

The Credible Adventures of October and Fish: Episode 115

ACT I

EPISODE 115

NARRATOR

October Jones and Fish with Legs are trapped in the catacombs of Chateau Puppy, the castle of Abby Pawsitive who may or may not be the Bloodthirsty Beast of Acular Forest. They are trying to escape the maze, working together despite October's betrayal back in Area 52.

October leads the way, holding the candelabra in one hand and her boot knife in the other. Fish with Legs is glued tightly to her leg clutching her pillow case full of confetti.

screeeeech

Fish jumps and glues herself even tighter to her leg.

screeeeEECH* *SCREEEEECH

FISH WITH LEGS

Although our relationship is currently very rocky, I would like to make clear that this upcoming criticism is not coming from a personal place, but from a simple observation I made with my fish ears. I think we're going toward the screeching, not away.

OCTOBER

Yeah, I think so too... But no matter where we go, we seem to be going closer.

FISH WITH LEGS

No one escapes the Bloodthirsty Beast's maze alive.

OCTOBER

Okay, so it's possible Abby is the Beast, but if no one escapes the maze alive how would anyone know about the maze?

FISH WITH LEGS

I don't know... I don't have all the answers! Hey what's that?

OCTOBER

That works on you, not on me.

FISH WITH LEGS

No, really!

(CONTINUED)

NARRATOR

Fish with Legs pushes October around so she's looking down the corridor. There is a faint glow up ahead.

SCREEEEECH* *SCREEEEECH

The screeching seems to be coming from there.

OCTOBER

So I guess we go there.

FISH WITH LEGS

What? No! We go the opposite direction.

OCTOBER

But we know where she is. We can head in ready to fight.

FISH WITH LEGS

Fight? She's a Dracula! All you have is a regular knife.

OCTOBER

Yeah, but it's kind of a mirror.

NARRATOR

She holds her knife up to the candlelight, trying to show how reflective it is. It is not very reflective.

OCTOBER

Come on. Let's go.

NARRATOR

October starts tiptoeing toward the reddish light.

FISH WITH LEGS

Have your ideas always been terrible? Was I blinded by friendship? Wait! Don't leave me alone in the dark!

NARRATOR

Fish with Legs shuffles up behind October, her fin plunged at the ready into the confetti sack. They delicately approach the glow. It's coming from a doorway. **screeech** As they near it, they slow down. October inches closer and peeks inside. Fish with Legs hesitantly copies her.

the event

Inside is a room ringed with identical doorways, lit by wall-mounted candelabras. Countess Abby Pawsitive kneels in the centre of a circle of chairs preparing some sort of ritual at a sigil carved into the floor. She is mixing something in a small bowl she holds in her paw. Demonic steam wreathes her as she rises, the folds of a black gown whispering around her feet.

(CONTINUED)

ABBY

Et-ay oc-hay idetur-vay ormidulosus-fay ed-say
ealiter-ray it-say innocentes-ay!

NARRATOR

She raises her head, and snaps. The corridors of the
catacombs all light up. There are torches all along the
walls, now burning blue.

FISH WITH LEGS

Ah snap!

OCTOBER

Son of a witch!

NARRATOR

Abby turns to the doorway.

ABBY

Welcome, guests.

FISH WITH LEGS

Ah! Run!

OCTOBER

Yep! Run!

NARRATOR

October and Fish scramble out from the doorway and
start running back down their hallway.

OCTOBER

She's gonna drink our blood!

FISH WITH LEGS

I love my blood!

OCTOBER

Wait, what's that?

NARRATOR

Up ahead is another red glowing doorway. They slow down
and peer inside...

FISH WITH LEGS

What!?

OCTOBER

How!?

NARRATOR

Despite running in a straight line, they have returned
to Abby's ritual room.

(CONTINUED)

ABBY

Where do you two think you're going?

FISH WITH LEGS

Run! Again!

NARRATOR

They run back the way they came.

FISH WITH LEGS

Ouf!

NARRATOR

Fish with Legs bounces off something at an angle. She spins back around to face it and--

FISH WITH LEGS

Ah! A bat!

OCTOBER

What? Ah! A bat!

FISH WITH LEGS

Count this!

