

Level One Human: Episode 2 (26 pages) "Aw, Rats!"

CAST

Egan: James Miron
Zinnia: Clark Eileen Atkinson
Lars: Matt Griffiths
Moxie: Devon Richtmeyer
Rhodan: Jason Kulas
Town Crier: Humphry Rolleston
Palanus: Kurt Boucher
Narrator: J Timothy Quirk
Postwick Guard 1 "Galph": J Timothy Quirk
Cindy-Lee: Jennifer Hunter
Barkeep: Rick Cyr
Betsy: Amy Petrucci
Postwick Guard 3: David Robbinson
Jeremy the Elf: Paul Starybrat
Pixie One (Blossom): Jennifer Hunter
Villager: Ilana Hunter?

Egan

Last time, on Level One Human...

Narrator

I'm sorry Egan, but that's my job. I'm the Narrator.

Egan

Well, are you going to tell them that I'm a dragon who is suddenly trapped in the body of a *ew* HUMAN? And that I've teamed up with some adventurers who I previously defeated and have no clue I'm really a dragon? They're SO STUPID.

Narrator

Yes. I'll handle that.

Egan

Okay, just making certain. Because, you know, you look pretty... human, and all.

Narrator

Are you finished?

Egan

Please, do go on.

Narrator

Previously, on Level One Human, our adventurers failed to kill the dragon and lost their friend: "Rhodan! NO!" And went to look for him, only to meet Egan: "(disgusted) I'm (pause) *human!* What have you done to me?! Why are you here?!" Saved them from some hungry goblins:

"Still think you'll be okay on your own?" "Oh great, these geniuses again. I have the situation completely under control!" And bumped into a whistling traveler on their way to: "Postwick." "Ah you're going to Post-- all right, if it is all right, I'll travel with you?" And had a lovely conversation with the city guards: "All right, that's it; hands up!" And now onto "Level One Human" Episode Two - "Aw, Rats!"

Zinnia

I can't believe you almost got us all arrested.

Moxie

They let us in, though, except for Palanus.

Zinnia

They alerted all the guards to keep an eye on us!

Lars

It's fine; it's just a waste of their time. Because we will not be doing anything illegal, *right?*

Moxie

Sure, bud.

Egan

I need a drink.

Lars

You seem pretty young, have you ever had a drink?

Egan

Uh yes, I've had a drink.

Lars
Oh oka-

Egan
Yes. I drink all the time.

Lars
Oh-

Egan
I love it.

Lars
PFF- okay.

Zinnia
So then what's your favorite?

Egan
Uh-

Lars
Are you a drunk?

Egan
No.

Lars
Do you have a problem?

Egan
Do you have a problem?!

Lars
Do you have a prob-

Egan
Do you want to make it a problem?

Town Crier (yelling)

Hear ye! Hear ye! Weather today: mostly sunny, with a 15 percent chance of harpies this afternoon! Also: The Scalded Muskrat has a special on salamanders!

Moxie

Oh, The Scalded Muskrat. Does that sound good?

Lars

Sounds great!

Egan

Sounds tasty.

Moxie

Excuse me, sir?

Towncrier

(Yelling) Yes, miss?!

Moxie

Uhm, Where is the Scalded Muskrat?

Towncrier (still yelling)

Little Rat Lady Wants to Know Where To Find the Scalded Muskrat!
Also: Special in the town market today on semi-rotten potatoes!

Moxie

I'm not a rat!

Zinnia

Moxie, it's right over there; let's go in.

(Sound: mostly empty tavern)

Lars

Can I get uhhhhhh- can I get a breakfast burrito?

Barkeep

A breakfast what?

Lars

No?

Barkeep

Oh, uh, I.. Betsy, could you hammer some bread flat?!.. Ay, this, this big lad, he wants a, burrito?!..Betsy will hammer some bread flat and-

Lars

And just put some muskrat meat in it; it's fine.

Barkeep

Oh, that's just the sign; we don't have any muskrat.

Lars

Oh! Oh, well, whatever you've got.

Barkeep

Muskrat's out of season.

Lars

Ah, sorry; of course.

Barkeep

I think I can scrape together some gerbil?

Lars

That's good; that's good.

Egan

...gerbils are even smaller than muskrats.

Lars

They are very small--

Moxie

The bones are chewy so you can just--

Barkeep

Postwick is renowned for its exotic meats.

Lars

Oh, that's exciting!

Moxie

(Gasp) Do they have *dragon*?

Egan
EXCU- M- ahem.

Barkeep
Oh, not that exotic, but you could get a bowl full of boiled salamanders if you wanted.

