

Level One Human: Episode 4 (26 pages) - "It's Called 'Strategy'"

CAST

Egan: James Miron

Zinnia: Clark Eileen Atkinson

Lars: Matt Griffiths

Moxie: Devon Richtmeyer

Rhodan: Jason Kulas (dialogue from Ep 5)

Town Crier: Humphry Rolleston

Palanus: Kurt Boucher

Narrator: J Timothy Quirk

Demon 1: Andrew Campbell

Demon 2: Paul Starybrat

Demon 3: JB Segal

Demon Boss: R.A. Reynolds

Fredsel, Museum Curator: Jeff Savage

Citizen Lady: Nicole Boucher

Goblin (Tango the Horrid): Ilana Hunter

Lars

Level One Human is taped before a live studio audience.

Narrator

No, Lars. It isn't

Lars

No?

Narrator

Not a bit.

Lars

Darn.

Narrator

Previously, on "Level One Human", our lawful adventurers broke Palanus out of jail: "Oh-- of course! Let's just go back to the inn and I'll get my belongings--" "No time." "But-- but my trinkets and gew-gaws!" They battled some pixies: "Fifi, you can talk?" "Why does she think

I'm a pet? How come you guys get to be people?" Then they took a rest at- "Hobgoblin Hal's Enchanted Forest Rest Stop! I'm Hal; how can I help you folks? We've got everything here!" And found that Rhodan had been by: "That's not just any pixie; that's their Queen!" "And that's Rhodan's knife." And now onto "Level One Human" Episode Four "It's Called 'Strategy'".

Moxie

At least now we know Rhodan passed by here. Why would he do this?

Zinnia

He must've had a good reason; he wouldn't do this otherwise. He's stubborn - not evil.

Lars

Well, those pixies were attacking people. Maybe he thought this would be a good way to fight back?

Moxie

Hm... What's next along this road?

Lars

According to the map, Anvilfel, Dwarven city of blacksmithing.

Zinnia

Well, I've found his tracks and they're definitely going that way.

---inserted scene---

Tango the Horrid & Palanus. A Short story and song.

Palanus (whispering)

Oh dear! Someone up ahead!

Goblin (working in forest) (singing)

"A-hunting I will do, to eat some tasty you..." Gah! You there! Freeze!
Prepare to be impaled and consumed!

Palanus (Was clearly hiding but was discovered)

Oh dear! I am discovered! And even worse: Your song is most dreadful!

Goblin

Oh? Listen bub, I don't know who you are or what you're doing out here
in the middle of nowhere -

Palanus

Oh! My name is Palanus, and I am but a humble bard! Please little
goblin, I would not make a good meal at all!

Goblin

Oh yeah? I'll be the judge of that!

Palanus

Oh, please. I was just at that dwarven city but it was full of
screaming people. And screaming people just simply are never in the
mood for the kind of music a bard like myself is likely to perform.
Oh, and demons! Nasty looking venko-demons, and if there is one thing
I cannot stand it is venko-demons. I understand that they are quite
opposed to lilac!

Goblin

You talk a lot. And you say that you're humble, but you're rather
rude. You criticized my song, and then you try to weasel your way out
of being my meal? You've got some nerve, bub!

Palanus

Well, perhaps I can help you.

Goblin

Yes, you can get into my cook-pot and shut your insufferable trap.

Palanus

Insufferable? Eating people that are willing to help you with your difficulties is rather short-sighted, is it not?

Goblin

Well, all right. I'll bite. How can you help?

Palanus

Well, first, I could teach you to forage for edible vegetation. I've done so for years with the most splendid success.

Goblin

Hard pass. I don't eat it unless it's got a face.

Palanus

And secondly...

Goblin

Yes?

Palanus

(beat) I could help you write a better song.

Goblin

Hrm. Do you mean a better hunting song? Something to sing while I'm hunting?

Palanus

That is exactly what I mean. You want your meal to be enticed by the option of being consumed, rather than forced. Much more pleasant for everyone.

Goblin

Hmm. (beat) Nah. I'll just eat you raw.

Palanus

Oh dear.

Goblin

Where's me knife?

