

## **Season 2, Episode 2: Fools Gold**

*(Dolphin Noise - Morning Cockerel Mimicry)*

Scientist: Will somebody silence that darned porpoise

Brian: It's a dolphin, Sir. Why are you so grouchy this morning? It's lovely to wake up to the sound of the sea.

Scientist: Wake up? You're the only one who got any sleep! You took up the whole bed all night. And all the covers.

Brian: Well it's not my fault I'm broad shouldered Albert, you're the one who constructed me.

Indigo: You could have tried not to snore at least. And you did push me out of the bed... twice.

Scientist: You don't even need sleep, you're a robot.

Brian: I do quite enjoy it though. And it helps preserve my battery.

Scientist: In fairness it would probably have been difficult to drift off even if I had the bed to myself with the Demon hanging upside down floating in the air like that.

Demon: It's how all the cool demons sleep. Now shut up, I'm trying to get a lie-in.

Gremlin: Who's there! Stay away from the cream cheese! Oh, hello Sirs, I was having the most wonderful dream.

Demon: Yes we know, you talk in your sleep, Captain Gremlin, defender of the cream cheese village. Now will you all be quiet!

Scientist: Demon, I think it's worth accepting we're all awake now. If you can't beat 'em, get out of the air and hunt down a cursed relic. Wait, Indigo, did you pack all the supplies already?

Indigo: Oh yeah, I didn't get much sleep, so I overslept. I didn't wake up until 5AM, but luckily I still had time to get us ready for a busy day of adventuring.

Scientist: I'm exhausted for you.

Brian: Personally I feel rather refreshed. Shall we go downstairs and ask the barkeep if they know where to find the baron? They seemed rather approachable.

Indigo: Way ahead of you Brian, come on guys!

### **Theme Tune**

Demon: Albert, why are they all so chipper?

Scientist: I don't know, I really don't.

Gremlin: Hurry up slowpokes, there's adventuring to do-WAHHHH

*(Gremlin falling down the stairs)*

Gremlin: I'm okay!

Demon: Well that was inevitable. It's like I always say, cheeriness leads to misery.

Scientist: You're a regular barrel of laughs.

Innkeeper: Is the little green one alright? That seemed like quite a tumble.

Brian: Alright is perhaps not the word, but I do believe he is unharmed.

Gremlin: I'm fine! Like us Gremlins always say, 'has the day even started if you haven't fallen over at least 4 times?' Or... something like that. Anyway!

Indigo: We were wondering if we could ask ya a few questions about the city, and about our intrepid endeavour?

Innkeeper: Of course! I'm all ears.

Brian: Well, we need to find a ring...

Innkeeper: Oh who is the lucky person?

Brian: What?

Scientist: I think the innkeeper is trying to suggest a jeweler's... for an engagement ring.

Brian: Oh! Oh of course. Oh Evelrah, no, I'm afraid I'm not really programmed for those kinds of relations.

Demon: We're looking for a ring that used to belong to Nelius the Baron.

Innkeeper: Did you just say Nelius the Baron?

Demon: Did I get his name wrong? I'm sort of half awake.

Gremlin: No, it's definitely Nelly House.

Innkeeper: You need to get out. I'm sorry. I can't help you.

Scientist: Oh, I apologise, we didn't realise that thi-

Innkeeper: I said get out.

Brian: Of course, we're going. But would you be kind enough to point us in the right direction at least?

Innkeeper: To the north of town you'll find a shack in a cave. There's an old hermit there who used to have an unhealthy obsession with the baron. He sank into madness. If you're determined to pursue this, talk to him. If only to show you that you're well out of your depth.

Gremlin: We're not out of our depth, there's an air bubble keeping the ocean off us!

Scientist: Yeah, let's go.

*(Walking)*

Gremlin: I think we've made another new friend, gang!

Scientist: I am starting to get the impression we have bitten off more than we can chew here.