NARRATOR

Fish with Legs unleashes her confetti fist like a scattershot missile in the bat's face.

BAT

Bleh!

FISH WITH LEGS

October, run!

OCTOBER

Ah!

NARRATOR

They run, stumbling, hydroplaning down the corridor and almost immediately back into the same glowing doorway they left behind them. Hydroplane? Slide. They skid inside, passing the bat kneeling outside counting the confetti, and to a panting stop. A mix of creatures walk into the room in an orderly fashion from the other doorways around the room.

revelation

Abby finishes greeting a cassowary and heads toward October and Fish with Legs, who stagger back out of the room.

FISH WITH LEGS

Stand back! I'm packed with holy water!

OCTOBER

And I have a mirror!

NARRATOR

October holds up her knife, trying to reflect light off of it.

ABBY

There's nowhere to run, girls...

FISH WITH LEGS

Run!

NARRATOR

October and Fish turn and run away, leaping over the bat crouched on the ground. Abby stands in front of the doorway patiently. A few seconds later, October and Fish with Legs return.

ABBY

As I was saying... There's nowhere to run, because I cast a spell on these catacombs so all paths lead here--

FISH WITH LEGS

Ah!

ABBY

--for our ABC meeting.

FISH WITH LEGS

Ah!!

OCTOBER

ABC?

ABBY

Anonymous Blood Consumers. I'm a certified therapy dog and I'm helping these people overcome their addiction.

OCTOBER

Oh.

(CONTINUED)

FISH WITH LEGS
Suspicious.

ABBY
Look. I have an official harness.

NARRATOR
Abby turns around, revealing a cute little red harness on her back with squiggles on it.

FISH WITH LEGS
(reading)
Therapy Dog...

ABBY
We are all Draculas but we are also all doing our best to stop consuming blood. "No lost blood, no lost love."

FISH WITH LEGS
Oh. Oops.

OCTOBER
Sorry?

ABBY
Now I would like you two to apologize to Karl.

OCTOBER
Karl?

NARRATOR
Abby points at the bat by the door counting paper shreds.

FISH WITH LEGS
Oh. My B.

NARRATOR
Fish with Legs waddles over to Karl.

KARL
Thirty four ahahah... Thirty five ahahah...

FISH WITH LEGS
Hey... Karl. Sorry about throwing confetti at you. I was scared because I thought you were going to drink my blood, but then Abby explained to me that you guys are recovering addicts and now I feel... bad.

KARL
It is alright. It happens more often than you would think. One time I spilled some rice... Oh, that was a day.

FISH WITH LEGS

Can I help you out at least?

KARL

I appreciate it. But I need to count it myself. It's a symptom of... being a Dracula.

FISH WITH LEGS

Of course.

ABBY

(clears throat pointedly)

OCTOBER

You alright? Your throat okay?

ABBY

Your turn.

OCTOBER

My turn?

ABBY

To apologize to Karl.

OCTOBER

I didn't throw the confetti. Fish with Legs did.

FISH WITH LEGS

Let me apologize for my former best friend. She has trouble being nice because deep down she's mean.

OCTOBER

No. I just don't want to apologize for something I didn't do. You know I'd apologize if I did something wrong! I apologized to you, didn't I?

ABBY

Okay, I think... I think I get your deal now. Come inside. The meeting is about to start anyways.

FISH WITH LEGS

What?

ABBY

I'm gonna help you two out.

FISH WITH LEGS

Oh, I don't want to repair my relationship with her, she's dead to me.

ABBY

Yeah, but this is a teachable moment. Come on. It'll count as your apology to the group for delaying their meeting.

FISH WITH LEGS

That sounds absolutely reasonable.

OCTOBER

I'm not a teach--

ABBY

I'm not arguing with you. It seems exhausting.

NARRATOR

She grabs October by the arm and drags her in. Fish with Legs follows enthusiastically.

ABBY

Join us when you're ready, Karl.

KARL

Fifty five ahahah... (*sighs*) Fifty six... Fifty seven...

ABC meeting

NARRATOR

So... the ritual chair circle is just a regular chair circle. It's occupied by various mystical creature Draculas chatting to each other and drinking steaming tea.

animal murmurs

ABBY

Alright. We're almost ready to get started. Fish with Legs, there are extra chairs over there. Grab a couple for you and October.