Palanus (singing)

"Oh creatures that have got a face,
Oh won't you get in mine?
I only want to have a taste
Oh please do get in line."

Goblin

That's dreadful but I like it

Palanus (singing)

"You never have to wake again
Or wash another dish

Goblin (singing)

"I will take all your cares away
And void your every wish"

Palanus

There, you've got it!

Goblin (singing)

"Oh creatures that have got a face
What are your tasty parts?"

Palanus (singing)

"I wonder if it is your brains

Or eyes or tongues or hearts"

Goblin

I'll make a predator out of you yet!

Palanus and Goblin (singing)

"Oh creatures that have got a face
You'll be my bestest friend!
My tummy it will keep you warm
Right up until the end!

"Oh creatures with your tasty face
You'll be by ham and eggs
There's nothing that can save /me|you/ now-"

Palanus (singing)

"No don't fall in your trap!" (complicated rube-goldberg trap sounds)

Goblin

Ouch! (struggling) You tricked me into my own trap! How dare you!

Palanus

I did? It wasn't on purpose! Just a spot of bad luck, I guess! I am
but a humble bard! (runs away)

Goblin

Palanus! I'll get you for this! I'll find you someday and then you'll
see! I'll eat you from the toes up! Do you hear me, Palanus!? I am
Tango the Horrid, and I will destroy you!

transition

(Transition - walking in forest)

Egan

So your boyfriend likes killing pixie queens, huh?

Moxie

(Annoyed) He's not my boyfriend.

Egan

Are you sure about that?

Zinnia

Egan.

Egan

Shut up?

Zinnia

Shut up.

Lars

We're almost there; I can see someone waving!

Moxie

Is it just me, or are they getting closer?

Egan

They seem very excited to welcome us into town.

Zinnia

Wait. They're not running to welcome us; they're running away from something!

Citizen Lady

(Voice getting closer) Leave! Don't come this way!

Lars

What's wrong? Are you all right?

Citizen Lady

There are demons attacking people in the streets! Most of us have fled to the woods, but there are still citizens trapped inside the city's walls!

Town Crier (in distance)

Hear ye! Hear ye! Everything is higgly-piggly and there are
Venko-demons everywhere! Run!

Lars
We're here to help!

Egan
(Reluctantly) Are we?

Citizen Lady
Oh, thank you! Thank you! You're an angel!

(Sound: of running away)

Zinnia
(Sighs) It's just one thing after another.

Moxie
Are we sure we want to—

Lars
Yes! Demons are my Order's arch-enemies; it is my duty to destroy any
evil I come across. Venko-demons are particularly nasty.

Egan
Okay "angel," do you have a plan?

Lars
Well—

Moxie
One that isn't just "run in and kill any demons you see." Something
with strategy?

Lars
..Ah.

Zinnia
Let's get a little closer; we need more information.

(Sound: of gate creaking)

Moxie

It's so creepy; the streets are completely deserted.

Zinnia

It looks like something destroyed that roof, and that one, and that one; oh gods.

Lars

It's hard to track anything; there's demonic energy all over the place.

Egan

Yeah, that's all great— are we all seeing that giant beam of red light? Is it just me?

Lars

Oh! Oh wow, that's definitely the center of the problem. I've only heard it in stories, but it looks like a Plane Portal was opened.

Moxie

A Plane Portal?

Lars

There are doorways into different planes all over the world. This one seems connected to a demonic realm. I didn't know there was one here! My Order guards all the active plane portals currently known. I guess this one is Venko-flavored.

Zinnia

So what do we do? Do we need to get backup from your Order?

Lars

Nope! I have my certificate and everything!

Egan

(Sarcastically) Ooooh, a certificate! How can I join the "goody-two-shoes club"?

Lars

I didn't choose to join. I was left at their temple as an infant. They raised me.

Egan

Right, so I have to wear a diaper first.

Moxie

Well, you are a big baby.

Zinnia

Moxie, Egan, I'll cut you if you don't drop it. Lars, what do we need to do?

Lars

If we can figure out how the doorway was opened, I might be able to close it. The good news is that we don't have to kill every Venko-demon we see!

Egan

Aw.

Lars

All we have to do is sever their connection to the Venko-demon realm and they'll be destroyed!

