

PARASITECOLOGY

S01E12 - "Gypsies, Tramps and Thieves"

written by

Alan Gallauresi

6111 Ruatan St, Berwyn Heights, MD 20740
202-577-3187
alan.gallauresi@gmail.com

ACT 1

INT./Ext. Car on Freeway

Highway driving; tires, wind and cranked tunes. The music fades.

CHER

(disappointed)

Oh hey, why you gotta bring down the tunage? That directly defies road-trip rules, which demand that tunage must be BLASTED. I have to say, I feel like things ran a bit smoother and a lot more rockingly before we started sharing full autonomy.

JAVIER

Listen, we got to talk about where we're headed.

CHER

Okay, well... I hear Cabo's nice, and ever since I learned it existed, I've always wanted to go to Ibiza.

JAVIER

Yeah, we'll just drive this Toyota Celica across the land bridge to Ibiza. This isn't a game, Cher -- you need to get serious.

CHER

I AM serious! Look, we've ticked off some very powerful beings, here. Maybe our best bet is to lie low, off the grid, for a while... preferably at an all-inclusive lie-lowing off-the-grid resort.

JAVIER

First: travel means security lines, security cameras, and most importantly, ID and lots of money, neither of which we have. Second: you said you had a plan to go somewhere someone could help us.

CHER

Yes, ok, yes, it's just not quite that simple.

(MORE)

CHER (CONT'D)

Yes, there's a place I know, where we can go, a place full of powerful technology. It's just that I don't... exactly... know where it is.

JAVIER

Explain.

CHER

Okay, well -- remember how I told you about the Transgalactic Confederation, the collective governmental body of space-faring sentient species?

JAVIER

Yeah, like Star Trek.

CHER

(sarcastic)

Oh no, no, it's less of an imperial republic and pretty much exactly like the Federation of your "Warring Stars" franchise, which is of course a perfect reductive representation of the complex dynamics of the relationships between dozens of alien species, but sure, like Star Trek.

JAVIER

Oh, that's cute, purposefully getting Star Wars and Star Trek confused. You know who'd love you? Online message boards. Boy, they wouldn't get enough of you.

CHER

Listen, alright? The Transgalactic Confederation didn't just HAPPEN. It was set in motion millions of years ago by an advanced race of aliens who have since disappeared entirely. But these "precursors" left something on each Earth-like planet they visited -- a device of such advanced technology that modern scientists don't even know how to go about studying it.

(MORE)

CHER (CONT'D)

A device which breaks through the thin veil of spacetime and allows instantaneous transport between it and the central galactic hub which now houses Transgalactic Confederation Headquarters. Each device was hidden by complex riddles designed to take many lifetimes for a sentient species to solve as a whole, ensuring that when they did solve the mystery, they would be ready to join the Transgalactic community. And that... is where we need to go.

JAVIER

Okay, hold on. You SPECIFICALLY said that Stargates DO NOT EXIST.

CHER

Well, they don't! This device is simply a gated structure that opens a worm hole, allowing matter to pass from one fixed point in a star system to another in a different star system, which is naturally called a...

JAVIER

Stargate.

CHER

Passhole.

JAVIER

I'm sorry?

CHER

Passhole. I mean, Stargate, really, what is that? It's not in a star, there's barely a gate. Passhole, you know what you're getting with a passhole. You know, passholes are fascinating, our top scientists have spent centuries trying to understand the physics of them, how passholes open and close, what happens if two passholes were to collide, what sizes and shapes do passholes come in? Tiny passholes, giant passholes? One could go on and on.

JAVIER

Okay, I'm already sick of passholes. I get that this... hole you pass through, is incredibly powerful, IF we can find it. But I don't see exactly how it can help us fight an alien cabal and an army of mind-controlled followers.

CHER

Listen, the Confederation doesn't just want any old semi-sapient organism to fumble into the most important discovery in the history of the cosmos. They send a single Watcher to each world, to guard the passhole and keep it safe. So, we go make contact with the Watcher, tell them about this VERY illegal plot to take-over a forbidden world, and you know, yadda yadda, we're saved.

JAVIER

(unsure)

Okay. Okay. It seems kind of vague...

CHER

Well, it's an invasion, you know? This is the sort of thing governments are meant for.

JAVIER

I guess it seems like our only option. But... we don't know where to go.

CHER

No.

JAVIER

Well, we've got to get started somewhere. And there's only one place so desolate that no one would ever think to look for us, where we can safely research the subject without an evil technology cabal ever finding out. The PUBLIC LIBRARY!

