

Level One Human: Episode 1 "Winging It"

CAST

Egan: James Miron

Zinnia: Clark Eileen Atkinson

Lars: Matt Griffiths

Moxie: Devon Richtmeyer

Rhodan: Jason Kulas

Palanus: Kurt Boucher

Amulet: Jerry Crystal

Narrator: J Timothy Quirk

Skudge the Goblin: Andrew Usher

Jabber the Goblin: Beth Steinberg

Postwick Guard 1 "Galph": J Timothy Quirk

Postwick Guard 2 "Balter": Thomas Rafferty

Narrator: (as if telling a story around a campfire)

Our story begins deep under Mt. Mittenshear, in a far-away land called Basilmoan. Four figures move quietly in the dark caverns, a forest elf, a high elf, a tall humanoid called a Celestial, and an anthropomorphic rodent-person called a Rattus.

These four would-be heroes cautiously approach the nest of the horror of Mittenshear, the dragon known as Angregan. Their torches flicker and project immense shadows upon the walls, as they near the end of their quest to retrieve the artifact that the dragon protects. And so we begin our own with "Level One Human" Episode 1: "Winging It"

(Sound: dampness, torches, and quiet footsteps in a cave.)

Lars

Are we almost there?

Rhodan

Yes, the nest must be up around this bend. Remember the plan: we kill the dragon, Angregan; we get this artifact that Zinnia is after, and we all get out. Easy peasy!

(Sound: dragon roaring.)

Lars

Stay back; I can take it!

(Sound: footsteps running, sounds of a sword slashing.)

Rhodan

Lars, this isn't the plan!

(Sound: dragon roars, flames being breathed.)

Moxie

Lars! Get out of there!

Lars

No; I've got this!

(Sound: sword slashing.)

Zinnia

Dammit Lars, (echo-y, as she casts a spell) Arcane Arrow!

(Sound: magic sounds, impact on the dragon, dragon roars again.)

(Sound: a crossbow firing.)

Rhodan

My bolts just bounce off it! Lars! Get back from there! This isn't
the way to do this!

Lars

Back, you foul wyrm! I shall slay you, in the name of The Order of
Order!

(Sound: dragon roars, Lars screams in pain.)

Zinnia

It's got him!

Moxie

Lars! Hold your breath! Toxin Burst! Unh! (like she's throwing
something)

(Sound: whoosh as she throws a bottle, breaking glass, dragon roars again.)

Rhodan
It worked! It let go!

Zinnia
Rhodan, come help me with him!

Lars
I can stand. Ugh, that stuff stinks.

Moxie
Yeah, it's muckwort & rosebile, but it won't phaze it for long! Time to go!

Zinnia
Lars, Rhodan, Let's go!

Lars
Not. Yet. I have to obey my orders! Taste my steel, beast!

Rhodan
Lars! Retreat, you idiot!!

(Sound: massive dragon roar, sounds of retreat, while the dragon roars in the cave, growing distant.)

(Transition - to outside the cave. Sound: of outdoors.)

Lars
(breathing heavily) It's too fast. I just made it out before the whole cave went aflame!

Zinnia
You did nothing but antagonize it. We had all made it out well before you pulled the "hero" card. Moxie, help him; he's white as a ghost.

Moxie
I'll do what I can, but we're low on supplies. And I'm running out of dragonsbane. Rare and expensive stuff.

(Sound: bottles clinking)

Rhodan

We still haven't gotten the artifact, though. I'm going back in.

Zinnia

Rhodan, you can't! It almost killed Lars - It's too dangerous!

(Sound: running on gravel, sounds of combat.)

Lars

Surround it! If we attack from all directions, we can corner it!

Rhodan

I need to get closer!

Zinnia

Why the hell would you want to do that?!

Rhodan

I have a plan! Distract it!

Moxie

Hey, you big ugly lizard! Look at me! I'm a tasty snack!

(Sound: roar.)

Zinnia

Rhodan, if you're going to do something, do it now!

(Sound: Rhodan running up to the dragon, dragon roaring.)

Lars

What the- Why is it glowing?!

Zinnia

GET DOWN!