Moxie

That's much easier. Okay, how do we get to the portal without being attacked?

Zinnia

I have Invoke Invisibility, but it doesn't last very long; we'd have to run for it.

Lars

Okay, we can do it. If it fails halfway, I have my sword.

Egan

What's a lousy sword gonna do against a fully grown demon?

Lars

It's enchanted to be deadly towards demonic beings.

Egan

Why didn't you mention that earlier?!

Lars

It hadn't come up! We haven't fought any demons yet!

Zinnia

Hello? Are we doing this?

Lars

Yes, yes, go for it.

Zinnia

Oh also, we won't be able to see each other, so everyone hold hands.

Moxie & Egan

Ugh.

Zinnia

(Voice echoing) Invoke Invisibility! (Magic sounds)

Lars

Run!

(Sound: of running and snarling in distance)

Lars

We're almost there! The portal is coming from that building!

Egan

Is that a museum?

Moxie

Looks like it. We've got three demons guarding the front. Any ideas?

Lars

None that involve them not seeing us.

(Sound: of magic dispersing, Loud snarl)

Egan

Ah, hi.

Zinnia

Oops.

(Sound: of yelling and running)

Lars

Zinnia! Why did you drop the invisibility?!

Zinnia

I didn't! I told you the spell didn't last long!

Moxie

These guys are even uglier than that dragon was!

Egan

(Gasps) That's very rude!

Zinnia

Okay, (Sound: of something crashing) one for each of us, yeah?

Egan

I can help!

Moxie

How?!

Egan

Uh- Uh- I don't know! (Muttering to self) Stupid human body, with stupid flimsy bones, and no stupid magic!

Moxie

Hey, you big idiot! Have a taste of Potent Poison! (Bottle smashing and magic sounds)

Demon 1

Argh!

Egan

Did you say "rodent" poison? You shouldn't be carrying that around!

Zinnia

Hey buddy, I'm gonna need you to move out of the way.

Demon 2

I'll smash you to pieces!

Moxie

Zinnia! Look out!

Zinnia

(Grunts as she jumps out of the way) (echoing voice) Phantom Punch!
(Magic sounds)

Demon 2

(Yelp of pain) Ow!

Zinnia

Mine is almost down! Lars, hold out your sword! (voice echoing)
Sharpen Strike! (Magic sounds) that should help with aiming!

Lars

Thanks! Begone, beast! (Sound: sword slashing)

Demon 3

Aaaargh! It's an angeling! Our arch enemy!

Lars

See?! He knows it too!

Demon 1

Get back here! I'll take you out!

Moxie

You're not my type! Blasting Brew! (Sound: of bottle smashing and
explosion magic)

Demon 1

Auughh!

Zinnia

Egan, move! I can't get a clear shot!

Egan

I'm trying- WHAA!

(Sound: of Egan being grabbed and Demon 2 laughing evilly)

Moxie
It's grabbed Egan!

Demon 2
Puny little human!

Egan
How dare you!

Zinnia
(Voice echoing) Arcane Arrow! (Magic sounds)

Demon 2
Aughhh! (Sound: falls over dead)

Egan
Ugh, that was unpleasant.

Zinnia
Egan, we need to teach you how to fight; this is getting ridiculous. I
got Lars; you go help Moxie!

Egan
How?!

Zinnia
You'll think of something! Lars, duck! (Sound: magic powering up)

Lars
Why- oh! Okay!

Zinnia
(Voice echoing) Dizzying Dust! (Magic sounds)

Demon 3
Whoaaa, I hate vertigo!

Zinnia
There, he's vulnerable!

Lars

Hyah! (Sound: of sword hitting and slashing)

Demon 3

Aaughh! (Sound: falls over dead)

Zinnia

(Out of breath) Whew, okay, only one left.

Demon 1

I have you cornered, little mouse!

Moxie

(Getting scared) Augh! You- I-

Egan

Hey you! (Sound: grunts as they throw a rock at Demon 1)

Demon 1

Huh? You think throwing rocks is going to stop me?

Egan

It's too late; you've lost! Surrender now, and I might just let you live! Uh! (like throwing another rock)

Demon 1

Pfft, missed me, Hey-! Where'd the mouse go?!