FISH WITH LEGS

Yes, ma'am.

NARRATOR

Fish with Legs heads over to the chairs Abby pointed to. Abby ushers October in the same direction. Fish with Legs tries to lift one.

FISH WITH LEGS

Wow, heavy.

(CONTINUED)

NARRATOR

She drags it instead.

screeech

FISH WITH LEGS

Oh.

OCTOBER

Ugh...

screeech

NARRATOR

They each drag a chair into the circle and sit on either side of Abby.

ABBY

Okay, everyone, before we get started. We have two guests who would like to apologize for delaying us.

FISH WITH LEGS

Sorry. (beat)

NARRATOR

She smacks the back of October's chair with her pillowcase.

OCTOBER

Yeah. Sorry. We did do that.

ABBY

I know a lot of us in the room have experienced relationship difficulties, right? So maybe we can take a moment to help them out.

murmurs of agreement

Why don't you introduce yourselves to the group. This is a safe space.

FISH WITH LEGS

Hello. I'm Fish with Legs. I'm a fish with legs. I'm the Elemental Creature of water. And, elephant in the room, I'm not a Dracula.

animal chuckles

OCTOBER

Hey. I'm October Jones.

NARRATOR

Karl pokes his head in from the hallway.

(CONTINUED)

KARL

That is a ridiculous name. By contrast, I have a totally normal name: Karl von Not-a-Vampire.

ABBY

So. What's going on?

FISH WITH LEGS

Well... Long story short, I'm the Elemental Creature of water and there's these two snake heads and their one body who are trying--

NARRATOR

I don't need to hear this again. You? Yep. Vrrrrrt...

FISH WITH LEGS

But then! When I get back Cherry Blossom is gone! And October claims--

NARRATOR

Vrrrt...

FISH WITH LEGS

And we thought that was the last we would see of the Crab--

NARRATOR

Vrrrrrt.

FISH WITH LEGS

And in a terrible twist it turns out October tricked me!

NARRATOR

Vrrrrrt.

FISH WITH LEGS

And then we ran in a circle again. And then Abby told us "there's nowhere to run" which at the time seemed spooky--

OCTOBER

And then we came inside. You don't need every detail.

ABBY

That was very thorough, Fish with Legs.

KARL

What a fascinating tale.

NARRATOR

Ah! The bat is inside. I guess he joined the circle at some point.

ABBY

October, you didn't contribute much during Fish with Legs' story.

OCTOBER

Oh... Well she talks a lot.

ABBY

Is that why you like having her around?

OCTOBER

Huh?

ABBY

You're right, that was a leading question. I'll hold back, I just... I already have theories. (beat) Do you like Fish with Legs?

OCTOBER

Um... Yeah?

ABBY

And do you think the level of trust and comfort Fish with Legs has with talking about herself and emotions has an effect on you?

OCTOBER

What? I dunno.

KARL

Countess Pawsitive, I'd like to address the human.

ABBY

Of course Karl! You must have some unique insight into what she is going through.

KARL

Indeed.

ABBY

Go ahead.

KARL

Human girl, I direct my speech to you.

OCTOBER

Noted...

KARL

For context, my wife Wilhelmina is mortal and I am a Dracula. A few years back, Wilhelmina came to me with a concern. She questioned whether I loved her for who she is on the outside, a beautiful intelligent possum, or

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

KARL (cont'd)
if I only loved her for who she is on the inside, which is a series of thick veins of delicious type O blood.

OCTOBER
Sounds healthy.

KARL
It was not. Her words resonated with me. So I sought help and Countess Pawsitive has shown me that is was in fact deeply unhealthy. I valued Wilhelmina only as a means to an end... which was a series of thick veins of delicious type O blood.

From what I heard in the fish's story, it sounds like you only valued your companion as a means to advance your career. I think you know this is unhealthy. Viewing relationships this way will prevent you from emotional vulnerability... Even if it does grant you access to to thick veins full of delicious type O blood.

ABBY
Very well said, Karl. You have come such a long way.

KARL
Thank you, Countess. You are an excellent therapy sire.

