



A Christmas Caper

*Episode 1: The Ginger Resistance
Transcript*

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

Realms of Peril and Glory will begin after these short messages.

James Barbarossa

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Zachary Fortais-Gomm

Hello everyone and welcome to Realms of Peril and Glory. We are here on a special Christmas episode or or few episodes. I am here playing A Christmas Caper, a game of my own invention heavily inspired of course, by the wonderful "Automnjobs," inspired by "We Fix Space Junk," "Honey Heist," and "Laser Feelings," and I am here with Felix Trench -

Felix Trench

Hello!

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

- who are you playing Felix?

Felix Trench

I'm playing a traditional snowman called John.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

Wonderful! I love that. I'm also here with Beth Crane -

Beth Crane

Hello!

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

- and who are you playing?

Beth Crane

I am playing a sexy penguin called Scarlet Addley.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

I believe the descriptor was vixen -

Beth Crane

A vixen penguin

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

- but I'll take "sexy."

Beth Crane

They're very similar, I assure you.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

I'm here with Laura Girling -

Laura Girling

Hello!

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

- and who were you playing?

Laura Girling

I'll be playing a sweet elf called Merry Jingle.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

And I'm here with James Barbarossa.

James Barbarossa

Hi, I will be playing a gingerbread man called Gumdrop.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

Great. So we are going to start the game momentarily, but just for all of you at home, the system works on two levels: Naughty and Nice. The better the characters become at Naughty things, the worse they become at Nice things. And vice versa, the better they are at Nice, the worse they are at Naughty. The players are going to be trying to roll under their Naughty or Nice stat in order to succeed, and the more Nice or Naughty checks they do, the better they become at those certain skills. So, without any further ado, we're just gonna kick in and have a bit of fun if that's okay with everyone. Yeah, yeah.

James Barbarossa

I hate fun, so it's a hard no for me.

Laura Girling

Off you go then.

Beth Crane

You got to go and do your taxes instead.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

Wonderful. So here we go. Snowflakes fall from the sky as Christmas Spirit fills the air. You are in the North Pole, home of wondrous wintry sights like the vast Eggnog River, the colossal Candy Cane Mountains and the mysterious Sugar Plum Forest. All the whimsy and wonder in the world must first begin here before it fills the hearts of the people of the world. Down we descend on Santa's Workshop topped with smoking chimneys and wrapped in brightly lit windows. Behind the windows are the elves feverishly working away. They are busy building the toys for this year's Christmas. The big day is only a few sleeps away, and the whole of the North Pole is giving their final great push to make this Christmas perfect. Beyond the workshop, Santa's Grand Tower emerges, the natural crystalline formation made of ice and stone that oversees all of the North Pole. Nestled at the very top is Santa's sleigh already jam packed with toys and yet still more are on the way. From within the tower a bright flash of light bursts into life! Christmas Spirit itself explodes from the tower

and the very magic on which the North Pole sustains itself seems to fade. Ice crystals burst from the tower as a slender figure glides through the air, snow and ice forming under their feet. [Ominous Laugh] Jack Frost escapes from Santa's workshop. Bells of warning and panic begin to ring out across the North Pole. Something terrible has happened in the land of whimsy and wonder.

The next morning machines were away as the workers hustle and bustle in the workshop. Merry, you are being guided along by an older elf woman who met you at reception. She is taking you and a group of three others to the top of the tower. As you walk through the workshop, many of the Elves turn their gaze on you, wondering exactly what is going on within Santa's Tower and why an elf, a gingerbread man, a penguin, and a snowman are being led to the top of the tower. You step into a buffed bronze lift that shuts as an attendant elf throws a lever. The lift shutters to life carrying you up the tower. Merry, you take the opportunity to take another look at the letter which was delivered by turtle dove to your cottage early this morning. It summoned you to the workshop with no apparent reason why. You see the same note in the hands of the three others who join you in the lift. It appears that you all have been summoned.

Laura Girling

Does anyone else know - Does anyone know why we're here?

Beth Crane

Well, I can think of a whole list of reasons but not one that springs to mind

James Barbarossa

If I were to wager a guess, man, I'd - I'd say it was something to do with that exploding ice from yesterday. You know what I mean? Anybody else see that? Or was I just hallucinating it?

Beth Crane

I was otherwise engaged.

Felix Trench

Doing what? It was ice, exploding in the sky! What do you mean you were otherwise engaged? What were you doing?

Laura Girling

Must've been doing something very fun.

James Barbarossa

Hey, man, I think we should leave the lady to her private business, dude.

Beth Crane

Yeah, I think maybe I'd like to keep my private life private.

Felix Trench

I don't talk to biscuits.

James Barbarossa

Wow, man -

Beth Crane

Whoa.

James Barbarossa

that's you see - this is some classic - this is some classic Snowman behaviour. You guys can see right here they think they own everything, man, for real.

Beth Crane

Like you're both - you're both anthrop- anthropomorphic personifications. You do know that right? We're all... On the surface, you might look different, but you're very very similar inside. And I can vouch for that

Felix Trench

This is the sort of Liberal nonsense I've come to expect from Penguins.

James Barbarossa

If we don't put a stop to these people, man, before you know it, there's a Fascist uprising in the North Pole. And we already have a fat cat at the top controlling us, dude. You see this is the problem that we get ourselves into until we put a stop to these kinds of people, man

Beth Crane

And I don't like cats.

Felix Trench

I don't know where you get the word "we."

