

PARASITECOLOGY

S01E11 - "When You Find Out Where You're Going"

written by

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ACT 1

INT. JAVIER'S APARTMENT

Javier awakes numbly to an empty but ransacked apartment and head with Cher gone. As he listens to voicemails he tests his appetite, skills in vain.

JAVIER

Uhn... god my head hurts. Please,
I want to go back to sleep.

Sounds of phone notifications.
Shhhh... shu shush.

Sounds of phone notification buzzing get louder.
Okay... okay.

Grabbing phone.
Why is there a post-it on my phone?
"PLAY ME".

Ripping off note.
Last text says: "And some clorox
because your place is pretty
disgusting - Mia". Yeah, yeah,
thanks sis. Wait... when was Mia
here in my apartment?

Getting out of bed.

JAVIER (CONT'D)

(yawning)
God, when did this place get so
trashed? I can NOT remember
anything.
(reading and pulling off
another post-it)
"CLEAN ME". Great, thanks. What
is THIS?

Pill bottle shaking.
"TAKE ME EVERY EIGHT HOURS". 30
milligrams of Periminozine. I've
never even heard of this... "for
treatment of schizo-affective
disorder". What the hell? I'm
bipolar, I'm not... hearing
voices...
(confused)
... in my head. I... I need some
caffeine.

Sounds foot walking, then fumbling and coffee pod percolator.

JAVIER (CONT'D)

Well, she's right about one thing -
- this place is a mess. Cross my
fingers I've got milk... and...

Fridge opening and empty jug.

JAVIER (CONT'D)

"BUY MORE OF ME." Argh, I know
she's my sister but I SWEAR. Is
it... is it weird I'm talking to
myself so much? Man, why is it so
quiet in here? Argh, my head hurts.
(sighing)
Okay, Mia, let's hear it.

Voicemail message plays.

MIA

(distracted)

Well, I guess you're finally up.
The doctor said it would put you
out for a few hours... hopefully
that's long enough that I can try
to get some things taken care of at
work, before I come back to...
watch over you.

(slight pause)

I don't know how things got so bad
with you, but they wanted to commit
you, you know? I had to promise I'd
watch over you and make sure you
take your meds. This timing --
this is really bad timing for work.
I... I guess I'll take a few
vacation days. I want to be there
for you, but I just don't
UNDERSTAND. And if you want my
help you've got to stop giving up
on reality for some delusion about
a imaginary girl in your head...

JAVIER

"Imaginary girl"... what is she
talking about?

MIA

(pause)

Look, I gotta go. PLEASE take your
meds. I'll... I'll see you later.

Beep of message ending.

JAVIER

(wondering)

What have I been doing this last week? I should check the rest of these notifications.

(reviewing phone)

"If you end up well enough to go the store, please buy milk..."
Mia... Mia. Mia. Vance? Since when do Vance and I text each other? "Glad we are friends again." Ha, what? "P.S. I lost my badge at work, have you seen it? P.P.S. Can't believe you haven't seen this one, it's much better than Keyboard Cat."

Plays "dramatic chipmunk" video link.

JAVIER (CONT'D)

(scoffing)

Uh, obviously I've seen "dramatic chipmunk", Vance. Who hasn't? Wait... I know who hasn't. Ch... Cher. I remember. The imaginary girl -- that's Cher!

(calling)

CHER! Cher!

No response.

JAVIER (CONT'D)

Come on, where are you, Cher? I remember it now... the deal... the murderbots... the accidental rediscovery of ten year old memes. Are you still in here? Why can't I hear you?

Shakes pill bottle.

JAVIER (CONT'D)

Maybe this stuff. Maybe it's doing something to suppress the symbiotic connection. The...

(slightly worried)

Definitely plausible and not imagined symbiotic connection between me... and the alien infection called Cher Gandhi Statham.

(correcting course)

Okay, Cher... we can test this. Let's see...

(MORE)

JAVIER (CONT'D)
 (brightening)
 Okay, easy diagnostic test. I'll
 just grab a few branches of this
 potted evergreen and take a...

Bite and unpleasant munching.

