

PARASITECOLOGY

S01E03 - "I Found Someone"

written by

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ACT 1 - FIRST STEPS

INT. JAVIER'S PLACE - BATHROOM

The pair, hungry and clumsy, are making ready for their first excursion out into society. Running water and brushing sounds over major ambient music.

JAVIER
Little circles.

CHER
(gurgled)
Little circles?

JAVIER
Ouch, that's my chin. Let's try
littler circles, ok? I can't
believe you've never brushed your
teeth, that's completely
disgusting. How do the... host
things you inhabit... keep their
teeth from falling out?

CHER
(gurgled)
Firth, theyr called brearers nd
thyve ighly inthellignt

JAVIER
Spit.

Swallowing noise.

JAVIER (CONT'D)
No, spit, don't swallow the
toothpaste! Gross.

CHER
Well, I can't help it bearer, we
haven't eaten in days and this
stripe-d gel is quite picquant. And
secondly, our bearers don't keep
their teeth from falling out, they
continuously replace them like any
resilient species. Now, regarding
bathroom edibles, would you say
this beverage is equally
(smacking lips)
palatable?

JAVIER
Put down the Listerine.

Cher sighs. Water sounds turn off.

JAVIER (CONT'D)

Listen, Cher... I get it - we're both starving. I'm sorry I didn't stock up my fridge before you came, I guess there's something about planning to kill yourself that makes long term grocery stocking seem a little less important. And no, for the last time, I don't consider a bottle of squeeze mayo a delicious concentrated energy paste.

CHER

It says "Best Foods" right on the label, what higher seal of approval for human consumption could there be?

JAVIER

I know you're new to this world, but that's actually just rebranded Hellmann's, it's got the same blue ribbon and everything... you know what, skip it. I've just got to get used to the idea that I'm going to suddenly have insane food cravings... oh, God.

CHER

What?

JAVIER

I'm pregnant. I'm basically pregnant. I've got a little life-form inside me, sucking on my life juices, trying to convince me that I should eat a peanut butter and pickle sandwich. The miracle of life!

CHER

Javier, that is a beautiful sentiment and a wonderful idea! Let us procure some of these sandwiches at one of your supreme markets. I'm convinced that with our positive attitude and desperate need for sustenance that we're ready to make our DÉBUT amongst humans.

JAVIER
No, we're NOT ready.

CHER
Or are we? Now, we both know you've worked in software development, so I've decided to use terminology you'll respond to.

JAVIER
Great, yeah, let's make this FUN.

CHER
Ok, let's just go through the launch checklist, shall we? Item 1 - teeth: brushed clean and bright.

JAVIER
From the dull pain, I would say it's more my lips and gums that have been vigorously scraped, but we'll give it a checkmark.

CHER
Item 2 - epidermal layers: loofahed, free of waste excretions and pleasantly coconutty.

JAVIER
I'm going to have to take your word on that, you still haven't given me back my sense of smell yet.

CHER
It's in the backlog, ok? Prioritization is the key to successful project management. Item 3 - clothes; now I had this marked as a "nice to have" but you said...

JAVIER
Critical.

CHER
Critical, yes. Well, we've managed to create an acceptable "ensemble" for public display from the limited choices available.

JAVIER

I would NOT call a hoodie over a
Charlie Sheen era Cubavera shirt
and Under Armour shorts acceptable,
and AGAIN - we could just do
laundry.

CHER

Laundry is a Phase 3 feature,
Javier. We all agreed on that.

JAVIER

Show me the mirror again.

Slight creaking sound.

JAVIER (CONT'D)

(sighing long and
nervously)

This is very embarrassing -
everyone will be looking at us.

CHER

I'd prefer not to draw undue
attention, but this feels like your
social anxiety rising up, Bearer.
Let me try and turn that down a
bit.

Pipe sounds.

CHER (CONT'D)

Better?

JAVIER

A little, yeah.

CHER

Good, item 4: Facial expressions -
MASTERED!

JAVIER

What... what's that supposed to be?

CHER

I'm going for a slightly bemused
but wry smile engendered by a
sudden remembrance concerning a
kitten dressed as a character named
"Jon Snow" with a caption saying
"Winpurr is coming" on something
called the "internet". Am I missing
some of the nuance?

