

ADVENTURERS

"Gnomie"

Written by

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ACT I

EXT. OUTSIDE THE ADVENTURERS GUILD - DAY

Several groups of adventurers wait in a long line outside the Adventurer's Guild in order to collect their earnings for successfully completed quests.

A small party of adventurers stand together in the middle of the line, VENALIS, a tall, lithe human dressed in a hooded wizard robe, TISHA, a stern looking female elf, FRANCIS, a human remarkable only for how unremarkable he looks in comparison to the extravagant characters surrounding him, and BOG, a short, stocky male dwarf with a large bushy beard.

They are visibly impatient and bored, the group has clearly been standing for quite some time. Francis holds a cage containing an unusually large rat.

FRANCIS

I hate waiting in these long lines  
every time we need to collect a  
reward.

TISHA

At least we have a reward to  
collect today.

VENALIS

Maybe we'll be able to afford  
better food than orc meat for a  
change.

BOG

No better way to follow up a  
successful adventure than a hearty  
feast of dragon veal.

VENALIS

Let's not get our hopes up, Bog.  
Dragon isn't cheap.

FRANCIS

Finally, the line is moving.

The line begins to move forward. Ahead of them, BRASMAN a handsome and vainglorious human and his party members, CEDRIK and ARMANDA, both also human, arrive at the teller window. A bored TELLER greets them, barely looking up from her paperwork.

TELLER

Welcome to Collections, please state the nature of your completed quest.

BRASMAN

My party and I have just returned from repelling the invading Goblin horde of Daggerfang from the neighboring village of Ethereal Glen.

TELLER

Is that Daggerfang with a D? Ah, here it is. Let's see, goblin horde... aggressive invasion... no infernal affiliation... your reward is five hundred gold pieces. Thank you for supporting your local Adventurer's Guild. Next!

Brasman is handed a large sack of coins and departs with his party. Venalis' party approaches the teller window.

TELLER (CONT'D)

Welcome to Collections, please state the nature of your completed quest.

VENALIS

Yes, we have successfully slain all of the rats infesting Mrs. Bakersfield's basement.

TELLER

Standard rat quest.

She drops a tiny bag of coins on the counter

Thank you for supporting your local Adventurer's Guild.

Venalis looks at the bag with disappointment.

VENALIS

Twenty gold pieces? That's it?

TELLER

Rat infestation in residence or public building: twenty gold, with a ten gold stipend if in a sacred or government building.

VENALIS

But they were Dire Rats!

Gnomie (Pilot)

TELLER

Oh I'm sorry.

The Teller drops three additional coins on the counter.

VENALIS

This is robbery!

TELLER

You're lucky to be getting anything at all without the mandatory demi-human in your party.

VENALIS

We have a Dwarf!

TELLER

I don't see any Dwarf.

BOG (O.S.)

I'm down here!

The Teller leans out the window to see Bog, she then returns to her normal position.

TELLER

Dire Rat infestation in a private residence: twenty-three gold. Next!

EXT. VILLAGE STREET - DAY

The party leaves the line and Venalis sulks as they walk down the street.

VENALIS

Well, it looks like it's orc meat for the foreseeable future.

TISHA

You've got to be kidding me.

FRANCIS

I don't know how much more of that stuff I can stomach.

BOG

I'll have mine with extra dragonfire sauce.

The others look at Bog curiously

BOG (CONT'D)

It's the only way to serve orc!

Gnomie (Pilot)

FRANCIS

I can't believe it! You're telling me we fought a whole pack of these things just to be paid this pittance!?

The others suddenly take notice of the cage Francis has been carrying.

VENALIS

Ack! What is that!?

FRANCIS

It's one of the dire rats from Mrs. Bakersfield's basement.

TISHA

You kept one! Why?

FRANCIS

I've never seen a dire rat before.

TISHA

And now that you have, what makes you want to keep it?

FRANCIS

I want to figure out the difference between dire and ordinary rats. What exactly makes them dire?

BOG

They're like rats, but big and mean!

FRANCIS

So 'dire' just means big?

BOG

I guess... I dunno.

FRANCIS

See, that's what I'm trying to figure out.

VENALIS

Whatever tickles your fancy, Francis, but don't expect me to pay to feed it. We can hardly feed ourselves with the way the Guild treats us.

TISHA

Venalis, don't you start blaming the Guild for your problems again.

VENALIS

Why not? We follow every rule, every ordinance, and they keep finding ways to deny us what's ours. Meanwhile, Brasman walks away with a whole pile of money. He doesn't even have a demi-human in his party.

FRANCIS

No, I'm pretty sure he's got a Gnome.

TISHA

Yeah, but she's off visiting her family... I think.

BOG

A fine lass, she is, always looking after her elders.

VENALIS

Do you honestly believe that? Have any of you even seen their Gnome?

The others all ponder briefly.

