

The Credible Adventures of October and Fish: Episode 104

EPISODE 104

bye bye cherry blossom

NARRATOR

Okay, so last time we saw October Jones and Fish with Legs, Fish had just escaped the evil two headed snake Simon and Sarfunkel who want to capture her to use her in their evil summoning ritual to awaken Mamamorbus --bad monster. Fish found and befriended October and together they stole the giant iguana Cherry Blossom from October's idol Manfred Splainer the Mighty. They are now on their way to Herovia City, the first stop on their quest to defeat the snakes.

NARRATOR

Cherry Blossom is trotting along, carrying the party down a wooden path that winds through a fallow wetland. Judging by the tufty plants, it's either a bog or a fen-- Yes there's a difference. I'm not gonna get into it now. The boards are old and chipped, little green things growing around the edges. There's a wobbly railing on one side.

We passed some other travelers while I was choosing between bog and fen. I guess this trail is like a bog highway. I'm going with bog by the way.

Aside from the little streams and wide, clear ponds, the ground is the texture of a well-cooked yam. Cherry Blossom's claws are excellently gripping the walkway as she huffs sinuously North. She looks tired. Actually all three of them look rumped. Looks like we caught them at the tail end of a long day of travel. October's perched on the back of the saddle with her wacky notebook and huge eyebags. Fish with Legs sits nobly in front, wielding the reins with panache and a non-zero amount of wiggling. No wait, squirming.

FISH WITH LEGS

October, can we stop?

OCTOBER

No.

FISH WITH LEGS

But I have to pee.

OCTOBER

How do you have to pee again!?

(CONTINUED)

FISH WITH LEGS

I'm the Elemental Creature of water. I make a lot of water.

OCTOBER

Okay, well hold it a little longer.

NARRATOR

Cherry Blossom is now also squirming.

FISH WITH LEGS

You hungry, Cherry Blossom? Tired?

CHERRY BLOSSOM

Blarg...

OCTOBER

We're not stopping.

CHERRY BLOSSOM

Blarg!

FISH WITH LEGS

October, you're my best friend and your wisdom is truly unmatched, wisdom bursts out of you, you are the greatest, wisest adviser and wisdom and wise-- I really gotta pee.

CHERRY BLOSSOM

Blarg!

FISH WITH LEGS

And Cherry Blossom wants a break.

OCTOBER

(sighs) Fine. Quick break.

FISH WITH LEGS

Whoaaaa. Good girl.

NARRATOR

Cherry Blossom stops and Fish slides off her back, gives her shoulder an affectionate pat, and makes her way briskly off the path and through the mud to a nearby shrub. October doesn't look up.

OCTOBER

Okay, go pee.

FISH WITH LEGS

Take a little break, Cherry Blossom. You deserve it.

NARRATOR

Her first shrub unsuitable, Fish scans the area a bit desperately and locks on to a far-off cluster of taller shrubs growing in a trickling stream. But she hesitates.

FISH WITH LEGS

I'm going over there and taking care of my fishy business.

OCTOBER

Awesome.

FISH WITH LEGS

Now while I'm in there I want you and Cherry Blossom to get along.

OCTOBER

Sure. Whatever.

FISH WITH LEGS

I know you two have your differences, but it's very important to me that my two best friends are also best friends. Got it?

OCTOBER

I said yes.

FISH WITH LEGS

That goes for you too, Cherry Blossom.

CHERRY BLOSSOM

Blarg.

FISH WITH LEGS

Okay. Love you both. Be back soon.

NARRATOR

Fish with Legs squishes away. October leans back to lounge in the saddle and flips a page. Cherry Blossom shifts her feet.

CHERRY BLOSSOM

Blarg...

OCTOBER

Iguana, stay.

NARRATOR

Cherry Blossom bucks. October lands sprawled on the walkway.

(CONTINUED)

OCTOBER
Hey!

