

The Credible Adventures of October and Fish: Episode 102

EPISODE 102

SNEAKING IN

NARRATOR

If you recall, we just met Fish with Legs, a fish with Legs, who is one of four Elemental Creatures tied to a mysterious ritual. She just escaped an evil two headed snake determined to perform the ritual to release an evil monster named Mamamorbus. After her escape, Fish with Legs met October Jones, a young human girl willing to help her.

October and Fish with Legs are cutting through the crowded square of Cape Cap where some military themed fair is going on. October leads Fish out of the main party zone around to the back of the three tents dominating the space.

They fetch up behind piles of supplies and carts. The guards patrolling the area are wearing colourful quartered doublets below their armour, and flamboyantly feathered hats. Also at the camp: big steed-sized lizards, with saddles!

FISH WITH LEGS

Oh are those giant iguanas? Are we riding iguanas to Breezil? I've never ridden an iguana before.

OCTOBER

No, we don't need the iguanas. (beat) And get behind me.

NARRATOR

October crouches behind a set of crates and watches as a pair of guards patrol by.

FISH WITH LEGS

So how are we getting to the Plains of Breezil?

OCTOBER

We're not going to Breezil.

FISH WITH LEGS

Really? The snakes are going there to get the Elemental Creature of air. So, I was thinking we should get there first and warn them. I don't wanna pull the rank card but you are technically *my* servant, so...

OCTOBER

Not your servant.

(CONTINUED)

FISH WITH LEGS

Right. You're my best friend.

OCTOBER

I'm not your best friend either. And we're not doing your thing.

FISH WITH LEGS

What? Why?

OCTOBER

Just follow me.

NARRATOR

October sneaks forward and rushes to the cover of another crate. Fish casually follows.

OCTOBER

(whispering) Hurry up.

FISH WITH LEGS

Dramatic audible sigh.

NARRATOR

She catches up with October.

OCTOBER

(whispering) We're seeing Manfred Splainer, the Mighty. He's a war hero and he'll help us.

FISH WITH LEGS

Oh okay. Sounds good. Genius idea.

OCTOBER

Shh!

NARRATOR

October glances past the crate they're hiding behind.

FISH WITH LEGS

(whispering) Hey, not a judgment call, just wanna be on the same page since we're best friends and best friends share everything... Are we sneaking in?

OCTOBER

(beat) Yes.

FISH WITH LEGS

The Herovian Guard has weird practices. Back home, with the Glbclb, if you're a guard that grants you certain privileges in regards to like... Not sneaking around.

OCTOBER

Technically I'm a recruit. (beat) Technically I just applied. (beat) But I'm a star candidate. So... No worries. I'm pretty sure... This is a good plan.

FISH WITH LEGS

Oh. I'm sure it is. You seem like... Super smart. You're in my top three servants, no question.

OCTOBER

Thanks... I guess.

FISH WITH LEGS

And number one friend.

OCTOBER

Let's go.

NARRATOR

October rushes furtively --sneaky-- to the blue tent and waves Fish over. Fish joins her, looking curiously around. October peers quickly in all directions, then grabs a small knife from her boot. She cuts a slit into the tent, stows the knife, and turns to Fish with Legs.

FISH WITH LEGS

You know this is a tent, right... You can just walk in.

NARRATOR

Right??

OCTOBER

Trust me, I know what I'm doing. And let me do the talking in there.

FISH WITH LEGS

Seems like a bit much, but... You know what? You're right. You're the one with the plan! You're the brains and I'm the muscle. Everyone knows that about October Jones and Fish with Legs.

OCTOBER

Uh huh...

THE HERO

NARRATOR

October takes a deep breath and slips inside. The tent is full of trophies and statues dedicated to the man lounging in the centre of the tent. He sits in a cushioned chair, admiring them with a tankard of milk in hand. The man is big, but his hat is bigger. The feather is the size of a human child or an adult fish with legs.

(CONTINUED)

October emerges unnoticed, stepping easily through the high slit. Fish with Legs stumbles in behind her, trips on the edge of the new tent hole, and knocks over a trophy *tingg*.

FISH WITH LEGS

Ow!

NARRATOR

October turns and glares at Fish. Well what did you expect, cutting so high off the ground? She's small. You could at least be a considerate vandal. The man remains undisturbed.

OCTOBER

(whispering) Stay here. And don't touch anything.

NARRATOR

October stuffs Fish behind some luggage or whatever and walks up behind the man.

OCTOBER

Manfred Splainer, the Mighty. It is a great honour to--

MANFRED SPLAINER

Ah!

NARRATOR

He jumps up, spilling his tankard of milk on the thick carpets.

MANFRED SPLAINER

How... How did you get in here!?

OCTOBER

Oh, I--

MANFRED SPLAINER

You are aware that this is not the sign up tent?

OCTOBER

Yes, but I'm not--

MANFRED SPLAINER

The sign up tent is the red tent. This is the blue tent. My personal tent. For me. Manfred Splainer, the Mighty.