(Sound: a large pulse of magic energy and a loud roar that turns into a human voice erupts, combined with a shout from Rhodan.

Then--silence.)

Moxie

(agonized) Rhodan! NO! (to her friends) We have to help him!

Lars

Moxie, he's gone. It's over. We have to get out of here!

Zinnia

No; wait; listen. (pause) It IS over, but it's gone silent up there.
We need to go take a look.

(Transition - moist cave noises, soft echoes possibly.)

Zinnia

Rhodan? Are you there?

Moxie

(gasps)

(shouting) There's someone over here! (quietly) It's all right. I've
got you. Where did your clothes go? Are you hurt?

Egan

Stay away! What's- what's happening?? Why am I down here?

Moxie

Easy, easy... Here, wrap yourself up with this blanket. (To Lars)
Lars, grab me your spare clothes. (To Egan) The dragon is gone; it
won't hurt you anymore.

Egan

What? Gone? I'm not-

Moxie

I think you're in shock. How long have you been here?

Lars

If I had to guess... based on all of the scorch marks... you barely
made it out alive. You're very lucky.

Egan

Lucky? (disgusted) I'm (pause) *human!* What have you done to me?! Why
are you here?!

Moxie

(to friends) Yeah, they're definitely in shock. (to Egan) I'm trying to help you; stop squirming.

Lars

I can't find any remains of Rhodan; he must've escaped the way we came.

Moxie

Oh, thank the gods.

Zinnia

There's nothing else in here. I bet the dragon left with the artifact.

Moxie

Let's go meet back up. We should hide nearby to see if it returns.

Egan

I- I don't understand-

Lars

Here, come with us; you're safe now.

(Transition - walking through the forest, occasional stumbles. The party rests.)

Zinnia

I'm Zinna, she/her, the mouse is Moxie-

Moxie

(interrupting) I'm not a mouse!-

Zinnia

(interrupting) also she/her, And the tall blonde idiot is Lars.

Lars

(slightly annoyed) Hey!...He/him.

Egan

I'm Angreg- uh I mean, (with effort) *Egan*... They/them? What are all of you doing here??

Lars

I was sent by my Order, "The Order of Order," to kill the dragon and help Zinnia retrieve an artifact the dragon stole.

Moxie

Rhodan and I were looking for a job, so we decided to tag along.

Egan

What is the artifact?

Moxie

All we know is that it's some sort of amulet.

Egan

Yeah, I didn't see that anywhere.

Lars

How did you end up in that cave? And still alive?

Egan

I, uhm... (thinking- few beats) I tried to steal... from the... dragon's hoard, and it took me prisoner.

Lars

But there wasn't any hoard?

Egan

Well, I know that *now*.

Moxie

Most people don't have the guts to try and steal from a dragon.

Egan

Not one of my brightest moments, no.

Lars

Well, it seems the dragon won't be returning now that we found its hideout, so you're free now. Are you far from home?

Egan

I don't know. I'm kind of disoriented right now.

Zinnia

We're just south of Mittenshear. We've been moving fast, but we're somewhere in the Garwood.

Egan

Pretty far then. How many days to Kottletop?

Lars

You're from Kottletop? But the dragon destroyed that town months ago. How did you survive in a cave for that long?

Egan

Right... of course I *know* that! I couldn't stop-- uh... I couldn't stop the..dragon. I... I ran for aid. I don't remember what happened after that.

Lars

You ran? And remember nothing at all? Your home was being destroyed and you--

Egan (gruff, loud)

I got carried away! You try staying calm when everything is burning down around you!

Moxie

(whispering) Great job, Lars.

Lars

I didn't mean to... I was just trying to...

Moxie

Feel better about yourself? Deal with your anger over losing to the dragon?

Zinnia

That's ENOUGH. BOTH of you. (Soothing, to Egan) Hey, Lars didn't mean to upset you. We're sorry about your town. Why don't you come with us for a while? Do you have any family somewhere else?

Egan

(Still gruff, angry) No. I'll be fine on my own. (sarcastically) Thank you for all your wonderful help.