NARRATOR
October sits up and grabs her fallen notebook. She checks it over for damage while Cherry Blossom gives her the side eye.

CHERRY BLOSSOM
Blarg.

OCTOBER
Watch out! This book is really important! It has all my essential research into Mamamorbus!

NARRATOR
October settles herself on the ground. She clearly has very little experience with animals. You can't see it, but that giant Iguana obviously wants a break from her saddle! I guarantee it. Anyways, October takes a pencil out of her apron and starts sketching the bog. Decent line work.

Cherry Blossom huffs and steps in front of October, obscuring the view she's drawing.

OCTOBER
Okay, iguana... Can you like--

CHERRY BLOSSOM
Blarg!

OCTOBER
Get out of the way!

NARRATOR
Cherry Blossom pointedly wanders off the path to sit down in a puddle.

OCTOBER
Come on... Now you're soaked! We have to ride you!

NARRATOR
Cherry Blossom rolls onto her back nestles herself into the bog, fully soiling the saddle that she wishes was off her back.

OCTOBER
Are you doing this on purpose? Are you actively not listening to me?

CHERRY BLOSSOM
Blarg.

OCTOBER
Get out of there!

NARRATOR
Cherry Blossom ignores her. October stands on the edge of the path.

OCTOBER
Listen, we don't have to like each other. But I would really appreciate it if you would serve your purpose without causing extra trouble.

NARRATOR
Cherry Blossom settles and looks October in the eye.

OCTOBER
Does that sound like something we can agree on?

NARRATOR
Maintaining eye contact, Cherry Blossom dunks her head in the water. She whips it out and throws her head back, drying herself and soaking October in bog water.

OCTOBER
sigh Please. You only need to last us till Herovia City. Because...

NARRATOR
She glances off to the shrubs where Fish with Legs is taking care of her fishy business. She then leans in to confide in Cherry Blossom. Cherry Blossom is distracted by some flies buzzing around her face.

OCTOBER
Between you and me, I have no intention of bringing that fish to the Plains of Breezil. When we get to Herovia City, I'm handing her over to the High Council and then I'm returning you to Manfred. And then he's gonna forgive me and probably thank me once he finds out how important the fish is. And then you and me never have to see each other again. Unless of course... Manfred starts mentoring me and bringing me on missions with him...

NARRATOR
Wow... This evil little manipulative human... Yeah, I don't like her anymore either. She's bad news. Cherry Blossom however, seems unfazed... She's much more interested in those flies.

OCTOBER

So what do you say, Cherry Blossom? Ready to get out of the water?

NARRATOR

Cherry Blossom catches a fly and swallows it with a satisfied air. She seems very comfortable in that water.

OCTOBER

Of course that didn't convince you... You're a giant lizard who doesn't understand human language... (sigh) Alright. Let's get you out of there...

NARRATOR

October rests her book on the wooden pathway and steps into the bog to grab Cherry Blossom's swinging reins. Her hands and feet slide in the mud but she tugs, jerking Cherry Blossom's head forward.

OCTOBER

Come on! Get up.

CHERRY BLOSSOM

Blarrrrrg.

OCTOBER

Get. Up.

NARRATOR

October tugs again. Cherry tugs back, and October is thrown off balance and half into the water.

OCTOBER

Whoa!

NARRATOR

October gets up with difficulty, using her death grip on the reins. Her legs are brown and sopping.

OCTOBER

You're stubborn. You know that? You're a stubborn lizard.

NARRATOR

Cherry Blossom finally gives October some attention. She seems unimpressed with the muddy irritable teenager.

OCTOBER

But you know what? I'm stubborn too.

NARRATOR

October stretches her arms and backs up purposefully. Then, with all her weight, she charges into Cherry Blossom's side and--

CHERRY BLOSSOM

Blaaaaaaarg!

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

Cherry Blossom's feet slip out from under her. She lands hard.