TISHA

No.

BOG

Nay.

FRANCIS

I think I've... wait no.

VENALIS

See! How do we even know she exists! For all we know she's a complete fabrication. So, while we bring our demi-human along with us on adventures, like we're supposed to, Brasman collects reward after reward without even following that one basic rule!

TISHA

Look, it's not our business to worry about other adventuring parties, we need to focus on our own-

The conversation is interrupted by a shady looking PEDDLER who emerges from a dark alley.

PEDDLER

Psst. Are you worried about the upcoming Guild audit?

VENALIS

What? Who are you?

The peddler opens his cloak to reveal his wares, several vials filled with variously colored liquids.

PEDDLER

I can offer you a polymorph potion at a very affordable rate. It can ensure that your friend there stays reliably disguised as a Dwarf. They're in very high demand this time of year.

BOG

I am a Dwarf!

The peddler looks surprised.

PEDDLER

Oh. I thought he'd smell worse if he were an actual... no, wait, there it is.

FRANCIS

No, that's the rat. It's dire.

Francis holds up the rat to the peddler, who shrinks away from the unpleasant creature.

TISHA

We don't need any of your snake oil. Leave us alone.

Tisha motions for the peddler to leave.

The peddler wanders off in search of other prospective buyers.

VENALIS

Wait a minute. What was that he was saying about an audit?

TISHA

Every year the Guild audits various adventuring parties to make sure they're up to regulation. We don't have to worry about that, I've made absolutely sure that you've been following all necessary requirements.

VENALIS

I'm quite aware of that, but what happens to someone who gets caught not following regulation?

TISHA

They have to pay back any ill-gotten reward money and may even lose their adventuring license but I told you we don't have anything to worry about.

VENALIS

I know we don't, but what about Brasman?

TISHA

What about Brasman?

INT. TAVERN - PUBLIC AREA - DAY

In the local tavern, Brasman stands in front of a captivated audience of patrons retelling his recent adventures with the usual embellishments.

BRASMAN

On the outskirts of the village we stood and I held my sword to the oncoming horde and declared: "If any of you wish to pass into this land, you must first face my steel!" The fearsome Goblins were unfazed... I'm not entirely certain they understand the language. Nonetheless, we held, and fought-

A member of the crowd, actually an AUDITOR from the Adventurer's Guild, interrupts Brasman's story.

Gnomie (Pilot)



AUDITOR

Excuse me, mister Brasman sir. I can't help but notice in your retelling that you neglect to provide any mention of the, um...  
(checks his paperwork)  
Gnome... in this tale.

BRASMAN

Gnome?

AUDITOR

Yes, in your battle against the Goblin horde, how did the Gnome assist you in your quest?

BRASMAN

There was no Gnome. It was just me and my party against an unending army of Goblin warriors.

AUDITOR

That's strange, you see, according to my paperwork here, your party consists of yourself... a human cleric and ranger... and a Gnome. Might I remind you that we at the Adventurer's Guild-

Brasman immediately reacts and begins ushering the auditor away from the crowd to a private room.

BRASMAN

On, you're from the Guild! My apologies, here, let us retire to a quieter room.

INT. TAVERN - PRIVATE ROOM - DAY

Brasman's party members, Cedrik the Cleric and Armanda the Ranger, accompany Brasman and the auditor in a quiet room. Brasman is trying to communicate the situation to the other party members without alarming the auditor.

BRASMAN

Cedrik, Armanda, this kind man from the Adventurer's Guild would like to speak with us about our Gnome.

ARMANDA

The Gnome!

Gnomie (Pilot)

CEDRIK  
Gnome, what Gnome?

Armand elbows Cedrik sharply.

CEDRIK (CONT'D)  
Oh, the Gnome!

AUDITOR  
Yes, I'm here because there seems to be a rather drastic discrepancy in our records. We have it recorded that your party includes a...  
(checks his paperwork)  
Gnomish Enchantress... however, our records do not even indicate a name for this member. And according to your own admission, the Gnome was not included in your recent adventure. Do you care to provide an explanation for this?

BRASMAN  
Well, you see, in our last adventure...  
(struggles to think of a name)  
...Gnomie...  
(not satisfied, but it's too late now)  
...couldn't make it.

AUDITOR  
Couldn't make it to the adventure?

ARMANDA  
Yes, you see Gnomie, he-

CEDRIK  
(interrupting)  
She.

ARMANDA  
She... is on a personal quest of her own.

AUDITOR  
A quest?

CEDRIK  
Yes, a quest. Gnomie's going to... Slay the fearsome beast Ba'Dehcki.

Gnomie (Pilot)

AUDITOR, BRASMAN & ARMANDA  
Ba'Dehcki!?

CEDRIK  
Yeah, she... she told me that.

INT. TAVERN - PUBLIC AREA - DAY

Venalis and his party sit at a table in the tavern eagerly awaiting the aftermath of Brasman's meeting with the Guild auditor.