OCTOBER

Yes. I know. I'm actually here to ask you for help.

(CONTINUED)

MANFRED SPLAINER

Alright. But you're supposed to sign up in the red tent and then later on I will be in the green tent signing autographs. The blue tent is just for me. Manfred Splainer, the Mighty.

OCTOBER

Captain Splainer, I am--

MANFRED SPLAINER

Oh please... Captain... Ugh. So formal. Call me Manfred Splainer, the Mighty.

OCTOBER

Right! Of course. So sorry, Manfred Splainer, the Mighty. I just want to say right out the gate... I'm a huge fan.

MANFRED SPLAINER

Of course.

OCTOBER

Before anything else, I can't not bring up the Siege of Sinkhole Sewer. No one else could have held back an invasion of mosquito people with only a match and their own two shoes.

MANFRED SPLAINER

Oh come on... That was just... one of my many amazing exploits.

OCTOBER

Yes! And you have so many more! You're a legend, sir-- I mean, Manfred Splainer, the Mighty.

MANFRED SPLAINER

Well. Always nice to meet a fan.

OCTOBER

It's truly an honour. I need to ask you for--

MANFRED SPLAINER

You're here for the Recruitment Fair?

OCTOBER

Yes. I just signed up--

MANFRED SPLAINER

In the red tent.

OCTOBER

Yes.

MANFRED SPLAINER

You seem like you'll have a successful and thrilling career with the Herovian guard, Miss...

OCTOBER

Jones. October Jones.

MANFRED SPLAINER

That's a dumb name.

OCTOBER

Yeah...

MANFRED SPLAINER

I'm sure you'll earn a more spectacular and exciting title after you complete many wondrous exploits in the name of Herovia. Like me, Manfred Splainer, the Mighty.

OCTOBER

I sure hope so. I've always dreamed of--

MANFRED SPLAINER

Tell you this, since you're such a fan that you're willing to break into the blue tent --my personal tent, for me, Manfred Splainer, the Mighty-- I'll make an exception and give you an early autograph signed by me, Manfred Splainer, the Mighty.

OCTOBER

That would make my year. Thank you so much.

NARRATOR

October gets a thick notebook out from her apron. This is the notebook of a paranoid freak who has trouble making friends. Manfred flips through it and settles on one of the few empty pages. Loose maps and sketches flutter out as Manfred signs.

MANFRED SPLAINER

To my dearest October, love yours truly the one and only Manfred Splainer, the Mighty, the handsome hero.

NARRATOR

He hands the notebook back to October, who hugs it to her chest.

OCTOBER

Thank you so much Captain Splainer-- I mean, Manfred Splainer, the Mighty. Um... But I actually have something for you...

MANFRED SPLAINER

Oh... is that so?

NARRATOR

October puts her book away and dramatically reveals Fish by kicking over the valise she's been hidden behind. With an unpracticed flourish, she presents her to Manfred Splainer.

OCTOBER

Tada...

MANFRED SPLAINER

Ah! What is that! A fish with legs!?

FISH WITH LEGS

Hello, I'm Fish with Legs. I'm a--

MANFRED SPLAINER

Why is that here!? Shouldn't that be in the water or something!

OCTOBER

No! I'm giving her to you. You need to take her to Herovia City!

FISH WITH LEGS

Herovia City? No, I want to go to the plains of Breezil. Audible sigh... You're my best friend, so this is very hard for me, but... I don't know if this servant thing is working out.

OCTOBER

Just... Trust me.

FISH WITH LEGS

Alright! You're right! You're always right! Other than this, your work has been flawless and you've always been a loyal friend, so... Let's roll with this. Let's see where this goes.

MANFRED SPLAINER

Hey! What the Hex is going on!?

OCTOBER

Yes, of course Manfred Splainer, the Mighty. So sorry. (beat) This fish with legs is one of four Elemental Creatures who are the components of a dark summoning ritual that reaches into another world. I detained and interrogated it and learned that an evil two headed snake is trying to unite the creatures to release Mamamorbis.

FISH WITH LEGS

I am the Elemental Creature of water! It's a big deal.
I feel like people are really under-reacting to that.

MANFRED SPLAINER

Mamamorbus?

OCTOBER

Yes!

MANFRED SPLAINER

Oh yeah... Sure. I get it.

OCTOBER

Ha! I knew it, I knew you'd be-

MANFRED SPLAINER

But you're either too young or too old to try and lure
me into checking under your bed for monsters.

OCTOBER

Huh?

MANFRED SPLAINER

You can drop the bit, we both know Mamamorbus isn't
real.

FISH WITH LEGS

Uh. What? Yes it is.

NARRATOR

October grabs Fish and lifts her up to Manfred's face.

OCTOBER

This fish with legs is proof! I'm sure if we
investigate--

NARRATOR

Manfred pushes Fish to the side to talk to October
unimpeded.