Egan
Oh god...

Lars
That's a little slimy.

Zinnia
I'm a vegetarian.

Lars
Nah, I'm happy with the gerbils..

(Sound: plate hitting table)

Barkeep
Here ya go, son.

Egan
That is very burnt.

Lars
It's fine; it'll be crunchy. (Mouth full) It's good!

Egan
I'll have the normal stuff. Whatever's normal. For people. For humans.
Because that's what I am! Is a human.

Zinnia
Mh-hmm.

Barkeep
We don't have any human mea- oh you mean human-

Egan
Whatever is normal for humans to eat.

Barkeep
What-

Lars
Like eggs?

Egan
Eggs; maybe some sort of bacon?

Lars
You sure you don't just want some of this?

Egan
That does look good..

Lars
Yeah, just give 'em one of these.

Barkeep
How do you take your gerbil?

Egan
I take them *dead*. *Dead* is how I would like them, please. Completely dead. Dead, and you know what? This time- (proudly, as if taking a risk) *Cooked!*

Lars
Actually cooked?

Egan
Yep, well done!

Lars
Thank you.

(Plate is brought out.)

Betsy

Anyone else who wants a gerbil burrito, it's gonna take a while to hammer some more bread.

Egan
That's fine-

Lars
I thought you were going to say, "hammer more gerbils".

Egan
That's how you catch them. It's also a party game!

Moxie
I'll have a bowl of salamander with possum gravy, please.

Egan
What is wrong with this tavern??

Lars
They have a wide variety of stuff here. And quick!

Egan
They are very quick!

Barkeep
What're you having there? Elfy lady.

Zinnia
I'll stick with some of that potato goat cheese combination, with some turnips; that sounds delightful.

Lars
But hold the gerbils?

Zinnia
But hold the gerbils, and uh-

Lars
(Quietly) They are very hard to hold.

Barkeep
In a bowl or in a burrito?

Zinnia
Let's do a bowl.

Barkeep
A bowl? There's a special on salamander.

Zinnia
No, thanks.

Barkeep
All right.

Lars
And ale all around!

Egan
Yeah!...Now what?

Lars
We're waiting for Rhodan, right?

Moxie
We're just waiting here?

Zinnia
We don't know if we're going to see him; we should ask some people. (To
barkeep) Hello; we are wondering if you happened to see a friend of
ours come by here.

Barkeep
What's he look like?

Zinnia
His name is Rhodan, he's uh, yea high, with black hair, and blue-ish
green-ish skin, and-

Barkeep
Oh you mean a high elf?

Zinnia
Yes!

Barkeep

Hmm.. Betsy, you seen any high elves recently?

Betsy

Oh yeah, there was- they found one. I think he's in the drunk tank.

Egan

Is your friend known to do that?

Lars

(Sarcastically) Oh yeah, all the time; drinks like a fish.

Egan

Like a- what??

Betsy

I don't know if he's your friend, but he was a high elf, you know the blue-green skin and-

Zinnia

Where is the drunk tank?

Moxie

Yeah, where is that? Is the drunk tank a different bar?

Egan

Is it a real tank?

Lars

Like a military tank?

Egan

No, I was thinking more like a fish tank.

Lars

Well, he does drink like a fish, so-

Barkeep

No no, it's a small jail in the guard's station down the road.

Lars

Ah, got it. Thank you for your help!
(Sound: throws coins on the table.)

Moxie
Guys, there are a bunch of guards outside.

(Sound: door opens.)

Guard One
You're not going for him, are ya? We see you, Palanus! You're not a
bush, Palanus! Stay outta town!

Lars
No no, we really don't know him, no.

Zinnia
I'm kinda curious, though, what's the deal? What's the problem with
Palanus?

Lars
Yeah, what's up with him?

Guard One
Oh, he- he won't stop whistling.

Lars
Oh.

Egan
Ah.

Moxie
Fair enough.

Egan
Everybody got annoyed with it, huh?

Zinnia
That's it?

Guard One
Well, when he whistles, it attracts great hordes of rats.

Egan
Not bears?

Guard One
I'd rather have bears because, at least, you know, bears don't get
under the floorboards, but, no.

Moxie
And you can eat bears.

Zinnia
Hey, not all rats get under floorboards either.

Lars
I don't think we're talking about adorable fancy rats here.

Egan
We have a rat-person with us.

Moxie
I am not a rat.

Lars
She's rat-*ish*.

Moxie
The term is *rattus*. That's- that- that is what you call my people.

Lars
I don't think that's- yeah- I don't think that's what he's talking
about.

