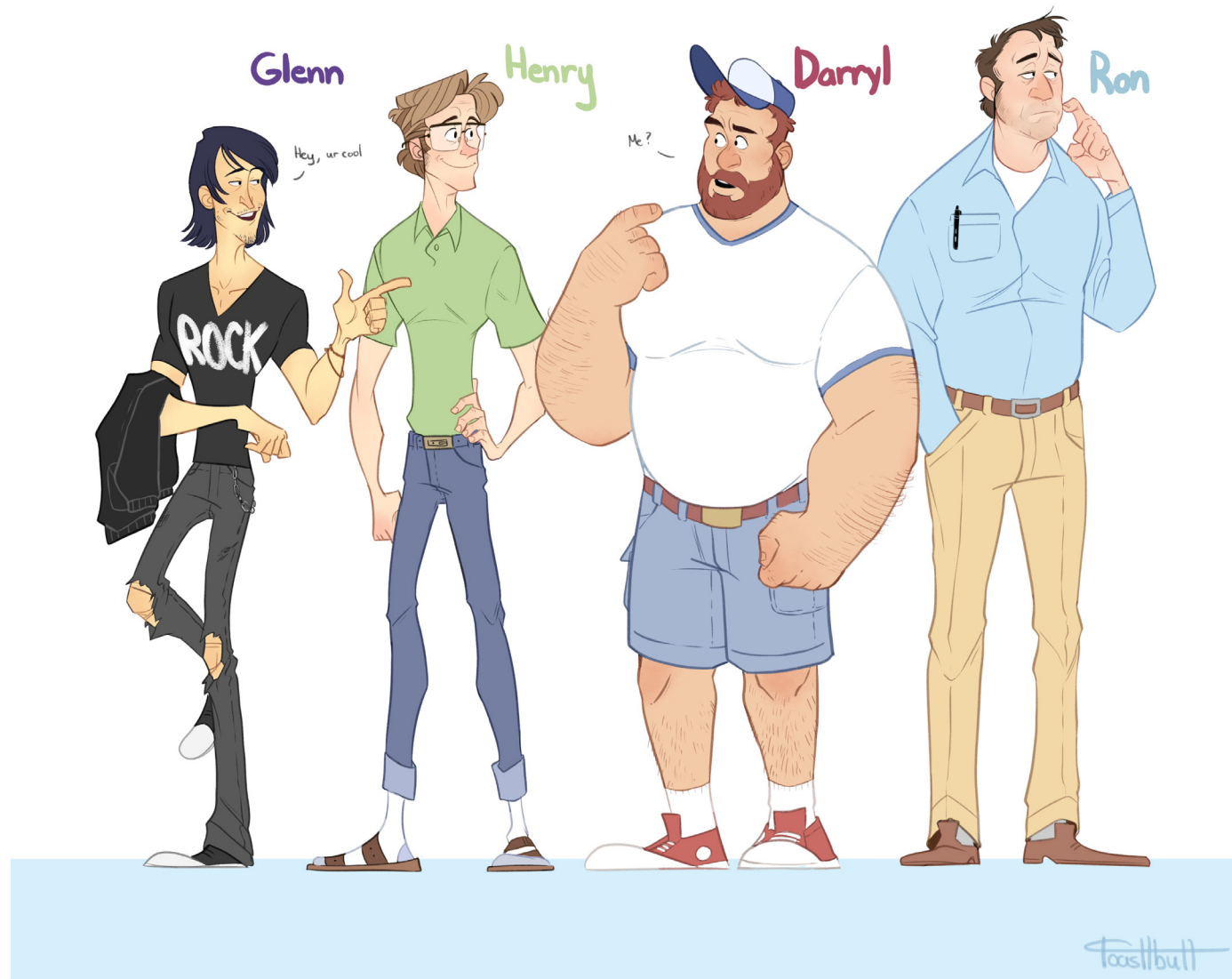


Top left: Glenn and Nick at Disneyland by Kat Curwin
(@coastalkitty and katcurwin.com)

Top right: Ron Stampler, ready for combat, by Izzy
(@canidayy on Twitter and @caniday on IG)

Bottom right: Darryl and Henry hug, by Jenny Pan





Above: The kids pose, by [@nomorenouns](#) on [Twitter](#) and [Tumblr](#)
 Below: The podcast celebrates our first birthday, by [@nojaloart](#) on IG, [@lopxart](#) on Tumblr

Above: Casual dads, by [Toastbutt \(@toasttdoods\)](#) on Tumblr

Below: Ron reads his letter, by Sarah White