Brian: Don't we always, Albert?

Indigo: It's okay gang, I'm sure it's nothing we can't handle. If we stay focused, then I don't think there's anything to worry about.

Brian: Indigo, have you ever seen a place like this before?

Indigo: Not one that is inhabited. Over the course of history quite a few places have sunk into the ocean, but normally the people... y'know... drown.

Demon: Whereas here they have the bubble to breathe. So why the gills? Seems a bit overkill if you ask me.

Brian: Don't you mean a bit... overkill? Little bit of mechanical humour there.

Scientist: Booooo.

Brian: I'm underappreciated in my own time. Well, If you look above us, past the bubble and into the water, you can just about make out the silhouettes of people fishing. I suppose it would be near impossible to grow anything down here, or to rear animals, so they must have used the ocean for food and resources. I suppose after time they became somewhat amphibious.

Scientist: Evolution is weird.

Brian: But rather clever, don't you think?

Gremlin: We gremlins have never evolved. We're made perfectly.

Demon: Debatable. Demons haven't really evolved, there's just lots of different types of us. There's a whole ranking system.

Gremlin: So what ranking are you, Demon?

Demon: Ah, look, ahead of us. That must be the cave the innkeeper was talking about.

*(Ominous and spooky cave noise/music)*

Scientist: Who's going in first then. I nominate Indigo.

Brian: We can't make our guest go in first.

Demon: Stowaway, not guest. I second sending Indigo in.

Gremlin: Well in that case I nominate Scientist and Demon to go in first.

Indigo: Seconded!

Brain: Third....ed? In you go.

Demon and Sci: (General noises of disdain)

Demon: Joke's going to be on them when I turn all of their socks into snakes.

Scientist: Demon you need to stop doing that. The snakecharmer from floor forty has told me he won't take anymore in. He's at full snake capacity.

Demon: Hello! Old hermit man! Please don't eat our limbs!

Scientist: We come seeking your ancient wisdom. If you're in here? Hellooooo?

Hermey: Who's this sneaking into my cave making all this ruckus? I can hear you through the walls of my lovely little shack.

Demon: Are you going to kill us?

Hermey: Are you here to try and usurp my business?

Scientist: No, no we are not.

Hermey: Then I ain't gonna kill ya. Come in, come in, I got some coffee on the stove.

Demon: Sorry we just need to invite our friends in.

Scientist: Coast is clear guys, the hermit isn't trying to kill us. Also, they're a hermit crab which I guess makes sense.

Gremlin: Yippee! I've always wanted to meet a hermit crab.

Brian: You really want us to believe the fabled hermit is an actual hermit crab? Very clever, but I'm not going to fall for that one- Oh, no they actually are a hermit crab. I really wasn't expecting that.

Indigo: Neato. Oh wow, this shack is cool.

Hermey: When you spend most of your time never leaving the house, you want to have some nice lookin' dwellings. So, hot dri-

Brian: Hot drinks anyone?

Gremlin: I will have a hotty choccy.

Brian: Yes, go on...

Gremlin: Just a hotty choccy. No extras needed.

Brian: Right... Demon?

Demon: I'll have an English Breakfast tea.

Brian: Oh. Okay. Scientist? Indigo?

Scientist: Small black coffee. Decaf.

Indigo: I'll just have the same.

Brian: What is going on here? Who are you people?

Scientist: Well, we were talking last night, while you were asleep, about how it's really nice you make the drinks for us, and we should try and make your life easier with our requests.

Brian: Ah. Well. Thank you.

*(Beat)*

Brian: I'm sorry, it just isn't the same without you all asking for something ridiculous. I'm not just a tea dispenser. I need to make drinks with a little bit of flair. Albert, do I look like a kettle?

Scientist: Well... I mean...

Hermey: I'll have a large latte with seven shots of oyster syrup if there's drinks going.

Brian: Thank you! See, that's more like it.