JAVIER (CONT'D)
 (garbled)
 Ughhh, that's...
 (spitting and coughing)
 Okay... that's... not definitive.
 Could be the meds, could be the
 fact it tastes like a car freshener
 and Hanar farts. Let's try
 something else. Alright, Cher --
 maybe I can't hear you, but you can
 hear me. I need you to listen
 carefully.
 (sigh)
 Release everything you've got for
 me. I need the whole Gamma-Ray
 treatment, full body scrub, here.
 I'm going to wait ten seconds and
 then use my superhuman abilities...
 (breathing and focusing)
 to lift this refrigerator.

Breathing intake like martial arts then incredibly painful
 over-the-top physical comedy failure. Sound of Javier
 groaning in lifting, then squeaking sneakers. Sound of
 fridge door opening and things tumbling and thump.

JAVIER (CONT'D)
 Oohhhharrh I broke my lumbar. Oh,
 I heard it crack... oh no, there's
 liquid... oh my spinal fluid,
 there's so much of it...
 (realization)
 Oh... oh no, I just fell on
 Eggland's best. Still, I don't
 know if I can move. I might be here
 for HOURS... Godfrey!

Alexa like device beep.

Buy extra strength Doan's, shipped
 overnight.

GODFREY
 I'm sorry, I couldn't understand
 that.

JAVIER
Extra strength Doan's, overnight!

GODFREY
The song "Take Me Home Tonight" by
Eddie Money requires a Personeum
Soundblare Premium account. Say
anything except NO to start your
free trial today.

JAVIER
NO, dammit, Godfrey.

GODFREY
You said "no, dammit." Starting
free trial.

JAVIER
(interrupting)
Ughh -- Godfrey, stop.
(short pause, then
wondering to self)
It was real, wasn't it?
(short pause)
Godfrey, play recording history.

GODFREY
Playing recording history.

The Javier-only track of S01E02P02 Act 3 kitchen conversation
between Javier and Cher plays in background. Audience can
clearly hear jump between Javier talking and no other voice
and then Javier talking again.

JAVIER
Who was I talking to, Cher?

Phone buzzes alarm.

JAVIER (CONT'D)
(straining)
Ughah, it's just a few... Oh,
Zelda's testicles that hurts.
Almost...
(reading)
"PAY ATTENTION TO ME: Take medicine
now." And again, thanks, Mia. I
suppose... I guess maybe I
should...

GODFREY
Playing next recording.

Further one-side kitchen conversation in background

JAVIER

Alright, time to start the long ascent up to counter height. Here I go... arhgh, yep gonna feel that tomorrow, and the many seconds leading up to tomorrow.

GODFREY

Playing next recording.

JAVIER

GODFREY, SHUT IT!

GODFREY

What would you like me to shut?

JAVIER

(quickly said together)

IT! IT!

GODFREY

I don't understand "EYE TIT".
Playing next recording.

One-side kitchen conversation of Javier hiding the ship in the oatmeal box plays out with some quiet groans from Javier.

JAVIER

(clarity)

Wait. Godfrey - stop.

Recording stops. Cabinet swings, and shuffling; oats box opens and spills onto counter.

JAVIER (CONT'D)

How did...

Bad attempts at whistling grow better but tune is off.

JAVIER (CONT'D)

Wait, it was...

Whistling matches theme and sounds of spaceship whirring up recur. Pause.

JAVIER (CONT'D)

I... I have to get out of here.
They know. It's not safe here.
And these... I don't need these.

Pills rattling and then being chucked into the garbage.

JAVIER (CONT'D)

And...

(sigh)

They're probably tracking me with my phone.

Click of phone turning off and then chucked into garbage.

JAVIER (CONT'D)

And these credit cards.

Cards get chucked.

Well, Cher, I don't know if you can hear me but I think you're still in there. And hopefully when this drug wears off... This is a really scary time to be on my own, but I WILL get you back buddy...

(short pause)

Here I go...

Door knob and door swing. Pause.

GODFREY

Current occupant under surveillance has left the premises. Code 18 alert. Informing home base... Informing home base... Informing home base...

JAVIER

(opening door quickly and interrupting)

Ehhh, I should really pack a bag... with a change of pants... and also, put on an initial set of pants. Uhhh... Godfrey, could you repeat that?

