

The Credible Adventures of October and Fish: Episode 109

Episode 109

NARRATOR

October and Fish with Legs are still on their way to Herovia city, riding on a centishuttle named Renaldo. They managed to escape the bounty hunting crab sent by the snakes, but have been detained by a train marshal with a confusing name for causing a commotion during the fight...

locked up

They are currently locked in a cell at the back of the train. It's quite spacious, at least two October bedrooms big. They sit obediently behind the bars with their cuffs on. Marshall Train sits across the room at a table by a window rummaging through October's backpack. The breeze ruffles his hair.

OCTOBER

Excuse me. That's my stuff!

MARSHALL TRAIN

Once it's inventoried, you'll get a receipt. Clothes... bedroll... a suspicious amount of unpackaged elven bread... Did you buy this? You do know it's a scam?

FISH WITH LEGS

No, she just took it from the elf.

OCTOBER

Fish with Legs!

MARSHALL TRAIN

A thief then? So I assume you did not acquire these through ethical means?

NARRATOR

He pulls out a handful of October's pearls.

FISH WITH LEGS

Actually--

OCTOBER

Just don't.

MARSHALL TRAIN

Tut tut.

NARRATOR

October walks deeper into the cell, away from Marshall Train. She beckons Fish with Legs over. Fish with Legs shuffles over with her restrained feet. They sit.

(CONTINUED)

OCTOBER

Why didn't you just karate those guys?

FISH WITH LEGS

Because we did all the things he detained us for.

OCTOBER

Fish with Legs, we don't have time to be detained. We have bigger fish to fry.

FISH WITH LEGS

Fish to fry?

OCTOBER

Pardon the expression.

FISH WITH LEGS

Why is that an expression? Why would you fry fish!?

OCTOBER

This is exactly what I mean. You need to stop focusing on the little things. Look at the big picture. We need to stop those snakes from freeing Mamamorbus, right?

FISH WITH LEGS

Yeah...

OCTOBER

If we stop every time someone thinks we've done something bad, we'll never get that done, right?

FISH WITH LEGS

I guess...

OCTOBER

Then in the grand scheme of things, it's okay to lie a little and do a few bad things if we do something good in the end. Right? Suppose someone thinks there's only one way to stop some totally generic terrible thing from happening... Let's say... I dunno... Going on some long unnecessary journey and explaining their plan to everyone along the way... But you think there's a better way. Like Putting them in the custody of people who can protect them.... It's okay to force them to do it the safer way. Right?

FISH WITH LEGS

Um...

OCTOBER

And even if you get something out of it, it's not selfish. Because it's the right way to do it. I think...

FISH WITH LEGS

What? I feel like you're way off topic here...

OCTOBER

I'm just saying... We need to make sure Mamamorbis isn't freed. And if we're detained, we can't do that.

FISH WITH LEGS

Oh. Yeah, okay. Good point. Good advising.

OCTOBER

Cool.

FISH WITH LEGS

I didn't really get that other stuff though.

OCTOBER

It doesn't matter. In fact, you can forget it immediately. Fish do that, right?

FISH WITH LEGS

Ouf, that's a bit of a stereotype actually... I think we need to have a conversation about marine sensitivity.

OCTOBER

Oh. Sorry.

FISH WITH LEGS

But first, a daring escape! What's your plan? What's your sweet beautiful adviser brain telling you?

OCTOBER

Well, when Marshall Train--

FISH WITH LEGS

Marshall Train.

OCTOBER

Of course. When that guy detained us he took my bag, but he didn't take this.

NARRATOR

She covertly pulls her lock picking tools from her apron.

OCTOBER

So as long as he's distracted by my stuff, I can get our cuffs off. And before we get to Herovia City we'll--

NARRATOR

FWEEEEET A wave of arrested motion passes through the car as Renaldo comes to a halt.

MARSHALL TRAIN

Looks like we're at Herovia City.

OCTOBER

Wait what?

FISH WITH LEGS

Does that affect your plan?

OCTOBER

Uh... Hold still.

NARRATOR

October gets to work picking Fish with Legs' feet-cuffs as Marshall Train drops October's bag and stands.

FISH WITH LEGS

So is lock picking a long process or...

OCTOBER

Sh! I need to--

MARSHALL TRAIN

Hey! Stop that!

NARRATOR

October and Fish with Legs stare at Marshall Train, looking very guilty.

OCTOBER

Uh...

FISH WITH LEGS

We are not trying to escape.

NARRATOR

Fish with Legs winks at October.

OCTOBER

Nailed it.

MARSHALL TRAIN

Put those down or I'm coming in there!

OCTOBER

Really?