*(Drinks machine.)*

Hermey: While I appreciate the beverage, I assume you topsiders are here because you want something from me. Need to break in somewhere? Make somebody disappear?

Indigo: Oh no, nothing like that!

Brian: We're looking for a ring that used to belong to Nelius the Baron, but nobody seems willing to give us any help.

Hermey: Ah, I see. Well, I hate to break it to you nice people... but that falls under breaking into somewhere.

Scientist: What?

Hermey: Take a seat, and listen up.

Gremlin: There's only one chair and he's sitting in it.

Scientist: Shut up Gremlin, just stand quietly and listen to what he has to say.

Hermey: Long ago, before this peninsula fell beneath the waves, our ancestors were but simple fishin' folk. That all changed when Nelius arrived. He brought with him caravans full of gold and jewels, riches the like of which we ain't never seen before. He promised to turn our little village into the trading capital of the world, and we fell for it, hook, line and sinker. He built a castle of solid gold up on the hill, and within a year he had given the townsfolk just about enough that nobody complained when he appointed himself as mayor. You see, he was always paranoid, but as time went on it only got worse, he was always looking over his shoulder, like he was expecting death to come knocking on the doors of his castle at any moment. People tried to reason with him, but then one day something we never expected happened.

Gremlin: Everybody was given a free sausage dog?

Demon: Shut up Gremlin, he's getting to the good bit!

Gremlin: Ow! My footsies.

*(Demon laugh)*

Hermey: We were sunk to the bottom of the gods forsaken ocean! Some say that the sheer weight of the gold stored up in that haunted place was enough to crack the peninsula from the rest of the land, some think that we were cursed for our blind greed, but I think that this is Nelius's own doing. His cowardice took him, and all of us poor souls, to the one place he thought he could never be found. But it didn't help him. Even then he was sure somebody would poison him, or stab him in his sleep, so he never ate, he never slept... and eventually he just wasted away. The castle still carries some kinda evil presence to it. You can hear marching coming from the halls at night even though it's been empty for years, and they say his ghost lingers there still... unable to part with his hoards of gold.

(Beat)

Brian: Bravo! Very emotive.

Scientist: Yeah that was pretty good! So just run up to the castle, find the ring, get out of here?

Hermey: Well, it's quite a bit scarier than that.

Demon: Buddy, we are used to worse than ghosts. Once, Albert murdered a flesh clone of himself with an axe.

Scientist: Not my proudest moment, but true.

Hermey: Interesting. Well, you might be more useful than I first thought. Remember, you owe me a favour. I told you about the castle.

Gremlin: Sure! What do you want us to do?

Hermey: Oh, nothing yet. But when I need ya, ya best answer the call.

Scientist: Brilliant, not at all ominous. Do you want our address, or the radio frequency you can find us on?

Hermey: Na, don't worry about it. I'll find ya.

Brian: Alright, well thank you very much, Mr Hermit. I think we'll be going now, won't we everyone?

Indigo: Yeah, good idea Brian.

*(Walking)*

Scientist: Unpleasant, very unpleasant. How do we keep running into these people? Are we like, magnetised towards danger?

Brian: Best not to think about it. One scary favour at a time.

Gremlin: But just think about all the new friends we're making! This is great!

Scientist: Is it?

Brian: At least now we know what to expect.

Demon: A haunted castle filled with treasure? There got to be some pretty fancy hats hidden in there.

Scientist: Right, let's make sure we're actually ready for this. What has everyone got on them? I have been unable to find a sword that I'm happy with and can actually afford so I'm mostly sticking to the tai-chi if anything goes south.

Demon: Magic. Duh.

Brian: I have my attack protocols on standby, but I did also bring a grappling hook, a first aid kit, and some instant noodles in case we get peckish.

Gremlin: My utility belt that Brian gave me for Winter Day is fully stocked! It has marbles in this pouch, some sweeties in this one. This one is full of sand. I even bought a deck of unicorn and lillipads cards.