GODFREY

"Here I Go Again" is a song by hair-rock band Whitesnake notable for its music video featuring Tawny Kitaen on the hood of a car. This video requires a Personeum Vidblaster premium account. Say anything except NO to start your free trial today.

JAVIER

Hey -- Godfrey. Do me a favor. Why don't you call home and tell them where to shove it.

INTERSTITIAL - THANKS

HI FOLKS, THIS IS ALAN/ROB FROM PARASITECOLOGY AND OTHER FINE INTERRUPTED TALES PODCASTS SUCH AS INTERRUPTED TALES.

We want to thank you for listening and hopefully you're enjoying the show. If not, keep listening, there's an end in sight, you just gotta push through and you'll feel like you've accomplished something, even though you just listened to mostly two fools occasionally talking to each other about Hanar farts.

This week, I want to talk about money. Where can I get some? But also... how do you put on a completely indie audio drama podcast cheaply? That's a big question... but I do want to point out that each episode has a full credits section where we list out the software, services and sites we use to record, edit and produce this show. A lot of them are free or relatively low-cost aka the cheapest we could find. As of now, and the foreseeable future, we don't make any money on this show, and when you spend to make money but the money no makey, that's what they call reversey money makey. Although, if the me from the future wants to come to this exact moment in time -- and I WILL remember this exact moment for future me, maybe come by and finish editing this episode while I take a nap. Hey guys, this is Alan from the future, I just came back from the timeline where we are wildly popular and totally made tons of money and... oh no, look! That butterfly just got stuck in the potato salad, well, it's probably not a big deal in the cosmic scheme of things.

Pudding pies, I do want to get you back into the show, but first I want you to do one thing for us: call your cable company and demand they put this podcast on! If they say, I don't understand what that means, are you saying it's a video podcast channel, say "no, it's audio only but you could play it as the audio track while you show the american flag or puppies playing or something." alternately, you could leave us a review on whatever app you use to play podcasts, which frankly is less of waste of the Time Warner cable customer service line's time and we all know how valuable that is.

Thanks and back to the show.

ACT 2

INT. JAVIER'S BODY

Cher, unable to feel or communicate, feels an earthquake; breaks some stuff; flips through memories; momentarily contemplates leaving before rejecting; and finally regains some consciousness as Javier enters a den of iniquity, trading burner phones, 2003 garmin gps and a Datsun for dogecoins.

CHER

What was that? I swear I just felt something, like... a big earthquake. Hello? Javier? Come on Javier, it's been hours, or days even -- and I'm all alone!

(short pause)

Must have been my imagination. Alright, well, I was basically at the end anyway. So, to sum up, they all died. And that's the story how I bonded with the last Praxividian high empress and invented the quantum-temporal hyperfusion engine.

(clears throat)

Ok, let me just make sure that recorded ok...

Squishy tape stop and rewind noise with high pitched audio track.

CHER (CONT'D)

(sighing)

Ah, recording these anecdotes for Javier's later appreciation doesn't really have the same impact without a live audience. JAVIER? Still gone, eh? I guess I could try jiggling things around again.

Squishy weak polyping.

CHER (CONT'D)

Javier? Ughh, my pseudopods are as weak as a newborn kitten's brain eating amoeba's!

Long pause.

CHER (CONT'D)

This is boring. How long has it been, cold and lonely and no one to talk to... NO - nope, I can't let that solitary prison mentality get to me. Gotta keep occupied, Cher. Uh, okay -- let's make a dent on that streaming media backlog. Mmm, let's see... "Episode 20151021.18: Javier Goes on Date, Tries Sushi for 4th Time, Still Hates It"...

Sound of restaurant and talking.

JAVIER

Oh yeah, this is great! Pass me some more of the... seaweed?

CHER

"Episode 20120403.9: Javier Oversleeps and Misses Sister's Graduation Ceremony"...

Sound of Javier snoring.

CHER (CONT'D)

Couldn't you see how much that hurt her, Javi? Well, it's strong character development, but it definitely could have used more action. "Episode 19960502.7: Javier Forgets Deodorant and Rides Schoolbus Self-consciously"... mm, pass. Here's a fun title: "Episode 19890802.14: Javier Slides off Slip-n-Slide into Dog Crap."

Summer fun and sprinkler, sliding.

