

DCC: Not In Kansas Anymore

Our Group

Player	Character	Description	Class
Bruce	Abel Anderson	Sailor	
Bruce	Burris Belleheade	Parsnip Farmer	
Bruce	Camille Crosswise	Stenographer	
Bruce	Dahlia Dahlrymple	Butcher	
Chris	Batreau	B&B owner	
Chris	Maynard	Meth manufacturer	
Chris	Jack	WWI soldier	
Chris	Rodrick	Computer Tech	
Ernest	Erin	Student	
Ernest	Darryl	Florida Man	
Ernest	Dilbeck ("Chris")	Criminal	
Ernest	Shad ("Kris Kringle")	Trailer Park Santa	
Patrick	Stacey Thompson	Professional Screamer	
Patrick	Pierce McMann	Space Valet	
Patrick	Cloudy Dog	Vazarian Gangbanger	
Patrick	Doug	Pod Crash Test Dummer	
Tim	Storkey	Adjutant in the Real Military	
Tim	Atherton von Lafftin	Hetman	
Tim	Three Coins	Majordomo	
Tim	Gimlet Klapp	Bandit	

Tim, Paul, Bruce, Patrick, Chris all show up and gossip.

Eventually, *Ernest* appears. He has been picking out a rector. Or so he claims.

We Are Not From Here

The characters are all from different times, places, and worlds. The common theme is that they have all found some strange coins.

- *Bruce*: 1920's Earth
- *Chris*: Modern-Day Earth (except for the WWI soldier)
- *Patrick*: Space Dungeon!
- *Tim*: Dying Earth.

Then there is a great flash and light! Each character is staggered, there are screams of pain and anger and a shouting voice, "Who are these interlopers? Kill them! I must release Slaggothorp from his prison!"

A half-dozen short men in realistic lizard costumes wield short spears and approach the characters. Behind, a statue of a plate-mail clad warrior with a huge sword looms over everything. Next to the statue is a man whose personal sense of style screams “Republic Serial Evil Wizard” or “Ming the Merciless.” He glares and wields a misshapen club. He shouts at his lizardly minions, “Kill them all!” The characters notice that he is missing a hand, and blood still gushes from the stump. Oddly, he is not in shock. At least, not yet.

The characters have only moments to understand where they are. The characters are in a circular domed room carved from igneous rock. There is a reddish light from the back, caused by a lava flow dropping from a crack in the dome. It is clear that there has been a battle – there are dead lizard men around, and a dead armored figure with a gleaming sword and shield near the lava flow.

Gimlet Klapp quickly grabs the sword and shield while *Atherton von Lafftin*, *Storkey the Adjutant*, and *Three Coins* all rush to the attack. *Three Coins* manages to clock a lizard figure with his staff. The lizard men strike back, killing *Three Coins* instantly.

Stacey Thompson screams, “I’d better get paid for this!” She does nothing useful.

Pierce McMann rushes to the attack while *Cloudy Dog* sets up a mad soundtrack. *Doug* doesn’t know any better, so he also attacks. Of the three, only *Cloudy Dog* manages to hit a lizard somehow.

Jack is ready for this. He stabs with his bayonet, shouting something about “The Goddamn Huns!” *Maynard* eats some meth (because that’s how you use meth?) and stabs with his bowie knife. Screaming something about “Lizards make no sense!” he stabs the iguana man to death.

Abel Anderson is used to seeing supernatural horror. He shoots his pistol to no effect. Fortunately, *Burris Belleheade* has a pitchfork and uses it to pitchfork an iguana man. Meanwhile, *Camille Crosswise* takes detailed notes for historical purposes and *Dahlia Dahlrymple* risks her life for no purpose.

Storkey and *Atherton* double-team an iguana man and leaves the creature desperately injured. The iguana man’s friend retaliates by killing poor *Storkey*. *Gimlet Klapp* steps up, carelessly fences against another iguana man but accomplishes nothing more than taking a hit that shatters his newfound shield.

Pierce McMann uses an antique sword to deliver a thorough slashing to an iguana man. Everyone is surprised when *Batreau* demonstrates a mastery of the cosmic power, and uses it to obliterate an iguana man.

Jack gets far too excited about trying to stab iguana men with his bayonet. He trips and falls.

Camille Crosswise continues to write disparaging notes about *Abel*’s lack of courage. Not to finish there, she also notes that both *Burris* and *Dahlia* are terrible at melee combat. Her criticism is justified when *Atherton* stabs an iguana man and leaves him critically wounded.

Dahlia the butcher is roundly stabbed to death. *Doug* falls a moment later – his organ protector is no match for an iguana man’s spear.

