

DINOJAM 2025 - SCRIPT

GAME BEGINS:

PROLOGUE

THRINA (THE THRINAXODON)

Today I woke up feeling like the evening fog was in my brain. It was the strangest thing. Meanwhile the sky over the Karoo was the clearest blue I'd ever seen.

The plains stretched away into the big green forever. It's still early in the Triassic period and we don't have many words to say how pretty it was, but trust me, it was pretty.

My body itched like a termite hill so I rolled around on the dusty plain for a while. I wasn't hungry at all, which is unusual, but I figure I wasn't thinking straight anyway.

While I stared into the mid-morning sun, daydreaming about what annoys a termite, since they annoy everyone, it occurred to me – I haven't seen Broomie around for a while. In fact, I couldn't remember the last time I saw her.

The more I thought about it, the more worried I was. This is not good. The Karoo is full of danger. Rumbling volcanos, flash droughts, and predators. Oh no, there are *predators* everywhere. I better find her, and quick. Broomie, hang in there...

CHAPTER 1 – THE WETLANDS

PROTERO (THE PROTEROSUCHUS) - ANNOYED

Hmh. Back, are you? You shouldn't be hanging around here.

THRINA - NEUTRAL

And I thought we were friends.

PROTERO - NEUTRAL

Brings the mood down for all of us riverfolk, that's all I'm saying. Not my mood, of course, because I've seen a lot around here. Too much, if you ask me. See that tree stump over there? One time –

THRINA - WORRIED

Protero, focus! I'm looking for someone and I don't have a lot of time.

PROTERO - HAPPY

You've just reminded me. I'm going to visit my sister one of these days. Haven't seen her for....100...150 years? Just have to swim down river. Not far but not close. It's that middle distance that makes you go, *meh*.

THRINA - NEUTRAL

Wait. Are you really that old?

PROTERO - NEUTRAL

To be honest, I forget how old I am. Time is more of a personal truth these days.

THRINA - WORRIED

Time is definitely not a personal truth, it's like... a collective truth. I admit it's kind of a new concept for us all that I don't completely understand. I'm looking for a little amphibian. You better not have eaten her.

PROTERO - NEUTRAL

Is your friend a nervous little thing? Looks like she'd be soft on the outside and crunchy on the inside?

IF CHOICE A:

THRINA - WORRIED

No. She's long and sinewy like a snake. Not unlike that snake you accidentally ate while sleepwalking.

PROTERO - ANNOYED

I can't help it. Sleep eating runs in the family.

THEN RETURN TO GAME MAP AREA.

IF CHOICE B:

THRINA - WORRIED

Yes. Her head's kind of flat. Long tail. Sweet yellow eyes. Tell me you didn't swallow her whole like you did that family of mollusks.

PROTERO - NEUTRAL

Honestly, I would not do that again. Far too salty for me. As for your friend, she was too small to be worth the chase. That was what I thought when I saw her swim by, huffing and puffing.

THRINA - WORRIED

That must be her. Why was she in such a hurry? Protero, I need you to think. My friend might be in real danger.

PROTERO - HAPPY

Well, there she was, tail swishing back and forth, looking worse for wear, real anxious to get to the grasslands. So, I said to her, *Why run in the water when you can swim?* and she shouted back, *I am swimming!* We had an argument about who the best swimmer is when the rain started. I said, *Something's going to eat you out here. The only reason I'm not eating you right now is that I just ate.* But she was determined to go. Right up to the riverbank over there.

THRINA - HAPPY

So, **she was coming to find me!** When we're together, I can get us through some sticky situations. But now she's alone out there somewhere. Beyond the wetlands are even bigger carnivores.

PROTERO - ANNOYED

My sister predicts that one day the wetlands will dry up. Not that you'll have to worry about that.

THRINA - NEUTRAL

I will never get used to your non sequiturs.

PROTERO - NEUTRAL

What's a non-sequitur? Is it stuck on my face?

THRINA - NEUTRAL

Never mind. I've got to go now.

CHAPTER 2 – THE GRASSLANDS

CYNDY (THE CYNOGNATHUS) - ANNOYED

Gah! You can't just sneak up on me like that.

