

(Printed with the demonstration version of Fade In)

EPISODE 203

NARRATOR

Let's begin.

It's really been a hot second since we checked in on October and Fish. They're probably still dealing with that Skullatron guy. I know you're running the show for now, but we should see if they're okay at some point.

But for now, let's wrap up this villain drama. The blimp is still crash landed on Totally Regular Island, the island with the turtle stuff. I swear I recognize it. You too? Okay, cool.

Anyway, Simon and Sarfunkel have assembled all the ingredients they need to cure Muscular Giraffe's lightning sickness. And Phiona the Phoenix and Buster Fly the butterfly managed to escape and have fled into the turtle-filled jungle. But Simon, Sarfunkel and Bees in a Trench Coat are on the hunt... So, where do we start?

[Zp.]

TURTLE TEMPLE

NARRATOR

Phiona and Buster are hiding in the shell-shaped foliage of a tall turtle-tree. Buster is keeping watch as a cloud of bees flies overhead.

BUSTER FLY

Alright, we may soon be in the clear.

PHIONA

I kind of admire your determination.

BUSTER FLY

Thanks. Y'know this isn't my first great escape.

PHIONA

Oh, that's fun. Where else did you escape from?

BUSTER FLY

I went through a lot before the Cattle of the Winds found me. Escaped a lot of places...

PHIONA

That's vague.

BUSTER FLY

Life's vague.

PHIONA

Wow. Truest thing you've said. So you lived a whole life before getting to the farm?

BUSTER FLY

Yeah. Lost for a hundred years or whatever.

PHIONA

So the farm is like a retirement for you?

BUSTER FLY

I don't know. Maybe? Let's try to find somewhere to retire to right now. Those bees will be back soon.

PHIONA

Maybe that's the trick? Keep things spicy. Don't do the same thing decade after decade... Live a vague life. Then retire.

BUSTER FLY

Hey, what's that? That looks inhabited.

PHIONA

What?

NARRATOR

Buster is pointing to a temple carved into the base of a mountain. It looks like the mouth of a tiger. Nah, I'm just messing with you, it's a turtle shell of course. Why would this be the exception?

PHIONA

That temple looks familiar...

NARRATOR

Hey. It does...

BUSTER FLY

Come on, let's go.

NARRATOR

Phiona hops down and glides over to the temple, Buster on her back. They land in a long, rectangular room lined with pillars. It's not natural, the walls have been carved, and at the far end a square stone altar stands a few steps up from ground level.

BUSTER FLY

What is this place?

PHIONA

Of course!

NARRATOR

The temple looks very lived in, like an ancient religious site that's been taken over by home-making squatters. There's a sofa, a sewing table, a printing press, and mounds of questionably clean clothes. Musical instruments are laid willy nilly all over the place. The altar is someone's bed, topped by a pieced quilt.

BUSTER FLY

Bit of a dump if you ask me.

PHIONA

Hey Buster... Was everything outside a turtle?

BUSTER FLY

What?

PHIONA

I think I know where we are.

BUSTER FLY

Where?

NARRATOR

Yeah, I know where we are.

MOITLE

Get the Quell out of my house!

BUSTER FLY

Ah!

NARRATOR

An upright turtle in a floral muumuu, skin and shell cracked with age, reveals herself from behind a pile of her laundry. She's got a pale blue house robe on and a tortoiseshell cane in her hand. Her slippers are mismatched. Yeah, that's right. It's her island.

PHIONA

You're the Portal Turtle. The fifth Elemental Creature...

NARRATOR

Phiona bows.

MOITLE

Oh. You're another one of those.

NARRATOR

She bangs the floor a couple times with her cane.

MOITLE

Geoff! I thought we were hiding in a storm!?

PHIONA

Buster! Bow!

BUSTER FLY

Who are we bowing to?

PHIONA

The portal turtle! Did the Cattle of the Winds not teach you about her?

MOITLE

Please no bowing. And call me Moitle. Moitle the Poitle Toitle.

PHIONA

Of course, Myrtle.

MOITLE

It's Moitle. Not Myrtle. Because then it wouldn't rhyme. Myrtle the Poitle Toitle. Ridiculous.

BUSTER FLY

What's a Poitle Toitle?

PHIONA

The keeper of the Portal. To all other realms. You really don't know any of this?

BUSTER FLY

Yeah, yeah of course. The turtle... The cows mentioned that...

MOITLE

Yeah. That's who I am. The Island we're on, that's Geoff. Also a turtle, but a big one. Outside, that's all of our descendants. Um... Me and Geoff are recently separated, well... We're on a break. I'm a million and a cough years old. When you're around the same guy for a million and a cough years, you need some space, right? Yeah, so that's everything about me, now I'm wondering a couple things about you guys. One, who are you. Two, when are you leaving?