MANFRED SPLAINER

It was cute at first, but... I don't have time for
this.

OCTOBER

They could be planning to attack Herovia for all--

MANFRED SPLAINER

You can't beat an army with a children's story, my
girl. Much less the mighty Herovian State. (beat) This
fish is lying to you.

(CONTINUED)

OCTOBER

What!?

NARRATOR

October drops Fish.

FISH WITH LEGS

Ow.

MANFRED SPLAINER

These mystical creatures tend to do that.

FISH WITH LEGS

That's not... Not racist.

MANFRED SPLAINER

Don't worry, it's happened to the best of us. One time I was tricked by this cute little rabbit. I found it in the woods, wounded, so being the incredibly compassionate man I am, I offered to help it. It told me it lived in a nearby cave. So I picked it up in my large masculine hand. And then... Boom. It's a magic rabbit. It turns into a bear. I guess it feeds itself by luring beautiful muscular young handsome men to their deaths. Anyways, luckily I have the strength of two bears, so I bested that one bear in combat and... Now I have this rug.

NARRATOR

October and Fish with legs glance down. They are indeed on a bearskin rug.

FISH WITH LEGS

I'm a little uncomfortable.

OCTOBER

Captain Splainer, please forgive me, but I don't think this fish is lying.

MANFRED SPLAINER

Yes, but it is.

OCTOBER

I still think--

MANFRED SPLAINER

Also, please call me Manfred Splainer, the Mighty.

OCTOBER

I still think we should consider what--

MANFRED SPLAINER

Listen, sweetheart. I don't have time to deal with every single mystical animal little girls bring me. And believe me, it happens more than you would think. I've heard about a lot of "Mamamorbuses"

OCTOBER

I'm not some little girl. I'm a concerned Herovian citizen who wants to help protect her country from--

MANFRED SPLAINER

No, you're just some deranged girl who broke into the blue tent, my personal tent, and tried to gift me some weird animal to earn my favor.

OCTOBER

It's not a gift-- Well, I mean... I hoped bringing this to you would help my application, but I also think--

MANFRED SPLAINER

Were you hoping you'd soften me up... Maybe I'd put in a good word for you--

OCTOBER

What? No! Maybe. I was kind of hoping you'd be so impressed and thankful that you'd take me under your wing and train me personally and let me help you deliver--

FISH WITH LEGS

Okay, excuse me! I feel like it's been a while since I have said things, so... I wanna say some things. Okay, Mr. The Mighty? My servant is very reliable. In all my time with her she has never disappointed me. --Except for... Yeah never.-- So, Mr. The Mighty I personally would be very interested in you listening to her. Please thank you very much.

MANFRED SPLAINER

I am not talking to a fish.

FISH WITH LEGS

Uh. Unacceptable. Servant, punish him.

OCTOBER

What? No, I'm--

FISH WITH LEGS

Right. Best friend, punish him.

MANFRED SPLAINER

Did you just threaten me, fish?

(CONTINUED)

FISH WITH LEGS

Okay, say the whole thing next time. Fish with Legs.
Capital F, capital L.

NARRATOR

Manfred steps up to Fish with Legs.

MANFRED SPLAINER

You don't seem to know who I am, fish. I am Manfred Splainer, the Mighty. Slayer of lions, enslaver of eagles. If Manfred Splainer the Mighty meets a weird mystical creature, that creature is dead.

NARRATOR

He taps his foot meaningfully on the damp bearskin rug, then looks Fish in the eye.

MANFRED SPLAINER

Nice to meet you.

FISH WITH LEGS

Oh I see how it is. You're one of "those" humans. Let me explain you one thing about fishes like me...

NARRATOR

Fish with Legs shoots a jet of watery surprise, knocking Manfred to the ground. He stands, enraged.

MANFRED SPLAINER

Guards!

NARRATOR

Two burly guards with tall, imposing hats step into the tent.

FISH WITH LEGS

Oh snap.

MANFRED SPLAINER

Get these two out of my personal blue tent! It is only for me! Manfred Splainer the Mighty!

NARRATOR

One of the guards picks up Fish with Legs. The other grabs October by the arm.

OCTOBER

Manfred Splain--

MANFRED SPLAINER

Out!

OCTOBER IS REJECTED & EJECTED

NARRATOR

October and Fish with Legs are ejected from the tent and land in a heap on the flagstones of the town square. The reveling humans ignore them as they pick themselves up. There's a long line of expectant Manfred fans leading from the entrance to the green tent. Fish examines her shoes for scuff marks. October clenches her fists.

FISH WITH LEGS

So... My bad.

OCTOBER

It's fine. I'll fix this. Follow me.

NARRATOR

October stands and starts heading away from the tents.

FISH WITH LEGS

What? Where are you going? Wait for me!

NARRATOR

Fish with Legs chases after her.

NARRATOR

And we'll find out where they're heading to next time... For now, Let's stop.