

H Tales from the Table



Sibling Rivalry

Posted on August 18, 2016

I am currently
running a

modified 3.5 campaign for my wife and two daughters. My wife has played before, so she dug out a Half-Elf Bard she had from another campaign, and my two girls decided to create characters from scratch. My eleven year old is a very girly-girl. She's a cheerleader and loves animals, so she rolled an Elven Druid named Allyson with a bunny as her animal companion. My nine year old is my little tom-boy. She loves playing in the dirt, climbing trees, and catching bugs. So I have to say I was extremely proud when she chose to create a Half-Orc Barbarian named Lily. I showed her what dice to roll to hit and for damage, and explained to her how Barbarian Rage worked.

We start our first session, and after receiving their quest, the intrepid Heroes make their way to the cave where a Goblin tribe has taken up residence.

The first fight goes extremely well for the group. The three Goblins are entangled (thanks to Allyson) while Lilly's great axe makes short work of them. The girls learn a valuable lesson after the fight when my wife loots the corpses.

Bard: I search the bodies.

Me: You find six silver pieces and a small gem worth three gold.

Allyson: Wait, they have treasure?

Lily: I want some treasure too!

Me: Yes sweetie, they usually have something. You have to search them after they're dead.

So the adventure continues, and I can see the gears turning in our little Druid's head. The next fight doesn't go quite so well, even though the bad guys are exactly like the first group they encountered. This is because Allyson the Druid has camouflaged herself and hidden while the Barbarian and Bard are fighting the three Goblins.

The first Goblin drops.

Allyson: I'm searching him!

The second Goblin drops.

Allyson: I'm searching him, too!

And the same with the third. That's where it all kinda went to hell.

Lily: You can't search them all! That's not fair!

Allyson: Yes I can! Daddy said we could do whatever we wanted.

Lily: But you didn't even help kill them! I killed two, give me some of the treasure.

Allyson: Nope, I'm keeping it. I can do that, right Daddy?

Me: Yes you can. You make your own choices in this game and do whatever you want.

Lily: Can I chop her bunny with my ax?

Allyson: NO!

Me: Yes you can. You make your own choices in this game and do whatever you want.

Lily: *Rolls a d20*

Dice: 20.

Me: Wow, ok... so now there's a dead bunny on the ground in two pieces.

Lily: Share the treasure or you're next!

Allyson: No! You killed my bunny! I WAS going to share it with you but I'm not now.

Lily: Daddy, I'm using my Rage now.

So the Druid and Barbarian roll initiative and after a grand total of two combat rounds the Druid is hacked to pieces. My oldest is almost in tears.

Allyson: Can she really do that?

Me: Yes she can baby, this game is whatever you make it, your choices drive the story. Now, would you both like to try this again?

They agree, and start to make up over a bowl of popcorn, deciding to split everything fairly from now on.

Me: Ok, so you wake up from that daydream and find yourselves at the entrance to a smelly cave... We've been playing a few months now, and any time they start to argue about anything, the little one will threaten her older sister by saying, "I'll kill your bunny again!"