PHIONA

I am Phiona the Phoenix, Elemental Creature of Fire.

MOITLE

Right! Yes, yes! 'Course you are. The phoenix and the fish and the other ones! I remember.

PHIONA

And this is Buster Fly the Butterfly, Elemental Creature of Air.

MOITLE

Butterfly?

BUSTER FLY

Yes. That's me, the Elemental Creature of Air. We call them
Heralds back home with the Cattle of the Winds.

MOITLE

Hey, firebird. I got bad news for you.

PHIONA

Yes, Moitle?

MOITLE

That's not the Elemental Creature of Air.

BUSTER FLY

Yes I am.

MOITLE

I'm the one who reincarnated these guys. I know.

PHIONA

Buster?

BUSTER FLY

No, I swear I am--

MOITLE

You can fool this chump, but I'm like... The wisest thing
around. I'm the fifth element.

BUSTER FLY

Alright, yeah. I got mixed up with the wrong kinda insect.
And those cow ladies were out looking for their... Y'know...
Herald guy. They said they dedicated their lives to
protecting a single fella. I needed protecting, I figured
why not be that fella.

PHIONA

Yeah. Okay. That makes a lot of sense. That's why you're the
way you are...

MOITLE

Great. Glad I could help.

PHIONA

But maybe you could help me, Moitle. I've been dealing with
all these issues with being immortal and--

MOITLE

Hold on, I had a second question. Now I don't know if you remember, but it involved you leaving and me playing a sitar.

PHIONA

Please.

MOITLE

Unless you wanna stick around and listen. I've been gettin' pretty good. I couldn't get the knack of the violin, but I think the sitar is my calling.

PHIONA

I've never had anyone else to talk to. I've been trying to figure it all out on my own.

MOITLE

I dunno what to tell you, kid. I'm in the same boat. I think this is my mid-life crisis. I broke up with my husband-island, I have tried and failed to learn every musical instrument and I... Actually I got pretty good with macrame.

PHIONA

(sighs)

MOITLE

But... Um... It's important to stay true to yourself... Don't um... Don't lose your hope or something. Is that a good enough lesson for you?

PHIONA

I... Guess...

BUSTER FLY

That's great, but also, we were hoping to get some more concrete kinda help. Y'see we got these two snakes, or one snake, again depending on the math and they--

MOITLE

Simon and Sarfunkel? Morbus' kids?

PHIONA

Morbus' kids? Mamamorbus?

MOITLE

Yeah, they used to be one of her eggs, now they're two of her kids. Were they hoping to summon their mother with this butterfly? Ha. I'd like to see them try.

(chuckles, beat)

No, that would actually be really funny. I'd like to see that.

BUSTER FLY

Those snakes have some bees chasing after us, and when they find us, they'll bring us to the snakes. And sooner or later those snakes will find out who I am and I don't think things will go well for me.

MOITLE

The bees are still working with them?

BUSTER FLY

Yes. But I'm trying to explain how this relates to me.

MOITLE

You know what? Why don't you just work it out with them yourself?

BUSTER FLY

What?

NARRATOR

She points behind them. Buster and Phiona spin around to see Simon and Sarfunkel slithering into the temple, trailed by Bees in a trench coat.

BUSTER FLY

Oh no...

MOITLE

So looks like you two found the Elemental Creature of Air!

NARRATOR

She winks at Buster.

SARFUNKEL

Yes. And the Elemental Creature of Fire. But we are not yet ready for the ceremony. We crash landed and are trying to heal our wizard.

MOITLE

Mmm. That's that Giraffe, right? Now Goeff...

[Hitting the ground]

...that's what a man looks like.

SIMON

But while we were searching for supplies, these prisoners seem to have escaped.

BUSTER FLY

Hey I--

SIMON

Save it.

MOITLÉ

You want them back?

SARFUNKEL

Indeed.

MOITLÉ

Alright. Take them.

BUSTER FLY

What!?

MOITLÉ

Sh...

SARFUNKEL

Thank you. Bees in a Trench Coat.

NARRATOR

The bees spill out of their trench coat and envelop Phiona and Buster.

BUSTER FLY

No! Moitle! You gotta help me!

PHIONA

(sighs) Again?

NARRATOR

The cloud drags the Elemental Creatures out from the temple and the snakes follow after it. Moitle watches as they leave, then hits the ground with her cane.

MOITLÉ

Goeff. You really need to get better at hiding us.

NARRATOR

Hm? What's that? Yeah, okay.

[Vrrrrrt.]

BACK ON THE BLIMP

NARRATOR

Simon and Sarfunkel and their cloud of bees are back in the blimp's cargo hold.

SARFUNKEL

Put the phoenix in her crate. And place it over there.

NARRATOR

The Bees put Phiona in her crate and put her at the other side of the room.

SARFUNKEL

As for you, Buster Fly... As I warned, you will be put in a box.