VENALIS  
I can't wait to see the look on Brasman's face when he has to pay back the reward for every quest involving that Gnome. It's going to be great.

The auditor happily exits the private room speaking parting words to Brasman and his party as he leaves.

AUDITOR  
Thank you for clearing that up, gentlemen. I apologize for any inconvenience. And please, convey the deepest hope from me and everyone at the Guild that Gnomie returns safely from her heroic journey. She's a far braver soul than I.

TISHA  
That's not the reaction I expected.

VENALIS  
He actually bought it? That's absurd!

Venalis jumps out of his chair and quickly moves to intercept the auditor before he can leave the tavern.

VENALIS (CONT'D)  
Hey, you there, from the Guild. What did you find out?

AUDITOR  
Everything checks out, I'm happy to say. It appears your suspicions were unfounded.

(MORE)

Gnomie (Pilot)

AUDITOR (CONT'D)

However, let it be said that we at the Guild do not appreciate false accusations made towards other parties. Please ensure this doesn't happen again.

TISHA

But the Gnome, she's a-

AUDITOR

(interrupting)

A hero, I know. You could learn a lot from her example. Now, if you'll excuse me.

The auditor pushes past the adventurers and exits the tavern.

VENALIS

No way. How could they have pulled that off?

BOG

Did you hear that? She's a true hero.

VENALIS

She's not even real! I need to find out what happened.

Venalis storms off towards Brasman's private room.

INT. TAVERN - PRIVATE ROOM - DAY

Brasman and his party remain in the room, relieved that the auditor has left, no longer needing to keep up the act.

ARMANDA

Gnomie? Seriously, that's the best you could do?

BRASMAN

I hardly believe you could do any better on such short notice.

CEDRIK

Gnomella?

Venalis bursts into the room and approaches Brasman.

VENALIS

I don't know what you told him, Brasman, but we're on to you.

Gnomie (Pilot)

BRASMAN

Why, I don't know what you're talking about. We simply explained that Gnomie is on a-

VENALIS

(interrupting)  
Gnomie?

BRASMAN

-that Gnomie is on a personal quest to slay Ba'Dehcki.

VENALIS

Ba'Dehcki!? The beast with the power to turn parents against their own children?

BRASMAN

The same.

VENALIS

Are you serious? What sort of idiot would go on a quest like that. It's a suicide mission.

BRASMAN

She's a courageous sort, isn't she? I certainly hope she makes it back safely. Why, if anything happens to her we shall no longer have a demi-human in our party. It's a good thing the Guild provides a grievance period for such a situation. However, we remain ever optimistic that she will return triumphant.

VENALIS

You are so full of it.

INT. TAVERN - PUBLIC AREA - DAY

Venalis' party members react in surprise after Venalis tells them of Brasman's story.

FRANCIS

Ba'Dehcki?

TISHA

That's impossible!

Gnomie (Pilot)

BOG

She'd risk her life to face such a beast? We're lucky to know someone so brave!

VENALIS

I've got to admit it's clever. When she doesn't return, which she won't because she doesn't exist, they can claim she fell to Ba'Dehcki and the Guild wouldn't be the wiser.

FRANCIS

Can he get away with that?

TISHA

This is flagrant disregard of Guild rules!

Brasman arrives at the table.

BRASMAN

Well, it's time we head off to find a new quest to partake in. Tis a shame our beloved Gnomie will not be able to join us, but her great quest must remain a priority over the needs of my lowly party. I hope to see you soon again, friends.

Brasman turns to leave the tavern.

Suddenly the Guild auditor bursts into the tavern from outside, visibly excited and out of breath.

AUDITOR

It's unbelievable! We've just received incredible news from the next village.

VENALIS

What? What is it? What's happened?

AUDITOR

It's Ba'Dehcki!

BRASMAN

Oh dear, the horrible monster must have-

AUDITOR

The beast has been slain!

Gnomie (Pilot)

VENALIS

What!?

AUDITOR

It must have been Gnomie! The brave  
soul!

BRASMAN

What!?

TISHA

What!?

AUDITOR

Don't you see? Ba'Dehcki is no  
more! Gnomie is a hero!

Everyone stares in stunned disbelief.

BOG

(jubilantly)

Hooray!

**END OF ACT I**

Gnomie (Pilot)

ACT II

INT. TAVERN - BRASMAN'S ROOM - DAY

Brasman and his party have been boarded in the best room in the local tavern. The Guild auditor is excitedly planning for the coming festivities.

AUDITOR

Arrangements are being made to ensure that Gnomie receives a hero's welcome on her return.

BRASMAN

That's really not necessary, Gnomie was only doing what any-

AUDITOR

Nonsense! She is a hero the likes of which this village has never seen. That is why the Adventurer's Guild is sparing no expense.

