

The Credible Adventures of October and Fish: Episode 110

EPISODE 110

NARRATOR

What happened last time...? Right! October and Fish finally made it to Herovia City and October was this close to turning Fish with Legs over to the human government --you can't see my fingers, but they're very close-- But then they were suddenly attacked by that bounty hunting crab! And then equally suddenly they were attacked by Manfred and his goons! They were captured and we now find them in a secret facility in the middle of Alucard Forest...

October interrogation

October is seated in a grey, featureless room, Manfred Splainer pacing across from her, the feather of his giant hat bobbing angrily. She's cuffed to a heavy, scuffed wooden table. Her apron and backpack are gone, exposing her grey, muddy clothes, but at least there's no bag on her head. Hair's a little messy though. Still greasy. A lamp dangles low over them, shrouding the corners of the room in shadow. The interrogation room is about two and a half October rooms large.

OCTOBER

Manfred Splainer the Mighty, can you please--

MANFRED

That's Captain Manfred Splainer the Mighty to you, traitor.

OCTOBER

I'm not a traitor!

MANFRED

At the very least you're a criminal. And at most you're a terrorist!

OCTOBER

What?

MANFRED

You allied yourself with a mystical creature instead of your country.

OCTOBER

I was trying to hand her over to my country! I've already said that like a million times!

(CONTINUED)

MANFRED

You also have a rap sheet as long as my beautiful, strong, voluptuous forearm. Or do you claim to forget your very long list of crimes?

OCTOBER

Everything I did, I did for my country. For you!

MANFRED

Oh? Oh!? You stole Cherry Blossom the Bold, my beloved steed and companion, to help me?!

OCTOBER

I fully intended to return her to you, the plan was--

MANFRED

You were smuggling a biological weapon into the seat of Herovian government!

OCTOBER

I don't know how else to explain it. I wasn't breaking into the Citadel, or trying to hurt anyone. I was bringing Fish with Legs to the High Council.

MANFRED

Don't play dumb, Miss Jones. That fish is dangerous.

OCTOBER

Only in the wrong hands! Which is why I was bringing her to the most responsible hands!

MANFRED

Were you? Or were you trying to attack the Citadel!?

OCTOBER

Please! You're not listening! I told you how important Fish with Legs is, I asked you for help right at the start and you didn't listen to me! I've been trying to warn people about Mamamorbis for years! But no one listened!

MANFRED

You thought you could waltz up to the leaders of our country and they'd fall all over themselves for... what? For you?

OCTOBER

I--

MANFRED

So people don't listen to you? Why should they? What do you have to offer other than your incessant adolescent whining?

(CONTINUED)

OCTOBER

That's not what--

MANFRED

Now, in order: How did this fish find you? How did it fool you into betraying Herovia? Was it sent by the Mystical Animal and Giant Insect Coalition? Does it have mind powers?

OCTOBER

...She just walked up during the recruitment fair. She didn't fool me. I'm not betraying Herovia. No one sent her. She doesn't have mind powers.

MANFRED

I call Black Magic. What were the fish's demands? Does it work for Simon and Sarfunkel?

OCTOBER

What?

MANFRED

The two-headed snake! Does it work for them!?

OCTOBER

No, they-- You know their names?

MANFRED

Answer the question!

OCTOBER

Did you already know about Mamamorbus and the snakes when I came to you in Cape Cap? What a bag of newts! This whole time, you knew?

MANFRED

Answer the question.

OCTOBER

No, you answer the question, Manfred!

NARRATOR

Manfred slams his fist into the table. October jumps.

MANFRED

I believe you mean Captain Manfred Splainer the Mighty! Don't you dare disrespect me.

MISTY RIUS

Honestly, Manfred...

OCTOBER

mousey noise

NARRATOR

Ack. October jumps as someone emerges from the shadows. Was she there the whole time? It's a human woman, older than October and dressed all in black. No hat.

MISTY RIUS

There's no need to be so harsh with the girl. She was just doing what she thought was right.

NARRATOR

The mysterious woman passes Manfred, pats him on the shoulder, and sits in his abandoned chair across from October.

MISTY RIUS

Why don't you take a break?

MANFRED

I'm quite alright, Agent.

MISTY RIUS

Captain.

MANFRED

Yes?

MISTY RIUS

Leave us.