James Barbarossa

Hey, you know, it's - it's like cutting out people with your disposition, man. You're always going to be probl - like give peace a chance, dude.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

The lift comes to a sudden, juddery stop and the doors slide open. Gumdrop, you struggle to stifle a gasp in your stupored state as the soaring ceilings of Santa's private workroom encircle you overhead. The walls -

James Barbarossa

Damn, dude.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

The walls are covered in vast bookshelves, stone columns section the room, and the set of double stairs lead up to a tucked away second level. Sat in an ancient amber chair is an equally ancient-looking elf who glances up to see all four of you as you enter. She nods to the elf who escorted you up, who promptly returns to the lift, where the attendant throws the lever, shutting the doors and returning the lift to the ground. You are in Santa's private workroom.

[Character voice] Hello, my name is Gretchen. Welcome to the work room.

Beth Crane

Good to meet you, Gretchen. I don't quite understand why we're here.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

Yes, well, I'd like to firstly thank you all for coming so quickly.

James Barbarossa

You're welcome, man. Don't worry about it.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

Before we go any further into this I need you all to understand that confidentiality is rather key in all this it would be of utmost importance if you could assure me that you will not breathe a word of what - what - what is discussed in this room with anyone else.

Laura Girling

Of course, secrets are fun.

Beth Crane

Oh, I keep a lot of secrets.

James Barbarossa

Hey, man, yeah, like you do you, your business is your business, but I think if something's in the public interest, you'd probably be best to let them know, dude.

Felix Trench

I'm not signing anything.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

Yes, it's more a gentleman's promise. Mr. John Frost is it

Felix Trench

Yes. It's not impressive. I'm in the directory.

Beth Crane

So you related to you know, to Jack Frost

Felix Trench

Yes, of course. We're both made of water.

Beth Crane

Okay.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

I thought there was no relation between yourself under and Mr. Jack is-is, are you in fact blood-related family.

James Barbarossa

Ice-related, dude.

Felix Trench

We're water-related, we're water based, but today we're all just one big puddle.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

But not - but not-not - you've never met one of them, have you?

James Barbarossa

Blood's thicker than water, dude.

Felix Trench

We're not nose-to-nose.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

No

James Barbarossa

Carrot-to-carrot.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

Well - [stammering]

Felix Trench

I've heard about enough of the cookie dough.

James Barbarossa

Hey, man, I'm not just cookie dough. I think you'll find I'm baked.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

Yes, well, you see, um... right. Okay, this is exactly why I brought you in this sort of gump-tion is what we need. Listen, there's been - there's been a bit of a problem and well Santa's hat has been stolen.

Laura Girling

[gasps]

James Barbarossa

Damn.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

Yes it's quite-quite a problem. You see, without it Christmas cannot go ahead, do you see? It's a little known fact, we try to keep it secret, but much of Santa's magic actually does come from the hat itself and without the true hat, we cannot have Christmas.

Beth Crane

So the question is what can the hat do on its own?

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

The hat is inert, it's more of a - of-of-of - it's an item to - to use it - it's been stolen, see it's - it's -

Beth Crane

Oh, I meant would it transform whoever took it into an Ersatz Santa?

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

No, it's unfortunately, no, Santa and the hat are two separate items; to have the hat does not inherently mean you are Santa. While the hat does choose the next Santa, when there is a current Santa, it cannot - you cannot make a new Santa.

Felix Trench

I know what you're thinking of you're thinking of the film "The Santa Clause."

Beth Crane

I assure you I am not.

Felix Trench

Well, I love that film.

James Barbarossa

I don't think anyone's thinking of that film, man.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

We - we do rather distance ourselves from that film, unfortunately.

James Barbarossa

You would, dude. You must love Tim Allen, dude.

Felix Trench

Lovely man!

James Barbarossa

You're getting off track, dude.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

Listen, there will be compensation: Santa himself will personally owe you a favour if-if you - if you - if you - if you help us retrieve the hat.

Beth Crane

Well, I can always do with a favour.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

Yes, everyone else in the workshop is absolutely JAM PACKED trying to get ourselves ready

for Christmas, there's simply not enough time! So look, we need your help if we're going to be able to get the hat back.

Laura Girling

Well, it's always nice to help and I finished making all of my worms on strings for this Christmas.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

Yes that is - yes that is part of the reason why we caught up here was because you you hit your quota for the year so -

Laura Girling

I'm quite speedy!

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

- would - could - would you all agree to-to help us with this?

Beth Crane

Well, I can always do with another favour from the old man so I'm on board.

James Barbarossa

I mean, noth-nothing would please me more to spend more days in this frigid icy hellscape, dude. You know, I can't think of a better place to live.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

The reason I brought you here specifically was because this is where the hat was stolen from normally - [Natural voice] and she gestures to a glass case where-where the hat is kept - [Character voice] normally the hat is kept in this-this case here and-and well, it-it looks as though someone broke into the case, but problem is that this-this room was impenetrable. We don't know how they got in. The alarms weren't tripped or nothing. So we just don't know what could possibly have happened.

James Barbarossa

Well, did you ever consider that he stole the hat himself, dude?

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

I assure you Santa did not steal this hat.

James Barbarossa

It's an inside job, man.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

Santa was with me when the hat was stolen.

James Barbarossa

Convenient allibi!

Beth Crane

So, did you steal the hat?

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

I did not steal the hat! I'm -

Laura Girling

So you worked with Santa to steal the hat?

James Barbarossa

It's all making perfect sense, man!

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

Look, I didn't steal the hat.