BRASMAN

No, we simply cannot accept such a-

AUDITOR

I'll hear nothing of the sort. It is an honor for the Guild to show that courage, valor and true heroism will not go un-rewarded. Believe you me: you, your party, and your brave, brave Gnome will be spoken of in legend for generations to come.

Brasman is left speechless as the auditor leaves the room to continue preparations. When the door is shut and the auditor is safely out of earshot the party begins to panic.

CEDRIK

That's it, we're doomed.

ARMANDA

This is your fault, Cedrik. You know that? The whole Ba'Dehcki thing was your idea!

CEDRIK

I didn't think someone would actually kill it, Armanda! I didn't think it could be killed!

Gnomie (Pilot)



BRASMAN

Both of you, calm down. We just need an air tight explanation for why Gnomie can't possibly attend the ceremony.

INT. TAVERN - PUBLIC AREA - DAY

Venalis sits at a table surrounded by his own notes, deep in thought as he concocts schemes in his head. Tisha stands by the table, glaring at Venalis in frustration.

VENALIS

We need a foolproof plan to expose Brasman and his phony Gnomie at the ceremony.

TISHA

What we need is to find a way to earn more money. What we have will only last us two days, tops!

VENALIS

No, we've got the perfect opportunity to see Brasman absolutely humiliated in front of the Guild and the whole village. We can't let this pass us up!

TISHA

Brasman is digging his own grave with this Gnomie mess. We've got more important things to worry about!

VENALIS

Well, if you insist on worrying about more important things, do it over there away from me, I'm trying to think.

TISHA

You are impossible.

Tisha storms away from Venalis' table to a neighboring table where Francis, his fingers laced in bandages, is busy wrangling with the Dire Rat, attempting to wrap a measuring tape around it's torso as it squirms against his grip.

TISHA (CONT'D)

Francis!

Gnomie (Pilot)

FRANCIS

Hang on, Tisha, I'm trying to get measurements so I can compare this to an ordinary rat.

TISHA

Venalis is clearly too focused on humiliating Brasman to do anything productive. Come with me and bring the rat, I've got plans for it.

FRANCIS

Are we taking it out to observe it in it's natural environment?

TISHA

No, we're going to exploit it.

EXT. OUTSIDE THE VILLAGE - DAY

A tall imposing stranger, PARAGON, holding a piece of parchment scans the horizon.

Paragon looks at this parchment, a declaration of the upcoming celebration in Gnomie's honor in the village.

He crumples the paper and departs in the direction of the village.

EXT. VILLAGE STREETS - DAY

Tisha stands on a small crate as a crowd of villagers gathers around. Behind her, Francis stands beside a small table on which his caged Dire Rat sits, the cage covered in a small cloth.

TISHA

Ladies and gentlemen of the village. You've heard fantastic stories of ferocious beasts: goblins, kobolds, gelatinous cubes. Some of you may have even had the opportunity to witness one firsthand. But nothing you have seen will have prepared you for the bizarre horrific sight of... the Dire Rat!

Francis dramatically removes the cloth from the cage, revealing the large creature inside.

The audience gasps.

Gnomie (Pilot)

TISHA (CONT'D)

This creature is not unlike an ordinary rat... but it's much much bigger.

VILLAGER

It's so dire!

A person in the crowd faints.

The villagers gawk excitedly at the Dire Rat and begin tossing coins into a small container at Tisha's feet.

Tisha smiles in satisfaction.

INT. TAVERN - PUBLIC AREA - DAY

The Guild auditor is busy making preparations, ensuring decorations are properly in place and that everyone is properly contributing. Bog lingers around him excited to catch a glimpse of Gnomie, should she arrive.

AUDITOR

Somebody move one of the tall stools over here so she can sit. We don't want the hero to have to sit at the short bar do we?

BOG

Excuse me, any word of when Gnomie is due to arrive?

AUDITOR

Not yet, Bog my friend. But we have scouts watching the horizon in the direction of Ba'Dehcki's Den to alert us of her approach.

BOG

Ah, tis a good day indeed. I cannae wait to meet the fair lass.

Just then, as if on cue, a village SCOUT bursts into the tavern entrance.

SCOUT

Everyone! It's Gnomie! She's here!

Everyone in the tavern excitedly rushes out the door of the tavern to be the first to see the village hero.

Gnomie (Pilot)

## EXT. VILLAGE STREETS - DAY

A grand parade is marching through the streets while Gnomie is carried through the village on a pedestal carried by several villagers.

Amongst the crowd, Bog looks up in awe.

Gnomie, stout but beautiful with long blonde braids, looks around and catches Bog's eye and smiles.

Bog blushes with excitement and embarrassment.

