

PARASITECOLOGY

S01E13 - "Bang, Bang"

written by

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ACT 1

Int./Ext. Car on Freeway

Car revving, etc.

JAVIER

I see them coming up... they're definitely here for us. I make six, no -- seven energy-efficient ride sharing vehicles without any drivers. The one on the right is coming up fast.

CHER

Evasive maneuvers. Don't hesitate. I possess microsecond reaction times and six hundred years of experience; you possess an extensive knowledge of movies with car chases and a prolific habit of ignoring social interactions in order to play Forza on your couch. Together, we are unstoppable.

Other car engine gets loud and near. E-brake and swerve and car bumping. Crash noise and our car continues.

CHER (CONT'D)

Impressive moves... you're a veritable Bullitt... starring Steve McQueen?

JAVIER

How are we fully bonded and you don't know my favorite car chase scene?

CHER

Ok, too old... ah, Ronin with Robert... no, no, of course, Furious 7... WITH Jason Statham...

JAVIER

Mmmm...

CHER

I meant, SPY, starring Melissa McCarthy AND Jason Statham, and [that's a bingo]

JAVIER

That's a bingo. They're trying to
box us in. Time to punch it,
Chewy.

Swerve and cars honking.

CHER

Okay, remember that we don't
actually earn boost for driving
into oncoming traffic.

Drone noises swarming.

CHER (CONT'D)

Murderbots, quick - roll up the
windows.

Slight muffling of sound.

JAVIER

There are too many to deal with.
Hold the wheel, I've got an idea.
(slight struggling)
Ah, got it.

Whistling tones and spaceship whirl.

CHER

What ARE YOU... Put that away!

Cher whistles and spaceship powers down.

CHER (CONT'D)

That would kill everything within a
mile, including us, which is the
exact part we DON'T want killed.

JAVIER

Fine -- you possess six hundred
years of alien technology
inventions and I possess a dvd box
set of 31 seasons of How It's
Made... check through our supplies
and jimmy together some kind of
weapon. You borrow the right arm
while I drive.

CHER

Okay, well there's not much here...

Car noises and swerves. Javier yells commands to Cher with
corresponding sounds.

JAVIER
One's coming up fast.

GODFREY
(over loudspeaker)
Pull over, Javier Duran. Your
subscription to "life" has been...
terminated. If you'd like to take a
short survey on why you left...

JAVIER
Burn in hell, Godfrey!

Swerve and running car off. Explosion.

JAVIER (CONT'D)
Faster. Shift up.

CHER
Shifted. Jerky... Jerky? Jerky.
Ah, one of these burner phones, I
... just might be able to adapt it
to send a jamming signal, but I'll
need more [parts]...

JAVIER
Parts, right. Sorry about this,
Cher.

Plastic console ripping and CD player dying. Electronics
fiddling noises.

JAVIER (CONT'D)
Use this. And hurry. We're
getting close.

CHER
Working on it... working...

JAVIER
This is our exit... e-brake!

More brake and swerve noises. More fiddling.

JAVIER (CONT'D)
Map!

Map crunching noises.

CHER
Right 5 onto Universal Secrets
drive S. Left 2, don't cut. 400
meters, flat, into crest.
(MORE)

CHER (CONT'D)
 Right 2, don't cut, onto Cosmic
 Mysteries Lane. 900 meters, flat
 over gravel. Destination is square
 right into a-frame cabin with red
 door and gnomes in front yard.

JAVIER
 Got it... ready with the jammer?

Plastic fiddling and click. Louder murderbot drones.

CHER
 Ready... AND... [fire].

JAVIER
 [Fire].

Nokia tone plays and then huge explosion noises. Long pause
 while car driving continues.

CHER
 Well, it certainly appears to have
 bought us some time.

JAVIER
 Good, because we have arrived at
 our destination. 1 "we are here,
 come speak with us and join the
 rest of the galaxy" lane. Does not
 look much like an intergalactic
 portal built by an ancient super
 species.