Laura Girling

So then if you guys have the hat, then what-what do you need our help for? I'm happy to help. I just don't really understand.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

No, you're not understanding, we don't have the hat. We did not steal the hat together. It was not an inside job. We have no motivation to do so.

Beth Crane

So why are you protesting so hard?

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

Because I don't have the hat.

Felix Trench

I'm unclear on why you need the hat for Christmas to go ahead. If it has no special properties.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

No, it does have special properties. You see it is - it-it-it has the ability to grant wishes you see. And, um -

Felix Trench

Right.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

- it's intensely magical.

Felix Trench

Right.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

And it is what allows the sleigh to fly. It's what allows Santa to deliver all of the presents in

plenty of time.

James Barbarossa

Plus, it's part of his whole image.

Felix Trench

So you - so you need fuel.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

No, we need the magic

Felix Trench

Sounds like you need fuel. We're in the Arctic, there's probably an oil rig around here somewhere.

James Barbarossa

Let me ask you this, dude, if this room is impenetrable, then how did you get in, dude?

Laura Girling

How did we get in?

James Barbarossa

How did I get in?

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

The defense's weren't raised when I let you in?

Felix Trench

We came in the lift

James Barbarossa

Aah, nah, I remember that now. I thought that might have been a dream.

Beth Crane

So could you take us to the area where Jack Frost made his exit

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

Well he left from - he left from several-several levels below, that's what we don't understand. Somehow the hat got from here - [Natural voice] And she points to the-the case with broken glass - [Character voice] all the way down. Jack Frost, it seems, never, from anything we could tell got-got up here. So somehow, the hat got from in this room to downstairs.

Beth Crane

I'd like to waddle over and take a look at the glass.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

[Natural voice] Yes, please do. So. Could you please roll me a-a-a Naughty check for notic-

ing, like, criminal things?

Beth Crane

Well, that's a five, so I succeed, I think.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

Yes, you do succeed. Um, yes. So, you notice the glass was broken from the inside.

Beth Crane

That is as I suspected. I feel that the hat may have been removed from this case from the inside -

James Barbarossa

The hat stole itself, dude.

Beth Crane

- not smashed into from the outside. Was the hat sentient?

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

[Character voice] I don't believe the hat was sentient.

Beth Crane

But can that be confirmed?

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

I'm fairly certain I'm about 98% sure. [Natural voice] Merry, could you roll me a Nice check for-for recognising kind of Nice Christmas Magic.

Laura Girling

Christmas magic, yeah. I got a three!

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

Wonderful. Merry, you notice that in amongst the glass, and you couldn't quite see it before, but there's some crumbs from a gumdrop?

Laura Girling

Oh

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

- the thing for which you're named, Gumdrop.

James Barbarossa

Hey, man, I ain't got nothing to do this, dude. That's probably water here. We don't see pointing fingers at Frost boy, over here.

Felix Trench

John.

James Barbarossa

Such a square name for a series of circles.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

It looks as though a Gingerbread person was here.

Laura Girling

Do we? Do we know if Jack Frost is known to work with any Gingerbread people?

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

[Character voice] Well, I suppose up until this moment, I hadn't thought about it, but we had received a couple of letters through - from - well, there's this organisation, we're not sure. It's called the Ginger Resistance.

Felix Trench

Hmm.

James Barbarossa

Damn

Laura Girling

Sounds delightful.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

They've demanded action, they want they want more respect for-for cookies and for confectionery. They've asked for, well, they've asked for us to put a stop on eating cookies, you see, but, you know, we're not eating sentient cookies, but you know, regular cookies. They've asked for us to stop it. Well, it's such an essential part of Christmas. How can we - how could we stop it?

James Barbarossa

Hey, man, I think the more interesting question is why you're giving some cookies sentience, dude? That's really wild.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

It's a natural occurrence, we don't do it on purpose.

James Barbarossa

Yeah.

Beth Crane

And can you usually tell whether a cookie is sentient before you get to the point of eating it? Or has there been some kind of disgusting accident where creatures have woken up whilst being eaten?

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

I don't personally know of any incident of that, but I mean, maybe, but I don't think so.

James Barbarossa

This whole world's gotta wake up, man.

Laura Girling

Are there any gingerbread people who have access to this office normally?

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

Well, not normally, but well, we do bring up a plate of cookies for Santa every evening. It's possible the Gingerbread person might have snuck in on on a plate of cookies.

James Barbarossa

You know, things like that dude, were originally conceived as ways to intimidate the Gingerbread population. It's all ritualistic, dude. While I'm at it, I'm going to take a look at the gumdrops and see if they're from anyone I recognise, dude.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

[Natural voice] Okay, roll me a Nice check for recognising a friend.

James Barbarossa

Two.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

Great, so you succeed and you will move one rung up the Nice ladder. So you notice that this gumdrop? Let me just check here, umm - it's a purple gumdrop. Um, purple gumdrops are pretty ubiquitous. Um, pretty - you, yourself, have purple gumdrops. So all of yours are-are present, you know so you-you -

Beth Crane

You spend a moment being like, "Is this mine?"

James Barbarossa

It hurts to take them off, man. It hurts to take them off!

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

Um, so you think that it's quite possible that a gingerbread person would have to find a replacement gumdrop. But you know that whoever did - whoever did steal this is definitely missing a gumdrop from their-their buttons

James Barbarossa

Where do the gumdrops come from when Gingerbread men are made?

Felix Trench

Well, presumably there's a mould.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

Why don't you tell me, James?

Felix Trench

Sugar and gelatin.