THRINA - NEUTRAL

Thought you lot were supposed to be the tough ones.

CYNDY - ANNOYED

I would bite a chunk out of you right now. But I'm intermittent fasting.

THRINA - NEUTRAL

What the hell does that mean?

CYNDY - HAPPY

Something I just invented. I only eat during a seven-hour window every day. Trying to get my blood pressure down. Running after dinner, trying not to be dinner. It's very stressful here.

THRINA - WORRIED

I hear the shrews are trying to become nocturnal. You should try it. Listen, Cyndy, I need your help. I'm this close to declaring my friend a missing person.

CYNDY - NEUTRAL

Ah, that little lizard you were always running around with?

THRINA - WORRIED

She's an amphibian. But yes. Haven't seen her in days. You and I are used to the grasslands, we can take the droughts. But she'll dry up. I'm worried.

CYNDY - NEUTRAL

I can see that you remember nothing between a few days ago and today. Just as well.

THRINA - SAD

It's the weirdest thing. My memory is fuzzier than a microgomphodon's ass. And I'm worried she might have gotten lost on the plains.

CYNDY - HAPPY

As a matter of fact, I did run into her two days ago. Hiding in the grass. Well, a regular Cynognathus would have eaten her right then and there. She didn't even have the good sense to run. But not me. I was on my fast. I'm religiously devoted to my seven-hour window.

THRINA - NEUTRAL

That does sound like her. What happened after that?

CYNDY - HAPPY

She said she had come from the west. Finally, we had something interesting to talk about. I asked her, *have you met the glowing Placerias?*

IF CHOICE A:

THRINA - WORRIED

You need to get your eyes checked.

CYNDY - ANNOYED

Spoken like someone who's never been in love.

THEN RETURN TO GAME MAP AREA.

IF CHOICE B:

THRINA - WORRIED

This conversation has taken a strange turn.

CYNDY - ANNOYED

Don't tell me you've never seen the glowing Placerias. Every evening, he lounges on the plains in front of the northern hills. He's beautiful.

THRINA - NEUTRAL

Oh, boy. You really need to get your blood sugar back up.

CYNDY - HAPPY

He's my destiny. So strong, so silent. Sometimes he moves closer, than farther, than closer. He is teasing me. Daring me to make the first move.

THRINA - WORRIED

I'm saying this as a friend: your feelings are playing tricks on you. We've all been there. Remember when I thought that Ichthyosaur and I had a thing going, and then he tried to drag me into the ocean? Embarrassing. But I got over it. Your boyfriend is just a trick of the light, nothing's coming or going.

CYNDY - ANNOYED

That's what your friend said. Actually, she called me a weirdo and ran off. However, you're both wrong. His dances can be seen with the naked eye.

THRINA - HAPPY

When the nearby river overflows, it pushes mounds of dirt out. And when the far river overflows, it pushes the mounds back in. That could explain why they look like they're moving, especially when

there's a... flood! **I remember now, there was a flood that submerged parts of the grassland.** Did you see which way my friend went?

CYNDY - HAPPY

In the direction of my soon-to-be-boyfriend. Lucky for her, I'm not the jealous type.

THRINA - NEUTRAL

Lucky for her, I'm not the type to give up.

CHAPTER 3 – THE FOREST

PARKER (THE EUPARKERIA) - ANNOYED

It happened. It finally happened. It's all gone.

THRINA - SAD

It's a complete disaster in here. You're lucky you're not on the floor in pieces too.

PARKER - ANNOYED

It took me months to build that hovel. Then a pack of Prolacerta showed up. They have to go everywhere in groups. A sign of insecurity, if you ask me. Ransacked everything.

THRINA - WORRIED

New species are coming out of nowhere these days. There's more competition for the same territories. Dinosaurs are going deeper into the forest to hunt.

PARKER - ANNOYED

There I was, putting the finishing touches on my roof of leaves. They smashed through it like, like – it was a roof of leaves!

THRINA - NEUTRAL

Do you remember a lone amphibian that came through here?