(Transition - walking through woods, clumsy sounds of snapping twigs etc.)

Egan

Oh great; a mouse, a wood elf, and a goody-two shoes celestial. What a bunch of- of- useless pests! I need to figure out what happened to me- AH!

(Sound: of tripping, struggling)

Jabber

Oy, Skudge, we got one! Right in th' net!

Skudge

I can see we got one, Jabber! I got eyes! But it's only a human!

Jabber

Human's tasty! I had some once at a festival or somethin'? This one's young enough.

Egan

Young?! I'm over 100 years-old! (struggling in net)

Jabber

Nah, 'e's obviously an adolescent male human, prone to boasting.

Egan

(muffled, politely) It's actually they/them.

Skudge

(politely) Ah, our apologies.

Egan

(politely) Thank you. (angrily) Now listen, you pathetic insects, if you don't let me go, I'll tear you limb from limb!

(Sound: a beat, then the goblins laugh. Egan rages.)

Jabber

They're gonna tear us apart! Imagine that? A human?

Skudge

A loud human at that! Oi, but you're funny!

(Sound: they continue laughing, and Egan once again rages.)

(Transition - Lars, Moxie, and Zinnia walking slowly in the woods, not stumbling. Sound of Egan's rage, muffled as though far away. Footsteps stop suddenly.)

Zinnia

Wait-- does that sound like Egan to you? Do you think they're all right?

Moxie

Do you think it matters? We barely know them, Zinnia. They wanted to be left alone.

(Sound: muffled anger and pain.)

Lars

I think we should go help.

Moxie

Of course you do. Have fun.

Zinnia

Moxie, come on. They're in trouble.

Moxie

We're in trouble, Zinnia. No medical supplies, the dragon is gone with the artifact, our friend might be dead... and you want to rush to save some ungrateful stranger? Thanks, but I'll be looking for Rhodan.

(Sound: louder, more intense pain and anger.)

Lars

Moxie.

Moxie

(sighs) Fine...let's go help the arrogant little git.

(Sound: voices become clearer)

Egan

(muttering) I swear, once I get out of here—

Moxie

(yelling) Still think you'll be okay on your own?

Egan

(under their breath) Oh great, these geniuses again. (louder) I have the situation completely under control!

Zinnia

Oh yeah, definitely; you just hang around in the air in your spare time?

Egan

As a matter of fact—

Skudge

Oi! Why're you talking to our dinner? Quit your jabbering!

Jabber

Huh? Oh, you meant—

Skudge

Oh for god's sake! Not you, Jabber!

Zinnia

Sorry to ruin date night, but that's our friend you were going to eat.

Jabber

Finder's keepers!

Moxie

(screams in pain) Son of a—! You didn't have to stab me!

Lars

Moxie! Let me handle thiiiiiii—!

(Sound: voice fading, and then a loud crash, as Lars falls into a pit trap.)

Zinnia
Lars!

Egan
Oh yeah, look out for the pit trap. (struggles more)

Lars
(Sound: as from a well)
I'm okay! I mean, I can't move my leg, but that's probably fine.

Jabber
Skudge, I got the rat-girl!

Moxie
(weakly) Not a rat-girl! Ungh... (fainting)

Jabber
Ouch! That's not fair! Skudge, she stabbed me in me bottom!

Skudge
Don't matter, Jabbers! She's down!

Lars
Moxie?

Zinnia
Get away from me, twerp!(echoing) Spectral shove! (magic sounds)

Skudge
Aigh! Dang magic users!

Zinnia
Lars, get up here! Moxie's down!

Egan
(sarcastically) Oh, my heroes...

Lars
Ah, gods, my leg reeeeeeeally isn't supposed to bend that way.

Jabber
You's ready to give up?

Skudge
Yeah, we'll be nice and take ya stuff AFTA we eats ya.

Zinnia
Right, I've had enough. (echoing) Flaming Orb! (magic sounds)
(Sound: magic blast and goblins yelling in pain as they run away)

Jabber
(running)
Shoot! Not again!

Skudge
(voice getting further away, running)
This same thin' happened last Thursday!

Lars
Are they gone?

