

The Credible Adventures of October and Fish: Episode 113

EPISODE 113

NARRATOR

October Jones and Fish with Legs have just escaped the creepy human facility Area 52. But in the aftermath of their escape, October came clean about her duplicitous role in getting them there. Fish with Legs, hurt, decided to keep October around, but only as a guide to bring her through Acularad Forest.

forest

thunder It's a dark and stormy night. October and Fish trek through the thick woods against violent winds, torrential rains and other storm things. October no longer has her backpack or apron. She slips and falls in the mud, dirtying her already filthy, dull, ugly, untrustworthy tunic. Fish with Legs walks a few steps ahead of her. Her tights and shoes are worn, but she mostly seems unaffected by the malevolent weather.

OCTOBER

Hey, Fish with Legs! Do you think we can take a break?

FISH WITH LEGS

No. Let's keep going.

OCTOBER

But this rain is--

NARRATOR

October slips and falls again.

OCTOBER

This rain is brutal.

FISH WITH LEGS

We have to get out of this forest.

OCTOBER

Listen, Fish with Legs... I get that you don't want me around anymore, but we can't keep hiking in this rain.

FISH WITH LEGS

It's not that, October --Well it is also that... Every time I see your face, my heart breaks a little because I remember all the good times we had and how that was all lies-- But on a separate note, I don't want to get stuck in Acularad Forest because it has a monster.

(CONTINUED)

OCTOBER

A monster?

FISH WITH LEGS

Yeah. Back home with the glbclb, they told me all about this forest and the terrible monster that lives here.

OCTOBER

You mean the Bloodthirsty Beast of Acular Forest?

FISH WITH LEGS

Yes. Now, let's keep going because talking to you for this long makes me want to cry. Oh no... It's happening. (sniffles)

OCTOBER

Wait, Fish with Legs!

FISH WITH LEGS

These aren't tears, it's the rain.

OCTOBER

The Bloodthirsty Beast of Acular Forest isn't real. It's another cover story for Area 52.

FISH WITH LEGS

Yeah, but back home with the glbclb, they told me that the beast was ancient and Area 52 isn't ancient.

OCTOBER

Yeah, but that doesn't mean it's true...

FISH WITH LEGS

They wouldn't lie to me--

OCTOBER

I'm not saying lie--

FISH WITH LEGS (CONT'D)

Or would they... You can't trust anyone Fish with Legs... Everyone lies... You're alone in this world. Just you and your sexy stilettos.

NARRATOR

snap Fish with Legs falls to the ground as the heel of her left stiletto breaks. October rushes over to help her.

OCTOBER

Let me--

FISH WITH LEGS
No.

NARRATOR
Fish with Legs brushes away October's hand.

FISH WITH LEGS (CONT'D)
Leave me. I have to get used to doing things on my own.

NARRATOR
Fish with Legs takes off her shoes and heaves herself
back upright.

FISH WITH LEGS
Audible sigh of sadness...

OCTOBER
Look, Fish with Legs. I can't even open the notebook in
this rain. Let's find somewhere to camp for the night.
I'll check the map, we can rest up... I can try to fix
your shoe.

FISH WITH LEGS
You didn't even fix my tights. Besides, you don't have
your backpack. All you have left is lies.

OCTOBER
(sighs) Come on. Let's find some shelter.

FISH WITH LEGS
Audible sigh of complaisance...

OCTOBER
Alright, now we need to find somewhere dry--

FISH WITH LEGS
Let's go there.

OCTOBER
Where?

NARRATOR
thunder Fish with Legs points at a foreboding castle
on top of a hill overlooking the forest. Lightning
outlines the spindly peaks of its roofs.

OCTOBER
The creepy ominous castle? How 'bout no?

FISH WITH LEGS
It's what we deserve.

OCTOBER

What? No! That's the kind of castle that you go inside and then you're never heard from again.

NARRATOR

Fish with Legs has already started toward the castle.

OCTOBER

Come on, Fish with Legs. Don't go in the sketchy castle just because you're mad at me. (beat) She's gone. (sighs) This ridiculous, miserable fish...

NARRATOR

October catches up with Fish with Legs. They *vrrrt* hike up the hill to the castle. It's a treacherous climb, but Fish with Legs trudges apathetically through thorny bushes and straight up sloughing slopes, her little bare feet spattered with mud. Despite the dead look on her face, she's in her element. October, in a way also in her element, is completely filthy with mud and water, her clothes sopping and ruined by the antagonistic storm. Antagonistic. Like antagonist. Bad guy.