ABBY
October, it sounds like what you had with Fish with Legs is like what Karl has with Wilhelmina. But right now she's hurt and you have to earn her trust back.

FISH WITH LEGS
Exactly! That's what I've been trying to tell her.

ABBY
And you, Fish with Legs, just like how you have challenged October's views, she has challenged yours. She shattered your view of a world where everyone is kind and helpful, but just because your first perspective was extreme doesn't mean you have to fall to the other end of the scale to compensate. Healthiness is moderation.

FISH WITH LEGS
Oh... So... Maybe the world isn't a terrible hellscape full of grey and sadness. Thank you Abby. I think I see the light at the end of the tunnel.

KARL
What?

FISH WITH LEGS
For a while--

KARL
Pardon me, fish creature, that expression... You have it backwards!

FISH WITH LEGS
What?

KARL
There is *darkness* at the end of the tunnel.

ABBY
Yes, because light is terrible and dangerous.

OCTOBER
I feel like that's a Dracula specific thing.

ABBY
Oh, that makes sense.

KARL
Apologies. Forgive my interruption.

ABBY
No, it's fine. This is a good stopping point. Do you two feel like you learned something?

OCTOBER
Actually, I have some thoughts I need to--

ABBY
Great! You can say them to Fish with Legs. Now leave.

FISH WITH LEGS
What?

ABBY
We have a meeting.

FISH WITH LEGS
Oh... Okay. Come on, October.

NARRATOR
Fish with Legs and October shuffle uncertainly to a doorway.

FISH WITH LEGS
Wait, but--

ABBY

I'll modify the spell so it leads you to the stairs.

FISH WITH LEGS

Right. Okay.

NARRATOR

They leave.

ABBY

I'm sorry, everyone. I let that go for too long.

KARL

Why do you think you allowed that to happen?

ABBY

(sighs) Because I feel a great sense of validation from helping others.

KARL

Which is very noble, but...

ABBY

But I can't let that undermine helping myself, or those I've made prior commitments to.

KARL

And...

ABBY

And I need to learn to take pride in personal accomplishments.

KARL

Just like this. I am very proud of you for remembering this.

animals clapping in affirmation

return

NARRATOR

Meanwhile, October and Fish with Legs amble thoughtfully through the bony catacombs.

OCTOBER

So that was... hm.

NARRATOR

They continue down the dripping corridor, limned in blue torchlight. Vrrrt. The journey to the staircase is not long, and they head up to their separate bedrooms.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

NARRATOR (cont'd)

October sits at the edge of her bed, swamped in the nightgown. She looks around the room, which I can say is nearly identical to Fish's. She grabs a pillow from the bed and pulls her new notebook out from the case. She flips through it. Then closes it. Then opens it.

knock* *knock

OCTOBER

(mousey noise)

FISH WITH LEGS

Hello, October. It's me. Fish with Legs.

OCTOBER

Oh. Uh... Come in.

NARRATOR

Fish with Legs pokes her head into the room.

FISH WITH LEGS

Can we talk?

OCTOBER

Yeah. What's with the cape?

FISH WITH LEGS

Abby gave it to me. It's nice isn't it?

OCTOBER

Yeah, it'll go nicely with your regular outfit.

FISH WITH LEGS

Well, if my shoes weren't broken.

OCTOBER

Um... Actually.

NARRATOR

October gets up and walks over to open the desk. Fish with Legs' stilettos are sitting there, fully repaired.

FISH WITH LEGS

Audible gasp! My shoes!

NARRATOR

Fish with Legs rushes over to the desk and reaches out to grab them.

OCTOBER

Be careful, they're still drying.

(CONTINUED)

FISH WITH LEGS
Oh. Okay.

NARRATOR
Fish pulls her fins away.

OCTOBER
I stole-- borrowed some glue from Abby. That's not important. (beat) I know you might not be ready to forgive me yet, but I hope you are at some point because I like having you in my life.

FISH WITH LEGS
(sighs) I hope so too...

NARRATOR
Fish sits on October's bed. October sits at the desk.

OCTOBER
You may have noticed... I have trouble trusting people.

FISH WITH LEGS
Because of your family problems?

OCTOBER
Probably.

