

PARASITECOLOGY

S01E06 - "All I Really Want to Do"

written by

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ACT 3 - OF THE CRANK

INT. BAR WITH WORK FRIENDS

Somewhat sedate bar sounds.

JAVIER
Jack and coke.

CHER
(aside)
Jack and coke, keeper of bars.
(to Javier)
What about the one where a human
demonstrates how dance evolves over
multiple decades?

JAVIER
Seen it.

CHER
What about the one where the
unexpectedly talented human sings
operatically to the astonishment of
judging humans?

JAVIER
Susan Boyle? Yeah, seen it.

CHER
Ok, but have you seen the one where
the teen-aged human attempts to
digest a "BettyBomb" clothes
laundering ball?

JAVIER
The BettyBomb challenge? Yeah,
they got into trouble over the
marketing of that. Actually, my
company makes those BettyBomb
things; it's this huge
multinational conglomerate that
makes phones, scooters, driverless
cabs, social media networks, start-
up delivery services, search
engines -- it's nuts all the things
they do. It's basically bigger than
Google and Apple combined.
Speaking of -- that's a group of
Personeum people over there. Ok --
remember, be cool, don't say
anything weird. We just say hi,
have one drink, and get out.

CHER

Of course! I'm a little surprised we're here at all, based on your initial reaction.

JAVIER

Well, I'm trying. I'm trying.

CHER

And I'm proud of you for that. You know, this bar's proprietor "J.P. Mulligan" certainly cultivates an eclectic decorative aesthetic, a lot of implausibly placed aeroplane propellers. Perhaps that would be an ice-breaking topic of conversation... Okay, now who are we looking at here?

JAVIER

Uh... that's Diane, she works in the medical research division. Pyotr, he's cool, uncomfortably into Pokemon for an adult, though - really likes talking about Diglett and Lopunnies. Ji-woo, she's network ops. Regina, HR -- she reheats fish in the microwave, so obviously we hate her. Better sit next to Vance -- database admin -- he's super quiet until he's had five drinks and then he spills how much everyone makes. We both work on Jibbrrr together.

CHER

What's a jibber?

JAVIER

Jibbrrr. Two b's, no e's, three r's. It's a next generation integration communication management and email replacement system. You know, a chat app. It's pretty popular. Everyone at Personeum uses it.

CHER

(aside)

Salutations, ETCETERA, to you, Vance. I'm drinking a jacked up cola.

(to Javier)

He's nodding.

JAVIER

Yeah, I think he's less comfortable
in social situations than even me.
Just nod back and sip our drink.
SLOWLY.

Loud Peanuts female mumble.

JAVIER (CONT'D)

What's she saying?

CHER

One of your colleagues appears to
be complaining about the state of
free beverage service in the
canteen.

JAVIER

Oh, yeah, I heard they were going
to replace the coffee makers with
some new vapor thing. Something to
do with one of the start-ups.

CHER

Now the group appears to be
referencing recent uncharacteristic
behavior by an employee admitted to
an executive program. I don't
understand what they are referring
to.

JAVIER

Who are they talking about?

CHER

I don't know... could we get
another of these, please?
(smacking lips)
Some human, uh, Kosher Pickle Harry
or something like that.

JAVIER

Can you please pay attention?

CHER

Mmmm... the carbonation is quite
delightful, it really tickles the
bloodstream. Okay, I think she
said his name is Herbert.

JAVIER

Who's Herbert?

CHER

Okay, maybe it was Jeff, the one who hugs with unreasonable frequency.

JAVIER

Ohhhh -- Huggy Jeff, yeah. He's on the Alpha Track.

CHER

What... what is the "Alpha Track"?

JAVIER

See, Personeum likes to think it's an idea company. So if you come up with a crazy concept the company can sell, you get moved into the Alpha Track where you get stock options and bonuses and executive training. Meanwhile, the other 99% of the company actually has to bust their asses to implement all the ridiculous ideas.

CHER

According to the Regina who is hated, Alpha Track appears to have altered his personality into one which is colder and is more frequently absent from typical company activities. Apparently this is a frequent outcome of the program.

(slurping)

JAVIER

Yeah, I guess being in the ruling one percent does that. Hey, slow down on the drink.

CHER

There's no need to worry, the bar seems well stocked for the number of patrons attending. I will request a refill for us and for Vance, who, despite his lack of speech, I am feeling a closer affinity for.

JAVIER

(amused)

That's the Jack talking.

CHER
(slightly confused)
I thought it was me talking.
(aside)
Vance, am I talking? Are we
talking or drinking here?
(to Javier)
See, my buddy Vance is backing me
up. MORE DRINKS FOR MY BEST FRIEND
VANCE, KEEPER OF BARS!