## INT. TAVERN - PUBLIC AREA - DAY

Bog and Gnomie sit together at a table. In front of the Dwarf lays several plates full of hearty food including an entire ham, a roasted turkey, and a large frothy mug of ale. In front of Gnomie sits a plate with two leaves of lettuce and an acorn. Bog is enthusiastically devouring his food and ale. The two look at each other and smile.

## EXT. VILLAGE ENTRANCE - DAY

Venalis, Tisha, Francis, Brasman, Armanda, Cendric and several villagers stand at the entrance of the village smiling and waving a fond farewell. Bog and Gnomie ride away on ponies, waving back at their friends ready to travel to places unknown and face new adventures together.

## EXT. DUNGEON ENTRANCE - DAY

Bog and Gnomie valiantly march into a dungeon followed by other demi-human party members, Flint the Halfling and Trixy the Pixy.

## INT. DUNGEON - DAY

As they progress into the dungeon several traps are triggered. Arrows fly, stone slabs slam together, blades and flames emerge from the walls, all safely over the heads of the short statured party members.

A large boulder begins rolling menacingly towards the party. The members calmly and swiftly step to the sides of the corridor and the round boulder passes between them safely, their small stature leaving them safely in the corners untouched by the boulder's swath.

Gnomie (Pilot)

INT. HEART OF THE DUNGEON - DAY

Deep in the dungeon lies a priceless treasure of untold value. Bog triumphantly holds the treasure above his head. Gnomie proudly stands next to him. Their eyes meet and she kisses him sweetly on the cheek. Trixy flutters cheerfully around their heads. Flint arrives and unfurls a tablecloth revealing a fully prepared feast on a properly set table. The party members embrace happily in an idyllic moment.

VENALIS (V.O.)

Ew. Ew. Ew. Ew.

INT. TAVERN - PUBLIC AREA - DAY

Bog is hugging Venalis's leg, with a blissful look of joy on his face. Venalis is frozen in disgust.

VENALIS

Ew. Ew. Ew. Ew.

Bog realizes that he has been daydreaming and quickly releases Venalis's leg and regains his composure to act as if nothing has happened.

Elsewhere in the public area of the tavern, Brasman is speaking with the Guild auditor.

AUDITOR

Now Brasman, I hardly believe that someone capable of defeating a horrendous monster like Ba'Dehcki could be easily done in by a group of bandits. I'm sure Gnomie will be arriving in due time.

BRASMAN

I just think after all the excitement, she may be more interested in just having some peace and quiet when she returns home.

AUDITOR

Nonsense. We are giving Gnomie the celebration she deserves.

BRASMAN

It's just that we don't know when she will be arriving.

Gnomie (Pilot)

AUDITOR

Don't worry, we can wait, an opportunity like this doesn't come along often.

The scout enters the tavern with news standing in the doorway calling out to the crowd.

SCOUT

Someone approaches from the direction of Ba'Dehcki's lair!

The tavern erupts in tangible excitement.

AUDITOR

Is it she? Is it Gnomie?

SCOUT

I don't know... they're really tall... Gnomie is a Gnome right?

The Auditor looks to Brasman who looks around and then nods.

BRASMAN

Yes.

AUDITOR

(to the scout)

Yes.

SCOUT

Then it's not her.

The characters make their way to the tavern entrance.

AUDITOR

Then who is it?

EXT. VILLAGE STREETS - DAY

Paragon walks down the streets of the village towards the tavern. Villagers are cowed by his mere presence. A hush draws over everyone as he passes.

Outside the tavern, the parties, villagers and the Guild auditor gather in a crowd. The crowd murmurs in conversation regarding the mysterious new arrival.

FRANCIS

Who is this guy?

Gnomie (Pilot)

TISHA  
(sharply)  
Shhhh!

Paragon approaches the group and stops a few steps away from the Guild auditor who nervously bows in respect.

AUDITOR  
Prince Paragon! It is my honor!

Paragon silently motions for the auditor to rise. He announces loudly to everyone within earshot and no one in particular in a commanding voice.

PARAGON  
I am looking for the one known as  
Gnomie.

The audience gasps and murmurs.

Brasman, Cedrik and Armanda look on nervously.

CEDRIK  
Oh crap, oh crap, oh crap.

Brasman glares sharply at Cedrik who cowers sheepishly.

AUDITOR  
My liege, Gnomie is not present at  
this time.

PARAGON  
Pity. I hear tell that she has  
slain the fearsome beast Ba'Dehcki.

Venalis looks on excited.

VENALIS  
(to Tisha)  
I think I like where this is going.

AUDITOR  
Yes, we have a celebration and  
feast prepared for her return home.  
You are quite welcome to partake in  
the festivities if you so choose,  
my liege.

PARAGON  
That will not be necessary. For I  
am here to declare that this  
Gnomie... is nothing more than a  
fraud!

Gnomie (Pilot)

The audience gasps.

Venalis chuckles to himself.

Cedrik faints.