Zinnia
(moves to her side)
Moxie? C'mon, wake up!

Egan
Such a shame. She was the only one of you that had some brains.

Zinnia
Moxie, please. We need you!

Lars
No! Moooooooooxiiiiiiiiie!

Moxie
(coughs, then weakly) Quiet, you. Can't a girl get some rest? Not...
gettin' rid of me that... (cough) easy. I'm the baddest copper-piece
around.

Zinnia

Can you stand?

Lars & Moxie

No.

Egan

(struggling) I can't either. The giant net is in the way.

Zinnia

Hang on, Lars. (echoing) Flying Sphere! (magic sounds)

Lars

Ooh, levitation! Thanks, Zinny.

Zinnia

It's "Zinnia."

Lars

Right; sorry.

Egan

(Struggling still) Dorks.

Lars

Nice and gentle, set me- (thudding sound) Ouch!

Zinnia

Sorry! Moxie, can you stand yet?

Moxie

(still weak) Is all this blood mine?

Egan

Some of it (struggling) was from the (struggle) goblin you so bravely
stabbed as you fainted. (Struggle)

Moxie

Ugh. Lars and I are injured, and the twerp is still alive?

Zinnia

Yeah. Sorry. Lars, it's dislocated. I can shove it back in if you
like.

Lars

Nah, I'll just wait until-- OW!

Zinnia

Sorry.

Moxie

(weak, standing up) We survived the dragon, but these two lousy goblins kicked the snot out of us?

Zinnia

We won in the end. And Egan, this is all your fault. Do you want help getting set free or not?

Egan

(stops struggling, sighs) Fine. Yes... (pause-- as if it pains them)
Please.

(Sound: cutting of rope, and a thud as Egan's feet hit the ground.)

Egan

(dusting off, clears throat) Well, I thank you for your help, but I'm afraid it is goodbye for good this time.

Lars

Are you sure you want to do that? I think it'd be better to stay with us; we can keep you safe.

Egan

(sputtering) Safe! Keep me safe, he says! I don't need help! Especially not from the group that immediately lost to a lousy pair of goblins!

Moxie

You mean the group that *saved* you from a dragon.

Egan

You didn't--! I'm-- Argh! (Takes a deep breath) Fine, yes, it seems that I am temporarily unable to defend myself. A small inconvenience, I assure you.

Zinnia
(scoff) Offer's expiring, buddy.

Egan
Okay, okay, yes! I'd appreciate some... safety.

Lars
Great! Let's go find Rhodan.

Egan
This is another member of your *adorable* little team?

Lars
Yes, he went missing after the fight. I'm not sure where he could've gone. He doesn't seem to be waiting on the road, and I don't know why he would just keep walking.

Zinnia
But we always say to just meet up at the nearest tavern if we get split up, so we'll check there first.

Moxie
I could use a drink anyway.

Egan
Is... "Rhodan" a magic user?

Lars
Not that I know of; why?

Egan
Not capable of any transforming abilities? Hexes? Curses?

Zinnia
I had taught him a little, but he's just a beginner. Why? You wanna curse someone?

Egan
No no, just... curious.

Moxie
Lars, how much farther is the closest village?

Lars

(Rustling of a map) Postwick is closest, but we're not going to make it before nightfall.

Zinnia

And I'm completely tapped, magic-wise.

Egan

So, we're not going anywhere?

Moxie

That's correct.

Egan

But Zinny and I are fine.

Zinnia

"Zinnia!"

Lars

But Moxie and I are not.

Moxie

I'll be fine. But we should camp, and I can take a better look at that leg. But not here in the goblin's camp.

Zinnia

Can you walk, Lars?

Lars

I'll do what I can. Let's just find something close, but not too close.

(Transition - Sound: of crickets and a campfire)

Narrator

Our party makes camp away from the goblin encampment, in case they return. In the night, they take turns keeping watch and resting to heal their wounds. Zinnia sits quietly by the campfire while the new companion Egan fidgets uncomfortably in his skin.

Egan

So what do we do?

Zinnia

We're on watch. We watch. We let Lars and Moxie rest; they're both a mess.

