

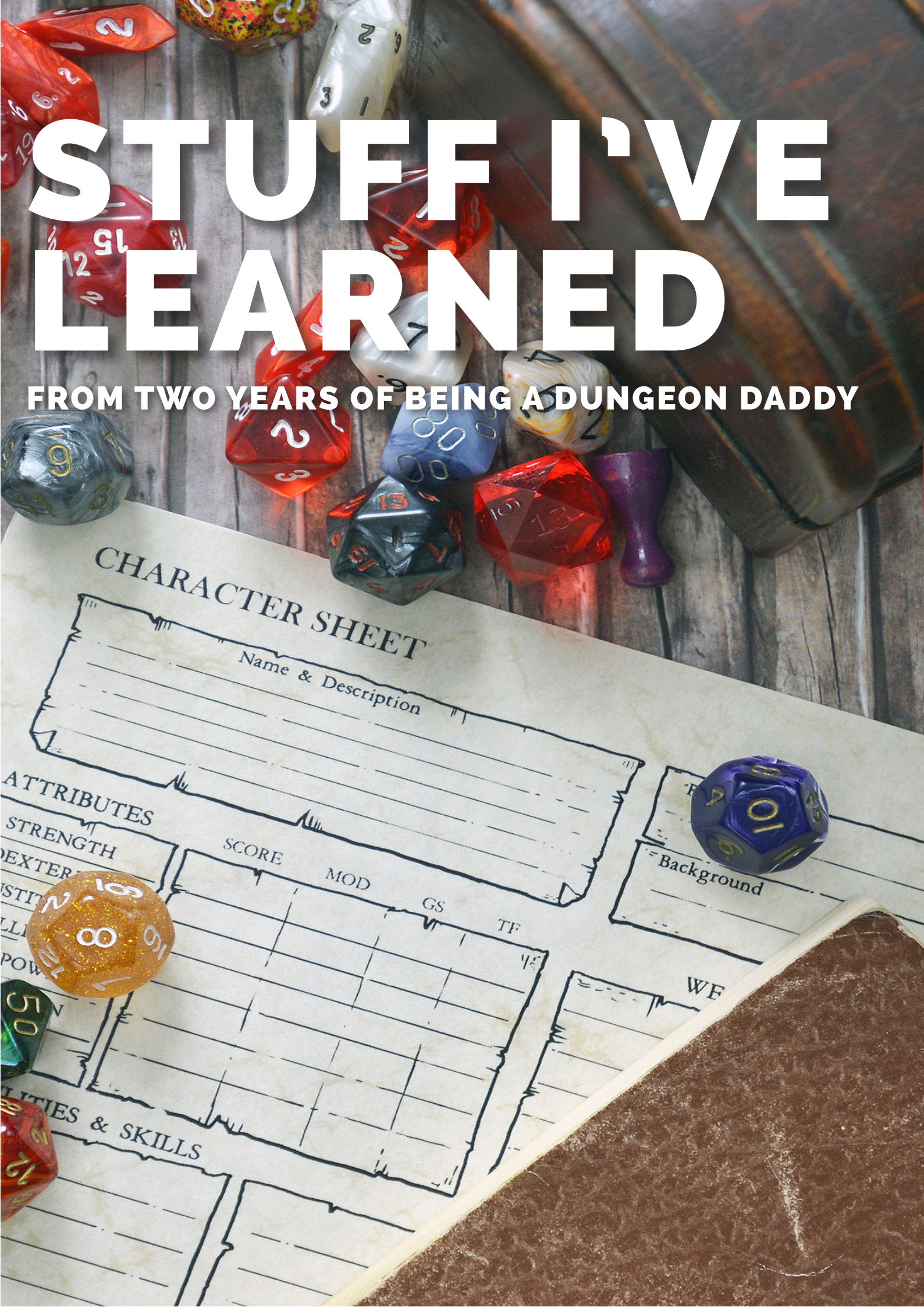


DADDY ISSUES

JAN 2021

HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

- YUMMY RECIPES TO TICKLE THOSE TUMMIES
- RON'S REEL REVIEWS: CHRISTMAS EDITION!
- PLUS! GLENN'S DISNEYLAND TIPS FOR EARTHLY MAGIC



STUFF I'VE LEARNED

FROM TWO YEARS OF BEING A DUNGEON DADDY



ANTHONY BURCH
DADDY MASTER

GO HARD

I think the Blood Pact moment from episode one is when the podcast began to really work for me. Suddenly, the characters had a hugely high-stakes, long-term problem with no clear resolution: how are they going to avoid skinning and eating Grant? Will they all willingly die to avoid fulfilling the contract?