OCTOBER

Wow! See? I told you. October 19th 104 Jones get things done.

NARRATOR

October has definitely earned Cherry Blossom's full attention. The massive reptile slowly gets back to her feet, dripping in muddy water. She turns to face October and stares her down with a composed intensity.

OCTOBER

I mean... Whoa there, iguana...

CHERRY BLOSSOM

Blarrrrrrrg...

OCTOBER

Please don't--

CHERRY BLOSSOM

Blaaaaarg...

NARRATOR

October scrambles back onto the walkway as Cherry Blossom leaps at her, her long talons scraping the wood. They go down, Cherry Blossom on top, puffed up and flushed angrily. She leans in, her throat engorged, and--

CHERRY BLOSSOM

HISSSSSSSSS

NARRATOR

Her mouth opens like a kite, showing the dark hole of her throat. October cringes, covering her face.

OCTOBER

mousey noise

NARRATOR

Cherry Blossom tucks her face back together and shakes wildly, spattering October again and sending her pack bouncing to the ground.

OCTOBER

Oh thank Herovia...

NARRATOR

Then Cherry Blossom explodes into movement, limbs flailing as she runs two-legged back the way they came. October sits up and watches the lizard disappear in the distance...

OCTOBER

Oh scry...

NARRATOR

She lies on her back.

OCTOBER

That's bad...

NARRATOR

She stays there on her back for a moment until...

FISH WITH LEGS

humming

NARRATOR

She hears Fish with Leg's distant blissful humming...

OCTOBER

sigh

NARRATOR

She sits up as Fish with Legs finally returns. Those legs must be all bladder.

FISH WITH LEGS

It's gross in there. Full of bugs. I almost got stung by a... bee... Where's Cherry Blossom?

OCTOBER

Oh... Um... There was something in the water. I didn't catch what it was, but it really spooked her. Seemed super dangerous.

FISH WITH LEGS

Oh no. I hope she's okay. She's my second best friend...

(CONTINUED)

OCTOBER

I'm sure she's fine. She's a... Sturdy lizard.

FISH WITH LEGS

Okay. Plan time. You need to come up with some sort of plan. We have to go find her. She's probably terrified. There's a weird amount of bugs in there.

OCTOBER

Oh... Um... Hm... I feel like that would be difficult to...

FISH WITH LEGS

Come on. You're my adviser. Advise me. Your last plan was great! It gave me my second best friend!

OCTOBER

I don't know, Fish with Legs. We're on a tight schedule, remember? We have to beat those snakes to the Plains of Breezil, and we can't do that without high quality supplies which you can only get in Herovia City...

FISH WITH LEGS

Okay... But Cherry Blossom is the one bringing us to Herovia City.

OCTOBER

Right. But... Who knows how long it'll take us to find her.

FISH WITH LEGS

Are you suggesting we leave her behind?

OCTOBER

Well maybe. If that ends up being the best course of action... Let's reflect on this...

FISH WITH LEGS

October 19th 104 Jones. How dare you! We're a team! You, me and Cherry Blossom! Three best friends.

OCTOBER

Yeah, I know... It really pains me... You know while you were in the bushes me and Cherry Blossom had some really great bonding time... But like I said, we're on a tight schedule and there's a town nearby... It would probably take us longer to search for Cherry Blossom than it would to get there...

FISH WITH LEGS

But you said there was something dangerous in the water... What if Cherry Blossom runs--

OCTOBER

All the more reason for us not to get in there and look for her. Cherry Blossom is an iguana of the Herovian Guard. She works with Manfred Splainer the Mighty. She can definitely handle herself.

FISH WITH LEGS

This doesn't feel right...

OCTOBER

Look in here...

NARRATOR

She shows Fish with Legs her notebook.

OCTOBER

See this town at the end of the highway. It's a huge station for centishuttles and millitreads. I'm sure we can catch a ride to Herovia City there.

NARRATOR

Fish looks contemplative. The scales balance between her empathy and her gullibility.