JAVIER

I'm grimacing like I just
shotgunned an Icee while being
punched in the solar plexus. Why is
one of my eyes closed?

CHER

I was working on taking control of
some semi-autonomic functions --
blinking, sphincter control,
breathing -- and got distracted.

Pregnant pause.

JAVIER

This is a disaster.

CHER

It'll be fine. We NEED food, and
there's none to be had in this
apartment. What's left on the list?
Keys. Wallet. Plastic
transactional medium.

JAVIER

Uhh, better put on a cap in case
you forget how eyebrows work. No,
not that one. Not that one,
either, I don't wear those. The
blue one with no logos.

CHER

What does it matter?

JAVIER

Sometimes if you wear one with a
logo people ask you if you like
that product or sports team or
show, and then you have to have a
conversation about it.

CHER

So?

JAVIER

You don't understand humans very
well.

CHER

Fine, the blue one. Well if there
aren't any more accoutrements to
add, I believe it's time for go-
live!

(MORE)

CHER (CONT'D)

To the "foyer", and transversing
the great universe beyond!

JAVIER

... the grocery store.

CHER

Beyond!

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, in later episodes replace my voice with Nolan North and the role of Javier is taken over by... Dick Sargent.

I want to tell you a little about our other podcast, which is Interrupted Tales. Simple concept, each week one of reads a vintage or pulp story while the other personally constantly interrupted with jokes and... meditative reflections on consumerism... but mostly meditative reflections on consumerism. Check it out wherever podcasts are available.

Darlings, I want to get you back into the show, but first I want you to do one thing for us: send us a message on twitter. It's tough doing a creative effort and sending it into the ether, and we love hearing from people that genuinely like what we're doing, DAD... Hit us up on twitter @parasiteecology (spell out).

Thanks and back to the show.

ACT - STREET

EXT. CITY STREETS - AFTERNOON

The pair only makes it a few steps out the door before Cher does ridiculous/embarrassing things.

Muffled street noise. Occasional car.

JAVIER

Oh, it's bright. Watch it, you're limping like crazy... stairs. STAIRS!

CHER

(struggling noises)
Well, you've got to pitch in, alright? Let's try again. RIGHT... Now, LEFT...

Clumping sound.

CHER (CONT'D)

... No, my left.

JAVIER

(exasperated)
We have the same left! My left is YOUR left.

CHER

That's extremely supportive, I appreciate that, Bearer.

JAVIER

You know, Cher, you'd think someone who'd been driving for 600 years would be a little better at this.

CHER

Hey, now... This isn't "bumping cars" at the CARNIVALE, this is an intricate dance between partners and let's just say one of us - uhh - is still in Introduction to Motion.

JAVIER

You.

CHER

[You]. Ah, nice. We agree. And look, it's not easy for me either...

(MORE)

CHER (CONT'D)

I've got a bad headache from
looking at this world in different
shades of the same seven hues.
What happened to all the colors?

JAVIER

What do you mean? Like seeing in
infra-red or ultra-violet or
something?

CHER

No, I mean COLORS. Surely you
didn't think this limited human
palette was all there was to the
universe - these dull desaturated
blehs? Hold on, let me tinker a
bit with the old receptors...

Psychedelic sitar chimes.

JAVIER

WHAT is that?

CHER

Hyperbolic orange. And this...
stygian blue... and self-luminous
red.

JAVIER

THESE ARE THE MOST AMAZING... BAND
NAMES I have ever heard, we gotta
write these down, let's go back to
the apartment.

CHER

No, no, we're doing fine. And
forgive me for trying to expand our
horizons just a tad and, you know,
perceive things in an accurate
color range instead of this fake
colorized b.s., but... we'll
muddle, we'll muddle. Just a
little balance issues here and
there. Woops. Say, look -
somebody's coming. How about we
just ask this person to escort us
in case we accidentally collapse.
(shouting)
Hello! Yes, hello! Greetings,
ETCETERA!

JAVIER

Stop! Don't say another word, and
LOOK AWAY!

(MORE)

JAVIER (CONT'D)

Oh god, I KNOW that guy, he lives up on the 3rd floor. Put my hand to my ear like I'm an asshole on a bluetooth headset and nod.