Couple of car beeps.

CHER

(pause)

Oh, woops, sorry, I was just
adjusting the bass and treble
settings... Yes...

(shouting)

The PUBLIC LIBRARY!

INTERSTITIAL - THANKS

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

Today, I'd like to talk to you about a problem. Bluetooth earbuds. They're expensive, the sound quality is never great, the signal always cuts out and worst of all the battery life is just awful and what a pain to charge them when you're out on the go. *Plus they drop in the toilet, look - you know it happens, you've fished them out of there, they're 300 DOLLARS of course you fished them out of that dank dank potty soup.* Okay, well all those problems are solved with a fantastic new service called GoEars from Personeum Corp. GoEars are made from a state-of-art nanogel that fits perfectly into your ear canals, shaping themselves perfectly to your own anatomy. Each pair of GoEars has a sealed battery with a - get this - 300 hour battery -- that's designed to last a whole month, and at the end of that month you just pop in a brand new pair. No fuss, no gross waxy tips to clean -- *and trust me, no one wants to clean a waxy tip --* just a brand sparkling new pair of cutting edge technology with *absolutely no toilet water on them, I think, the ad does not explicitly say but it's frankly UNREASONABLE to think they would dip them in the ole turlet before sending them on to you, it's just not good business.* I got to tell you, just myself, I'm on my fifth pair and I have to say, *they feel just a little bit strange at first, even kind of alien, maybe, but then you get used to it and you feel like "how did I ever live without these" and "what other Personeum products can improve my life and inform my decisions on a daily basis."* I mean, I am just full up with Personeum products, got the dentist thing in my mouth, perk pods up my nose, the body spray everywhere and it's just an amazing future, it's almost as if they want to try anyway at all to get inside my body, and hey -- it's nice to feel wanted. Uhh let me see here - GoEars offer fast sync and full compatibility with all iPhone, Android and Personeum XR and XRS phones and devices. Check out their offer for a free first month of GoEars at ohthehumanity.com/offer that's ohthehumanity.com/offer for a free trial today.

Cutie patooties, I do want to get you back into the show, but first I want you to do one thing for us: tell us if you like what we're doing. It turns out we don't actually make a lot of money from Personeum ads, weird I know, so the only thing that keeps us going is that we know that someone out there appreciates what we're doing. So tweet at us or send an email or something. And if you know a billionaire that's looking to adopt two grown men ala a modern remake of Silver Spoons by the Farelly Brothers, I'm thinking maybe Will Ferrell and Will Sasso, I'd like to see him get more work... uh, maybe have him get in contact too.

Also, if you know Will Sasso, mmm have him get in contact, I just want to check in.

Thanks and back to the show.

ACT 2

INT. PUBLIC LIBRARY

Closing book.

JAVIER

Ah, we've been looking in these
books for hours and gotten nothing.

Spinning CD drive and old computer noises.

CHER

Yes, and this artificial
intelligence you call Encarta seems
most uninformed.

(aside)

Encarta, release me from your Maze
of the Mind!

JAVIER

Just take out the disk.

CHER

Mm, it looks just like a Cher CD.
Maybe we put in Cher and ask her
questions?

JAVIER

Thanks, but I get more than enough
of that in my life already. Tell
me again what we're looking for?

CHER

Well, I can't say for certain about
this planet, but on my homeworld
architects discovered forgotten
tablets of an unknown language left
by ancient aliens. Over several
centuries, my people gradually
pieced together more and more of
this language until they were able
to translate the tablets, which
were found to contain scientific
and mathematical riddles of great
complexity, at the very edge of our
understanding.

(MORE)

CHER (CONT'D)

These riddles required the sum total of our knowledge to solve, necessitating our foremost intellectuals working for decades in closeted enclaves of tens of thousands, dedicated to the sole purpose of finding out their secrets. After untold centuries, my kind uncovered the final riddle and discovered two things, a set of coordinates and a single message from the elder race: "we are here, come speak with us and join the rest of the galaxy". An incredible achievement.

JAVIER

(slightly dismissive)

Yeah, I guess.

CHER

I'm sorry?

JAVIER

No, I'm just saying... from what you told me, you guys didn't have computers, or a worldwide database of connected information like the Internet. I mean, I'm just saying...

CHER

What ARE you saying?

JAVIER

Nothing, it just, sure would have been nice to skip the... closeted enclaves... and just type all that into a search engine.

CHER

Really... the sum product of a thousand years of dedicated research and scholarship by untold millions of my kind, and you think you can just toss the misspelled general idea of it into Bing and get an answer to the mystery of ages? Great idea.