NARRATOR

Some bees fly over holding a small wooden box.

BUSTER FLY

Please, Mr. Sarfunkel... I promise you I won't ever try to leave again.

SARFUNKEL

You're lucky we need you.

BUSTER FLY

Simon? You think you could find some other compromise with your brother? Maybe--

SIMON

Bees, put him in the box.

BUSTER FLY

No...

NARRATOR

The bees put Buster in the crate and shut it.

SIMON

We need better locks. Look into that, Bees in a Trench Coat.

BEES FROM THE TRENCH COAT

Yes, Master Simon.

NARRATOR

The snakes slither out as the Bees place Buster deep in the hold.

SIMON

I'm sorry I doubted your judgment, brother. The butterfly took advantage of my... Leniency.

SARFUNKEL

No need to apologize. I...

(clears throat)

...Appreciate your input.

SIMON

Thank you, brother.

SARFUNKEL

And don't forget that everything I do is for you, Simon. I want you to meet your mother. And I don't want to fail you.

SIMON

You've never failed me, Sarfunkel.

SARFUNKEL

Good. I'll try to be less harsh with you.

Now let's see if Bees in a Trench Coat has put our ingredients to work.

MG'S ROOM

NARRATOR

Let's do it.

[Zp]

Muscular Giraffe is sitting at the edge of his bed holding a goblet of steamy liquid. Bees hovers beside him, a gloved hand on Muscular Giraffe's round, but well defined shoulder.

BEES IN A TRENCH COAT

You seem to be making a full recovery.

NARRATOR

Muscular Giraffe takes a large gulp of the steamy liquid, winces and rests the goblet on his bedside table. He stands and gently hugs the hovering swarm of bees.

BEES IN A TRENCH COAT

We were merely tending to our family.

NARRATOR

Muscular Giraffe lets go of bees and stretches, showing off the surprising flexibility of his bulky limbs.

BEES IN A TRENCH COAT

Now to the bridge. Your helm awaits.

NARRATOR

Aw... Fast forward? Thank you.

[Vrrrt]

They head to the bridge where Simon and Sarfunkel are waiting for them...

[Chck.]

SIMON

Muscular Giraffe! I'm so happy to see you're not dead.

SARFUNKEL

Indeed. I am pleased to see that you are healthy.

NARRATOR

Muscular Giraffe gives them a small nod.

SIMON

Ahem.

SARFUNKEL

And I am sorry if you felt I doubted your ability. I intend to be a more accommodating leader.

NARRATOR

Muscular Giraffe smiles warmly.

BEES FROM THE TRENCH COAT

That is wonderful, Master Sarfunkel.

SARFUNKEL

Well...

(clears throat)

Indeed. Now, let us continue our journey.

SIMON

Yes. Let's leave this tacky island.

SARFUNKEL

Muscular Giraffe, bring us to the Royal Ant Empire. There, we shall find the Elemental Creature of Earth... And soon we will return to Totally Regular Island so that we may unleash Mamamorbus.

MUSCULAR GIRAFFE

Am-nay oc-ay onat-say eu-ay e-spay audiendi-ay!

NARRATOR

The blimp takes off and flies away from the island. Well that feels final, wanna just-- Oh. Excellent idea. You're getting good at this. I'll see if I can track them down...

FISH AND OCTOBER TAG

Fish with Legs is in a forest clearing somewhere along the southern coast of Breezil. In the clearing is a campsite composed of a dozen or so tents. There is no sign of Skullatron. I don't know where October is... I hope she's okay. What? Yeah, I guess I like her now... I mean she's not my favourite, but-- Stop teasing me.

Fish is standing at a road by the outskirts of the campsite. She's talking to a big fuzzy bear sitting at the front of a wagon pulled by giant geckos.

FISH WITH LEGS

Thank you so much Bearimir, Son of Denebear. I never would have made it this far without your help.

BEARIMIR

(Growl)

FISH WITH LEGS

And thank you for helping me fend off the Witch-Queen's horde of lightning-goblins.

BEARIMIR

(respectful Growl)

FISH WITH LEGS

No, no, we saved that village together. I was all caught up in my epic duel with Skullatron, but luckily you were there to help the children escape.

BEARIMIR

(bashful Growl)

FISH WITH LEGS

You're definitely on my list of top ten new friends who aren't best friends because those things take time, but I still greatly value.

BEARIMIR

(gentle Growl)

FISH WITH LEGS

And I hope your dad and your brother learn to get along.

BEARIMIR

(sad growl)

DR. STICKMAN

Fish with Legs... She's awake.

FISH WITH LEGS

Audible gasp!

NARRATOR

Fish with Legs turns excitedly to the human-sized stick insect standing at the edge of the campsite. He is dressed in a fancy tailcoat and vest.