JAVIER
(laughing)
You know - I don't know why, but
this is a lot of fun for me. I
should be embarrassed, but this is
actually fun.

CHER
(sounding a little tipsy)
That's because... I'm storing up
some of the toxins your kidney is
slow to process. You get the mood
lift while I get the... fuzzy...
wuzzy.

JAVIER
Yeah... you're definitely "fuzzy".

CHER
Wuz he?

JAVIER
Was who what?

CHER
Fuzzy... wuz he fuzzy? That... guy.

JAVIER
That's a stuffed moose head.
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INT. BAR AFTER PARTY

Louder bar sounds.

CHER
 (sloshed)
 Vance, you're hilarrrrios, man.
 Nawww... come on, Vance... ok - GO!
 Go home to your kids and tell them
 how disa... disappointed I am. Hey.
 HEY. LOVE YOU.

Deep breaths.

Jav... Javi...
 I don't... how do you keep the
 genitals inside your restrictive
 cloth garments when everyone here
 is so attractive... that person...

JAVIER
 Yeah, he's pretty good looking.

CHER
 Those people...

JAVIER
 Very attractive ladies.

CHER
 That person...

JAVIER
 That's the stuffed moose head.

CHER
 But those eyes mean business, ber.
 Beaarer.

JAVIER
 I think maybe it's time to go home.

CHER
 Hey; hey. Hey. Hey. Did... did
 you see the one where Charlie bites
 his finger?

JAVIER
 (laughing)
 Yeah, Cher. I saw that one.

CHER
 Why did he put his finger in
 Charlie's mou... mouth again? Why
 did he do that, Javi... Javier.

JAVIER

Yeah, it's a mystery. Cher, do you really not have something like the Internet on your planet?

CHER

Nooo! The innernet is amaaaazing. My planet is so borrrring! My people, and aliens... races, in the confeder... the space thing. They hide away knowledge and books in little hidey holes, hidey hidey. Afraid uh going to share for evry body... it suckhths sucks.

JAVIER

(chuckling)

Yeah. Yeah, ok let's head out.

CHER

Noo, do a uh.. a shot with me. Come on.

JAVIER

That's really just us doing two shots.

CHER

Yeah, um, double double barrels. Gotta keep the chemicals. Going.

JAVIER

Okay, shots, then we bounce.

CHER

Okay here... ere we go.

Gulp and then double slam noise.

JAVIER

Woot!

CHER

This is... so... fucking CRANK!

AD - PERKPODS

HI FOLKS, THIS IS ALAN/ROB FROM PARASITECOLOGY AND OTHER FINE INTERRUPTED TALES PODCASTS SUCH AS INTERRUPTED TALES ... WE'RE GOING FOR QUALITY OVER QUANTITY OBVIOUSLY.

Today I'm here to tell you about PerkPods. Every morning millions of people wake up and grab a cup of coffee. Some people pay 6 dollars for a bland roast whipped up with tons of sugar and fat, others waste minutes fooling with terrible tasting single serve cups that throw huge amounts of non-biodegradable plastic into the environment. And all of them waste one of our most precious natural resources: water. Well, finally there's an alternative: PerkPods. PerkPods is not a beverage -- *the bold type here seems VERY definitive about that* - Uh, PerkPods is not a beverage it is a wake-up-and-go coffee flavor inhaler. One button press delivers a instant rush of delicious coffee taste and the perk that goes with it, without the unnecessary calories or bitter aftertaste. Their patented P-Pods -- *just double checking here, yes that is correct* -- are completely biodegradable and last for the equivalent of 40 cups of hot java with our 0% impact footprint guarantee. Every month PerkPods will send you a variety of flavor pods you place into the simple USB-c powered inhaler -- *get out of here microUSB and take your Motorola ROKR phone with you, I dunno* -- You can try out a selection of perk pods with a free inhaler by going to our site and entering a promo code; that's right go to ohthehumanity.com/perk and they will hook. You. up. Or should I say, perk you up -- well, no -- *I should probably say what the copy says, which is hook you up.* Ok. to summarize: PerkPods. Try 'em out.

Honey bunny, I want to get you back into the show, but first I want you to do one thing for us: Tell us what other audiodramas you're listening to; tweet or DM us at @parasitecology on Twitter and give us the deets on your other faves. Are you bingeing Welcome to Nightvale? Maybe loving that EOS 10? Do that thing and let us know.

Thanks and back to the show.

ACT 4 - DRUNK

EXT. NIGHT

Bar sounds

CHER
(shouting)
OK, BUT PLEASE NOTE: I WANT TO FUCK
ALL OF YOU. I DON'T KNOW HOW IT
WORKS BUT I'M A QUICK LEARNER.

Door slams and then quiet street sounds.

JAVIER
(laughing)
Ok, they'll probably appreciate
that more tomorrow.