**END OF ACT II**



ACT III

EXT. VILLAGE STREETS - DAY

Paragon stands surrounded by a crowd of villagers. At the forefront of the crowd are Brasman and the Guild auditor. Venalis, Tisha, Francis, Bog, Cedric and Armanda all stand amongst the crowd.

BRASMAN

Now now, let's not jump to any rash conclusions.

AUDITOR

Surely you can't be serious!

PARAGON

Do you know me to jest?

AUDITOR

No, my liege. But Gnomie, she-

PARAGON

Gnomie is a fraud. A sham!

BOG

I refuse to believe it! How dare you make such an accusation!

PARAGON

It is said that she has slain the fearsome beast Ba'Dehcki, but this is impossible.

ARMANDA

What do you mean?

PARAGON

I am the one who has slain the beast!

The audience is silenced in shock. Venalis begins gleefully giggling to himself.

PARAGON (CONT'D)

Behold!

Paragon produces an impossibly large scale, clearly from some sort of enormous lizard creature.

Gnomie (Pilot)

PARAGON (CONT'D)

An iron scale from its infernal  
hide!

Paragon throws the scale dramatically to the ground. The audience gasps and backs away.

PARAGON (CONT'D)

This Gnomie has claimed credit for  
a victory rightfully mine and  
tainted my honor!

BRASMAN

Now, there must be some sort of  
simple misunderstanding.

PARAGON

There has been no misunderstanding!  
The line has been drawn and a  
challenge issued. I have accepted  
that challenge. At this time  
tomorrow Gnomie shall face me in an  
Honor Duel, or face the  
consequences.

Paragon then turns and exits dramatically as the villagers look on in stunned silence.

Venalis then begins laughing uncontrollably.

INT. TAVERN - PUBLIC AREA - DAY

Venalis stands at a table still laughing gleefully. Tisha stands nearby sternly, attempting to speak with Venalis. Francis sits quietly at the table attempting to feed the caged dire rat.

VENALIS

Ha ha, this is perfect. There's no  
way Gnomie can show up at that  
duel. Brasman will look like a  
fool!

TISHA

Yes, yes, very funny. Anyway, while  
you've been toiling away on making  
Brasman look bad-

VENALIS

(not paying attention)  
He'll never be able to weasel his  
way out of this one.

Gnomie (Pilot)

TISHA

Francis and I have earned enough money to get us through the next three weeks.

VENALIS

Unless, he...  
(suddenly concerned)  
he wouldn't... but he could.

TISHA

(frustrated)  
Are you even listening to me? In one day, we've made more than our last five quests combined!

Tisha drops a bag of coins on the table. At this Venalis immediately takes notice and grabs the bag.

VENALIS

Tisha, that's perfect. What would I do without you?

Venalis quickly stands up and leaves, taking the bag with him.

Francis approaches Tisha with a look of concern.

FRANCIS

Where is he going?

TISHA

Grab the rat, I have a feeling we're going to need to make some more money.

INT. TAVERN - BRASMAN'S ROOM - DAY

Brasman and his party grow increasingly more worried. Brasman paces back and forth in front of Armanda and Cedrik deep in thought.

CEDRIK

What do we do? Everyone thinks Gnomie is a hero and now Paragon, of all people, expects to fight her tomorrow!

ARMANDA

So what if she doesn't show? Sure, she'd be expelled from the Guild.

(MORE)

Gnomie (Pilot)

ARMANDA (CONT'D)

But at least we wouldn't have to worry about finding excuses for her anymore.

BRASMAN

You fool! This is a Guild sanctioned Honor Duel! If Gnomie doesn't show, how do you think that will reflect on us!?

ARMANDA

Well-

BRASMAN

We'd be a laughing stock! Nobody would ever hire us for quests again!

CEDRIK

But what choice do we have? We've run out of options.

BRASMAN

No. No matter what, Gnomie must attend the Duel.

ARMANDA

But that's impossible!

CEDRIK

She doesn't exist!

BRASMAN

That needn't stop her from attending...

EXT. VILLAGE STREETS - NIGHT

Brasman wanders the streets, dressed in a feeble attempt to appear to be anyone but himself, searching for shady street vendors of questionable goods.

Brasman enters an alley and finds the peddler who accosted Venalis's party previously.

PEDDLER

Hello sir, what can I offer you from my fine apothecary?

BRASMAN

Yes. I am a stranger to these lands.

(MORE)

Gnomie (Pilot)

BRASMAN (CONT'D)

I am looking to procure a potion of questionable legality with which to disguise myself or another.

PEDDLER

Ah, a polymorph potion. I'm afraid that won't be possible.

Brasman completely drops the act and draws his sword on the peddler.

BRASMAN

What!? Explain yourself, vagrant!

PEDDLER

I'm fresh out, won't have any more for weeks.

BRASMAN

But it's audit season, you ought to be fully stocked with the stuff!