FISH WITH LEGS

Can I go see her?

DR. STICKMAN

Yes, in fact she's been asking for you.

FISH WITH LEGS

Bearimir, I have to go--

BEARIMIR

(Understanding Growl)

FISH WITH LEGS

Thank you. Good luck at your secret meeting. I hope you guys figure out what to do with the Orb!

NARRATOR

Bearimir whips the reins of his wagon and the geckos at the front pull him down the road.

FISH WITH LEGS

Let's go, Dr. Stickman. I'm coming, almost-best friend!

NARRATOR

Dr. Stickman leads Fish to one of the larger tents on the site.

DR. STICKMAN

Here you go... I'll leave you to it.

NARRATOR

He raises the flap at the front.

FISH WITH LEGS

How gentlemanly.

NARRATOR

Fish with Legs ducks into the tent. It is clearly a medical tent. There are a few beds lined along the walls and some shelves of medical suppl-- Yes. I was building up to it, but spoiler alert, October is there, looking alive.

FISH WITH LEGS

October! You're awake!

NARRATOR

Fish with Legs rushes over to the only occupied bed, where October is wearily sitting herself up.

OCTOBER

Hey, Fish.

FISH WITH LEGS

Healing kisses!

NARRATOR

Fish leaps onto the bed and kisses October's forehead.

OCTOBER

Ah-- Can you--

FISH WITH LEGS

Oh. Sorry. My B.

NARRATOR

Fish with Legs dismounts her friend and sits at the edge of the bed.

FISH WITH LEGS

You're feeling better?

OCTOBER

Well breathing is super easy now, so I call that progress.

FISH WITH LEGS

You were pretty out of it the whole time, but we had quite the adventure getting here.

OCTOBER

Yeah... There was an ice dragon, right?

FISH WITH LEGS

And a fire dragon! They were once friends, but then bitter rivals... But now they're friends again. Thanks to us.

OCTOBER

Well thanks for getting me to Dr. Stickman. I've only been stung once before and I had to deal with it all by myself. My brother --the other October 19th-- thought it was hilarious... Not my worst birthday though.

FISH WITH LEGS

Of course I helped you, October. That's what friends who aren't best friends, but will one day become best friends do.

OCTOBER

Right.

FISH WITH LEGS

And you risked your life to save me, remember? That's how you got stung.

OCTOBER

Yeah of course I remember. Anyways.

(MORE)

OCTOBER (cont'd)

(embarrassed cough)

Since I've been stuck here I've been going through the book from Area 52--

FISH WITH LEGS

Classic October.

OCTOBER

And did you know there are five elements!? And the fifth one is turtles!?

FISH WITH LEGS

Yeah of course. Back home with the glbclb my High Priestess told me all about the fifth element. You'd probably really like my High Priestess. She's super smart like you.

OCTOBER

But isn't she like... mean and strict?

FISH WITH LEGS

Oh yeah, she... Never mind. Any other nerd book things?

OCTOBER

Um... Yeah! I've been looking into the Elemental Creature of Earth--

FISH WITH LEGS

Right! The quest! Give me an October plan. It's advise o'clock! Top ten greatest October plans of all time. You won't believe which one is number three.

OCTOBER

So, information is scarce on-- Wait... Do you actually rank my plans?

FISH WITH LEGS

Yes. Number three is stealing the inhalers.

OCTOBER

That plan failed...

FISH WITH LEGS

Yes, but we learned lessons and grew as both individuals and a pair.

OCTOBER

Okay then. I've been looking through my book. (wincing)

NARRATOR

October winces as she reaches for her book on the bedside table.

FISH WITH LEGS

Let me.

NARRATOR

Fish with Legs grabs the book and hands it to October. She flips it open to a map.

OCTOBER

The Elemental Creature of Earth is somewhere in this desert deep in the Royal Ant Empire. No one has seen it or its temple for 120 years. It was lost at some point during Herovia's war with the MAGI Coalition. I spoke with Dr. Stickman. He's organized transportation to bring us across the sea to Mediterantia.

FISH WITH LEGS

Are you sure you're up for it, October?

OCTOBER

We gotta get started if we wanna beat those snakes.

FISH WITH LEGS

But you're still sick, October.

OCTOBER

You know this is important. And besides, I'll be fine. I know I can count on you if anything goes wrong.

FISH WITH LEGS

Audible scoff... You shouldn't manipulate me like that... So cheesey. But you're right, our friendship can withstand anything.

OCTOBER

You ready?

FISH WITH LEGS

Quest!

NARRATOR

Well, looks like the race for the Elemental Creatures continues...

Nice to be back with these two. And good job with the story. A couple of rocky bits, but you really found your flow. That was a nice bookend with October and Fish...

Well thank you, it *is* tough... Yes, I will gladly take back my role as storyteller. And as my first act, I declare... Let's stop.