Demon: Gremlin, that's my special deck of cards! I've been collecting the rare ones for months. I told you not to touch it.

Scientist: Unbelievably helpful in a crisis, I'm sure. Indigo?

Indigo: Oh, all the adventure classics. Torches, rations, tinder boxes... fifty feet of rope.

Brian: Good job team, we are definitely getting better at preparing for these things. Ah. Problem. How do we get in?

Scientist: I assume opening the front gates is out?

Indigo: Might as well give it a go-Ohhh. Yeah, they're unlocked. Lucky break.

Scientist: First time for everything I guess. So, this must be the main hall. Or what's left of it. This place is a mess.

Demon: Tacky too. Everything is gold. Like, we get it. You like gold.

Brian: And now it's all covered in barnacles, there's seaweed all over everything. Not a very good look.

*(Heavy, metal footsteps.)*

Gremlins: Did you hear that?

Indigo: Everybody follow me, we'll hide behind that overturned table. Stay quiet.

*(Quiet steps.)*

*(Footsteps, A horrible drowning scream.)*

Scientist: What in the name of the Raven's Talon is that? Indigo? Brian? Any ideas?

Brian: Nothing in the database, Sir. These are uncharted waters.

Indigo: Probably something to do with the ring. A lot of the time magical energy seeps out of these kinds of artefacts and into the people and places around them. These guys must have drawn the short straw.

Demon: So how do we get where we need to be? How are we even supposed to find the treasure room?

Indigo: Carefully look over the top of the table. See the bookcase on the right? There's a pile of gold coins by the foot of it.

Brian: The treasure is literally spilling out of the secret entrance?

Scientist: Must be nice. Maybe we could just scoop up some coins and pay the management back that way?

Demon: Might be a little late for that Scientist.

Scientist: Okay, so I think if we manage to sneak between the pillars, then hopefully whatever it is out there won't see u-

Indigo: We're probably all faster than it. So if Brian picks up the Gremlin...

Scientist: Indigo, no.

Demon: Indigo, yes!

Indigo: Okay gang, run for the bookcase!

*(Running. Sounds of metal footsteps, horrible screeching. Bookcase opening.)*

Scientist: Come on, come on, come on.

Brian: It's open!

Indigo: Everybody in.

*(Screeching, door closing.)*

Gremlin: Wow! This is the most monies I've ever seen in my whole life!

Scientist: How does someone even get this much treasure? And what's the point of keeping it all in one room instead of spending it?

Brian: And this is the reason that you got so behind on the rent that we had to enter into a cursed contract with the management.

Scientist: Technically we had to find the snowglobe because of the debt. The contract was for... you know... the other thing.

Indigo: Okay, nobody touch anything until we find that ring.

Demon: Aha! I found his hat! Finders keepers.

Brian: I believe that is, in fact, a jewel encrusted tea cozy.

Demon: One man's treasure is another Demon's hat.

Scientist: A phrase never before uttered aloud.

Indigo:       Guys, is this the ring over here. Gold, some kind of circular engraving. What looks to be an amethyst inlaid in the center.

Scientist:     It now dawns on me we probably should have asked what it looked like before we set out on a 3 month long voyage.

Brian:        Well, we know there was a natural amethyst reserve in Tezzaria, so it would make sense if this is the magical ring.

Indigo:        Small catch, it is on a finger.

Demon:        Cool! Is it a severed finger? Is it still bloody?

Gremlin:       Nope! It's attached to a hand, poking out from the pile of gold.

*(Beat)*

Scientist:     I think we have found out what happened to the Baron. Crushed to death by his own golden hoard.

Brian:        It's rather sad really. He went to all these lengths to protect his treasure, and it was the end of him.

Indigo:        Tale as old as time I'm afraid, Brian. Okay Nelius, I'll be taking that ring now.