Stacey is motivated by Doug's death. Specifically, she is motivated to rush forward and stab Doug's killer to death with a knife.

Jack stands up. He stands up to a heavy metal soundtrack.

Batreau blows an iguana's man's head off as if it was in *Scanners*. He doesn't notice that the lava is encroaching on the characters' backs. The probably-dead warrior is now certainly dead, because he is engulfed in lava. Also, there are toxic fumes spreading in the background.

The one remaining iguana man ignores the fumes and stabs Burris to death. Jack bayonets the creature and exits the room, with most of the others following.

Atherton chokes upon fumes. Luckily, he survives. He runs, rescuing Three Coins' dog *Zebulon*. He pointedly lets Burris Belleheade's dairy cow die in lava. Poor Jack is not lucky and dies. He curses the Huns as he goes.

Up the Stairs! Flee the Lava!

The surviving characters run up the stairs into a corridor. Maynard hands a chunk of meth to Cloudy Dog and instructs him to chew it. Cloudy Dog is not sure that Maynard knows how meth works.

There are several options upstairs. One of them is a chapel, the other is stairs upwards. Abel the Sailor indicates that he's cursed by God, so stairs it must be. The other two paths that go into swampy rooms aren't even an option: they will surely be engulfed in lava presently.

At this point, there is another earth-shattering kaboom and four more figures appear: A middle-school student (*Erin*), a guy with a chainsaw (*Darryl*), a guy who looks like Ving Rhames in a Santa suit (*Shad*), and a Florida man (*Dilbeck*). Nobody asks for an explanation, and none is offered.

Abel explains to the newcomers, "We're going up the stairs, because if we go into the chapel I'll be damned by God. Oh, also there is lava."

Darryl and Dilbeck aren't interested, they just want to buy meth from Maynard. He charges each of them 9 coppers for a dose, but doesn't pass along his curious ideas on how to use the drug.

The corridor continues to heat up as the lava level rises. Everyone goes for the stairs.

Death Stairs

There is a motionless humanoid shrouded in shadows at the top of the stairs. Shad staggers up, yelling "Ho, ho, ho!" He finds that the stairway is trapped: a pressure plate causes spears to shoot out from the walls. Fortunately, Shad has the luck of the drunk and survives without a scratch. He finds that the "standing" person is someone already impaled and held upright by a spear.

Shad shakes the body, shouting "You've been naughty this year!" He takes a swig from his bottle of Ol' Grandad.

Camille ignores Shad's loopy outbursts as the disables one pressure plate, leaving Atherton to die on the third.

Abel interrupts Shad as the drunkard is stuffing the impaled body into a Santa bag. Abel rifles the body's pockets, but ignores the leather armor (it is hard to get off, what with the Santa bag, the rigor mortis, and the wounds from the spikes). He does manage to recover:

- 9 silver coins
- A sharp dagger
- Thieves' tools

Shad buys the thieves tools from Abel for 9 copper. Atherton designates himself as the trap finder, or perhaps the others select him for this "prestigious" but insanely dangerous task.

The Last Words of a Hero

The characters enter a square room littered with dead iguana men. They can see that the stairs continue up on the other side of the room and six dungeon cells off to the other side. Then Stacey screams and points. The others follow her finger and see a man in one of the dungeon cells, swiftly bleeding out from a horrible abdominal wound. He moans faintly. The characters gather around him, because crowding a first aid site is always the best answers. They can see that he wears a silver amulet around his neck.

The man gasps, "Are you the ones who found the coins? You must succeed where we failed. I have moments to live, you must stop Glipkerio from freeing the ancient dragon Slagotherp."

"How exactly do we do that?"

The dying man hands over an amulet, a silver whistle with flaming wings carved along its sides. He chokes out instructions, "Blown under the open sky, will call on my god for divine favor. Aphiel will grant you victory."

Abel takes the amulet. He tells the hero, "Check. This sounds like utter bullshit."

The hero dies.

Dilbeck asks, "Did I hear corophilia?" He is wearing half of a clown suit. Nobody questions this.

Batreau puts on the necklace. Gimlet has already been looting the dead. Darryl searches too, and finds a human hand with an ornate brass ring on the ring finger under a dead lizard warrior. Gimlet tries to convince Darryl to cut his own hand off and attach the found hand in its place. This doesn't work, but Darryl does put on the ring, the *Eye of Eristobulus*. He can:

- Change the color of his eyes at will. Sky's the limit!
- Cast the spell *color spray*, rolling with D16+INT. You must say the word "color" twice and sacrifice a point of STR, AGL, or STA to make it work. It has three charges.