Near the middle of the story (thus far), I kinda forgot to throw in more wrenches like that. I got so interested in telling The Emotional Character Stories Of Fathers And Their Sons, and got so excited about the little plans I'd made, that the audience (and the players) could pretty much predict where things were going.

Sure, they didn't know that Grant's arc would involve playing a game of football, but the dads were all pretty certain they'd manage to grab the anchor and escape. Why? Because nothing else was believably at stake. There was obviously no way I'd ever let them fail to get the anchor (because being stranded in the Forgotten Realms wouldn't be satisfying at this particular moment in the story), so they all felt like they were kinda just going through the motions.

Don't get me wrong: I still really enjoy a lot of the stuff we put into that arc. It

just lacks teeth. It lacks that threat, that unpredictability, that made the Blood Pact stuff work so well.

So, that's why I tricked them into drawing from the Deck of Many Things. That's why Glenn goes on trial for his crimes and can't really get out of them. I'm growing to realize that if I know exactly where the story is about to go, that's kind of a bad sign. So, I'm going to endeavor to make big moves and go hard on the daddies more often. And part of the reason I feel comfortable doing so is:

TRUST YOUR PLAYERS MORE THAN YOU TRUST YOURSELF

The other dickbags on this podcast are smarter and funnier than I am. If I get us into trouble, they can usually find a way to get me out of it. Again, the entire football arc was boring as hell until Will basically decided to turn into a bunch of different animals and completely negate all the (really boring) stuff I had planned.

Similarly, the Barry Oak arc was also pretty bland— basically just a long, noninteractive cutscene— but Freddie's absolutely bizarre hot-oil plan added intrigue, tension, and humor to what was otherwise gonna be a pretty tonally monotonous set of episodes. (Also, the entire premise of going into a DnD 1.0 dungeon was Freddie's idea in the first place).

Basically, I think the show works best when all five of us are essentially trying to solve narrative problems on the fly: when it just becomes a story about me pushing them through predetermined outcomes (even if I don't know the specifics of how those events will play out), the show just becomes less exciting.

Like, I gave Glenn the choice between dying or losing Nick not just because it's dramatic and tense, but because I knew Freddie would use the choice as an opportunity to develop Glenn's character more and show us a side of him we hadn't seen before.

WALK THE LINE BETWEEN “YES, AND” AND “FUCK YOU”

My instinct has always been to allow the daddies to get away with pretty much whatever they want. But even though the daddies are all talented storytellers, they're also playing characters who just want to have the easiest lives possible. Which is, you know, the opposite of good storytelling.

A DM has to know when to give the players what they want, and when to play hardball in order to force drama.

I'd never put the dads into a situation they literally can't win, but in the courtroom I needed to make it clear that this wasn't going to be as easy as putting a vampire's head in a fanny pack: they were going to have to make some hard decisions. They were either going to have to risk certain death, or accept the jury's judgment. And to some extent, that necessitated my being fairly mean to the daddies.

The gavel of justice had to do 2d20 damage, just to show I wasn't fucking around. The Ancient Gold Dragon needed to be an Ancient Gold Dragon, because I needed an antagonist they genuinely might not be able to defeat. This may have been frustrating to play against in the moment, but I think, ultimately, it led to a good place: if I'd allowed them to do all the fun, goofy stuff they wanted to do (like rolling the 2D dragon into a burrito and eating it), we would have never gotten to a place where Glenn sacrifices his own status as a father in order to protect his kid.

Anyway, that's it. This podcast has been one of my favorite things I've ever worked on, and I hope we get to do it for many more years. Thank you so much for supporting us and listening to us and tolerating our bullshit.