Moxie
Although I did really like his whistling. I didn't quite understand
that.

Lars
Well, you can go hang out with him if you want, but in the meantime,
we have to see if Rhodan is locked up here.

Zinnia

(To guards) We're looking for our friend, a high elf. I heard you had one in the drunk tank?

Guard Three

Yeah, we got a high elf in there. You're- you want him?

Moxie

Well, can we see if he's the right one first?

Guard Three

Well, as far as I'm concerned, he's yours now.

Zinnia

Well now, wait a second- we're not just shopping for elves, dude!

Lars

No, we'll take him.

Moxie

We didn't just say, "give us any elf you got!"

Lars

We'll take him; it's fine.

Moxie

We will??

Lars

Yeah, sure.

Zinnia

Wut- wut?? No!

(Sound: voices arguing)

Guard Three

All right, all of you, come on.

Lars

Can we just see what he looks like, to tell if it's who we're looking for?

Zinnia

Yeah!

(Sound: Doors open, jail cell opens.)

Guard One

Oh, it doesn't matter, we're kicking him out of the tank; his time is up. (To elf) Come on! Get up!

Zinnia

He doesn't have to come with us. We'll just take a look at him.

Egan

Ugh, he's a mess.

Elf (Jeremy)

You guys- are you the guys I was drinking with last night? Oh god, I can't remember-

Lars

Nope, not us.

Moxie

Yeah, that's not Rhodan.

Zinnia

Were you drinking with other high elves last night by any chance?

Elf (Jeremy)

Uhhh-

Egan

High elves, drunk elves, stoned elves-

Elf (Jeremy)

Y'know... I remember.. uhhh, gosh-
There was a shortling, and, and, uh, there- there was a uh, orc. But no, I don't remember any other high elves.

Lars

Well, thanks for your help, anyway!

Moxie
Well, bye.

Elf (Jeremy)
You know where I can get a-? Never mind, I know where I can get a
drink. (Stumbles off)

Lars
Drink some water!

Egan
(Mocking the elf, under his breath) "What's water?"

Lars
Keeps you from getting dehydrated.

Elf (Jeremy)
Waaater?

Lars
Hm.

Elf (Jeremy)
Do you- do you drink that?

Egan
If you try hard enough!

Elf (Jeremy)
Ohhh.

Lars
The clean kind.

Elf (Jeremy)
Doesn't sound very-

Lars
It won't get you drunk.

Elf (Jeremy)
-tasty.

Lars

No.

Egan

Well it can be, if you put some lemons in there-

Lars

Oh yeah!

Egan

Anyway, anyway- thank you for your time.

Lars

I don't think you can get lemons around here.

Egan

Yeah, it's not really very tropical.

Lars

No, I didn't get that impression.

Egan

You could have magic fruit, though.

Zinnia

Beans? What?

Lars

Beans???

Egan

Beans are good-

Lars

For water?

Zinnia

Magic fruit?

Moxie

Magic?

Egan
BEAN WATER!

Lars
You mean coffee??

Zinnia
You said magical fruit, so I said "beans."

Lars
Beans aren't a fruit??

Zinnia
Well, technically they are - they're legumes.

Egan
Bean water; I love a good cup of bean water in the morning.

Cindy-Lee
Hey, Moxie! Is that you!?

Moxie
(Beat) Uh...

Cindy-Lee
It's meeee! Cindy-Leeeeee! (long beat) From Vergermuck? (longer beat)
We were in Alchemy Class together? (beat) I failed out? Now I'm the
trophy wife of a rich merchant, and everyone loves me?

Moxie
Yeah, no. That's not me.

Egan
What? No, that's Moxie, alr- MMPH. (mouth gets covered)

Moxie
No, I'm afraid you must be mistaken.

Cindy-Lee

Oh no, I never forget a face. I'm surprised that your parents let you go this far from-- (Sound: punch.) OUCH! Why did you bunch my beautiful dose?!

Moxie
Let's go.

Lars
Moxie! Why'd you punch that very nice rat-lady?

Egan
Yeah, I love violence, but that was a bit much!

Zinnia
Moxie, what was that all about? Your parents don't know where you are? That's okay. I don't get along with my mom, either.

Moxie
Forget about her.

Lars
Moxie, do you want to talk about-

Moxie
Forget it! She's no one to be concerned about. Can we focus on finding Rhodan, please?

Lars
Ah, um, well then. The day is young; we could do just a quick sweep of the town. It's not that big. Right?
We don't have to go through all the people but- we could just go to-

Egan
HA! Like (as if sorting through a crowd of people), no, no, no, no, no, no, oh!..no, no, no-

Zinnia
Is there any other tavern around here that you wanna check?