PARKER - NEUTRAL

Sure, I do. Not many of them come so far from the water. The forest is confusing for them. A few days ago, she jumped out of the bushes to ask for directions. *Directions?* I said, *You'll be lucky if you aren't plucked up by the first razor-toothed dinosaur that runs by.*

IF CHOICE A:

THRINA - WORRIED

It seems to me you're a razor-toothed dinosaur. Is there something you're not telling me?

PARKER - ANNOYED

I'm too distraught to eat. Some sympathy, please!

THEN RETURN TO GAME MAP AREA.

IF CHOICE B:

THRINA - WORRIED

I've always told her to avoid the forest. But she loves it, she loves the... what do you call these?

PARKER - HAPPY

Trees. Trees are the future. That's where I'm going. I'm going to build a hovel up there, where nothing can ever get me. I'm done with the forest floor. It's a never-ending massacre down here.

THRINA - NEUTRAL

No offense, but I don't think you're getting up there with those tiny arms.

PARKER - HAPPY

Don't be so negative. I'm weaving a rope ladder. It'll be grand up there. Maybe I'll even grow some... what are those called, those things that are kind of fluffy and soft and help you fly.

THRINA - NEUTRAL

I spend most of my time underground or in the dirt. How would I know what goes on in trees?

PARKER - HAPPY

Oh, you know, those long, tickly things.

THRINA - WORRIED

I'm telling you I have no idea. You said my friend wanted directions. Where was she trying to go?

PARKER - ANNOYED

I was very stressed about the structural integrity of my hovel and only half-listened. Something about the foothills, something about digging. I mean, if you're going to talk about not having the right

arms, riverfolk are not made for digging. How was that going to happen?

THRINA - HAPPY

I was going to be there, wasn't I? **I remember now – I dug a burrow that day, I went inside to take a nap.**

PARKER - NEUTRAL

She let me rub some leaves on her skin to use as an adhesive. So, I told her to follow the brush until you get to really spindly trees, and then keep going. Eventually the forest thins out and then the grassland begins.

THRINA - WORRIED

Did she seem scared?

PARKER - NEUTRAL

She looked like I did before the Prolacerta rolled in. Cautiously optimistic.

(sighing)

You didn't see her, did you?

THRINA - SAD

No. But I know she's out there.

EPILOGUE

BROOMIE (THE BROOMISTEGA) - HAPPY

You're finally here.

THRINA - HAPPY

I looked everywhere for you. The world has gone bonkers after the flood. People are chasing glowing boyfriends and misusing the concept of time.

BROOMIE - NEUTRAL

It's a rough place out there. I wonder if the world will ever settle down.

THRINA - SAD

We don't have to worry about that anymore. I think we're dead. Everyone down there knew the second they saw me.

BROOMIE - SAD

I figured. When I woke up here a few days ago, I knew right away it wasn't your burrow. But I felt in my gut you'd come by sooner or later. So, I waited.

BROOMIE - NEUTRAL

When we were down there, you always came to the river to hang out. I decided that I wanted to visit you for once. So, I left the wetlands, ran through the forest, and into the grasslands. That's where it got tricky because it's so flat, everything looked the same. I remembered you like to burrow by the foothills, in that little area no one else knows about. When I got there, I could only find one burrow. The rain was getting heavy at that point, so I just crawled inside. There you were. I was so tired I fell asleep.

THRINA - NEUTRAL

That might not have been the best decision. My burrow flooded that night.

BROOMIE - NEUTRAL

So that's what happened. I'll miss hearing about everyone's hopes and dreams. Did Parker ever finish their hovel?

THRINA - SAD

Um... kind of. We won't get to see how the world changes. You aren't disappointed?

BROOMIE - HAPPY

All I ever wanted was a place to call home. This place is as nice as any place we've been.

THRINA - HAPPY

You know, you're right about that. Good night, Broomie.

BROOMIE - NEUTRAL

Good night, Thrina.

GAME ENDS.

IF PLAYER RETURNS TO AN AREA AFTER A CONVERSATION HAS ENDED

SPEAKER	AREA	LINE
Thrina	Wetlands	Protero's gone to visit his sister. No one to see here.

Thrina	Grasslands	Off in the distance, Cyndy's a little dot on the plain, chasing lovers. No one to see here.
Thrina	Forest	Parker must be in the trees trying to grow wings. No one to see here.