WILSON CHRISTMAS ESSENTIALS

DARRYL SHARES HIS TRIED & TRUE SECRETS TO MAKING THE MOST OF THE HOLIDAY SEASON



FOLKS, WE'RE APPROACHING THE BEST TIME OF THE YEAR this side of Tax Season– it's Christmas! While this jolly holiday doesn't require the same amount of planning and organization as paying your fair share to the government, it doesn't mean you shouldn't come prepared. While I can't help you with any last minute christmas shopping (btw, if you buy next year's presents right now, you'll be ahead of the game!) I can share some of the Wilsons' MUST DO activities this holiday.

GINGERBREAD HOUSE

If you aren't already doing this, you gotta go back to Christmas school. This is a no-brainer. At the Wilson house, we don't settle for store-bought box sets with dry gingerbread and trash candy that they can't be bothered to sell separately. We make our own gingerbread from scratch, and we buy a pile of candy worth of a family tapestry. The choice of candy is part of the fun, with everyone having their own favorites.

We are lucky, as Carol likes the strong foundational candies, à la hard sugar candies. She's bringing the lightposts with candy canes, etc. Grant's a simple chocolate kid, so he's filling out the scenery with chocolate animals, or m&ms as a stone pathways, etc. Darryl here– I'm a frosting boy. So I'm gluing the pieces together, piping the grass on, and being told to stop eating it from the can!

Obviously I got them Charleston Chews. But they don't make it onto the house.

DRINK THE SEASON

The entire drink game is switched up once we pass Thanksgiving. My beer rack is only holding the holiday brews of the year. Favorites are Rogue's Santa's Private Reserve, and the Belgium ale Delirium Noel.

Also, make your own eggnog. It ain't worth the calories if you're drinking it from a carton. Check out a perfect recipe at the end of this page.

But on the non-alcoholic side, we are stocking apple cider, hot chocolate, Champurrado Mexican hot chocolate, Peruvian drinking chocolate, or add some paprika, white pepper and cloves to make Hungarian hot chocolate. If you like it thicker, try an Italian Cioccolata Calda.

I love hot chocolate.

DECORATE THE TREE

Make this a nice evening. Put on a movie. Pull out one of your many varieties of hot chocolate, as well as a snack plate. Enjoy the feeling of family as you place memories on this year's tree.

WAKE UP TO CHRISTMAS

I switch all the alarms in the house to christmas music. This includes cooking timers. Everyone else in the house might hate it. But it is christmas. It must happen.

IT'S SNOWING!

Sometimes it can be hard to figure out how to make something feel Christmassy. Here's an easy answer: buy powdered sugar. Put it on everything. IT'S SNOW!

PB&J for Grant? Wait... did you hear? School might be cancelled cause there's a SNOW STORM! Sprinkle some powdered sugar on that bad boy, now its a Christmas PB&J.

Hope this helps give you some ideas. But whatever you do this holiday, we here at the Wilson Household hope it's done with love and joy. HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

HOMEMADE EGGNOG

- 4 large eggs, separated
- 1/3 cup + 1 tablespoon sugar
- 1 pint whole milk
- 1 cup heavy cream
- 2.5 fluid ounces of chosen spirit (spiced rum/ bourbon/cognac)
- 1 teaspoon freshly grated nutmeg

In a bowl mix the egg yolks, 1/3 cup of sugar, the milk, cream, and the alcohol all together. Whip until silky smooth!

With the egg whites, beat them until you get stiff peaks. You will add the tablespoon of sugar slowly as you do this.

Now gently fold the egg whites into the egg nog. It should be frothy and foamy on top. Sprinkle on nutmeg when you serve. ENJOY!

RON'S REEL REVIEWS

MORE
FILM REVIEWS
FROM
RON STAMPLER

RON'S
REEL REVIEWS

HI, I'M RON. These are my movie reviews. Please note I did not make these movies I am just reviewing them by saying how good or bad they are. This time I will be joined by my friend Beth May for a guest movie review. Please enjoy. - Management (Ron)

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE (1946)