Moxie

Over here, stupid! Corrosive Concoction! (Sound: of bottle being thrown and smashed)

Demon 1

Aaughh! It burns! (Sound: falls over dead)

Zinnia

Everyone inside, before more show up! Hurry!

(Sound: of running)

Zinnia

Right, now what?

Moxie

We go in and close the portal, right? Sounds easy.

Lars

I find it unlikely that they won't have someone guarding it. And it won't be easy to close. It's not like a tavern door - more of a metaphorical door.

Egan

Well, why can't we metaphorically close it?

Lars

No, it's not- it's more of a tear between planes. Something was acting as an anchor, or a lock, for the door. An object of some kind, that was destroyed.

Moxie

It must've been very old if it was in a museum.

Zinnia

So what can we do?

Lars

If we can find a different object, I can recite the incantation to make a new anchor.

Egan

Well, we're in a museum-- take your pick!

Zinnia

I do know that if you're making a portal, the object has to be magic in nature.

Lars

How do you know that?

Zinnia

Remember I said I had pixie blood? Magic runs in the family. I've been taught some things.

Lars

Hm! Ah, here, I'll use my medallion, my holy symbol, as the new anchor.

Moxie

Wait, isn't that like your "members badge" in The Order? What happens if you lose that?

Lars

I don't know; I assume I can get a new one. It makes sense to use The Order's symbol to destroy demons - poetic justice!

Zinnia

At least that's some sort of a plan.

Moxie

Let's go; the longer we wait, the more damage they can do.

(Sound: echoey footsteps)

Egan

This place is creepy. Especially those portraits over there.

Moxie

Hey, Egan, that one kinda looks like you!

Egan

I'm much better looking.

Moxie

Not really. Is that your dad or something?

Egan

I never knew my father.

Moxie

He went out for a pack of smokes and never came back?

Lars

Uh, guys?

Zinnia

Whoa! Moxie, you're right; that's uncanny!

Lars
Guys?

Egan
I suppose there is some resemblance.

Lars
Guys!

All
What?!

Lars
That door is glowing!

Moxie
I suppose in this case the room with the ominous red glow is the one
we want.

Lars
Onwards!

Zinnia
Lars, wait- we should be careful!

Lars
(Sound: from a distance) I'm taking initiative!

(Sound: of creaky door opening)

Demon Boss
It's very rude not to knock.

Moxie
Whoa, that demon is much bigger than the other ones...

Demon Boss
What have we here..? A celestial, an elf, a Rattus-

Moxie
Finally, someone gets it right.

Demon Boss
And whatever you are, with the golden eyes.

Lars
They're just a human.

Egan
Oh yes, very human, 100 percent real human.

Demon Boss
Riiight.

Egan
So sorry to intrude; we'll be on our way. (Whispering) Let's leave!
Right now!

Lars
(To Egan) Don't be ridiculous! (To DB) I'm here to put an end to you
and your evil ways!

Demon Boss
You should listen to your little friend.

Lars
We can't back out now that we're so close - the people of Anvilfel
need our help!

Demon Boss
Is he always like this?

All
Yes.

Lars
Okay, just like we planned it. Attack!

Zinnia
Plan?

Lars
(whispering) Just go with it.

Zinnia
Lars, did you just lie?

Lars
It's called "strategy!"

Demon Boss
Uh, are you guys seriously going to attack me?

Zinnia
No.

Lars
No?

Zinnia
No.

Demon Boss
Hellooo?

Moxie
(Bored) Oh, are you still here?

Egan
Yeah. You're not in this conversation.

Demon Boss
But-

Zinnia
Lars, I'm almost proud of you for that. You're not such a goodie after
all.

Egan
Yeah, dude. Pretty sweet.

Lars
You think so?

Zinnia, Egan, Moxie, and Demon Boss

No.

Lars
Geez.

Demon Boss
I've had enough of this. (Voice echoing) Demonic Destruction! (Magic sounds)

Lars
(screams in pain)

Moxie
Lars! You demonic demon!

Demon Boss
It's called "Strategy."