Bateau finds a finely-crafted mace. He thinks that the dead cleric's robe is still usable, and would count as leather armor. He puts it on. Erin starts chatting him up on how hard it is to pay for college (in spite of the fact that she is only in middle school).

There are lots of spears and short swords around. Spears and short swords all around!

The Dragon Nest

There is a grand hallway at the top of the stairs. It is fancy and elaborate, decorated with tapestries. To the left, a short flight of grand stairs leads to a ballroom. The characters explore and find three things: a dead dragon, a barred opening at the end of the ballroom showing mountains in the distance, and a big pile of treasure. It is clear that the structure is on top of a mountain, probably a volcano. There is a mechanism to raise and lower the bars, but it is ruined – so no escape by free-climb.

Dilbeck investigates the dead dragon. The creature is burned and scarred, its head broken in. He checks and determines that the dragon was female. Nobody else questions how he can tell the difference.

There are some bones around. Zebulon chews on one.

Maynard goes to the treasure heap and starts grabbing things. Treasure scatters everywhere as a young dragon bursts out of the pile. Dilbeck announces, "This is my specialty." He tries pinning the dragon's tail so he can grab its jaws.

Erin flees screaming. Darryl tries using the *Eye of Eristobulus* and burns a charge failing to cast *color spray*. Shad shoots the dragon with his .357 magnum. Abel follows up with his revolver. The dragon looks pretty badly off, but still manages to respond by gushing flame over Darryl, Maynard, and Dilbeck. Surprisingly, the Vaseline Darryl coated himself with turns out to actually be flame-retardant. The others avoid the fire.

Gimlet grazes the dragon with a spear. And then Bateau uses the *power cosmic* to explode the dragon's head. Darryl is hit by a dragon eye. He cheers with hands in the air.

Everyone who isn't Darryl stuffs coins in their pockets.

The Meth Addict Knows the Way!

Maynard thinks the wizard missing a hand went the other way. He points and leads the way. Everyone follows the meth addict.

Bateau comments, "I think he's a cop, we should go get him." It's not clear if he means the wizard, or Maynard.

Darryl and Shad are on board.

They all find a long hallway lined with several doors. A glowing rune hangs in the air in front of the big door at the end.

Camille throws a typewriter through the rune. Nothing happens. She goes to open the door, but Gimlet beats her to it. An electrical bolt shoots through him, almost. He uses his sword to ground it out.

The door opens onto a balcony of heavy stone slabs over the central volcanic caldera. About 100' away, a one-handed wizard is performing a ritual. An iguana man holds open a large book in front of him. Harsh volcanic smoke rises all around. There should be a heavy metal soundtrack, something Nordic and orchestral, but there is nothing except the sound of the wizard chanting and the background roar of a volcanic eruption.

The characters approach the doorway. Their way is blocked as six winged draco-men with curved swords glide down from above. They surround Gimlet. Gimlet clarifies to the others, "It's okay! Each draco-man only has two wings – it's just that there are six of them." Camille is frozen in place as she imagines what a six-winged draco-man would look like.

Maynard is on the scene. He flings a spear right into the lava below. Hand it to Maynard, he always knows how to handle a situation.

In contrast, Roderick the IT guy kills a draco-man instantly with a spear throw through the knee. How is this possible? Great precision. Gimlet flings a spear into another one, leaving it injured.

Erin brandishes her textbook and runs around the edge of the balcony towards the wizard. Nobody else is sure why.

Dilbeck flings a second spear straight into the lava. He takes some meth. It's this kind of thing that happens when you decide to make Maynard your role model.

Shad yells, "Merry Christmas!" in Bugbear and shoots his .357 magnum, hitting nothing. Darryl thinks about casting another *color spray*. Then the characters are mobbed by draco-men. Dilbeck is instantly killed. So is Bateau, which is unfortunate because he had the whistle. Also Shad. Maynard takes a hit, but survives!

Stacey stocks up on throat spray and yells, "Help us! Help us!"

Cloudy Dog notices the whistle talisman on Bateau's body. He picks it up and blows it.

The sky is occluded by flocks of birds of all colors and sizes. They land everywhere above the caldera. The characters are infused (temporarily) with the memories of the heroes who died facing the wizard:

- +12 hit points
- +3 AC
- +2 to all saves
- +3 to attack

The characters also gain a variety of special powers. Abel gains the *good luck charm* ability and the ability to *lay on hands* with a +4 spell check. Camille gains the ability to cast *magic shield* as a 4th level wizard (+4 ability).

Maynard the meth addict, fortified with a *magic shield*, stabs a draco-man, and flings the body over the edge of the balcony.