Egan

You're pretty good with that magic. Where'd you learn that?

Zinnia

I don't really see the point in sharing any personal information with you.

Egan

No, I get it. Some big fancy wizard-school, I bet. You probably do lots of transformations and curses and such, right?

Zinnia

This is the second time you've asked about curses.

Egan

Well, you do, don't you?

(pause. Zinnia says nothing)

Egan

That's part of your whole magicky deal, isn't it? A little hex here, a little curse there...

(Sound: Beat. A lone wolf howls in the distance. Two answer from further away, audio-opposite if we are doing stereo)

Zinnia

Are you finished?

Egan

And you're strong. Maybe not as strong as that celestial, but definitely stronger than rat-girl. We could have ditched them.

Zinnia

We don't do that. Just like we didn't ditch you, no matter how bratty you've been. We're a team.

Egan

Well, what about this Rhodan fellow?

Zinnia

What about him?

Egan

Looks like he ditched you.

(Sound: Beat. another wolf howl.)

Zinnia

We're done talking now.

Egan

It's true--

Zinnia

Quiet. The wolves are hungry, and I'm out of patience.

Narrator

The pair fall silent, as their companions sleep. Eventually, Moxie and Lars replace them to get a turn at some rest.

(Sound: Cricket noises. Transition music)

(Sound: Less crickets)

Moxie

It's almost morning.

Lars

Those wolves seemed to have moved on. Should we wake these two?

Moxie

Give them a couple more minutes. Especially Egan. They're quieter this way.

Lars

(beat) You're worried about Rhodan.

Moxie

I'm not worried about anybody.

Lars

It's okay to worry.

Moxie

Do I look like someone who worries?

Lars

Yes, quite a bit. (beat) But we will find him.

Moxie

Yeah, and when we do, I'll punch him right in his stupid face.

(Pause)

Egan

Can you *reach* his face?

Moxie

(Sarcastically) Oh, has our majesty awoken from their beauty sleep?

Lars

Aaaaaand that conversation is now done! Let's get moving, everyone!

(Transition music. Sound: of walking on dirt road.)

Zinnia

I'm only picking up one pair of tracks. This must be Rhodan.

Moxie

...Do you guys see that?

Lars

(draws blade) See what?! Where?

Egan

I believe she is referring to that shadowy figure up ahead.

Zinnia

Okay, we should be cautious here.

Egan

Is this the guy you're looking for? (to person) Excuse me!

Zinnia

No I don't-- I don't think that's--

Lars

Well he's certainly noticed us at this point. Might as well say hi.

(Sound: increasing sound of figure panting and muttering to himself.)

Lars

Hey, are you okay?

Palanus

Oh! Oh, excuse me, I was-- I have been lost; I was pursued by goblins during the night, and I have been-- I have been running, and also I--I heard wolves and--.... who are you? I--I do not want any trouble--

Lars

Oh, we're not looking to make trouble.

Egan

Uh... We are a... new group... of adventur-- This is my-- this is my *personal guard!*

Lars

Uh, I'm-- I'm what? I'm what now?

Zinnia

What? Whoa--

Moxie

Uh--

Egan

(confidently) These people are my personal guards; we are just traveling to the next town. Who are you?

Palanus

My name is Palanus; I am but a humble bard. (plays kazoo) Did you say you're going to the next-- oh, are you going down to Postwick or to Berryham?

Lars
Postwick.

Palanus
Ah you're going to Post-- all right, if it is all right, I'll travel with you?

Lars
Yeah, safety in numbers.

Zinnia
Sure.

Palanus
All right. (begins whistling as he walks)

Egan
Oh gods, that's going to get annoying real quick.

(Sound: whistling)

Lars
Well, maybe he'll get tired of it.

(Sound: whistling)

Zinnia
Ugh.

Egan
...You know, I've heard that whistling attracts bears.

Lars
Wait-- what? It does--? Oh, yes! That's right; it does!

Zinnia
Oh yeah. Definitely.

Palanus

Oh-- oh, whistling attracts bears?

Egan

Yes.

Moxie

Yep.