Zinnia
(Voice echoing) Arcane Acid! (Magic sounds)

Lars
What about a plan?!

Egan
No plan! Just chaos!

Lars
Oh god.

Moxie
Now that's something we can agree on! Dizzying Gas!

(Sound: of glass breaking and potion splashing)

Demon Boss
That won't have any effect on - (as if holding nose) holy cow. What's in that stuff?

Moxie
Lilac.

Demon Boss
Lilac? But I'm allergic!

Moxie
(pause) a-HA!

Demon Boss
Ugh, my head. (Voice echoing) Demonic draft! (Sound: magic and wind noises)

Egan
He blew it back at us! Actually, is this stuff flammable?

Moxie
Can you wait to make an explosion until the gas isn't surrounding us?

Egan
(Sighs) FINE. You're no fun.

Zinnia
Lars, start the incantation! We'll hold him off!

Lars
(rapid low mumbling)

Zinnia
(Voice echoing) Blasting Breeze! (Magic sounds) This is the stupidest fight I've ever been a part of. We're just blowing incense at each other.

Egan
Oh! I've got this dagger!

Moxie
That'll never hit him.

Egan
I don't need it to! I just need to hit that metal case! (Sound- whoosh as they throw dagger - bong sound as it hits case, sound of sparks)

Zinnia
Get down!

(Explosion)

Demon Boss

I can't be harmed by fire, duh. Demon! But I can be harmed by that incantation, and I bet being stabbed is a great distraction! (Sound: Sword swinging noises, connects)

Lars

(Lars gets hit) (Screams in pain, stops chanting)

Zinnia

(Voice echoing) Blaring Beam! (Magic sounds) Lars! Why did you stop?

Lars

I'm bad at multitasking! I have to start all over!

Everyone, including DB

(Annoyed groans)

Lars

(Starts chanting again)

Moxie

Sizzling Slime! (Sound of bottle breaking)

Zinnia

Egan! Do something!

Egan

I am! I'm providing commentary!

Moxie

Egan!

Egan

Okay, okay! Um, um. Huh, this chandelier is about to fall down anyway.

Moxie

(Quietly) Do it. (Loud) Hey deviled ham! Over here!

Demon Boss

I heard you. You want me to step over there.

Moxie
Over where?

Demon Boss
There.

Zinnia
Can you show us?

Moxie
Forget it; he's too smart for us.

Demon Boss
I am. I'm not going to step under there.

Zinnia
Under where?

Egan
Heh.

Moxie
He's afraid.

Demon Boss
I'm not.

Egan
He totally is.

Demon Boss
You're all very annoying.

Egan
Can't. Quite. Reach..

Zinnia
Oh? (Voice echoing) Tactical Teleportation! (Magic sounds)

Demon Boss

Wait wait wait—! (Whoosh as teleported) WHOA!

Egan
There!

(Sound: of chain moving and chandelier falls)

Demon Boss
Oh f—

(Sound: chandelier crashes on demon boss)

Demon Boss
OW! Why do they make chandeliers so sharp!?

(Sound: Throws chandelier off of himself)

Moxie
Lars, chant faster!

Zinnia
(Voice echoing) Sudden Swiftness! (Magic sounds)

Lars
(begins to chant super fast)

Moxie
Atta boy!

Demon Boss
Hah! He sounds like a chipmunk! Oh wait—!

Lars
(Finishes chanting with a yell and slices off DBs head at same time)

Moxie
Well, that head came off cleanly.

Egan
...That was a little overkill.

Lars

You dropped a chandelier on him, but what *I* did was overkill?

(Sound: of portal closing)

Zinnia

Okay, Lars, you should put your medallion down- *very carefully, Lars!*

Lars

Okay! Okay!

(Sound: of object being placed on floor)

Fredsel, Museum Curator

Hello? Is it over? Is it safe to come out?

Moxie

Augh! How long have you been behind that cabinet? Who are you?

Fredsel, Museum Curator

I-I'm Fredsel. I'm the curator of the Anvilfel Artifact's Museum. Thank you so much for saving us! I swear we had no idea that any of these objects were still active!

Egan

I will be leaving quite a scathing review.

Zinnia

How did this happen? Did it just activate on its own?