JAVIER

Well, not Bing, no. But the Internet is pretty amazing these days...

CHER
Unbelievable! This is it!

JAVIER
(stunned, worried)
What?

CHER
Yes, I just typed in the phrase "we are here, come speak with us and join the rest of the galaxy" into Google and got map directions to... a cabin rental in West Virginia.

JAVIER
(barely containing
frustration)
You just typed it into WHAT?

CHER
(trying to de-escalate)
Oh no, no, don't worry, I did it incognito mode.

JAVIER
Are you kidding me? I work in software development. Incognito mode is a joke; they WANT you to use incognito mode. It's a a big button that says "yes, I'm about to do something illegal, please pay attention to the sketchy things I'm typing and put me on a watchlist"... I can't... wait, is that guy looking at us?

CHER
Which guy, the masturbator or the guy waiting for us to get off the computer so he can masturbate?

JAVIER
(under breath)
The one... over there... wearing GoEars and carrying a PerkPod... and getting out his Personeum XRS cellphone... and pointing at us...

Pod people type scream noise.

CHER
(under breath)
Okay, okay, let's just... take note of the map address, ok...
(MORE)

CHER (CONT'D)
no sudden movements...

JAVIER
Address noted... and I'll just...
shut down the computer... waiting
for a program to close... clicking
again on shut down the computer...
well, go ahead and close that
program then... no, I don't care if
that file is open, just... ALRIGHT,
FUCK IT.

Shoves computer onto floor and explosive hiss.

CHER
Okay, I'm seeing a lot more of the
pointing, now... How about I just
uncork a couple bottles of super
juice in preparation...

More pod people type scream noises.

JAVIER
Cher, they're everywhere. We're
surrounded by... Perk Pod People.
I... I can take them. Should we
fight?

CHER
No, I think we'd better [RUN].

JAVIER
RUN.

INT./EXT. CAR ON FREEWAY

Car swerving and revs gunning.

JAVIER
I don't think we're being
followed... Yet.

CHER
Drive faster, I'll keep a look out
with your left eye.

Engine revs.

CHER (CONT'D)
And your right ear. And your upper
psy lobe.

JAVIER
Upper... upper WHAT?

CHER
Yeah, you didn't know about it?
Huh.

JAVIER
Listen... I've been thinking about
what you said a while ago, about an
invasion of your planet from Earth
not making sense. Well, this...
passhole... lets people through,
right?

CHER
Of course.

JAVIER
Lots of people?

CHER
Why not?

JAVIER
Then the cabal doesn't need
spaceships, do they? They could
just [go through the passhole]...

CHER
Go through the passhole... but to
get to my world they'd have to get
through the Central Passhole Hub in
the middle of Transgalactic
Confederation Headquarters? Well
they'd never manage to... Unless
that's been their target all along.
Well, that's even more illegal than
before.

JAVIER
So now we're in a race, one we
[can't lose].

CHER
Can't lose, right...
(uncertain)
Uh, Javier, are you sure you want
to do this?

JAVIER
What do you mean? What choice do
we have?

CHER

Well... look, there's still Cabo, right? Okay, okay, no look, I get it. But this way... how do I put this? There's no turning back from this. Right now you could still walk away. Our bond is not yet complete and you're not... committed to the consequences...

JAVIER

What, you think you can do this without me? And that I'll just walk away, knowing my whole world is in danger? Listen, when I -- when we first met... I thought I had done something incredibly selfish. But I thought the world would go on, safe and sound, with or without me. All my life... I've never been GOOD at LIFE -- I'm not GOOD at being a PERSON. But I AM a good person. And I'm not going to let these parasites take it all away. There's no other option.

CHER

(solemnly)

Okay, well... I guess that's what I needed to hear.

Plasm noises, etc.

JAVIER

What happened? Things feel... different.

CHER

The bond is complete, Bearer. The barriers between you and I are gone. We are TOGETHER. You will be stronger, smarter, better than ever before. And things will never be the same again.

Long pause.

Car stereo beeps.

CHER (CONT'D)

Sorry, nope, my bad again. I was trying to hit play just then to highlight the dramatic moment.

JAVIER

No, you're on AUX. No, AUX. No,
you gotta go to CD.

CHER

No, I got it, just...

JAVIER

Okay, you got it, fine.

Lots more beeping.

CHER

Okay, well I've decided not to play
the music for now and let the words
stand on their own. Also, you
might want to look behind us,
because we're definitely being
followed.

OUTRO PART 1