James Barbarossa

There must be somewhere, man. That's what I'm saying, I'm saying if we track down where there might have been other gum drops and somebody who's seeking to replace that Gumdrop might have gone back.

Felix Trench

Right, right. Yes. Is there -

James Barbarossa

Is there some sort of Gumdrop shop?

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

Well, you know, for a fact that the general store the general store in the Gingerbread Village sells gumdrops.

James Barbarossa

I do hate that General. He's a classic military man.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

Great. So the owner of the general stores now a general. You notice, John, you notice that the crumbs continue on out the window, and it looks as -

Felix Trench

The crumbs continue on outside the window. And it looks as though -

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

- looks as though the Gingerbread person, whoever it was -

Felix Trench

- the Gingerbread person, whoever it was -

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

- jumped down and gave the hat to Jack Frost, there.

Felix Trench

- jumped down and gave the hat to Jack Frost, there.

Laura Girling

That's very insightful. John

James Barbarossa

Must use strawberry laces as a rope.

Beth Crane

No, that just sounds unrealistic.

Felix Trench

Gretchen why are we here? Why - you've got a whole presumably elf force at your disposal.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

[Character voice] Absolutely. And we are days from Christmas. They're busy.

Felix Trench

Why us? Why do I get a summons? What, is it like jury duty? What is this?

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

Frankly, you all weren't busy.

James Barbarossa

That's true. I really am not doing much.

Felix Trench

Excuse me! Excuse me. I'm not no, no. Listen, I am a snowman. I have one job and that is to stand in place. I was doing that very well.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

Then no one's going to miss you, are they John?

Felix Trench

Cutting. And I'll have you know that my family have recently melted.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

Well, that's very sad. And perhaps you can wish them back from Santa with your favour.

Felix Trench

You don't want to waste a wish. So your reasoning is we weren't busy. I just want to be absolutely clear.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

Yes. Well, look, we've got to get Christmas in order. And frankly, someone had to do it and thought it'd be rather fun and friendly and like a game if you all did it.

Felix Trench

Does anyone want to go and get a meal?

Laura Girling

I feel like it's quite important to find this hat. It's nearly Christmas.

Beth Crane

I suppose there's a relative importance to it.

Laura Girling

And maybe if we get it back quickly, there'll be a chance for me to help make some of the

Xboxes and electronic toys this year.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

Yes, quite possibly. Yes.

James Barbarossa

Everybody cares about the Fat Man's hat, man, but nobody cares when Gingerbread men lose clothes, dude. You ever see - you see how that's funny, that the Fat Man loses his hat but - and suddenly, we all give a shit?

Beth Crane

How magical are your clothes Gumdrops?

James Barbarossa

I mean I'm where they stopped being my body and start being clothes is up for debate. It's frankly an existential horror, dude, but you know it's nobody's-nobody's - this guy has lost his gumdrops. I don't see a force out to find that. Wait - we're here for that. Damn, you got me. I'm in, dude, I'm in. How do we find this guy?

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

I suppose you better get going. Christmas is coming and we really need the hat.

James Barbarossa

Let's go down to the floor where Jack Frost was. Did the window break? We'll have to see.

Beth Crane

I'm on for that idea.

James Barbarossa

Awesome.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

[Natural voice] So yes, you take the lift down to the next level down. You see that this is a storeroom. So it looks as though this is where some mechanical parts are kept, maintenance stuff. You can see the telltale sign of Jack Frost in this location. It looks as though the walls have kind of frozen in a thin layer of frost and crystalline formations. It looks as though Jack Frost snuck into this room.

James Barbarossa

Damn, that's cold because of the ice.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

And it looks as though the Gingerbread person whoever they were jumped down to the level below and gave Jack Frost the hat.

Beth Crane

Are there any points of usual entry on this floor?

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

Well, it it comes up through the lift, there's open window. Jack Frost, as you can see, could fly so it's fully possible he snuck in here without anyone seeing him.

Beth Crane

I feel like the window is the most obvious option. But would Jack go for the most obvious option? That's, that's something to think about.

James Barbarossa

I don't know. Seems like he had pretty good motivation. I don't know why he'd care about originality now, dude. I mean, stealing, uh Santas hat. That's pretty textbook stuff, dude. You're an elf, dude, do you work, here?

Laura Girling

I know, but I don't really get to do that many things outside of the "worm on a string" room to be honest. I'd really like to branch out and try new things. But I sa-sadly, I haven't-haven't been able to yet.

Beth Crane

Worm on a string. Which ones are those?

Laura Girling

So they're the ones - they're, um, they're really a lot of fun. Basically, you've got - you've got this worm. And it's a - it's on a string.

Beth Crane

And you eat it?

Laura Girling

No, no, no, no, no, no, no. So what-what you do is you-you hold the string and you move your hands in a way that looks like - the - so the worm - the worm isn't actually moving your hands are moving. And it looks like the worm is moving in and out of your hands. It looks like there's a moving worm on your hands. It looks like the worm's alive. It's like magic

James Barbarossa

There's a worm inside your hands?

Felix Trench

Yeah, I've got a few of those. There are an awful lot of fun.

Beth Crane

I do only have flippers.

Laura Girling

I think it would still work with flippers.

Beth Crane

Hmm.

Felix Trench

I get - I get one every Christmas, worm on a string.

Laura Girling

Can I go to the “worm on a string” room and see if there’s a spare one for Scarlet?

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

Yeah, absolutely, roll me a Nice check - roll me a Nice check for finding a present.

Laura Girling

Ah, it’s just a - just a mess that.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

Ah, darn. No, no worm on a string in here, unfortunately.