CHER

Seems unnecessary.

JAVIER

Yeah, good, now nod and roll our eyes just a TINY bit like it's his fault for having the ego to imagine this private conversation we're having on the cell phone is about him...

(pause)

Alright, he's gone.

CHER

Your heart rate is increasing at an alarming pace, Javier. The man's gone, end of scene.

JAVIER

No, I... just remembered... you said you were being chased by murderbots.

CHER

No, I said I was POSSIBLY being chased by murderbots, and you've misunderstood the whole situation. Listen, I came to this planet because aliens DON'T come to this planet, and absolutely no one knows I'm here. Plus I came here from light-years away, there's no way for a group of inexorable murderbots to track me down and make their way here for YEARS, or, at least, let's say - year "fractions". Javier, we don't seem to be ambulating forward any more, it's almost as if you're resisting...

JAVIER

We're going back inside.

CHER

Bearer, you're not being rational -
- your emotions are controlling
you...

JAVIER

The store is open all night, we'll
just...

(struggling back and forth
noises)

CHER

(some grunts)
Javier...

JAVIER

... come back at 3 am when being
dressed like a hobo bowler is
basically mandatory.

CHER

Hold on, let's talk this through
while I just...

Fast pipe banging.

JAVIER

Must reach door...
(short pause)
Wait... what happened?

CHER

I think I upped the
tetrahydropapaveroline a little too
much and you... passed out on your
welcome mat with the picture of a
blue police box and text which
reads "it's bigger on the inside."
-- a wonderful piece of practical
art I've had quite a while to study
since you were out for a good seven
hours. On the plus side, it's
quite dark outside, so... let's go
(excitedly, bold)
SHOPPING!

ACT 2 - THE RAID

INT. BARGAIN BARON SUPERSTORE - NIGHT

As a late night trip, the pair head to a brightly lit mega store's grocery section while Cher marvels and Javier explains.

Quiet muzak.

CHER

And these are good to eat raw?

JAVIER

Sure, you can - wait NO, don't bite into it! Oh, that is delicious, I am so hungry... NO! We can't just do that, we have to pay first. Cher, DO NOT eat the pit. Great, now our hand is sticky and we're going to have to walk around with a stolen plum pit while we shop.

(giving in)

Okay, two plum pits, I mean we might as well, now, and that was so GOOD.

CHER

(slurping)

Mmm, mmehmemm. Oh, oh. We needed that. It's [so good!]

JAVIER

[So good!] Right?

CHER

I must say, Bearer, I am very impressed by this aristocratic warehouse of domestic goods -- what did you call it, again?

JAVIER

The BARGAIN BARON.

CHER

My researches into your brain had originally believed your government to be a democratic republic, but if a new feudal system has arisen, perhaps it would be best if we swear fealty to this Baron of Bargains in exchange for this bounty.

JAVIER
(dismissive)
I already have their "DUKE of
DEALS" club card.

CHER
Good, we should play all sides in
case of a sudden coup or junta.
Junta, that's a fun word, I like
how your tongue moves saying that.

JAVIER
(muttering sarcastically)
Yeah, it's a real trip.
(continuing louder)
I think we better keep shopping.
This place may be pretty empty but,
uh, that kind of just makes us
stick out more.

CHER
Of course! Let's see, why don't you
get "the basics" and then we can
have a little fun experimenting.

JAVIER
Already got 'em, Cher.

CHER
What? There are only five items in
the unstable wireframe cart?

JAVIER
Yeah, the holy pentalogy. Milk,
eggs, wonderbread, Diet Mountain
Dew, and pepperoni pizza rolls.
I'm really a terrible cook. I got
a rejection letter from Blue Apron.
(leadingly)
Blue Apron...

CHER
I don't understand the significance
of that, but -- Javier, this is
unacceptable. I'm sure
unfertilized poultry embryos are
just as delicious as they sound,
but this is my first exposure to
literally an entirely new world of
culinary delights. We must have
VARIETY!

JAVIER

You want the Sausage Supreme Pizza
Rolls, too?

CHER

Alright, alright - I'm gonna do a
deep dive into your cerebral cortex
and formulate a tabulated list of
high priority purchases based on
human nutritional requirements.