*(Gold shifting)*

Nelius:        Who dares defile my chamber? Kiss my ring. You will kiss my ring.

Indigo:        Ahh! He's not dead.

Gremlin:       He's a skeleton isn't he?

Demon:        No, but he's as close as you can get without all your skin falling off.

Nelius:        It's mine. It's all mine. Filthy congress dogs. Get away from it. You don't deserve it.

Scientist:     We're not with the congress. I don't think that it's really a thing anymore.

Brian: We're sorry to intrude Nelius, but we didn't think anyone was living here and we really do need that ring. Is there any way we could convince you to part with it?

Nelius: All my life I knew you'd come for it. They told me I was crazy but I knew you were stalking me. I never thought you'd find me in here. I've not left in over a century, you know.

Gremlin: Wow, you must have had a lot of snacks in here!

Nelius: Gold cracks your teeth little creature, but it still lines the stomach. You want my ring do you, little girl?

Indigo: I'm actually kinda just with them, my name is Indigo, I'm an adventure... person.

Nelius: Nasty Warlocks. If you want this cursed ring then fine. Let me be rid of the thing and finally know some peace.

Brian: Well thank you, we really appreciate it.

Nelius: I didn't say you could have it for free! We're all civilised here. I'm a merchant by trade you know. So what do you have to offer me in exchange?

Demon: Really? Look around you, you have more gold than most countries! What do you think we could possibly offer that you don't already have?

Brian: I'm sure we can find something *valuable*.

Demon: Oh come on Brian, the most valuable thing we have is my deck of Unicorns and Lilly pads, and that's only because I've spent quite a long time collecting all the rare cards. There isn't a single deck in the multi-verse like it...

(Beat)

No. No no no. Not in a million years. You can just forget about it! Take Albert instead. You can get him to polish your gold or something.

Nelius: I don't need a man servant. Those cards, they mean a lot to you, don't they? I know how it feels to amass a collection of rarities. You'd die before you let somebody else take what is rightfully yours. A lifetime to build, and a second to give it away. I'll take them.

Scientist: Why? You have nobody to play against. You probably don't even know what the game is.

Demon: Yeah. What he said.

Nelius: But if I have them, then you don't.

Brian: Okay, well, what else do we have?

Demon: Fine. Take the stupid cards. I'll build a new deck. I'll use one of the starter sets. It doesn't matter. I'm not a stupid, cowardly, selfish old corpse who wasted their life surrounded by metal. Here. Now give indigo the ring.

Nelius: Fine, fine. I'll even allow you the luxury of sliding it from my illustrious finger.

Indigo: Great. What an honour.

*(Activating beacon noise.)*

Gremlin: Wow! Look at all the lights, and the gold is shaking! What's going on?

Nelius: No... my gold... what's happening to my precious gold.

Brian: The management warned us that taking an artefact might set off a beacon. It's most likely there to alert the other members of the congress that somebody is coming to take them.

Scientist: They also briefly mentioned that it may sever the power of those who enchanted the item. Sorry Nelius, I think it's time you closed up shop.

Nelius: Give me the ring back. Quickly give it...

*(Death Rattle)*

Scientist: Alright, magic chalk time. Good work gang. I for one don't want to hang around and wait for someone to find the beacon we just set off.

Demon: Is he dead? I mean, if he's dead, I'm just going to take the cards back. Nice one. This all worked out rather well in the end.

Gremlin: Other than the Captain dying... and whatever is happening now.

*(Chalk on Stone)*

Scientist: We can rest on our laurels in a minute. Door's open. 3, 2 1

*(Door noise.)*

*(Wahhhh thud thud thud thud thud)*

Indigo: Wow. Now that was an adventure and a half.

Scientist: Did you land on your feet? How? What are you?

Indigo: Hey, Gremmy, want to take the ring?

Scientist: Please don't call him that. I refuse to let that catch on.