Laura Girling

We’ll get you one another time, Scarlet.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

So you think you found all that you can from here, and so far I think your best lead is probably that someone in the Gingerbread Village is missing a gumdrop.

Felix Trench

Well, we better go to the Gingerbread Village.

James Barbarossa

Alright, I suggest we go hunt them down, dude.

Laura Girling

So, general store in the Gingerbread Village. Is that right?

James Barbarossa

Yeah, let’s go.

[AD BREAK]

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

Beyond the great towns surrounding the workshop is a small village made entirely of gingerbread.

Felix Trench

Oh god, it’s awful.

James Barbarossa

Yeah, you’re telling me, man.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

This Gingerbread Village is home to the confectionery people of the North Pole. The scent of freshly baked cookies, cinnamon, and chocolate waft through the air as you approach the village. A Gingerbread man with a bright purple icing sash and marzipan top hat strides up to you and introduces himself.

[Character voice] Well hello there. Lovely to meet to see some big folk out here in the Gingerbread Village. My name's Mayer Wafer, how can I be helping you all today?

James Barbarossa

I didn't vote for you.

Beth Crane

I offer him my flipper.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

Oh, nice to meet you. Nice to meet ya. How you doing?

Beth Crane

Charmed.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

Oh, I'm sure I am.

Laura Girling

It's great to meet you! We're, um, we're investigating a crime.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

Oh, wow. What kind of crime?

Laura Girling

Well, I don't think - I don't think we can say.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

Alright, well, how about this, I'll offer you a little spell to make you all just big enough to be able to talk to us Gingerbread folks? That sound good?

Laura Girling

I'd love that.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

Oh, great. [Natural voice] And he just waves his little candy cane stick. And you all, with the exception, of course, of Gumdrop who's already the correct size, shrink down to the size of -

James Barbarossa

This is too much power for a mayor to have. How do we allow so much power funnelling into the-the brass, the top politicians?

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

[Character voice] I'm just trying to make it so everyone can have a nice time talking to each other.

Felix Trench

I don't like that I can see into your eyes now.

Beth Crane

And what do you see in their eyes?

Felix Trench

I see sweets. I see boiled sweets. Not like proper eyes!

James Barbarossa

The houses are made of people, man.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

That's fine, that's nice, um well can I help you lot find anything nice?

Felix Trench

A shop.

James Barbarossa

I'm gonna see if I can see - if I can - get - see if this guy's got purple gumdrops

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

[Natural voice] Yeah, absolutely, please roll a Nice check for noticing something nice about a friend.

James Barbarossa

He's no friend, man, he's scum. I got a three.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

Is that success or fail for you?

James Barbarossa

I mean it's - I mean I've got a six on Nice so, yeah, I guess I got lower than a six.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

You got - yeah, so definitely - yeah, yeah, so yeah, you see that the mayor has green gumdrops on his - on his chest so no he's not the -

James Barbarossa

How recently did you get those gum drops, Mister Mayor?

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

[Character voice] Oh, well I think I've had these near enough all my life! So, yeah, I mean, I can't even imagine how long that's been probably about I don't know how long the cook-

ies keep? It-it feels like years but it might have been months, I'm not really sure.

James Barbarossa

Two and a half weeks, man.

Beth Crane

I think it depends if you're frozen.

Laura Girling

Well, they're a delightful shade of green!

Felix Trench

Biscuits go soft, that's the definition. I'd like to push the mayor's arm and see if it falls off.

James Barbarossa

We're preserved by magic, dude.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

[Natural voice] Roll me a Naughty check for attacking.

Felix Trench

I got two is that good?

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

[Character voice] My arm! Oh, God! I li - Why would you do something like that?!

Felix Trench

Checking how old you are. You're definitely quite soft.

Beth Crane

I feel like that may be classified as a hate crime.

Felix Trench

So several-several years.

James Barbarossa

I don't kn - that is a hate crime, dude, that's violent.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

I think that might have been a hate crime!

Laura Girling

Can I try and use some of the marzipan from his hat to reattach his arm to kind of band-
age the arm up?

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

[Natural voice] Yeah, roll me a - roll me a Nice check to assist a friend.

Laura Girling

Yep, I passed. I've got three.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

[Character voice] Oh, well, thank you, there little elf. [Natural voice] And you kind of do a subpar job stitching together his arm. [Character voice] I think that'll do. That'll hold for now. But I'm gonna - I'm gonna have to go to the doctor. That was that's - jeez, jiminy Christmas! I don't know -

James Barbarossa

Yeah, I bet you got free healthcare as well, fat cat. What about the rest of us?

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

I'm sorry, but I think I'm personally of the opinion that, you know, you should be, you know, self responsibility. You should -

James Barbarossa

You would think that!

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

- everyone should take personal responsibility for their own healthcare needs. I shouldn't be paying for you!

Felix Trench

Now. I have rarely agreed with the biscuits, but I can get on board with that philosophy.

James Barbarossa

You were born with a candy cane in your mouth, man. I'm sick of this asshole, I'm gonna go find the general store.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

Oh, you're looking for the general store!

James Barbarossa

Shut up, man I live here, dude! Don't talk down to me, man. Don't talk down to me.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

[Natural voice] The mayor kind of - [Character voice] Well, come on! [Natural voice] - and gestures over with his his candy cane and starts leading you guys to the general store.

James Barbarossa

I hate this guy!

Laura Girling

Mister Mayor, do you know anything about this Gingerbread Resistance?