MARSHALL TRAIN

You bet I will.

OCTOBER

Okay.

NARRATOR

October continues picking Fish with Legs' cuffs.

MARSHALL TRAIN

Whoa! Whoa!

NARRATOR

Marshall Train rushes to the cell door and fumbles with his keys.

OCTOBER

Got it!

NARRATOR

Fish with Legs' cuffs fall off just as Marshall Train unlocks the cell door.

OCTOBER

Fish with Legs karate powers?

FISH WITH LEGS

Fish with Legs karate powers!

NARRATOR

Fish with Legs charges at Marshall Train and karates him to the ground.

FISH WITH LEGS

Sorry, Train Marshall Marshall Train.

NARRATOR

October finishes with her own cuffs and stands.

OCTOBER

Let's go.

NARRATOR

October hurries over to the table and sweeps everything off it and into her backpack.

OCTOBER

Alright. Out the window.

NARRATOR

Fish with Legs climbs the table and gets ready to jump out.

OCTOBER

Wait. Let me go first.

FISH WITH LEGS

Alright, bestie.

OCTOBER

I'll make sure the coast is clear.

FISH WITH LEGS

So chivalrous.

NARRATOR

October hops out the window.

platform

NARRATOR

She lands on a boarding platform. Although I guess technically it's an un-boarding platform now. Humans bustle around humanly. No one pays attention to October at the end of the platform. More humans busily unload luggage from Renaldo's caboose. The junk in his trunk, if you will.

A quartet of Herovian guards in eyecatching livery are talking with one of Marshall Marshall's train deputies. They begin to cross the traffic clogging the platform to the tail of the train. October taps frantically on the sash of the window she emerged from, eyes on the threat.

OCTOBER

Fish with Legs! Fish with Legs!

NARRATOR

Fish with Legs pops her head out of the window. October turns.

FISH WITH LEGS

Yes?

OCTOBER

Get out here! Now!

NARRATOR

She looks over her shoulder and sees the guards cutting through the crowd toward her. Fish with Legs lands next to her.

FISH WITH LEGS

What's up?

(CONTINUED)

OCTOBER
Sh!

NARRATOR
October looks around in a panic.

OCTOBER
Uh, get down!

NARRATOR
She drops to the ground to get out of sight, buying a little time. Fish crouches down next to her.

FISH WITH LEGS
You okay there, bud?

OCTOBER
Shh! There are guards coming!

FISH WITH LEGS
GUARDS?!

NARRATOR
October throws her arms around Fish and rolls them both off the platform just as the quintet come into sight. October and Fish lie quietly between the wooden supports and the twiddly ends of Renaldo's many, many legs. The guards board the brig car. *cries of outrage* And find Marshall Marshall. October looks very aware of her suddenly ticking clock. She lets go of Fish and army crawls under Renaldo.

OCTOBER
Down here!

NARRATOR
Fish stands and walks hesitantly to where October disappeared. She parts Renaldo's legs gently, but October is no longer there.

October's face emerges from between the legs a bit further along.

OCTOBER
This way.

FISH WITH LEGS
Um...

NARRATOR
October pulls Fish under. They move covertly under Renaldo's body, making their way toward his head.

OCTOBER

We can't run into those guards.

FISH WITH LEGS

Right... because we're fugitives of the law.

OCTOBER

Yeah. And you need a disguise. We can't really have a fish with legs walking around Herovia City.

FISH WITH LEGS

Yeah... Like... You can tell me if I'm just imagining things here, but... I get this weird subtle vibe that Herovian humans aren't super into mystical creatures.

OCTOBER

You know what, you might be onto something.

FISH WITH LEGS

I thought so.

OCTOBER

So, disguise?

FISH WITH LEGS

(gasps) Can I be a rich baroness who lives in a lovely mansion in the countryside and plays polo with her iguana Cherry Blossom? In this fantasy, we never lost Cherry Blossom.

OCTOBER

No.

FISH WITH LEGS

You can call me Baroness Begonia Von Mansion.

NARRATOR

October pulls a blanket out of her backpack.

OCTOBER

I'm disguising you as my lunch.

FISH WITH LEGS

What? Your lunch? But I'm a fish... Oh my moon goddess! Is that why humans fry fish!?

NARRATOR

Fish with Legs' eyes widen and her breath quickens. October drapes the blanket over her.

OCTOBER

I'm sorry to break it to you like this, Baroness.

NARRATOR

October wraps Fish with Legs in the blanket so only her face is visible. Fish, still in shock, allows this to happen to her.

With Fish with Legs bundled up, October tucks her under her arm, throws her bag over her shoulder and crawls out from under Renaldo. They emerge by his face. He looks mildly surprised as they creep out from under him, but after a passive glance he loses interest.