FISH WITH LEGS
Oh!

OCTOBER
What?

FISH WITH LEGS
Usually when I talk about your family you get incredibly defensive.

OCTOBER
I don't like talking about them. Or myself. So--

FISH WITH LEGS
Because you don't trust easily.

OCTOBER
What? No. It's just... Yeah. (beat) It's kind of discouraging when you have as many siblings as I do...

FISH WITH LEGS
Which is how many?

OCTOBER
It's discouraging having that many siblings and still being the odd one out.

FISH WITH LEGS

So you isolated yourself and became a huge nerd and conspiracy theorist.

OCTOBER

I'm not a conspiracy theorist. I literally just proved that my theories are true.

FISH WITH LEGS

Sorry. A truther.

OCTOBER

That's a little condescending.

FISH WITH LEGS

Okay... Mistake...

OCTOBER

Sorry. I concede your main point. I'm an emotional hermit.

FISH WITH LEGS

But, look. Now you're opening up.

OCTOBER

Ugh. Since we're doing this, I'm also sorry about Cherry Blossom.

FISH WITH LEGS

I don't know if I'm ready for that.

OCTOBER

I didn't push her away on purpose. But she really didn't like me. And she ran away. And then you came back and you were really upset and I didn't know how to fix it, so I lied so we could just move on.

FISH WITH LEGS

It's alright... I know Cherry Blossom and I will be reunited eventually.

OCTOBER

long sigh

FISH WITH LEGS

Is there something else?

OCTOBER

What? No. It's just that I hurt you, but now you're making *me* feel better. It's a little-

FISH WITH LEGS

No, this is helping me. If you trust me, then I can start trusting you.

OCTOBER

Oh.

FISH WITH LEGS

Come over here.

NARRATOR

Fish with Legs enticingly taps the bed with her fin. October gets up from the desk and sits next to her.

FISH WITH LEGS

I don't know if we're best friends yet, but we're definitely friends again.

OCTOBER

Good. I've always needed a friend.

FISH WITH LEGS

(beat)Hey. Look.

OCTOBER

What?

NARRATOR

Fish with Legs points at the window. The rain has stopped. The night sky is clear and full of stars.

OCTOBER

Oh. We should be able to make it to the Plains of Breezil by tomorrow afternoon.

FISH WITH LEGS

And I must be feeling better!

OCTOBER

What? What do you mean?

FISH WITH LEGS

Oh, I have passive weather powers. That's why the glbclb always try so hard to keep me happy. When I'm happy, my home is sunny and fertile and when I'm sad, it's rainy and at high risk for floods.

OCTOBER

Oh. I'll keep that in mind.

NARRATOR

Fish with Legs cuddles snugly under October's arm.

OCTOBER

You know... When you think about it. We're having a slumber party right now.

FISH WITH LEGS

Slumber party!

NARRATOR

Well I guess I'm glad things worked out. But I've been pretty into all these cliffhangers lately. Let's try to keep that up. You know who we haven't seen in a while? Yesss, you guessssed it.

Stinger

NARRATOR

Zzzzp. Meanwhile, back on the blimp: Simon and Sarfunkel slither onto the bridge of their aerial headquarters. It's half witch lair, half regular blimp bridge. Yeah exactly, you get it. Muscular Giraffe is gazing out the window... ruggedly. His hand tense on his magical staff. Mm. Simon and Sarfunkel wriggle over. Simon has a sprig of rending agrimony in his mouth. It's a plant. It has a bunch of stalks covered in little yellow flowers and teeth. Kind of like a small mullein. What's a mul-- I can't explain every plant! Whatever. Point is, Simon has a yellow flower in his mouth.

SARFUNKEL

Muscular Giraffe. I come bearing gifts.

NARRATOR

Simon spits the plant into Muscular Giraffe's hand.

SIMON

That tasted terrible.

SARFUNKEL

Is that all you require for your spell?

NARRATOR

Muscular Giraffe nods. Ruggedly.

SARFUNKEL

Then set a course for the Plains of Breezil. The Elemental Creature of air will soon be ours...

NARRATOR

Oh, exciting. Get ready to ditch Herovia, wahoo. But for now... Let's stop.