PEDDLER

What can I say? It's a hot item.

Brasman tears off his costume and throws it to the ground as he angrily storms away.

TAVERN - PRIVATE ROOM - NIGHT

Venalis dumps an enormous pile of bottles from his cloak onto a table. Tisha looks on in shock.

TISHA

What is all this!?

VENALIS

Six-hundred and forty-seven vials of polymorph potion.

TISHA

You spent all of our money on this!? What possible need could we have for this much polymorph potion!?

VENALIS

None whatsoever. Brasman, on the other hand, is probably pretty desperate for the stuff. Too bad every vendor in town is sold out.

Gnomie (Pilot)

TISHA

I can't believe you.

VENALIS

The only way they can make a convincing disguise now is by going to the Morphomancer, and believe me the Guild has their eyes all over that place. Tomorrow, at the Duel, brave little Gnomie will be nowhere to be found and Brasman will be at the mercy of the Guild.

EXT. VILLAGE ENTRANCE - NIGHT

Bog looks off in the distance to the horizon, scanning for any sign of movement.

BOG

I know you're out there. If you don't make it back in time you'll be out of the Guild! I can't let that happen.

EXT. VILLAGE STREETS - THE NEXT DAY

The villagers gather to see the duel. Bog is nowhere to be seen. Tisha and Francis have setup their display for the Dire Rat, however due to the commotion the villagers are not taking notice.

TISHA

Come see the creature so horrific,  
the only suitable word is 'dire!'

(to Francis)

This isn't working, nobody cares  
with the duel going on.

Venalis excitedly approaches the display, eagerly awaiting the coming debacle.

VENALIS

This is going to be glorious.  
There's no way Brasman can talk his  
way out of this one.

FRANCIS

What happens when Gnomie doesn't  
show?

Gnomie (Pilot)

TISHA

She'll be kicked out of the Guild,  
and Brasman will have to find a  
real demi-human for his party.

VENALIS

Assuming he isn't kicked out as  
well. Oh, here he comes now.

Brasman and his party arrives, clearly they have not slept  
well. They all look suitably nervous and apprehensive about  
the coming event.

BRASMAN

No matter what happens we act  
surprised. None of us know where  
Gnomie is, for all we know she's  
dead.

CEDRIK

We're going to get in so much  
trouble!

A villager excitedly points down the road as Paragon arrives.

VILLAGER

Prince Paragon approaches!

Paragon enters a clearing in the crowd and looks at Brasman

PARAGON

Brasman, any word from your Gnome?

BRASMAN

None, sir. We have not heard from  
her.

PARAGON

Then she is a coward as well as a  
fraud. As Gnomie has refused my  
Duel I hereby declare myself  
victor.

BOG (O.S.)

Stop!

Everyone looks to the source of the protest.

PARAGON

What!?

BRASMAN

What!?

Gnomie (Pilot)

VENALIS

Oh no.

Bog stands alone, approaching Paragon as he speaks.

BOG

I cannot let you do this, Paragon.  
Brave Gnomie set off on a quest  
many thought impossible in the hope  
that maybe she can make a  
difference in this world. I will  
not allow you to taint her honor  
when she is not even here to defend  
herself against such slander.

PARAGON

My dear Dwarf, the Guild rules for  
Honor Duels clearly state-

BOG

I know what the rules say.

Bog draws his sword and points the blade toward Paragon.

BOG (CONT'D)

I challenge you, on Gnomie's  
behalf!

The audience reacts in shock.

VENALIS

Wait, can he do that?

TISHA

Yes, yes he can.

VENALIS

What if he loses?

TISHA

Then we're in trouble too.

Venalis shows a brief look of worry, then visibly begins plotting, his mind clearly racing.

BOG

You cannot decline my challenge and  
still call yourself a hero.

PARAGON

You are either very foolish, or  
very brave, Dwarf. However you are  
correct, I cannot refuse.

(MORE)

Gnomie (Pilot)



## PARAGON (CONT'D)

If you wish to face me you shall,  
and you shall feel the might of my  
blade Windwrath!

Paragon unsheathes his magical sword sending a piercing force of wind at the Dwarf kicking up waves of dust as it travels.

Bog leaps out of the way of the blast and retaliates with his own sword which Paragon deftly blocks with his shield.

Brasman and his party look on, perplexed by the recent turn of events.

## ARMANDA

What's going on? What happens if he wins?

## BRASMAN

I... I don't know.

Venalis quietly moves behind the crowd and draws Brasman's attention.

## VENALIS

Brasman, it looks like it's both of our parties on the line now. Things sure would be a lot easier if Gnomie were to show up, wouldn't they? It's a shame you don't have any way of making that happen.

Venalis produces one of the vials of polymorph potion from his sleeve.

## BRASMAN

You! You're the one who bought all the polymorph potion! Give that here!