FISH WITH LEGS

Renaldo! Renaldo! Humans eat fish! They'll probably eat you too!

OCTOBER

Sh! Normal fish don't talk.

FISH WITH LEGS

Just... October. Be honest with me. Have you ever eaten a fish...?

OCTOBER

(long beat) No.

FISH WITH LEGS

Audible sigh of relief.

OCTOBER

Now, just be quiet. Please.

NARRATOR

October peeks onto the platform. It is still very human-y. A small group of guards are crowded around the other end of the platform, presumably still dealing with the unconscious train marshall our heroes left behind. October climbs up and casually joins the disembarking passengers. She makes her way off the platform, and enters the station.

station

Okay, forget hick Moist Bog because this is Bug Central! A huge stone hall with arches lining its circumference echoes with a throbbing mass of humans. They travel singly and in small groups, most with luggage or parcels, all clearly on their way somewhere. The floor is polished stone, nice pattern, and every arch is decorated with little mosaic pictures. Concentric rings of gold inlaid in the floor get denser nearing the middle of the room until they turn into the base of a larger than life statue depicting five humans in truly ostentatious feathered hats.

(CONTINUED)

FISH WITH LEGS

(whispering) What's this? Where are we?

OCTOBER

(whispering) Schmrand Schmentral Station. Don't worry, no one's gonna eat you here.

FISH WITH LEGS

People don't say 'no one's gonna eat you' when someone eating you isn't a possibility.

OCTOBER

SH!

NARRATOR

October covers Fish with Legs' mouth with her hand, wary of a group of Herovian Guards patrolling the station.

OCTOBER

Play dead.

FISH WITH LEGS

(whimpers)

NARRATOR

Fish with Legs plays dead as October makes her way to a city map posted on a wall. She stares at it, overwhelmed. A guard taps her shoulder. She spins around, spooked.

OCTOBER

Hey, I didn't--

GUARD

Sorry to startle you. Are you from out of town? You seem lost.

OCTOBER

Right. Yes. I am. I'm from Bootsville. Yeah, in the Capitol for the first time. Really excited to see the sights. How do you get to the Citadel?

GUARD

(suspicious) Bootsville, huh?

NARRATOR

She glances down at October's cheap, muddy boots.

OCTOBER

Lower East Bootsville.

GUARD

Oh. Well then I'm honoured to meet one of the working class heroes of Bootsville. You folks are integral to a well functioning military.

OCTOBER

Just happy to do my part. And excited to see where all my hard work goes.

GUARD

Of course! And the High Council's in session today. So if you're lucky, you might even spot one of them.

OCTOBER

Wow, really!? Imagine that. Little old me meeting the High Council.

GUARD

Anyways, to get to the Citadel, just take that exit over there. It'll bring you out to Schmoulevard Boulevard, then take a left and head straight. You can't miss it.

OCTOBER

Great. Thanks so much.

GUARD

No problem.

NARRATOR

October turns around.

OCTOBER

(sighs, relieved)

FISH WITH LEGS

Wow, tense. I was sure she was stopping us because the fugitive stuff.

GUARD

Hold on.

NARRATOR

October freezes.

GUARD

What's that under your arm?

NARRATOR

October glares at Fish with Legs. Fish with Legs plays dead. October turns around to face the guard.

(CONTINUED)

OCTOBER

A fish. Just a regular fish.

NARRATOR

The guard takes a step toward October.

GUARD

I've never seen a fish like that before...

OCTOBER

Oh... Yeah... It's imported.

GUARD

Where'd you get it?

OCTOBER

Oh... This little shop in Bootsville. The only place in all of Herovia you can get... Leg Fish.

GUARD

Leg Fish?

OCTOBER

Yep. That's what this is.

GUARD

In Bootsville?

OCTOBER

It's freshwater.

GUARD

...It smells delicious. My sister-in-law is from Bootsville. I'll have to ask her about Leg Fish.

FISH WITH LEGS

(whimpers)

OCTOBER

Yep. You do that. I'm leaving.

GUARD

Wha-- Okay...

NARRATOR

October spins and quickly heads to an exit. They walk through a short tunnel and out into the open air.

schmoulevard

Unless the guard lied, this is Schmoulevard Boulevard, and it is paaacked. Humans shoulder-to-shoulder shoulder down the centre of the boulevard, fringing off into slightly less crowded bits along the edges where little freestanding vendors and food carts sell stuff to tourists. Beyond them, brick storefronts offer slightly fancier fare. Flagpoles crown the station, all flying the same golden flag.