JAVIER

(glibly)

That's a grocery list, don't try to
... fancy it up too much, ok? How
about I just stroll down the aisles
and you pick things out. I'm still
recovering from my front door nap.

CHER

Well, uh... One of those...

JAVIER

A bottle of corn syrup, sure.

CHER

Oh, this is making us even
hungrier! A pack of those...

JAVIER

(questioning)

Danimals?

CHER

Yes, make sure you get the
strawberry and monkey flavor,
remember how disgusting the
watermelon and polar bear flavor
tastes?

JAVIER

I... don't. I haven't had a
Danimal since I was in elementary
school.

CHER

Oh, I think it's right in... here.
See, you remember now! Well, we'll
just have to hope they've kept the
same ratio of strawberry to monkey,
then. OH... A lot of those...

JAVIER

Those are suppositories.

CHER

Trust me, Bearer, this is not my first trip to a "food market" in a new body. Oh, yes, get that whole rack over there...

JAVIER

Uhhhh, NO. That's like six hundred dollars worth of spices.

CHER

Yes, but SPICES! The very nature of the word conjures endless flavor variations! What variety! We must have them!

JAVIER

I'll tell you what, I'll buy you a big bottle of... all-spice. It's very special, they grind up every spice that grows on Earth and just mix it up in a big batch.

CHER

Oh, how efficient! I can't wait to try it. I must say I am finding the expansive purchasing options on your planet quite confusing -- how is one to decide between Big & Buttery Crescent Dinner Rolls and Big & Flaky Crescent Dinner Rolls? This albino homunculus offers no advice whatsoever!

JAVIER

Yeah, he's a real doughy dick- Speaking of planets, Cher, I feel like I'm doing a lot of explaining about Lunchables and the many different kinds of rolls packaged in tubes; exactly when are you going to give me equal levels of information on, say, the fundamental nature of the universe? Maybe tell me a little about this Transgalactic Confederation you've mentioned?

CHER

It's an governmental affiliation of alien species of roughly equal technological capabilities, dedicated to investigating undiscovered worlds, finding additional sentient species and social hierarchies, and without trepidation to proceed further into space than any species has currently done.

JAVIER

So, you're saying it's a FEDERATION of species who TREK amongst the STARS?

CHER

More of a commonwealth, really. Ok - Honey-nut or regular?

JAVIER

(slams box, which spills)
Are you trying to poison us!? Get the Cinnamon Toast Crunch.

CHER

(pause)
Finally... hold on, let me smell that... yes, we definitely need one of those.

JAVIER

A miniature potted evergreen? You think my apartment needs some decoration?

CHER

Really, Javier -- a prisoner in solitary confinement would think your apartment needs more decoration, you can't just put the randomly assembled contents of a monthly Geek Crate delivery on a shelf and call it a day.

JAVIER

(arguing)
They're not random, they're themed. The theme ties it all together. Anyway, that's besides the point, we're full up. If we get any more, we won't be able to carry it home. It's time we check out...

(MORE)

JAVIER (CONT'D)

There -- that one. Pull down the hat a bit and be cool. Just nod once and put the stuff from the cart onto the belt.

Noise of barcode scanners and whirs.

CHER

Greetings, hello, ETCETERA! How are you this late night?

Peanuts voice of positive woman.

JAVIER

Oh no. You're one of those cashier chatters. And now I'm one of those cashier chatters!

CHER

What's wrong with friendliness? And it's part of my job to make sure you confront your social anxiety... hold on...

(off mic)

Paper or plastic? I don't think I can digest plastic, no.

JAVIER

JUST SAY PAPER! And it's also your job to keep me from feeling mortified with embarrassment, RIGHT? That was part of our deal, RIGHT?

CHER

Right, sorry, I was being insensitive. Must be the hunger, Bearer.

(off mic)

Please stop talking to me and allow me to complete my purchase as I have trouble handling meaningless pleasantries. Thank you.

JAVIER

Oh, sweet Pepper Pots - Please God, let the alien take me safely back home. Please God, let the alien take me safely back home. Please...

CHER

Sshhh...

(off mic)

Save 10% you say...

(MORE)

CHER (CONT'D)

and this would be credited to
today's purchases? Well I feel
like I would be losing money if I
said no...

OUTRO PART 1