NARRATOR

Manfred lingers begrudgingly, then glares at October as he leaves the room. October watches him go.

MISTY RIUS

Thank you for bringing us the fish with legs, October Jones. You've done us a great favour.

OCTOBER

...You're welcome?

MISTY RIUS

He's a bit much isn't he?

OCTOBER

He wasn't exactly what I expected.

MISTY RIUS

You know what they say, never meet your heroes.

OCTOBER

Yeah.

MISTY RIUS

And unlucky for me, he's everyone's hero...

OCTOBER

forced laugh

MISTY RIUS

He used to be so good at his job... A great military leader. But then everyone heard about him and they started parading him around. Looking for you is the most action he's seen in years. (beat)

But I digress. October Jones --lovely name by the way-- Let me introduce myself. I am Agent Misty Rius, of the Scientific Program for the Observation of Organisms Concerning Known Interests.

OCTOBER

You work for SPOOCKI?

MISTY RIUS

We prefer to call it the Scientific Program for the Observation of Organisms Concerning Known Interests. I believe you're familiar with our work?

OCTOBER

Well... As much as a civilian can be...

MISTY RIUS

Oh, you know more than the average civilian.

NARRATOR

She places October's notebook on the table. October's hands clench together, eyes down.

OCTOBER

Oh.

MISTY RIUS

I'm very impressed.

OCTOBER

...Really?

MISTY RIUS

If this scrapbook/ is any--

OCTOBER

/Jour-- Um.

MISTY RIUS

What was that?

OCTOBER

Sorry. It's a research journal...

MISTY RIUS

If this research journal is any indication of your personal interests, I think you'll be very excited to learn that you are currently being held within Area 52.

OCTOBER

Area 52?

MISTY RIUS

Yes. Very exciting, right?

OCTOBER

Awesome... But, um...

MISTY RIUS

But a little scary too... What secrets do we keep here? What are we going to do to you? What monsters does the government hide in Area 52? (beat)

(laughs) Don't worry. You're not a prisoner, we're not going to do experiments on you.

OCTOBER

Oh. Cool.

MISTY RIUS

But we do have monsters.

OCTOBER

(small forced laugh)

MISTY RIUS

As you have so much expertise in government secrets and Elemental Creatures and Mamamorbus --which is 100% real by the way-- I thought that I might offer you... a job.

OCTOBER

A job?

MISTY RIUS

Yes. Here in Area 52.

OCTOBER

In Area 52!?

MISTY RIUS

You're interested?

OCTOBER

Hex yeah I am! I mean, yes. I am interested, ma'am. But... would I be working with Captain Manfred Splainer the Mighty?

MISTY RIUS

Oh, what a mouthful. No. When Captain Splainer brought you in he was all flustered and wounded because some naïve little girl from some factory town outwitted him. I knew that whoever did that was very special. So I decided to involve myself in this case. I read your file, I looked through your research journal... I was impressed.

OCTOBER

Really?

MISTY RIUS

Yes. You have so much potential, October Jones. But not the kind Captain Splainer can understand. You're clever. And I know what to do with that. I want you to work with me, personally. I'll find you a place here in the Scientific Program for the Observation of Organisms Concerning Known Interests. So? What do you say?

OCTOBER

I'll do it.

MISTY RIUS

Great! We'll get you started right away. You'll shadow one of our chief scientists for the day to get a sense of what goes on here while I set things up with administration.

NARRATOR

October smiles, but weakly.

MISTY RIUS

Is something the matter?

OCTOBER

Where's Fish with Legs?

NARRATOR

Rius smiles pointily. That's not sinister at all.

MISTY RIUS

She's perfectly safe and perfectly happy. We can go visit her later if you'd like.

(CONTINUED)

OCTOBER

[trying to believe this] Cool.

NARRATOR

And Rius reaches forward to start letting October go. Well, I don't buy that at all. Let's see what terrible situation this mysterious lady has arranged. Zzzzp...

fish vignette

NARRATOR

Hm. Maybe not as sinister as I thought... Fish with Legs is in a hot tub, sipping a mimosa. The room's nice, with wood panelling on three walls and the fourth, glass, all fogged up from tub steam. Now where have I seen this exact situation before...?

FISH WITH LEGS

Ah mimosa! My first love. We always seem to come back to each other. Let's make a life here. October is gonna work here. And she's gonna visit me all the time. And I'm gonna soak in this hot tub all the time. And I'm gonna get pampered. And you, mimosa, you will refill bottomlessly and fill me with your mimosy goodness.