October pauses at a table with a garish tablecloth, and picks up a light, breezy scarf. The human manning the table grins at her, and she slides her pack down and digs out some pearls, which she hands to the merchant.

She wraps the scarf around her shoulders and fluffs her hair to make it look different. She blends in and soaks in the big bustling city. A citadel, presumably The Citadel, stands in the distance, down at the end of the boulevard.

FISH WITH LEGS

I don't like this, October! Let's just get our supplies and leave this scary scary city.

OCTOBER

I just want--

FISH WITH LEGS

Ah!

NARRATOR

October covers Fish with Legs' mouth again, as she hyperventilates, staring at a sushi stand where a chef is gutting a fish.

OCTOBER

Don't fish eat other fish?

FISH WITH LEGS

What!?

OCTOBER

Sorry I asked. Just close your eyes and bear with me for a little longer.

NARRATOR

Fish with Legs shuts her eyes tight. October carries her down Schmoulevard Boulevard, moving slowly *vrrrt* The people thin out once she gets a few blocks from the station. There are fewer and fewer shops along their path. The buildings get more square and grey and the distant citadel gets bigger.

(CONTINUED)

Before the citadel, there is a tall stone wall with a gate in the middle flanked by guards. Through the gate a large garden is visible, with twin golden feathers flanking the front door.

October stops around the corner from the gate, in front of the wall. There's a mural painted on it of those same five humans in the truly ludicrous hats. Except now they're in colour. They're a mix of human types and ages. They have capes, much filigree, and stoic but benevolent expressions. A painted sun rises behind them. Pretty fancy. October stares at the mural, transfixed. She sits down on the road in front of it to keep staring and puts Fish in her lap.

OCTOBER

How are you holding up, Fish with Legs?

NARRATOR

Fish with Legs hesitantly opens one eye.

FISH WITH LEGS

If I am 100% honest... Not great.

OCTOBER

Oh, because of the--

FISH WITH LEGS

Humans eat fish.

OCTOBER

Yeah, the humans eating fish thing.

FISH WITH LEGS

Why do they do that, October? Why is Herovia full of cannibals?

OCTOBER

Well technically it's not... Cannibalism...

FISH WITH LEGS

We do not do that kind of stuff back home with the glbclb. We are strictly vegetarian.

OCTOBER (CONT'D)

... because it's *humans* eating fish. Not fish eating fish...

FISH WITH LEGS

I don't think I like Herovia very much...

OCTOBER

What? Why not? Herovia is great!

FISH WITH LEGS

Really? It seems kinda... Militaristic and xenophobic... I dunno. Maybe that's just a vibe I'm getting.

OCTOBER

You just haven't seen the good parts yet. Look around, we're in the Capitol. Herovia City is the greatest city in the world!

FISH WITH LEGS

All I see is tall grey imposing buildings covered in flags...

OCTOBER

But look at this mural! And the citadel! And those guards, look at their hats. Herovia has great hats.

FISH WITH LEGS

I'm not really into hats. I'm more of a cape kind of fish...

OCTOBER

And this is the safest place in the world. We have the biggest military, which is constantly watching us and led by amazing Heroes like Manfred Splainer the Mighty.

FISH WITH LEGS

Hm... These are some very compelling arguments... I'm starting to feel swayed...

OCTOBER

Good. Let's go to the Citadel. You'll see how great it is. This is the best place for us to be right now.

FISH WITH LEGS

Alright! Alright! I just had this vague unpleasant feeling suddenly start overwhelming me, warning me that the world is a terrible place full of terrible people, but... I trust you unconditionally and you really seem to have a positive outlook, so let's go with this.

OCTOBER

Good. Thanks. Cool...

NARRATOR

scuttle scuttle October and Fish with legs head toward the gate. In a nearby alley... *scuttle scuttle* Some muffled scuttle-y noises get louder....

OCTOBER

Alright, so just play d-- sleeping fish for just a bit longer and everything will be okay.

FISH WITH LEGS

Okay... I'll hate it though.

NARRATOR

Fish plays "sleeping fish" as October walks toward the gate. *scuttle scuttle* The scuttling grows louder.

OCTOBER

Do you hear--

THE CRAB

Crab crab crab! [I'm back and I'm pissed!]

OCTOBER

Whoa! What the--

FISH WITH LEGS

What the Quell?

NARRATOR

The Crab is back! How did he catch up with them, I don't know. Did he follow the train? How did he get here at the same time? These questions go unanswered as he swipes at October. She sidesteps, narrowly avoiding it.

THE CRAB

Crab crab! [Stay still!]

FISH WITH LEGS

Don't worry, October! I'll protect you too!