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

[Character voice] Oh, well, that sounds mighty frightening, that. I've not heard anything

about that.

Laura Girling

Oh, I wouldn't worry about it, then.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

What is that? What's the Ginger Resistance?

Laura Girling

Oh, it's just something I had a dream about once, I wouldn't - I wouldn't worry.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

Alright, well, sounds like a paramilitary organisation of some kind made of Gingerbread men trying to overthrow Santa.

Laura Girling

Yeah, who knows?

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

Oh, well, you know, I think Old Macra-Macaron's been making a fuss about Santa lately. But you know, he -

Felix Trench

It sounds like you know more than you're letting on.

James Barbarossa

They don't tell us nothing, man.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

I'm just making up things. I'm just saying fun things because I'm a weird, wacky Gingerbread fella.

James Barbarossa

Bullshit, dude. I'm gonna -

Felix Trench

I would like to threaten the mayor.

James Barbarossa

Why don't you tell us what you know? I'm going to assist in threatening the mayor.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

[Natural voice] Okay, so Felix roll two d10 and take the better result for this check.

Felix Trench

Five.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

And your Naughty score is at six, so yes, that's a success. [Character voice] Oh. [Natural voice] How exactly do you go about intimidating the mayor?

Beth Crane

Let's break his other arm off.

Felix Trench

Take off his other arm. Ah, no, I take off his existing arm and remind him that he has one arm remaining.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

[Character voice] My arm! You just put that on, oh god! What do you want? Why do you keep doing this to me?

Felix Trench

I want to know everything you know about the Gingerbread Resistance and I don't want any more of this folksy wisdom.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

Oh, well. I don't know too much. I mean, are they the ones [stammers] are they the ones responsible for all that calamity going on in the workshop last night?

Felix Trench

What calamity?

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

Well, I just heard there were bells ringing and things you know. Look, I know people aren't too happy around here with old St. Nick I know Old Macar- well you know, the eating the cookies and things and you know, I kind of - I'm kind of a - I'm kind of more of a pro - pro-eating cookies kind of guy, you know? Hey, not all cookies are sentient cookies.

James Barbarossa

There's a fundamental wealth imbalance, Old Man, and you're blind to it! You're supposed to lead this - you're supposed to lead this community, dude!

Beth Crane

So, would you object to someone taking a bite out of your arm?

Laura Girling

I mean, I would not like that but you don't see the reindeer getting all huffy when they eat venison up in the workshop you know, so -

James Barbarossa

I have the munchies, I'll chow down on it!

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

Eww, don't eat my arm!

James Barbarossa

I bite into his arm, I bite - I bite into his arm.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

[Natural voice] Roll me a Naughty check for fucking cannibalism.

James Barbarossa

Oh my god, I got a - I got a one, a natural one.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

Oh Christ. Yeah, you succeed.

James Barbarossa

Hey, if the houses are made of it, we can all eat it right? What's the difference, dude? [Eating sounds]

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

[Character voice] Oh, my God. Oh, I'm gonna have to get a new arm. This is so upsetting look, well I - no, I saw - look, I did say - I'll tell you what I saw. Look, I know Old Macaron's been having a bit of a temper tantrum lately about Santa, but he was with me last night. We were drinking some syrup, just having a nice old time, the mayor and the owner of the general store.

James Barbarossa

That's corruption, dude! Elected officials having dinner with-with private companies, man, you don't see the imbalance?

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

We're old friends, we're old friends!

James Barbarossa

I bet you are, you corrupt motherfucker.

Felix Trench

His name is General Macaron.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

Yes. General Macaron. That's why it's called the General Store. And now look, I did.

Felix Trench

It's "General's" apostrophe "s", I see.

James Barbarossa

Yeah, that was a joke I made up, man and it's canon now!

Felix Trench

What do they sell?

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

It's probably nothing I did see when I was coming back from from drinking with Old Macaron I did see, um, look, Young Chip was out of his bed -

Felix Trench

Who?

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

Young Chip. Chip

Felix Trench

Young Chip?

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

Chip, he was out of his bed.

Felix Trench

Chip, c-h-i-p?

James Barbarossa

Jesus Christ

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

Yeah, that's right, like chocolate.

Felix Trench

Who's "Young Chip?"

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

He works at the general store, too. Look, I think he was just coming back from Peanut's house. They've been seeing each other.

Felix Trench

Who's "Peanut?"

Laura Girling

Peanut's a little lady Gingerbread person

James Barbarossa

Give us a list of all their family, man. I want brothers. I want sisters. I want God damn cousins, dude.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

I think I think she might have a couple of brothers, but I don't know what their names are, I'll be honest with you.

James Barbarossa

I do I know all of them because I'm in touch with this community, man, and you know nothing, dude!

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

I don't know what's going oh -

James Barbarossa

I take another bite out of his arm.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

Ooow, my arm, I can still feel it!

Laura Girling

Can we all stop biting each other? It's really quite disgusting. Um, I'm just wondering -

James Barbarossa

You eat us all the time, dude.

Laura Girling

I mean, I don't.

James Barbarossa

Now, it's disgusting.

Laura Girling

But - so - okay, so the cookies that Santa eats every-every-every evening? Are they - are they made here in the Gingerbread Village? Or are they -

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

We make him nice cookies each evening.

Laura Girling

So where are they made? At the at the General's store?

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

Yeah, they're made at the General's Store and Bakery.