Gremlin: Gremmy it is! Gremmy, forever! This ring isn't even nice. It's so last season.

Brian: But we managed to get it. Well done, team. Thank you for coming with us, Indigo. You really helped us out.

Demon: We couldn't have done it without you.

Gremlin: Salty Peat and the pirates were a real help too!

*(Beat)*

Brian: Oh no. Oh no.

Scientist: We left them at the bottom of the ocean. Have we doomed them?

Gremlin: Of course not... probably. They're good sailors, they'll make it back to the surface somehow.

Demon: And then have a three month voyage back to the Hotel.

Indigo: Oops. Well, if we're done here, I have to hit the gym. I'm trying to keep busy. Haven't really been sleeping. Lot on my mind. Besides, I need to stay in good shape for all the adventures.

Scientist: How do you survive?

Brian: Bye Indigo.

Gremlin: See you soon.

Demon: Come visit!

*(Door.)*

Scientist: Alright, let's put this in the desk drawer so we don't lose it.

*(Knock on door.)*

Brian: Come in, Indigo. Did you forget something?

*(Door open)*

Famulus: Indigo? No, no, no, not Indigo Blastwind. Famulus. I am one of the Hotel Management's administration team. Well, the head of the administration team actually. Very prestigious, yes indeed. Unfortunately The Management have many projects to oversee and thus they will not have time to meet with you personally. I suppose you could consider me a direct link between the two involved parties, so if there's anything you require to facilitate your expeditions, do not hesitate to ask and I will be sure to fill in the appropriate requisition forms. As you returned from your escape, I assume you have recovered the artefact formerly belonging to the Congress of Warlocks.

Scientist: Uh, yes. It's in the desk. I didn't realise we had somebody keeping tabs on us.

Famulus: Yes, I'm afraid so. Many tabs. Folders full of files actually. You four are the talk of the offices downstairs, let me tell you. You're a regular celebrity, Albert Ackintosh. Regardless, Article CW32 is the property of the Hotel Management, and whilst it may currently be in your desk drawer, it is stipulated in your contract that the proprietary rights do, in fact, remain with the management.

Gremlin: How did a what now?

Demon: He means we don't get to keep the ring.

Famulus: Yes, quite, quite. The Hotel Management have graciously allowed you a rest period of four days, then you are required to resume your hunt. We have reason to believe the Wandering Wizards may have information relating to the Congress, so that would be a good place to start.

Scientist: Great, thanks so much for the help. I'm so glad we have a talking anteater to tell us where to go, who to talk to and what to wear.

Famulus: There is no set uniform that I was aware of. Have I failed to note down a subclause? Also, I am not an anteater, no, no, no, far from it. I am a pangolin.

Brian: I believe it was a joke, Mr...?

Famulus: Famulus. Do not worry about memorising my title, however. I am but a cog in a well oiled machine. Anyway, must be off. Very busy. Very, very, busy. I'll be seeing a lot more of you, I am certain. Stay safe, Recovery Team 4, we need you alive after all.

*(Door)*

Gremlin: Well, we may have nearly died, we may have lost the captain, we may have spent three months at sea, but we did it! How many artefacts do we have left Brian?

Brian: Five.

*(Beat)*

Gang: Holy snapping turtles...

*(End Glitch)*

This broadcast has been brought to you by Hotel Elsewhere, scripted under candlelight. Featuring Eddie Lear as the Scientist, Lu Spicer as Brian the Robot, Matthew Beacham as The Gremlin, and Abigail Hackwood as The Demon, featuring Nickey Van Tooren as Indigo Blastwind and Introducing James Watkins as Famulus. All additional voices provided by featured artists. Audio Engineering and Original Music by Eddie Lear. Artwork by Abigail Hackwood. If you enjoyed this adventure, please consider subscribing to our Patreon at [patreon.com/hotelelsewhere](https://patreon.com/hotelelsewhere). Thank you for listening!