Car creaks to stop and door opens. Crunching on gravel and a
 knock on the door.

JAVIER (CONT'D)
 [Hello?]

CHER
 Hello? It's... open.

Door creaks open.

JAVIER
 There's nothing here but a stairway
 down. Guess we're taking the
 stairs.

Magical hum. Stair steps.

CHER
 Hello? We need to...

Echoing begins to increase.

JAVIER

We need to talk to the... uh...
Watcher? It's very important...

(aside)

Is the ceiling getting higher or
the stairs getting wider?

Twinkling crunches of metal.

CHER

Both... Look... fractal metal, very
advanced technology... the molecule
bonds form long chains that
contract and extend as needed,
allowing the entire structure to
grow or shrink. No being alive
knows how it is manufactured -- a
product of the ancients. Nicely
lit, too, very upscale but not too
chichi. Real sense of grand
importance... marvelously huge
door, although, you almost wonder
how that fits inside.

JAVIER

How what fits inside?

CHER

How who fits inside. Them.

JAVIER

That... 20 foot high sack of
wrinkled clothes is an alien?

(calling)

HELLO! I'm... EARTH... CITIZEN?
... Javier Duran. We have received
your message. We come in peace...
-- able... friend... ship?

(aside)

Is it looking at us? Does it...
have eyes or like... bat sonar?

CHER

Well, how would I know? I've never
seen one of THOSE before, and
frankly your SPACIST remarks are...

Mogmort rumbles a horribly monstrous roar.

CHER (CONT'D)

Oh, what a horrifyingly ugly race.

JAVIER
 (horrified)
 So many eyes! And they're all
 looking into the depths of my soul.

The roar turns into a hacking cough and a modest throat
 clearing to reveal a high pitched but still alien voice.

MOGMORT
 Sorry, had a little something in my
 throat... Haven't talked for a few
 dozen, uh, centuries I guess. Ahh,
 it's great to see somebody, come on
 in. Sorry, it's a bit dusty...
 Oh, stupid Mogmort, getting so
 excited for company, I'm basically
 forgetting the whole script.
 WELCOME seeker, to the Sphere of
 Progress, the threshold of
 universal friendship and
 fraternity! As champion of your
 world, your actions here will be
 the sole factor in determining
 whether your species is worthy of
 the great gift of cosmic
 understanding.

JAVIER
 Wait, uh... Mogmort is it? I think
 there's been some misunderstanding
 here. I'm not some kind of...
 champion - I'm here to warn you and
 the rest of the Galaxy about an
 invasion and...

MOGMORT
 But, you're a human right?

CHER
 (Aside)
 You'd better say yes.

JAVIER
 I was GOING to say yes!
 (To Mogmort)
 Yeah, totally.

MOGMORT
 But if you are not the human
 champion set to undertake the Trial
 of Understanding...

JAVIER
 The trial...

MOGMORT

Of Understanding, yeah... If you're not here for that, then I guess you're here for... the Instantaneous Disintegration of the Unworthy, Destined to be Wrought Upon All Who Trespass Here? That's ... too bad, I was really hoping to chat and frankly, I've been stuck in this dead-end job for a REAL long time. Also the disintegration clean up is just...

JAVIER

Oh no, we...

CHER

Don't say "we"! You're a single HUMAN entity!

JAVIER

I mean, I... I am definitely here for... The first one. It's just I think there's kind of a... Small invasion army assembling outside and...

NOISES AND BLEEPING. CRINKLY METAL.

MOGMORT

Z CAN

JAVIER

No, they're not my...

MOGMORT

Yet Y,uUzzzzszxxdsadeydeeAt least until you're done, eh, one way or another. And... Lock down.

Crinkling metal and slamming doors.

Ok, hey I'd love to keep chatting but I'm really supposed to follow the script here, so... Just between us, I'm not the best public speaker, so I actually kind of prepared this in advance. Just a... there we go.

Future button noises and a loud recording plays.