Laura Girling

Okay, fab. So it's the General's Store and Bakery? So -

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

Well, yeah, I mean, look, the bakery makes 'em, but I think - I think

James Barbarossa

Yeah, they control the supply chain! They control the distribution! They control the production! It's a monopoly, man, don't you see? And you're doing nothing to stop it because you're in bed with the establishment!

I actually met the Monopoly Man.

Beth Crane

I have a question.

James Barbarossa

I just think - look, Chip - or - I don't know what I can do for you anymore.

Felix Trench

Mr. Mayor, Scarlett has a question, and I'll thank you for being quiet.

Yes? What's that?

Beth Crane

Can you explain reproduction to me?

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

Well, look sometimes -

Beth Crane

You don't have to be too graphic, just are you made or born?

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

Look, so not all dough has the innate ability to come to life right? But some dough is blessed with the magical energy of the North Pole. Now we don't always know when or where that's gonna hit, but when it does, the cookies, no matter what they came in - they went in the oven as always come out as Gingerbread kicking and screaming or - Gingerbread, gingerbread men and women and-and other genders, we are not discriminatory. I apologise. I have been trying to work on my Gender Theory, I have not done so well.

James Barbarossa

Yeah, you sound super progressive, asshole.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

Gingerbread people come out of the oven, no matter what. When the magical energy of the North Pole has blessed the dough

James Barbarossa

I'mma find this General, man, I'm out of here, I'm sick of these fat cats.

Beth Crane

So what happens when you die?

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

Well, that's a bit of a mystery, really. I mean, one day you just wake up and you're dead. There ain't no real reason - I suppose if someone eats you then you die. Well we know that one for sure.

Felix Trench

Do you have a religion?

James Barbarossa

How do you wake up if you're dead man, you wake up if you're dead

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

We have religion. You know there's the old cathedral where we you know, we go to -

Felix Trench

Cathedral? So you're Christians?

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

Yeah, well, I think that it's more of a nomenclature kinda -

Felix Trench

Roman Catholic.

James Barbarossa

Hey, this is still called "A Christmas Caper," man. What's your obsession with this? You're already having your religion represented John, why can't you just leave it?

Felix Trench

I'm just interested! Do you recognise the Pope?

James Barbarossa

I seriously suggest we get out of here, you guys.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

I've never seen the pope in my life, I think this religion is wholly separate from - no, I think our religion is holy. Why am I answering your questions? You got my arm, give me my arm back!

Felix Trench

My arm now.

James Barbarossa

I take I take another bite out of it and I throw it on the snow.

Will you leave me alone? If you're gonna get the General's Store, just go to the General's Store.

What are you gonna do about it, pig?

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

Help! Police, police!

Beth Crane

I'm gonna walk in the direction of the general store.

James Barbarossa

I suggest we bail, the Fuzz are coming! And I've got - I've got candy canes on me, man. I can't go back to Gingerbread prison, dude!

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

[Natural voice] Great, so you make your way over to the General's Store, I'll say. Yeah, so you-you walk over through the Gingerbread Village kind of hastily shuffling away from the now armless Mayor crying in the streets. [Character voice] Oh God, what am I gonna do?!

Laura Girling

Has Gumdrop still got the arm?

James Barbarossa

Yeah, why not?

Felix Trench

I'm trailing it through the snow behind me.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

[Natural voice] Crumbs are kind of flaking off

James Barbarossa

Eat the rich, dude, eat the rich!

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

I once had like a - I had a thought maybe this would be, like a family friendly game, and then, like, I thought that it would be unlikely. So you make your way over, through the Gingerbread Village. You see, like a frosting shop where Gingerbread people can get their frosting changed over you see a kind of construction site where Gingerbread people are kind of building a new gingerbread house with slabs of gingerbread and frosting and bits of peppermint and stuff and at the far end, you can see the gingerbread General's Store at the top it says, yeah, "General's" apostrophe "Store" and-and on the bottom it says that "General Macaron's store of various assorted goods." So yeah, you open the door and - yeah - and you can see - yeah, assortment of sweets. You can smell fresh baking from back and at the tail is - [Character voice] Hey, what can I do you guys for?

Beth Crane

So is this a kind of baby farm sort of place?

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

I'm sorry what? A baby farm?

Beth Crane

Well if everyone's born here you, seem to have a kind of monopoly on birth.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

This is not the only - this is not the only bakery in the whole whole village what - what's going on?

James Barbarossa

They're churning out automatons, man!

Laura Girling

Can I see what his buttons look like?

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

[Natural voice] Yeah, roll me a Nice check for noticing something.

Laura Girling

Um... yes, it's a pass, it's a six.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

Yeah, you can see that General Macaron has red buttons.

Laura Girling

Okay, cool.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

And he has all greasy -

James Barbarossa

Red buttons, man, where'd you get them?

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

[Character voice] What can I do for you guys? You've just come into my store. You said I have a monopoly on birthing. I really - why shouldn't I just kick you all out into the street right now?

Felix Trench

I want to know all about the Ginger Resistance.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

Well, what's that?

Felix Trench

That's what I'm asking you.

James Barbarossa

You gotta know something, man. There's no way.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

[Natural voice] Okay, could you guys roll me a Nice check, John, for noticing, um noticing - for empathy, for reading someone's expressions.

Felix Trench

Seven and three is what I'm currently on.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

Yes, I'm hoping to pull you back from the brink.

Felix Trench

Three.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

Yeah. So you notice that General Macaron has a brief glimmer of-of recognition and a bit of fear, as you mentioned the Ginger Resistance.