OCTOBER

Listen, I loved Cherry Blossom too, but we have to think about the greater good. Right, bestie? Those snakes have to be stopped. And we're the only ones who can do it.

FISH WITH LEGS

(sighs) You're right.

NARRATOR

Yeah, that tracks.

OCTOBER

Thank you! Let's go!

NARRATOR

Fish with Legs stares soulfully off into the bog.

FISH WITH LEGS

I'll miss you, Cherry Blossom... I'll never forget that time we camped together... And how we gave each other pedicures... And we stayed up all night talking about boys... Just like a real slumber party...

OCTOBER

You knew her for like a day, okay?

FISH WITH LEGS

I'll always love you, second best friend...

NARRATOR

Fish hangs her head and solemnly plods along the walkway. October, a bad person and mediocre artist at best, retrieves her soggy bag and ambles bothered beside her.

Wow... I don't think I can handle anymore of this. Do you want to-- Oh. Excellent idea. I would love to see that. Yes. Let's see what happened to Cherry Blossom.

CHERRY stinger

NARRATOR

zzzzzzzzzzzp Okay... Ah! I found her. She is... Running... Okay boring... Um... Vrrrt... Lizard running... Okay, maybe this wasn't as interesting an idea as-- Oh, I see. Okay. Never mind. Let me paint you a word picture.

The sun is setting on a long day of searching, coming to an end. A human caravan travels through a field: a large carriage pulled by two iguanas and another pair of iguanas trotting on either side, both straddled by a Herovian Guard.

Manfred Splainer the Mighty sits on the carriage. He looks broken. A powerful man reduced to a fragile boy, filled with longing and heartache. He gazes ahead. Solemn.

But then... he hears a faint, distant blarg. He perks up. He listens closer and is rewarded with second blarg. Hope trickles into his empty heart. He lifts a hand. The caravan stops.

The sound of light rustling. Then, a third, louder blarg. Manfred steps down from the carriage. A guard tries to stop him, but Manfred brushes him away.

He stares out into the field. All he sees is tall, still grass. But there, on the horizon. Movement. A patch of grass waves against the wind. The patch moves closer.

Manfred slowly walks toward the incoming patch. He hears a fourth blarg, now much louder. Manfred's walk turns to jog, which becomes a run. His run turns into a sprint.

(MORE)

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NARRATOR (cont'd)

The rustling gets louder and Manfred smiles. The waving grass approaches. His sprint grows faster. The blargs grow louder.

A tear runs down Manfred's cheek as Cherry Blossom, his beloved iguana, bursts from the grass, leaping toward him. Manfred opens his arms as Cherry Blossom tackles him to the ground.

MANFRED

Cherry Blossom!

NARRATOR

She mercilessly licks every inch of his face, releasing all the love she has in her heart. Manfred wraps his arms around her neck and kisses every part of her he can reach, smearing his face with bits of dried mud.

MANFRED

I was so scared I'd lost you!

CHERRY BLOSSOM

Blarg!

MANFRED

But you found me!

CHERRY BLOSSOM

Blarg blarg!

MANFRED

Oh Cherry Blossom. You found me... You found me...

NARRATOR

As the newly reunited settle down together, Manfred sits up beneath her and looks Cherry Blossom in the eye.

MANFRED

Cherry Blossom... Can you track her? Can you help me find the girl who took you away from me?

CHERRY BLOSSOM

Blarrrg.

MANFRED

Good. Let's hunt down that traitor and take that fish to the Capitol. No one outwits me, Manfred Splainer, the Mighty and gets away with it or my name isn't Manfred Splainer, the Mighty, the brave, handsome, strong and surprisingly emotionally vulnerable handsome hero!

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NARRATOR

Then he goes back to kissing his lizard and rubbing her scales. This seems like a good spot to end. Yep. Let's stop.

Chariots of Blarg begins to play