DIR. FRANK CAPRA

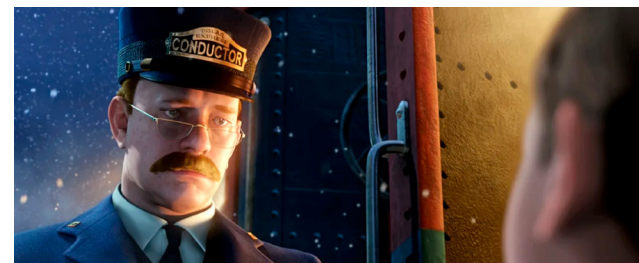
IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE is a movie about a man who has a wonderful life. He thinks other people's lives are more wonderful, and so he thinks about jumping off a bridge. But an angel named Clarence is aiming for a big promotion with God, and so he wants to help the man not die. The man's name is George by the way. Clarence shows George what the world would be like if he had not existed, and it really sucks. His whole family almost is dead, and worse, his wife Mary is alone and sad! And she's a librarian! All because George did not rescue her from her life that she was going to live. The only way Mary could be happy or love was with George, and nobody else. George decides to stay alive because he is so important. This movie is great because it shows how important men are.

3.5/5 STARS ★★☆☆

THE POLAR EXPRESS (2004)

DIR. ROBERT ZEMECKIS

THE POLAR EXPRESS is about a train called the Polar Express. The train is going to the North Pole, and has many kids on board. The main character boy is having trouble believing in Santa Claus, and the train conductor is Tom Hanks.



Tom Hanks takes the boy onto the train and many concerning things happen with the dangers of rail travel, such as almost derailing and hitting caribou. The boy spends time with a hobo who is Tom Hanks. At the North Pole the boy meets Santa who is Tom Hanks and Tom Hanks gives him a bell. A bell is a very lame Christmas gift to get for someone who has travelled all the way to the North Pole. It's like promising to bring your friend some cheese, but then saying no come here to get the cheese, and then it's not even very good cheese.

3.5/5 STARS ★★☆☆

EVEREST (2015)

DIR. BALTASAR KORMÁKUR

EVEREST is a movie about Mt. Everest. I know this is a Christmas movie because there is snow, but there is not much about it that is festive. No christmas lights or anything!

3.5/5 STARS ★★☆☆

THE SANTA CLAUSE (1994)

DIR. JOHN PASQUIN

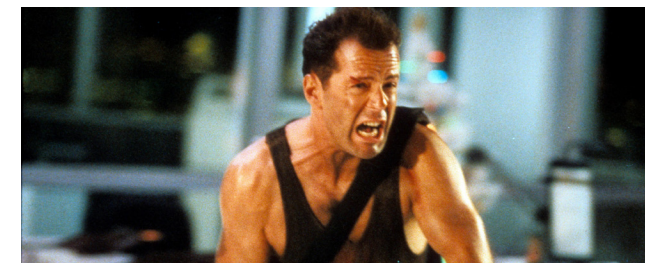
THE SANTA CLAUSE is a movie about a man who enters a legal agreement by killing Santa. He has technically done nothing wrong but that's why the law is complicated.



After killing Santa he puts on the Santa suit and hangs out with the reindeer which help him fill in for Santa because they have no real allegiance. Later the man becomes Santa Claus, and now he is susceptible to being killed, which will be tragic for his son who still believes in magic.

3.5/5 STARS ★★☆☆

And now, a special guest review from my friend Beth May in Los Angeles, California.



DIE HARD is absolutely 100000% a Christmas movie SUCK IT WILL CAMPOS!

xoxo B

5/5 YIPPEE KI YAY'S ★★★★★

IT'S A SNAP

VEGAN GINGERSNAPS A LA HENRY



Thanks to Mercedes Oak-Garcia for “snapping” these wonderful pics of the gingersnaps!

HEY FOLKS! Ho-Ho-Henry here with a fun, vegan twist on a holiday cookie classic, THE GINGERSNAP! There’s nothing quite like a good gingersnap to go with your mug of herbal tea on a crisp winter morning. I bake up a batch of these at least once a year, and Mercedes and the boys always go nuts for them (not to mention Laser Wolf Fart Blaster, who always manages to sneak one off the plate, that crazy pup!)

“But wait,” I hear you asking. “How can you make a great holiday cookie without eggs?” Well, I’ve got three words that are about to change your life, buster: FLAX SEED EGG!

You can make a tasty, healthy egg substitute by soaking some flax seed meal in water and letting it absorb. The result is a gooey, gummy mixture that will act as a binding agent and emulsifier in your cookies just like a real egg. I like flax in this recipe especially for its mild, nutty taste, which really compliments all that sharp, gingery goodness.