Felix Trench

Okay, and I'm going to look for a chair and some rope

Laura Girling

Say, before we resort to chairs and ropes, can I quickly just ask General Macaron - say, if an elf kind of was aware of - sort of - the hardships that Gingerbread people have to go through and wanted to do something about it - wanted to help from the inside, from being in Santa's workshop, who-who should she contact?

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

Roll me a Nice check. And I'm gonna say at disadvantage -

Laura Girling

Ok, even though I've got "Persuade" as my like special ability?

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

Oh, you have! You have, so I'm gonna say roll it at regular in that case.

Laura Girling

Okay. Oh, oh, no. Damn it. No, that's a 10 that is - a that is a fail.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

[Character voice] I don't really know anything about no Ginger Resistance, so I can't - I could not do that for you.

Laura Girling

Oh, that's a real shame. I was hoping to find someone I could chat to about that.

James Barbarossa

All this guy cares about is money, man.

Beth Crane

Speaking of money, have you had any one purchase replacement gumdrops in the last few hours?

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

I can't think of anything like that. Uh, no, I -

Beth Crane

Are you absolutely sure?

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

Yeah. [Natural voice] Roll me a Nice check.

Beth Crane

Pass.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

He's lying.

Beth Crane

Cool. I would like to gesture to Gumdrop to a gesture with the mayor's arm.

James Barbarossa

Hey, man, I got the hand of the mayor here. I hear you got that too. Late night syrup drinking sessions, you corrupt motherfucker!

Felix Trench

Language!

James Barbarossa

We all know about it. You're a monopoly! You got the mayor in your Gumdrop pocket, dude!

Felix Trench

I'd like to roll to take away this man's mouth.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

Roll me a nice check for keeping things PG-13

Felix Trench

Five, I fail.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

Describe how he fails, James.

James Barbarossa

So I guess you're reaching for my - for my mouth that I think is made of animated icing. I'm not sure how I've been taking bites out of the mayor's arm. Do I have Gingerbread teeth? Yeah, that's what I've got! I go for a bite of his stick arm when he goes near.

Felix Trench

Ow!

James Barbarossa

Don't try to silence me, you fascist! I will not be silenced man. I know I originally rolled Peaceful, but it's gone off the rails, dude.

Felix Trench

This Biscuit is rabid!

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

From the back you see two more gingerbread people come in and they're like, [Character voice] What are you guys doing here? Get out of here! Old Macron is good fella! What are you doing bothering him? [Natural voice] This is chip.

Beth Crane

We're just having a quiet little chat. That's-that's all. Nothing suspicious.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

It doesn't look like quiet little chat! You got the mayor's arm?

Beth Crane

This could be anyone's arm.

James Barbarossa

Can I see if anything in the back is like, pouring? If there's any like hot dough anywhere, what is the machinery like in the back of this place?

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

[Natural voice] Um, roll me a Nice check to notice things in the room.

James Barbarossa

My Nice is six, I rolled a four.

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

Great. Yeah. Okay, so you check in the room. You can see that there's some baking going on in the back. You see that there is a Gingerbread woman behind this guy, who you assume is Chip, the other employee at the General's Store. There's a gingerbread woman behind him. You see that she has three gumdrops. But you notice that one of the gum drops is a different colour to the rest. She has purple gumdrops on top and bottom, but a blue gumdrop in the middle

James Barbarossa

If you don't mind me noticing, I can't help but see your missing gumdrop. So I want to pull out the gumdrops. I'm like, "looking for these?"

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

[Character voice] Oh, oh well

James Barbarossa

What do you know about the Ginger Resistance, man?

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

[Natural voice] Roll me a Naughty check to intimidate.

James Barbarossa

Rolled a two. My Naughty is - is three right now.

Laura Girling

Yay!

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

[Character voice] Oh, well, look - alright fine! [Natural voice] And the Gingerbread woman kind of steps out and she holds an icing kind of thing at her side like all pointing it at you like a gun like an icing gun. [Character voice] Fine, I broke into Santa's workshop and I'd do it again!

[Natural voice] Can our Christmas Caper companions find Jack Frost if they can't get past the Ginger Resistance? Find out next time on "A Christmas Caper!" See you then

James Barbarossa

Bye!

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

Bye!

Beth Crane

Bye!

Zachary Fortais-Gomm

Thank you so much for listening to A Christmas Caper. It would mean the world to us if you would go out and support our players. Beth Crane writes and performs in "We Fix Space Junk," an incredible science fiction audio drama. You can follow the show on @WeFixSpaceJunk on Twitter, Tumblr, and Facebook. You can also find it at battlebirdproductions on Instagram. Laura Girling is on Twitter and Instagram @byLauraGirling. She also has a shop bylauragirling.etsy.com where she does some incredible handmade designs. Please do check that out. Felix Trench is the writer and performer behind the hilarious mockumentary podcast "Quid Pro Euro." I do the sound design for that show and believe me when I say I laugh out loud while doing the sound design all the time. You can of course find Felix on Twitter @felixtrench and James Barbarossa, of course, would like to let you know that you can follow him on Twitter, though you probably shouldn't. You can follow myself personally on Twitter and Instagram @zackfg, that is Z-A-C-K-F-G. The absolute best way to support Realms of Peril and Glory is to head over to our Patreon patreon.com/lightandtragic. There you can get bonus shows and ad-free listening and quite a lot more. So head over. You can of course check the podcast description for links to our Discord as well as our merch shop where you can find some incredible Realms of Peril and Glory merch that is continually coming live and coming off, so check it out. Thank you so much for lis-

tening. We'll see you next episode, goodbye!