NARRATOR

Fish with Legs jumps out from October's arms and shakes off the blanket, ready to karate.

OCTOBER

Wait, Fish with--

FISH WITH LEGS

Crab crab crab... [So, we meet again...]

THE CRAB

Crab crab. [I'm gonna stuff you in a sack.]

FISH WITH LEGS

I'd like to see you try.

THE CRAB

Craaaaab! [Hyaaaaaaaaah!]

FISH WITH LEGS

Craaaaab!

NARRATOR

They charge at each other, ready to karate like mad dogfish. The Crab snaps his claws and-- *thwump!* What the squelch, a giant net!

FISH WITH LEGS

What the--

NARRATOR

Thwump! Another net got Fish!

OCTOBER

Fish with Legs!

NARRATOR

October pulls out her boot knife and tries to free Fish as the area swarms with human soldiers in black armour and small, elegant hats. The net-shooters.

MANFRED SPLAINER

Cherry Blossom! Subdue!

FISH WITH LEGS

Cherry Blossom!?

NARRATOR

Cherry Blossom, with Manfred on her back, runs in and pounces on October, knocking her down. C.B. keeps October pinned with one heavy taloned foot while she stretches over to Fish with Legs and starts licking her.

FISH WITH LEGS

I'm so happy you're safe, Cherry Blossom! I've missed you so much. We have so much to catch up on. So after you left, me and October went to Moist Bog and I met an elf who offered me some bread--

MANFRED SPLAINER

Tranquilize the animals.

FISH WITH LEGS

What?

NARRATOR

A soldier in black shoots a blow dart at Fish. She immediately falls unconscious.

OCTOBER

Wait!

NARRATOR

They shoot another at The Crab. The dart bounces off his shell.

THE CRAB

Crab! [You fools!]

NARRATOR

They shoot a second and hit him in the armpit.

THE CRAB

Crab... [Or was I the fool...]

OCTOBER

Manfred Splain--

MANFRED SPLAINER

October 19th 104 Jones...

NARRATOR

He leans down in the saddle and puts his forearm across his thigh.

OCTOBER

Manfred Splainer the Mighty! There's really no need for all of this. I'm actually happy to see you! Thrilled to see you! You can help us--

MANFRED SPLAINER

You stole my iguana.

CHERRY BLOSSOM

Blarg.

OCTOBER

Right. I'm sorry about that, but this is all a misunderstanding! I was on my way into the Citadel.

MANFRED SPLAINER

With a highly important mystical creature.

OCTOBER

Exactly! I'm here to hand her over to the High Council. To protect her from-- Wait. You agree she's important, now?

MANFRED SPLAINER

Yes.

(CONTINUED)

OCTOBER

Great! So you understand the danger that Mamamorbus and those snakes--

MANFRED SPLAINER

October 19th 104 Jones you are under arrest--

OCTOBER

What? No, I'm on your side!

MANFRED SPLAINER

--for breaking and entering--

OCTOBER

I'm trying to help you!

MANFRED SPLAINER

--several counts of larceny, medical fraud, harbouring a illegal alien, damaging military property, endangering the safety of scuttle-transport users, escaping custody and, most personally, grand theft iguana.

OCTOBER

Captain Splainer! What are you doing!? I'm trying to protect Herovia!

MANFRED SPLAINER

Please call me Manfred Splainer the Mighty.

OCTOBER

Of course! Manf--

MANFRED SPLAINER

Don't you dare disrespect me.

OCTOBER

I never would, sir! I did this for you! For the good of all Herovia!

MANFRED SPLAINER

For the good of all Herovia? (scoffs) Consorting with mystical creatures, endangering Herovians, stealing Cherry Blossom... How is that for the good of all Herovia?

OCTOBER

We can protect Fish with Legs. And use her power for--

MANFRED SPLAINER

I'm not interested in your lies, traitor.

OCTOBER

Traitor!? What? No, I--

MANFRED SPLAINER

Take her away.

NARRATOR

Manfred walks away as a soldier puts cuffs on October and a bag over her head. Wow... I was hoping we'd end on a more conclusive note this time, but... Seems like we're stuck with another cliffhanger. let's stop.

CHORUS

Our Lady Fierce, Herovia
Is standing tall and true
She battles forth without despair
She conquers her purview

We follow her, Herovia
Patron without compare
Her wings are held over us all
The sword, the shield, the snare

Your leadership, Herovia
Has kept us strong and tall
The human blood within our veins
Will never let us fall

Our enemies, Herovia
We crush them in your name
They flee before our mightiness
They kneel within our chains

Herovia, Herovia
The time has come for you
Across the land we all shall spread
Standing tall and true