CHER
Ughh... Javi, I'm not sure I feel
too great. You better... You
better drive.

JAVIER
I think I need your help for
that...

Tripping sound.

JAVIER (CONT'D)
Actually, in this case I can
probably manage better on my own.

CHER
Okay, here are my... car keys...
nooo... where did our car keys go?

JAVIER
I got them, don't worry. But, it's
really too nice of a night to ride
in a non-existent car and you spent
most of our roulette winnings on
renting out a puppy petting room,
so I think we'll skip getting a
Lyft.

CHER
I'm not gonna worry, Bearer.
Thanks for carrying me... home.
You're...
(burping)
(MORE)

CHER (CONT'D)
 Very strong. I'm just gonna close
 my eyes for a bit...

JAVIER
 NOPE, those are my eyes, too, Cher.
 They're pretty important right now.

CHER
 Ok, ok, just shhhhhhhh... ok?

JAVIER
 (whispering)
 Okay.

Pause. There are quiet city sounds (cars, sidewalk traffic).

JAVIER (CONT'D)
 (quietly, above a whisper)
 Cher, what where your previous...
 bearers like? You don't talk about
 them. Or maybe that's too personal
 a question? Wait, what am I
 saying? I don't have ANY privacy
 at all, so we've jumped way past
 the pee-with-the-door-open stage of
 the relationship.

CHER
 No, I love talking about them.
 It's just not... you know, polite
 this early on. This is... ss ...
 the pre-bond period. It's portant
 that we both... move on and start
 thinking [in]...

JAVIER
 [In sync]

CHER
 [In shhhhyncc]. Shynncc. The same
 time. You want stories? Okay, I
 was hitching with Xivarrior the
 Magnanimous...

Droning sound of murderbot.

JAVIER
 Wait, you hear that?

CHER
 Hear what?

JAVIER

Like a cross between a loud bee and
a remote control drone.

CHER

(sobering)

Oh no. Oh no no no no.

JAVIER

Cher, what's going on?

(hopped up)

And why am I suddenly sweaty and
excited?

Sound grows louder.

CHER

I... uh... that's adrenaline. Plus
a bunch of other things. You need
it, bad, and so do I if I'm gonna
sober up in time. Uhh, we gotta
run, uh, now.

JAVIER

Cher?

CHER

Uhhh, because that's the sound of a
murderbot.

JAVIER

CHER?

CHER

RUN.

Sounds of running and heavy breathing.

CHER (CONT'D)

The alley!

Running stops and duck into a corner.

JAVIER

It's not getting farther away.

CHER

Is tracking us... We... we have to
hide. The dumpster!

Clambering and swinging noises.

JAVIER

(whispering)

This seems like a bad idea... you said it's tracking us, and now we're trapped.

CHER

(whispering)

Yes, but it's tracking us by smell. I'm hoping this reeking garbage is enough to throw it off. Roll... roll around quiet and hope we touch something par... particularly foul. Oh, no.
(almost wretching)

JAVIER

Shhhhh! Vomit might help with the smell, actually, but I'm a loud puker. Let's look for anything we can use as a weapon.

Quiet plastic rustling. Droning gets louder.

CHER

Here it comes!

JAVIER

(bewildered)

Where?

CHER

It's right over there!

JAVIER

Are you joking? I thought that was a gnat!

CHER

Well, it's enough to kill... although technically the murderbot only actually kills the spirit inside the bearer. Shhh... it's coming this way.

JAVIER

Too bad.

CHER

Too bad?

JAVIER

Too bad it didn't reckon on this
bearer tearing open a Hefty bag
full of Entertainment Weeklies and
what I hope is loose chili! Come
get it, murderbot! You won't get
my friend!

A clang of metal garbage lid opening. Furious paper swiping.

CHER

Get him!

JAVIER

(various noises)

Hyaah! Take it!

Droning buzzes left and right and then whines as it
breaks/powers down.

CHER

(shocked)

Javier, you did it.

JAVIER

Hell yeah I did it! It felt
superhuman... like I was swatting
with the strength of ten men! I am
the... Raphael Nadal of... gross
magazine swinging... I don't know,
I haven't watched a tennis match in
15 years.

CHER

No - it's a wonderful reference,
he's still winning, actually --
everybody else must be terrible...
You saved me, bearer! But now we
must get home, quickly and without
drawing further attention. If
there are murderbots here on your
world, then we, and perhaps the
whole galaxy, is in grave danger...
Well, definitely us, I guess galaxy
is a leap, but I'm quite sincere
when I say - we are
(gastro noises)
VERY important.

JAVIER

Do you need to...

Wretching noises.

CHER
Ah... And now [we rrrr...]

JAVIER
[Run!]

CHER
[Rally!] No, nope, you had it.
Forget mine.

OUTRO PART 2