Lars
The next one is The Frisky Polecat.

Moxie
Sounds like a bad dance.

(Sound: opens tavern door, sounds of dancing)

Zinnia
It does look like dancing is happening, but there's no music?

Egan
Uhh, guys? There's some creepy hooded figure whistling in the corner.

Moxie
Oh, no.

(Sound: whistling gets echoey and creepy.)

Egan and Moxie
(Sound: yelps as they suddenly start dancing.)

Lars
Egan, this isn't the time to be dancing. Moxie, you too??

Egan
I can't stop!

Moxie
We're being compelled!

Zinnia
Oh for gods' - you're bumping into people!

Villager
Hey!

Egan
Sorry! I can't help it! The feeling, it moves me!

Villager
Why am I dancing?? I hate this!

Egan
It's Palanus! Stop him!

Lars

(Struggling through the crowd) I'm trying! There's too many people! I don't want to injure anyone!

Egan

I'm being injured!

Lars

(Echoey whistling) Uh-oh, well, now I'm dancing too!

Zinnia

If I can just- get to him- augh! Come here, you!

Moxie

Why are his eyes glowing red?!

Zinnia

Are you possessed?!

(Sound: Palanus whistles faster, and the dancing gets faster.)

Egan

Nooooooo!

Zinnia

Hold on! (Echoing) Erase Enchantment! (Sound: spell kicks her back)

AUGH!

Moxie

Why did that backfire?!

Lars

Do you hear that?

(Sound: a loud squeaking underneath the floor, sounds of wood breaking)

Moxie

There's rats bursting through the floorboards!

Egan

Ew! Ew! Ew! Ew! Ew!

(Sound: echoey whistling)

Zinnia

Noo! Now I'm dancing ankle deep in rats!

Lars

If I can just- UGH. (Winded) I think I shook it off.

Moxie

They're biting!

Egan

This is the worst!

Lars

I'm really sorry I said we should go to this tavern!

Egan

I should've stayed in that cave!

Zinnia

Come on, rats! We're good- we're friends with rat people; why!?

Lars

She's not a "rat people!"

Egan

Moxie, talk to your friends!

Lars

Oh yeah! Can Moxie speak Rat?

Moxie

What?! You think I talk to them?! Egan, can you talk to apes? Go eat a bowl of raw salamanders!

Lars

Oh gods; what do I do?!

Egan

Kill him!

Lars

I could ki- oh kill- kill who?!

Egan

Palanus!

Lars

Can't I just put a hand on his mouth?!

Egan

That didn't work before!

Zinnia

Don't you have a crossbow?!

Lars

I'm not going to shoot this poor man with a crossbow! I can just knock him out!

Egan

I want to stop dancing!

Lars

I'll just knock him out! (Sound: whoosh as he attempts to hit but misses)

(Growls in frustration) I can't hit him properly; there's too many people in here!

Zinnia

Lars! The rats are knee deep!

Egan

Awesome, awesome, I love it. This is great. I'm having *such* a good time. I love it. So glad I'm with you guys.

Moxie

Oh gods, Egan, you're sweating blood!

Zinnia

I need to- gah! Shake out of it! There! Okay, okay, Is he under a spell or casting a spell?? (Echoing) Magic Scan! (Magic sounds)

Lars
What's wrong with him?

Zinnia
I think he's cursed!

Egan
Oh, not another one.

Zinnia
(Echoing) Spell Reverse! (Magic sounds) My spells aren't doing anything!

Moxie
People are collapsing and getting covered in rats!

Egan
Oh great, now I'm the only one of us dancing! I'm not doing too hot!

Moxie
I've still got a dagger! Let me at 'im!
(Sound: attempts to slash, there's a large flash of energy as Moxie is knocked across the room)

Lars
Moxie disappeared under the rats! If I could just get out of here-
Augh, but I can't leave my party! Um, um, (echoing) Minor Remedy!
(Magic sounds) It's not affecting him!

Zinnia
Lars! Duck! (echo) Contain Creature!

Lars
It reflected! (Sound: grunts as he ducks out of the way, hits behind the bar and smashes bottles instead.) Sorry! We'll pay for that!

Egan
People! I am WAIST. DEEP. IN. RATS!

Zinnia

Should I poison-spray him? I don't wanna kill him!

Egan

Please, just kill him!

Moxie

(Sound: emerging from rats) I've had enough of this! (Sound: of liquid) This potion should work on curses-
Everyone get down!