The castle is even more imposing up close. Grotesque creatures gambol in the gables, and metal spikes drip from the eaves. It's massive, stone, and Gothic, with a plethora of towers, arches, gargoyles, etcetera. I'm not defining any of those.

OCTOBER

Oh phew! When you get up close... it's even creepier.

FISH WITH LEGS

Yep. It's terrifying.

OCTOBER

So you wanna just find like a big tree or something to hide under or-- Nope. Okay. We'll head straight to the door.

NARRATOR

Fish with Legs walks up to the giant wooden doors without fear or drive. She grabs the brass, bat-shaped knocker and knocks, the door immediately blows wide open, banging against the wall.

FISH WITH LEGS

(sighs) If it is indeed my time, I step forward with no fear.

OCTOBER

Oh good. Great attitude.

NARRATOR

Fish with Legs steps through into the darkness within. October slishes warily after.

Abby's castle

The inside is just as creepy as the doorway promised. They've stepped into a deep dark entry hall. The moonlight from outside barely lights the cold stone walls.

FISH WITH LEGS

Hello... Is anybody here...? We've come willingly.

OCTOBER

Just to be clear we've come for shelter. Not to be... sacrifices or whatever. (silence) Well looks like nobody's here, so let's--

FISH WITH LEGS

AH!

OCTOBER

AH!

NARRATOR

Ah! Suddenly the whole place lights up. Candelabras lining the walls dimly light the room, revealing the black and red foyer and two giant staircases framing a large, deep pointed archway that leads further into the house.

FISH WITH LEGS

What was--

creeeekKAP

Ah!

NARRATOR

The front door slams shut. Fish jumps into October's arms.

OCTOBER

Nope.

NARRATOR

October backs up against the front door and flailingly tries to get it open, eyes fixed front.

FISH WITH LEGS

Okay! I feel feelings again! I am... scared!

ABBY

Please... Stay...

NARRATOR

A low shadow crawls haltingly forward from the yawning archway.

OCTOBER

Stay back! This fish knows karate.

FISH WITH LEGS

And this human knows... lock picking.

ABBY

What? Oh! Sorry, did I spook you two?

NARRATOR

Oh, nooo. The shadow comes closer and it's just adorably short. Like the size of an adult Fish with Legs. New friend is a bipedal pug in a fuzzy pink turtleneck. She's got matching little pink booties on her hind paws.

OCTOBER

Oh... It's a cute little dog...

NARRATOR

October puts Fish on the ground.

ABBY

Hey there. I'm Countess Abby Pawsitive. Welcome to my castle. Chateau Puppy!

OCTOBER

Right... Um... Sorry to intrude. It's raining cats and dogs outside. We were hoping we could get some shelter--

ABBY

Cats and dogs?

OCTOBER

Pardon the expression.

ABBY

Oh Gee. Humans and their expressions...

FISH WITH LEGS

I know, right!?

ABBY

Pretty unusual to find a human this deep into Aculard Forest... And even stranger to see a fish with legs... anywhere. But I like it.

FISH WITH LEGS

Hello, I'm Fish with Legs. I'm a fish with legs. I'm the Elemental Creature of water. And my soul has been torn in two and the beautiful world I once believed in that was full of sunshine and friendship has been destroyed and replaced with a terrible hellscape full of grey and sadness.

ABBY

Wow. That's a lot to work with.

OCTOBER

Yeah... We were traveling through the forest to get to the Plains of Breezil, but we got caught in the storm, so--

ABBY

You don't want to talk about what your friend just said?

OCTOBER

No. I do not.

ABBY

Okay... I will not get involved. Because Abby... You need to work on yourself. Don't get caught up everyone else's drama. Your problems are valid.

OCTOBER

But... can we get shelter till the storm ends?

ABBY

Of course! You two can stay here as long as you need. Chateau Puppy is open to all!

OCTOBER

Thank you so much! My name's October Jones by the way.

ABBY

What a delicious name!

OCTOBER

Um. Thanks?

ABBY

Well, follow me! I have some rooms upstairs, I can get something ready for you two. Do you need some towels to dry off?