Likewise, while lots of gingersnap recipes call for butter or vegetable shortening as their fat, my “secret ingredient” is a big ol’ scoop of COCONUT OIL. Sure, Crisco will do in a pinch for vegan cookies, but– my feelings about the palm oil industry aside– coconut oil lends a wonderful flavor to gingersnaps that just can’t be beat.

ANYWHO. My recipe is a twist on “Grandma’s Gingersnap Cookies” by Marie Ayers, which you can find at allrecipes.com. I don’t wanna turn this into one of those recipes where you’re scrolling through the author’s whole life story just to get to the ding dang facts, so let’s dive right in!



Laser Wolf Fart Blaster already has his eye on ‘em!

3. GETTIN WHISKY WITH IT

Whisk together the flour, ginger, baking soda, cinnamon and salt in a big mixing bowl until evenly blended. (Use a sifter if you’ve got one, but if not, a whisk will do.)

4. JUST BEAT IT

(I use a stand mixer for this step, but feel free mix by hand if you want a baking workout!) In a separate bowl, mix your coconut oil until it’s nice and creamy. (You want your coconut oil to be SOLID, but SOFT for this recipe, so chuck it in the fridge beforehand if it’s too liquidy.) Slowly beat in the white sugar, followed by the flax seed mixture, and molasses. Then gradually add your flour mixture and stir like crazy until you get a nice, soft dough.

5. TIME TO ROLL OUT

By hand, roll your dough into 1-inch diameter balls. Then roll them around in your cinnamon sugar roll til coated, and drop them on an ungreased baking sheet, about two inches apart.

YOU’RE GONNA NEED:

- 2 cups of sifted all purpose flour
- 1 tablespoon of ground ginger
- 2 teaspoons of baking soda
- 1 teaspoon of ground cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon of salt
- 3/4 cups of coconut oil (solid)
- 1 cup of white sugar
- 1 tablespoon ground flax seed meal
- 1/4 cup dark molasses
- 1/3 cup cinnamon sugar

1. FIRE IT UP

Preheat your oven to 350 degrees

2. SOAK THAT FLAX

In a small bowl, mix 1 tablespoon flax seed with three tablespoons of water. Let rest for 15 minutes, until mixture thickens.

6. GET BAKED

Pop ‘em in the oven until the tops are rounded and starting to crack. About 10-15 minutes. Transfer to a wire rack and let them cool!

7. ENJOY!

Congratulations, you’ve got a whole bunch of delicious gingersnap cookies to enjoy, or leave out for Santa. Don’t forget to make a nice pot of tea to dunk ‘em in!

Until next time folks, HAPPY HOLIDAYS!



HOMETOWN MAGIC

EARTHLY MAGIC

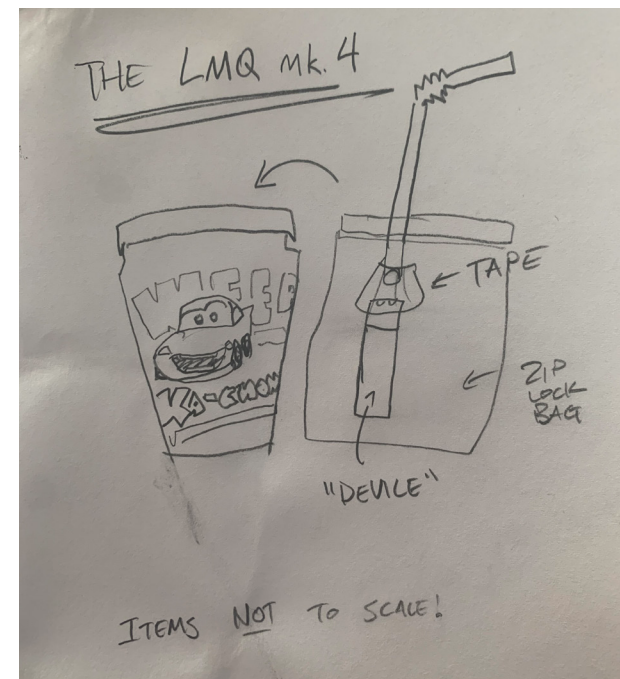
HEY FOLKS! Glenn here just been reminiscing a bit about the happiest place on Earth, aka Disneyland and California Adventure. Seeing as I've been spending quite a bit of time here in this Lord of the Rings ass magical land got me all nostalgic about Anaheim, of all places, so I figure I kick these Disney blues by imparting some of my time-tested park hopping tips for any of you out there thinking about making a run.