JAVIER

(youthful voice)

No no no no no!

CHER

(laughing)

Oh, I know it's low-brow, but he was just so committed to the slide... hah... Well, how about something recent... "Episode 20181001.12: Javier and Cher Go to ...Pet Puppies"... no, no - it'll get me too emotional. Oh, this isn't helping...

Long pause.

CHER (CONT'D)

Of course, I may be trapped here a while. Days, months, more... if they keep giving him more of whatever chemicals are inhibiting our bonding as they wear off. IF they wear off, which is not a guarantee.

Another pause.

CHER (CONT'D)

Although, there's always the possibility... How long has it been, since...? It could... probably still be done without harm... hard to say with his biochemistry and trying to convert solar etceteras to proper time units, but I don't feel the bond has fully matured. No. I... I won't take that chance, not unless he wants it. And he NEEDS me, and I know how we can both get out of this.

Faint foot steps.

CHER (CONT'D)

What is this? Some kind of jolting? I'm definitely feeling SOMETHING. JAVIER? Are we on the move? What is that, is that light? Oh, this is wonderful!

(off mic shouting to
Javier)

I'm HERE, Bearer! I'm here! I can barely see anything. Where are we? Javier?

CHER (CONT'D)

I could swear we're in some sort of dingy alley. Oh, no, what is this? Looks very sketchy. This place is cheaper than a...

(pause)

Umm... this is much harder when Javier's not here to provide a cultural reference for me... just have to look it up in the old filing cabinet... Okay, this place looks cheaper than a...

(MORE)

CHER (CONT'D)
 Dollar Tree holding a... 99 cent
 off sale.
 (disappointed)
 Hey - I'm working in a void here!
 Javier!
 (slight pause)
 What is this store? "All sales
 final"... "Forget the dog, beware
 of owner"... "Proud glass rose and
 Chore boy reseller"... "All major
 cryptocurrencies accepted."

Muffled ding of a store bell. Javier's voice is hard to
 hear, gradually becoming louder. Answering Peanuts voice
 from clerk.

JAVIER
 Yeah... I need to get some, uh,
 stuff. Can I get one of those
 prepaid flip phones...

Clerk voice gruff.

JAVIER (CONT'D)
 Uh, five of those Visa gift cards.
 That pair of sunglasses. A USA Map
 Atlas...

Clerk voice gruff.

JAVIER (CONT'D)
 That hat..
 (complaining)
 Is it mesh or is it... no, you know
 what, it's fine... I'll take it.
 Let me see...

CHER
 JAVIER! Hello!

JAVIER
 Uh... did you say something?

Clerk voice neutral.

JAVIER (CONT'D)
 Sorry, nevermind. Okay, some beef
 jerky, water.

Clerk voice.

CHER

Ooh, look they've got Halls Orange
Eucalpytis with Menthol, they're my
absolute favorite.

JAVIER

Cher!

Clerk voice confused.

JAVIER (CONT'D)

Uhhh, Cher, yeah, do you have any
uh.. Cher.. CDs back there or
anything.

(aside)

Hold on, buddy, we'll talk in a
second -- we're on the run and need
supplies...

Clerk voice positive.

JAVIER (CONT'D)

Oh, you do have several Cher CDs
back there, I wasn't really
expecting...

CHER

Javier, listen. I have an idea. I
think I know who can help us, but
they may not be easy to find. We
may need to travel a long distance.

JAVIER

Okay, let me handle this.

(to clerk)

Hey, sir - is that rusted out
Toyota Celica in the parking lot
with the \$1500 or best offer tag
still available?

Clerk voice positive.

JAVIER (CONT'D)

Okay, here's my best offer. You
give me all this stuff, plus the
car and \$200 cash, no questions
asked, for 2.1 million DogeCoins.

CHER

Wait, make him throw in...

JAVIER

Plus, throw in all the Cher CDs you
have.

CHER
Yes, YES! We're back and do you
know what this means, Bearer?
(same time)
ROAD TRIP!

JAVIER
ROAD TRIP!

Clerk voice very positive.

JAVIER (CONT'D)
Oh, sorry, man -- no, I was
actually talking to the imaginary
girl in my head. Uh, maybe next
time?

OUTRO PART 1