(CONTINUED)

OCTOBER

Yes please. That would be great. Fish with Legs... do you--

FISH WITH LEGS

No. Don't help me. Let me soak in my sadness.

OCTOBER

Okay...

ABBY

Oh! One little rule about Chateau Puppy! Down this hallway, all the way at the end is the door to the forbidden basement. Under no circumstances should either of you enter the basement tonight or ever. I will be spending the night down there for a private event and it's very important that I'm not disturbed.

NARRATOR

Fish with Legs and October stare down the dark, foreboding hallway, then at each other.

ABBY

Am I understood?

OCTOBER

Yeah.

FISH WITH LEGS

For sure.

OCTOBER

Totally.

ABBY

Fantastic. Now upstairs we go!

NARRATOR

Abby runs upstairs, on all fours. Fish and October follow her hesitantly.

upstairs

NARRATOR

Vrrrt. October and Fish with Legs are in a glisteningly fancy bathroom, with two sinks! Fish with Legs' torn stockings are laid on the counter, drying, as are her broken shoes. October presides over a pile of muddy towels in an flowing white night gown. Her clothes, boots and sheathed knife are also on the counter. She dries her hair.

OCTOBER

Did I get it all?

NARRATOR

She looks around for a mirror to check herself in. There are none. Her hair looks greasy and tangled by the way. That rain was probably the first time she cleaned it in months.

FISH WITH LEGS

It looks... It looks like I used to think it was beautiful.

OCTOBER

(sighs) Of course...

FISH WITH LEGS

It wasn't my choice to have my heart broken.

OCTOBER

Look, I said sorry. I don't know what I'm supposed to do. I realize it was wrong to sell you out to the Herovian government. But I risked everything to try to save you. I gave up my dream! It was admittedly kind of an ethically dubious dream in retrospect, but I gave it up! For you. So how can I make you not mad at me?

FISH WITH LEGS

I'm not mad, October... I'm just irreparably heartbroken and have no trust in the world or others.

OCTOBER

(long breath, beat) So there's definitely something creepy going on in that basement, right.

FISH WITH LEGS

Oh yeah, 100%.

OCTOBER

Think we're in danger?

FISH WITH LEGS

If there's one lesson I've learned from you, it's that I can trust no one and everyone is corrupt deep down inside.

OCTOBER

Great.

ABBY

Hey girls!

OCTOBER
Ah!

FISH WITH LEGS
Ah!

NARRATOR
Fish jumps into October's arms.

ABBY
I just overheard you two talking and I want to clarify that there is definitely nothing suspicious happening in my forbidden basement, but would also like to once again remind you that under no circumstances should either of you go down there.

OCTOBER
Right...

FISH WITH LEGS
Of course.

OCTOBER
We understand and believe what you are saying.

FISH WITH LEGS
We will definitely not snoop around your castle and we will specifically avoid your basement, which is forbidden.

ABBY
Great. (beat) Also I know I said I didn't want to get mixed up in your personal drama, but I overheard what you were saying about one of you selling the other out to the human government and--

OCTOBER
We don't need to talk about that.

FISH WITH LEGS
Yeah. There's no coming back from the dark place I've been left in.

ABBY
Oh. Okay... I just had some questions...

OCTOBER
Are our rooms ready?

ABBY
Oh. I only prepared the one.

FISH WITH LEGS
Dibs.

ABBY
It's just one door over.

NARRATOR
Fish rushes past Abby and vanishes next door.
rrrr-klik

ABBY
I'll get another room ready for you.

OCTOBER
Thanks.

ABBY
So you betrayed her trust... That seems a little--

OCTOBER
What? You don't like me? Get in line.

ABBY
Oh, okay. That's a little defensive. It seems like you're making assumptions about what others think of you-- Wait! I'm not getting caught up in this. Midnight is nearly nigh. Our time is running short. I shall prepare your bed and proceed... to my event.

NARRATOR
Abby slowly backs out of the room with a mysterious grin on her face.

OCTOBER
Okay... Cool...

NARRATOR
Abby disappears into the shadowy hallway. October ponders this while drying her disgusting hair.

OCTOBER
Yeah. We're totally in danger.

NARRATOR
Well I sure hope they find a way out of there. Abby seems nice, but... Yeah, she's super suspicious. I guess we'll find out what her deal is next time. For now, let's stop.