PARK OFF-PARK

Not that I don't enjoy the idea of my main man Goofy watching over my ride, but the fact is park parking is pretty expensive, and you can get five hours of parking free in the Downtown Disney lot as long as you're willing to lie about having seen a movie at the AMC there. That's what the AMC popcorn container is for- if you go to the manager desk holding one of those bad boys and ask for validation, they'll punch your ticket no questions asked because who's crazy enough to keep an empty medium sized bin of popcorn at all times as visual proof of recent movie attendance? A man who likes to see his investments pay off- that's who!

HIT AUTOPIA FIRST

The less I say about this the better, but let me just note that Autopia has blindspots in the camera coverage, and the smell of gasoline and motors very nicely covers up the scent of any burning organic materials. Also, a little super glue is all it takes to connect a vape device to the articulated straw that comes with 32oz Lightning McQueen novelty cups.



SINGLE RIDE OR DIE

Although the line experience is an integral part of the ride design which is skipped by using the Single Rider lines, I find I more than make up for it by riding Indiana Jones TWICE. A lot of people think "oh no, single riders mean your party gets split up" but to me, the ride experience is a communion between me and the Imagineers thank you very much. One time this kid was like "but I want to drive" and his jackass older brother was like "it's not a real steering wheel!" which I'm like, sure, but dang man what a buzzkill. So I told

them that I was working undercover in the parks and that the steering wheel USED to work, but too many kids wanted to steer so bad that it would sometimes throw the balance of the ride off and one kid got thrown off into the snake part and straight up died so that's why they welded it tight. Anyway the original kid was pumped out of his mind to try and break the steering wheel loose and I like to think in some small way I improved both their experiences that day.

USE THE DISNEYLAND APP TO PRE-ORDER FOOD

Now if you're practicing proper infosec you should already be using burner phones. I have a specialty burner just for the Disneyland app, which is a pretty good app to be honest. I've jailbroken it to spoof my geolocation which allows me to pre-order my Dole Whip and Apple Freezes while I'm on the road! You don't have to go that far, but believe me- waiting in line is for chumps! Just don't accidentally queue up 10 orders like I did once, they were pretty confused but I acted like I had a whole extended family Jungle Cruisin' so they were cool with it. Long story short, I had a wicked headache and had to cut the whole thing short that day.

HAUNTED MANSION IS WAY SPOOKIER ON WEED

One time I swear they said the ghost was gonna "follow me home" like they always do but something about it sounded different, like they were SERIOUS so I spent the rest of the time in the park looking over my shoulder freakin' out (like not even a visit to my main man J. Sparrow on Pirates could soothe my troubled mind from this spectral portent). It was only after I hit up Radiator Springs and did Mater's Junkyard Jamboree did I get some sense swung into me, which is my way of saying Mater's Junkyard Jamboree is secretly the most underrated ride in the park: it's both fun and it also gets rid of ghosts.

SPEAKING OF J. SPARROW

If I was Johnny Depp I'd straight up be like "yo let me be Jack Sparrow at the end for a day just improv-ing lines and acting all animatronic" and people would be like "wow it's so realistic" and like ONLY ONCE when I saw nobody had their phone out, I'd break character and stand up and be like "That's because Disney's animatronics rule" and just freak everyone out and best part is nobody would ever believe it. That's how you stay on top.

Plus, once I saw a really bad Jack Sparrow impersonator (like he was so bad I think nobody on the park's staff even bothered telling him to cut it out because it was such a passing resemblance at best) but I swear he had more moms hanging off of him for pictures than Mickey himself.

FAN ART!



Owner: [@ImJustALittleB](#) (Twitter)
Artist: MaryKate Ganza [@2headedgirl_](#) (Instagram)

FAN ART!



Artist: Lindsay, [@magicalcxrl](#) (Twitter)

FAN ART!



Artist: Martine Isling [@martineisling](#) (Twitter/Instagram)

FAN ART!



Artist: [@pastelixir3](#) (Instagram)



Artist: [@gothhyena](#) (Twitter)