(Sound: of a smashing bottle and a powerful spell being removed)

Lars

He's stopped! The red is fading from his eyes!

Egan

Oh, thank the gods; the rats are scattering.

Palanus (dazed)

Oh- oh- what- Oh, my friends! I am so happy to see you! Oh, I do not feel well, I need to- Barkeep, a bowl of salamanders, please!

Moxie

Okaaaay, should we just go now?

Egan

Let's kill him first.

Moxie

Why, though? He's not our problem?

Egan

Because he might do it again and-.... I guess it isn't really our prob-

Moxie

It's not our problem!

Zinnia

Palanus, listen, do you do this sort of thing often?

Lars

He doesn't even know what happened!

Palanus

Do what? Oh it's so good to see you- I snuck in- there- there's a break in the fence and- and I was able to sneak into town.

Zinnia

Are you aware that your whistling bespells people?

Palanus

Ha, my whistling does not *bespell* anyone.

Zinnia

Yeah, no, it's kinda bad, dude.

Lars

People are laying on the floor with blood on their faces. You did that.

Moxie

All this! All this! That was you, man. You!

Palanus

Oh no, that is bad salamander, no, that is- that is- they did not get the quality salamander. Quality salamander is-

Egan

Nope, nope, I'm getting a guard. (Sound: opens door) Ah, lovely, they're already on their way. (To guards) He's in here!

Zinnia

Oh, before the guards get here- in your travels, have you seen a high elf recently?

Palanus

(Sound: as he's being dragged out) Oh I've seen many, yes. Many! (Guards are trying to cover his mouth) Why?

Lars

Because we're looking for- ah, he's being dragged away.

Guard One

Palanus, You have the right to remain silent— Scratch that! We insist that you remain silent!

Egan

...I need to sit down.

Lars

We need to talk to Palanus; he said he's seen a high elf! It could be Rhodan!

Zinnia

And you trust him?! He just tried to kill all of us!

Moxie

To be fair, he seemed to have no memory of that.

Lars

Yes, he was cursed; that wasn't really his doing.

Egan

No, leave him in jail. It's not our problem.

Lars

But what if Palanus saw Rhodan? If we walk away, we'll never know! Rhodan could be hurt, or kidnapped, or poisoned--

Zinnia

Okay, okay, let's talk to him. But I don't know if the guards will let us. We've been seen hanging around him too much. They could get suspicious.

Moxie

At least they're off our tail, now that we've saved people from Palanus.

Egan

Why not just break in?

Moxie

(Sarcastically) Oh yeah, the guards will love that.

Lars
It's against my moral code to break and enter.

Egan
(seriously) Or we could just burn down the building, and kill everyone.

(Silence)

Zinnia
What the h-

Lars
Okay! Breaking and entering it is!

(Transition music- to Rhodan)

Rhodan
What is this place?

(Sound: echoey mystical and forest sounds)

Rhodan
(normal voice) It's so peaceful... (evil voice) **I hate it!** Whoa, what's happening to me??

(Sound: pixies giggling)

Rhodan
Get out of here, you little pests!

Pixie One
Or what? It's not like you'll do anything - you're losing your mind!
(Laughing)

Rhodan
Go away, or **I'll eat you!**

Narrator
(credits)
This has been Level One Human, episode Two, "Aw, Rats!"

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
Humphry Rolleston, J Timothy Quirk, Jennifer Hunter, Jack Sheedy, Amy
Petrucci, David Robbinson, and Paul Starybrat

Story conceived by Ilana Hunter

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

Palanus

Guards! I demand that you release me immediately! Hello? Guards? Is
anyone there? Hullllooooo?

Oh dear. This same thing happened in Berryham. I don't see what all
the fuss is about. I-I am just a humble bard. Everyone loves me!

Well, they didn't love me much in Spuddington. Took forever to get the
tar and feathers off. But that was clearly just jealousy! The Choir

Guild wanted all of the spotlight for themselves during the Biannual Dandelion Festival and Celebration of All Things Potato.

Can't say that I blame them, though. They are really quite good, and their costumes are magnificent! But the Biannual Dandelion Festival and Celebration of All Things Potato is clearly big enough for two delightful musical acts, isn't it?

Someday, I shall play The Palace in Upper Downington! Dare I to dream such an exquisite dream? But Upper Downington is across the sea, and I get horribly seasick. Still, It may be worth it.

Guards?! Are you there? I can hear you breathing! I simply must find a way to Upper Downington; do you happen to know if there is a land-bridge, perhaps? Perhaps my new friends would like to go with me? That would be simply delightful!

Other prisoner