Palanus

Oh, that's terrible, because I can't help myself but whistle--

Lars

And goblins! That's why they were chasing you.

Palanus

Oh, I will do my best to stop from doing it, but I'm afraid that it's something that I-- I cannot help.

Lars

Oh, well, uh, just keep your weapons ready.

Palanus

All right, I-- weapons? I do not carry weapons.

Zinnia

Ah.

(Transition music. Sound: of a town in the distance.)

Palanus

Well, thank you, my friends, for protecting me. I believe we are almost to Postwick. I am so glad! No bears or goblins that whole journey!

Egan

We got *lucky* today, I guess.

Moxie

Oh look, there's the entrance to the town.

Palanus

Please, my friends... I-- I need to duck behind you.

Egan

Uh-oh, wha-- w-- why??

Zinnia

Yeah, why??

Palanus

I can explain later.

Lars

Ohhh, perhaps he's not-- perhaps they don't want him in this town.

Egan

Do they not like Droths?

Zinnia

Or maybe just this one in particular.

Palanus

Oh-- oh, they-- they like Droths here, yes. (sighs) oh, dear. (Muffled whistling and muttering to himself)

Egan

Is that to stop you whistling?

(Sound: muffled whistling)

Egan

Ohhhhkay..(loudly) Hello! We would like passage into your lovely town!

Guard 1

(sighs) Names, please.

Egan

(fancily) Eeegan!

Lars

Lars.

Zinnia

Zinnia!

Moxie
Moxie!

Palanus
Oh I-- my-- my name is... Steve? Ah, yes, my-- my name is Steve.

Egan
Yep, that's Steve.

Guard 2
Palanus! You get the hell out of here, Palanus! Go!

Egan
(offended) Uh, *that's my friend, Steve!* I do not know *what* you are
talking about--

Guard 1
Yeah-no, he's Palanus the Whistling Droth. No, forget about it; he's
not allowed in this town.

Lars
(curiously) Oh, why not?

Guard 2
You do not wanna ask.

Egan
Maybe we do.

Guard 1
You wanna be banned too, kid?

Egan
"KID?!" How dare--

Zinnia
Okay, okay! Egan, calm down!

Egan
Who says this idiot gets to pick who goes in?

Guard 1

Excuse me?! Y'know what? Everyone but that one gets to go in.

Moxie

Okay, that's just not fair!

Guard 2

You heard 'im; shoo!

Moxie

I'm sure we'll find some way in.

Lars

Oh no, Moxie--

Guard 1

Is that a threat?

Moxie

So what if it is?

Guard 2

All right, that's it; hands up!

(Transition music - to Rhodan)

(Sound: cave noises)

Rhodan

(Groaning, as if waking up) Guys? Hello? Anyone? (Pause, no reply)

Whatever happened, I was thrown down this crevasse. Drat, my back hurts... Okay, this is fine... Oh, what's this? A necklace?

(Sound: chain, necklace being picked up)

I wonder how much I can get for this. Weird markings, though.

(Sound: of walking in the wet of the cave)

Hello! Anyone around?! Moxie!? (beat) Zinny!? Lars!? Guys, this is not the time to be shy? I think the dragon is gone; I don't hear it anymore...

(Sound: pause, no reply)

Amulet

(Beat) **That necklace you found is pretty. You should put it on.**

Narrator (credits)

This has been Level One Human, episode One, "Winging It."

Level One Human was performed by

James Miron as Egan
Clark Eileen Atkinson as Zinnia
Matt Griffiths as Lars
Devon Richtmeyer as Moxie
Jason Kulas as Rhodan
Kurt Boucher as Palanus

Also featuring the voices of
Beth Steinberg, Andrew Usher, Thomas Rafferty, J Timothy Quirk, and
Jerry Crystal

Written, Directed, and Produced by Ilana Hunter and Kurt Boucher

Additional writing by Jennifer Hunter and AJ Lin

Music by Ilana Hunter, Raymond Boucher, and Kurt Boucher
Additional music by Wendy Sheridan of Music for the Goddess

I am your Narrator, J Timothy Quirk

Thank you for listening to Nutmeg Junction