The battle between Paragon and Bog continues as Bog dodges the barrage of blasts from Paragon's sword.

## PARAGON

You dodge well but you fight like a Dwarf. You cannot possibly hope to best me.

## BOG

I am a Dwarf, and Dwarves fight with honor.

Brasman struggles to reach the polymorph potion which Venalis continues to hold just out of reach.

Gnomie (Pilot)

VENALIS

If I give you the vial, what do I get in return?

BRASMAN

Maybe I won't turn you in for possessing an illegal potion.

VENALIS

You spill my beans and I'll spill yours, there's plenty to go around.

BRASMAN

We'll both be expelled from the Guild!

Brasman lunges for the vial.

Venalis attempts to dodge, but is tackled by Brasman and they both fall into Francis and his table, which collapses knocking them and the cage to the ground.

The cage bursts open and the Dire Rat scrambles out.

The vial lands a few feet away and shatters as it hits the pavement.

Almost immediately the rat scurries up to the spilled potion and begins lapping it up curiously.

BRASMAN (CONT'D)

What is that?

VENALIS

It's one of the Dire Rats from Mrs. Bakersfield's basement.

BRASMAN

I thought you took care of them?

VENALIS

We sorta kept one.

The rat quickly begins to grow in size casting them in shadow.

Not far away, Bog is knocked away by a glancing blast from Paragon's sword. Paragon speaks as the Dwarf climbs back to his feet.

PARAGON

Surrender now Dwarf, and you shall not incur further harm. I do not wish to-

Gnomie (Pilot)

Behind him the rat is quickly growing to a gargantuan size. The other villagers back away in terror at the sight.

The Dire Rat raises a paw at Paragon who does not notice the event behind him.

BOG

Paragon! Look out!

Paragon turns to face the rat a second too late, the rat swipes at him with his paw knocking him aside. His sword clatters to the ground.

The rat makes several threatening movements towards the villagers who back away in fear.

VILLAGER

That's the most dire rat I've ever seen!

Tisha helps Francis up from the ground.

TISHA

I thought that was a polymorph potion.

FRANCIS

Well, dire rats aren't exactly smart. He probably couldn't think of anything to change into other than 'even bigger rat'.

The rat continues to make horrific noises as it decides who to eat first.

Bog discards his own weapon and retrieves Paragon's fallen magical sword and charges at the giant rat.

BOG

(shouting)

For Gnomie!

Bog leaps towards the rat with the magical sword held aloft. On swinging the sword towards the beast the sword erupts in a bright white force blinding everything from view.

FADE TO WHITE.

FADE IN:

Gnomie (Pilot)

EXT. VILLAGE STREETS - DAY

Everything has calmed down. The giant rat is nowhere to be seen. The crowd of villagers circles Paragon and Bog.

To the side of the clearing, Venalis and the rest of his party stand by the Guild auditor. Venalis hands a cage containing a scurrying rat to the auditor who is inspecting the broken potion vial on the ground.

AUDITOR

I don't know where this potion  
could have come from.

VENALIS

We may never find out.

AUDITOR

Well, it's a good thing everything  
has been brought under control.

VENALIS

It certainly is, always happy to  
assist in any way we can. And here  
is this fella, safely contained.

Venalis hands the caged rat to the auditor.

AUDITOR

Ah, very good. Here is your reward  
for your services.

He hands a tiny bag of coins to Venalis.

Venalis looks at the bag with dismay.

AUDITOR (CONT'D)

Dire rat infesting a public  
location: twenty-three gold.

VENALIS

But... but it was huge.

AUDITOR

Now, that's hardly the rat's fault,  
is it?

The auditor walks away with the caged rat in hand.

In the center of the clearing, Paragon addresses Bog as he prepares to leave the village.

Gnomie (Pilot)

PARAGON

Sir Bog, it seems I misjudged the situation. This Gnomie must be a truly exceptional woman for you to fight so bravely in her honor.

BOG

Aye. That she is.

PARAGON

I rescind my challenge to the both of you with the deepest of respect.

Paragon turns to Brasman.

PARAGON (CONT'D)

Brasman, you are truly fortunate to be able to go into adventure with such a remarkable Gnome.

BRASMAN

(utterly confused, but playing along)

Yes, she's really something, isn't she.

PARAGON

Indeed. Perhaps Gnomish magic works in ways I simply cannot understand. I may never know exactly how she assisted in the battle against Ba'Dehcki, but I will let it be known across the land that I could never have prevailed without the help of a brave Gnome, named Gnomie.

Paragon heads towards the village entrance. The sun setting as he departs for places unknown.

Bog watches him leave and looks to the horizon with a smile.

Venalis and the rest of the party stand behind the Dwarf watching Paragon head off into the sunset.

VENALIS

Idiot.

FADE TO BLACK.

**END OF ACT III**

Gnomie (Pilot)