GUARD

Come on, this way.

FISH WITH LEGS

Who's that? New friend?

NARRATOR

Fish with Legs springs out of the hot tub and wraps a towel around her... waist? She shuffles to the glass wall and wipes a space to look out from.

FISH WITH LEGS

Hello? New friend?

NARRATOR

Yeah, that's more like what I expected. Through the glass is a grody grey hallway. Fish is in one of many glass-faced cells that line both sides of the corridor, each occupied by a mystical creature. Llamas, lemurs, moths, etcetera. Other than Fish in her fluxurious executive-sized cell, the animals all look miserable, downtrodden, and cramped.

GUARD

This way, you dumb animal.

(CONTINUED)

NARRATOR

A guard in black is coming toward Fish's cell leading a mystical rhino behind him. Instead of a horn, its nose is topped with a sap-spattered and crudely chopped tree stump.

GUARD

Get in there.

NARRATOR

The guard opens the cell across from Fish with Legs with a magical key. The rhino trots compliantly inside and lies down and the guard shuts the glass door and walks away.

FISH WITH LEGS

Hello!

NARRATOR

Fish with Legs waves with inappropriate enthusiasm.

FISH WITH LEGS

I'm Fish with Legs. I'm a fish with legs. I'm the Elemental Creature of water. And I'm your new neighbour! What's your name?

RHINO

rhino noises

FISH WITH LEGS

Nice to meet you, Rhino with a Tree for a Horn. What brings you to... wherever we are.

RHINO

depressed rhino noises

FISH WITH LEGS

Area 52. Thank you. What brings you to Area 52?

RHINO

urgent rhino noises

FISH WITH LEGS

They do what here?

NARRATOR

Oooh, yes. So elucidating. If only I spoke rhino...

october and the wizard

NARRATOR

zzp Meanwhile-- Elucidating. Clarifying. Yeah it was joke. Meanwhile, October-- Another interruption? We're almost done. Yes of course we'll get back to Fish with Legs. I know you like her better. This whole Area 52 story is gonna be kind of a balancing act, so bear with me. I just want to find our ending note.

Meanwhile, October and Agent Misty Rius have just entered a messy and eclectic room. There's jars of flesh bits and taxidermied animals and other weird witchy stuff everywhere. You've been in a witch's lair before? Yeah, it's that.

OCTOBER

Whoa... What's...

MISTY RIUS

Welcome to our research division.

NARRATOR

October approaches a giant cauldron of some boiling grey liquid.

OCTOBER

Is this a potion?

MISTY RIUS

Yes it is.

OCTOBER

I knew it! You guys do magic!

MISTY RIUS

(chuckles ominously) Yes we do.

OCTOBER

But I thought it was illegal for humans to do magic?

MISTY RIUS

Well we're the ones who made that law. Magic is very dangerous in the wrong hands.

OCTOBER

Can I learn magic?

MISTY RIUS

Of course.

(CONTINUED)

NARRATOR

She rubs October's back maternally.

ABRAHAM KADABRAHAM

You must be my new assistant!

MISTY RIUS

October Jones, I'd like you to meet Abraham Kadabraham. One of the finest wizards in all of Herovia.

NARRATOR

A bearded old human dressed in quirky robes and a tall pointy hat rushes in holding a handful of mushrooms.

OCTOBER

Pleasure to meet you, sir.

NARRATOR

Abraham Kadabraham drops the mushrooms in the cauldron and wipes his hands on his beard. He stretches out a hand, which October hesitantly shakes, and then sniffs it.

ABRAHAM KADABRAHAM

Same to you, October Jones.

MISTY RIUS

Alright, I'll leave you two to it.

NARRATOR

Rius heads to the door. She stops just before leaving.

MISTY RIUS

One last thing, October. I was hoping we could talk again later. Maybe you could tell me a bit more about those snakes and the fish with legs. Would you join me for dinner?

OCTOBER

Of course, Agent Rius!

MISTY RIUS

Great. I'll see you in my personal quarters around 7.

OCTOBER

Yes. Awesome!

NARRATOR

Rius leaves. October soaks in all magic stuff in the room blissfully, her goal finally accomplished. Happy ending for her... Fish on the other hand... Let's stop.