Rodrick manages to get a *bless* on Gimlet Klapp, who sends Zebulon the dire pug in to deliver a vicious bite to a draco-man's ankle. Dilbeck does better – he shoots a draco-man in the head with his .38.

Erin rushes the wizard, hollering phrases from a middle-school textbook at him. The wizard chortles as a dragon made of black rock emerges from the lava and lands upon the balcony. Lava drips from its horns and wings, and a rune is carved in its forehead.

Camille takes a heavy hit (8 points) from a draco-man. Abel heals her, then she jabs a draco-man in the eye leaving it crippled for life. Maynard ensures that it doesn't need to suffer for long: he takes the creature down. Stacey is infused with the power of dwarfs and uses it to kill a draco-man.

Cloud Dog runs at the wizard. Gimlet Klapp follows him, because all his special powers are worthless.

Darryl picks up Shad's .357 magnum and shoots at the dragon. It doesn't go well; he trips but recovers.

Erin gets to the wizard and his book. Her plan is to write on his book, but he's done with it so she stabs the iguana man assistant in the throat with a pencil instead. She is surprisingly lethal: the iguana man perishes, choking upon its own dark red arterial blood. Untroubled by the fountains of gore, Erin picks up the book.

Slagotherp the Keeper of the Key generates a cloud of volcanic ash around half the characters, obscuring vision and burning the group.

The wizard flings a magic bolt at Erin, who gets some cover from the volcanic ash and avoids injury. At this point it is clear that Erin has embraced the trauma and is no longer operating as a reasoning entity – her responses have been boiled down to rage and nihilism, but unlike Uri Kunkel she is still someone to be feared.

Cloudy Dog manages to hit the dragon. He succeeds, though not in a remarkable way. Rodrick does better with his scimitar. Slagotherp looks scratched. Then Gimlet moves in to attack. He tells the dragon, "I can see you with my elf eyes!" He inflicts a surprisingly deep hit!

Erin tells the wizard, "I've learned your arcane secrets!" She launches a *magic missile* at him. The wizard shoots back and misses.

Slagotherp nips at Maynard. Ow! Then a tail slap at Darryl inflicts crippling damage on him. And as a fitting conclusion it casts *Eckerd's magical mask*, instilling fear in Rodrick. Rodrick is very afraid and flees. The dragon claws him as he goes, trying to knock away his sword. Rodrick keeps his sword, and his life!

Abel casts *magic shield* on Camille, giving her +4 AC and immunity to *magic missile* for 2 turns, as they both move up.

Erin makes a second *magic missile* hit on the wizard. Then Darryl runs up and slaps the wizard with his own severed hand. The wizard is unimpressed.

Slagotherp bites Gimlet to death. Rrrumph! Then he uses his tail to slap Erin silly.

Pierce McMann manages to get a critical hit on Slagotherp, kneecapping the creature. It's starting to look pretty bad. Even worse, its health insurance comes from an American health care service provider: dying might be preferable to incurring more medical debt than a dragon's hoard can cover.

Maynard (who had previously disappeared) shows up and stabs Slagotherp in the eye. It can take no actions for two rounds! And it is permanently blinded in one eye! Better call for pre-authorization for trauma care now!

Erin gets very close to the wizard and stabs him with a short sword. She knocks his stupid headgear over his eyes and gives him a really rousing stabbing. He's looking badly hurt. But he still manages to hit her with a *magic bolt* and kill her!

Darryl is deeply upset. He yells out, "You killed an underage girl!" and blazes away at the wizard with his .357 magnum. The wizard gestures and vanishes in an orange flash.

Stacey manages to get a surprisingly lucky hit on the dragon. Camille gets a workmanlike hit, while Abel heals Stacey of some of her wounds. And Maynard stabs the dragon more, critically wounding it. Rodrick follows up and leaves the dragon with a single hit point! Darryl gets a bizarre lucky shot (courtesy of Abel) – the bullet ricochets off the stone, off some lava, and right through the dragon's empty eye socket. Slagotherp falls!

Vortex of the Birds

The birds around the volcano form a swirling vortex, lifting the characters up to the top of the mountain. Their borrowed hero abilities quickly fade and the other characters rejoin the survivors. Each of the characters can roll for a second occupation to represent their residual memories of a life that isn't theirs.

Character	Second Occupation
Darryl	Smuggler
Maynard	Halfling dyer
Rodrick	Squire
Stacey	Dwarven herder
Pierce McMann	Gravedigger
Cloudy Dog	Corn farmer
Abel	Ditchdigger
Camille	Squire

The End of the Session

The scene fades to black. Maybe the survivors return home, and maybe they do not. Certainly we will never know...