Fredsel, Museum Curator

No no, I was making my rounds last night, and I caught someone in here! He seemed like he was losing it - said something about wanting to create chaos and he smashed the artifact!

Lars

Uh-oh.

Moxie

(Reluctantly) ...What did he look like?

Fredsel, Museum Curator

A high elf, dressed in dark clothes, had a couple scars on his face-

Zinnia
Shoot.

Fredsel, Museum Curator
What? What's wrong?

Zinnia
I think that's the guy we're looking for.

Lars
Well, maybe not; there's plenty of rogue high elves with scars on their faces, right?

Moxie
The scars - were they on his chin and right cheek?

Fredsel, Museum Curator
Yes.

Lars
Ah.

Moxie
(Frustrated)...This doesn't make any sense!

Zinnia
Moxie?

Moxie
This isn't like him. None of this. It can't be him.

Lars
Well, it is. This confirms it. Something is wrong with him.

Egan
Are you sure about that? Maybe he's always been this evil! I mean, he could even maybe have the ability to put a curse on someone! For no reason at all!

Moxie
No. There has to be a reason.

Egan
There is. He's evil.

Moxie
I've had enough of you.
(sound: of a weapon drawn)

Zinnia
Moxie!

Egan
Whoa! Wait!

Lars
(grabbing her) Moxie, I've got you.

Moxie
(Sound: struggling, clearly still trying to hit Egan with her weapon)
I have had enough out of you! You don't know what you're talking
about! You don't know him!

Egan
Whatever..

Moxie
You're nothing but a worthless twerp! You're lucky Lars is here to
stop me.

Lars
Moxie, put it down.

Moxie
Apologize.

Egan
For what?

Zinnia
Egan, sometimes it's better to just-

Moxie

Apologize!

(Beat.)

Egan

Okay, okay! I'm sorry.

Moxie

(sobs)

Lars

Hey Mox. I've got ya.

Moxie

(sobbing slows)

(Pause)

Zinnia

Well, we need to catch up with him, and fast - whatever is happening is getting worse. (To Fredsel) Did you happen to see what direction he went in?

Fredsel, Museum Curator (clearly uncomfortable)

Uh, yeah. About that. I saw him.. He left down the road to Fennickwicky, but I don't know why - that place has been in ruins for years.

Egan

I think we've given up on asking "why" at this point.

Zinnia

(To Fredsel) Thank you for the information. We would stay to help you clean up and rebuild, but we really must be going. Apparently we're in a time-crunch.

Moxie

(Stopping crying) (Sound: Getting up, dusting herself off. Already leaving) Okay. Let's go.

Lars

(Being dragged out by Zinnia) But-but, no one will hear of my glorious victory!

Zinnia

(Also leaving) I'm sure this nice curator will tell everyone all about it. C'mon!

(Pause)

Egan

You may want to be careful with that medallion; it's the new door to the demon realm..

Fredsel, Museum Curator

What-?

Egan

But more importantly, who is that portrait of? In the hallw-

Zinnia

(Annoyed, in distance) Egan!

Egan

Ah, nevermind. Have a lovely day!

(Transition music to Rhodan)

Palanus

(Whistling fades in) Ah, oh, I know where they'll like me; I'll go to Fennickwicky! Yes, I heard they're rebuilding! Oh, there I'll be the toast of the town!

Rhodan

Fennickwicky? Hmm. That sounds nice - mind if I join you?

Palanus

O-of course not! The more the merrier, hm?

Rhodan

Wonderful. (Pause) Why did you stop whistling?

Palanus

Ah, well, now that I'm no longer compelled to constantly whistle, I'm afraid I'll just be sticking to instruments for a while. (Starts playing kazoo)

Rhodan

(as kazoo continues) Eugh. (Evilly) *I think I'd rather you go back to being cursed - how about we fix that, hm?*

Palanus

Oh dear.

Narrator

(credits)

This has been "Level One Human" Episode Four "It's Called 'Strategy'".

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, Jeff Savage, J Timothy Quirk, Andrew Campbell,
Paul Sarybrat, JB Segal, R. A. Reynolds, and Nicole Boucher

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 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, and may all your journeys bring you back to a happy home.