MOGMORT (CONT'D)

Ahem, ok, trial fail announcement,
take 4. You have failed the Trial
of Understanding and brought shame
and devastating plagues upon your
entire race. The first plague
shall be...

Mogmort interrupts announcement.

MOGMORT (CONT'D)

Wrong button, wrong button. And...
here we go!

New Mogmort announcement plays while crinkling metal rings.

MOGMORT (CONT'D)

Champion, prepare to be judged as a
proxy for the human race! Welcome
to the Trial of Understanding!

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... a special preview of our new recap / fan show / livetweet premiere of new episodes "ParasiteHourly" -- hosted by me, and interviewing me, where we get my by-the-moment surprised reactions to the stuff I wrote and said and spent multiple days editing most of the heavy breathing and plosives out of.

This week, let's talk about THE END. Cause it's almost here, and it's pretty awesome that you're still listening because, wow, remember that episode that was just a bunch of jokes about the word "passhole" sounding like "asshole"? How far we've come. Oh, that was the last episode? Then: how far we're about to come. The Jesh by Jesh story. Nope, forget I said that, this is a wholesome family show about the unfortunately common and VERY real problem of suicidal depression with an alien parasite acting as a metaphor for the promise of control ostensibly provided by medication and therapy, and also... passhole jokes. Well, when I put it like that, how could you NOT still be listening? Let me just give the finger to Joe Rogan right now because we're definitely DEFINITELY in the top 10 podcasts of fictional audiodrama sci-fi dark comedies about a person making friends with their alien parasite. But to be serious for ONE moment, this has been a pretty personal effort for me in writing the show and putting it together, it's more work than I ever expected it to be and I'm glad that hopefully someone else can identify with it and enjoy it. So thank you to everyone who made that possible, my family, our podcasting friends, and of course my best friend Rob. Thanks man.

My little pot pies, I do want to get you back into the show, but first I want you to do one thing for us: I dunno, surprise me. I love surprises. What are you gonna do for me? It's a surprise. That's the last one thing I'm gonna ask, cause next week we got an ad, so.. surprise!

Thanks and back to the show.

EEZACT 2

INT. SPHERE OF PROGRESSWHAT WE Q THE IS GOING ON HERE AND WHY
DIDN'T YOU MENTION ANY OF THIS.

JAVIER

Cher, WHAT is going on here and WHY
didn't you mention any of this.

CHER

Well I don't remember all of my
people's ancient history! I mean,
this Trial of Understanding thing,
it kind of rings a bell, but...
listen, we'll just play it by ear.
You've got me to coach you on the
answers.

MOGMORT

Hey, I know this is kind of a long-
shot but... I don't suppose you
ever ran into anybody about this
tall, comes from Upper Babylonia,
name's Craduk, real good guy, we
used to get blasted on wheat beer
and play Ur until the Tigris
overflowed. Met him on my last
vacation... maybe 3... 4...
thousand years ago? I am DUE for a
vacation, I haven't had a day off
in 3... 4... thousand years?

Anyway, just wondering if anybody
heard of him or... Uh, speaking of
Babylon, you guys happen to bring
any cuneiform tablets with you?
I'm kind of out of the loop on the
latest releases, I got a few old
ritual prayers I keep in the
bathroom, but the clay is basically
falling apart at this stage.
Sorry, I keep screwing this up...
please have a seat as the Trial of
Understanding begins!

JAVIER

Right here, then?

MOGMORT

Yeah, that's good. Just have a
seat, I need to find my ceremonial
robes...

Buttons and whooshes.

MOGMORT (CONT'D)

Okay, whoo they're a little tight,
okay -- let rise the Gong of
Progress! You must answer three
questions to open the three Gates
of Impassibility. When you have
answered the third, the final gate
will open, and the Passhole of
Truth revealed.

JAVIER

And when you say "answer three
questions", you mean...

MOGMORT

Correctly.

JAVIER

And the three being...

MOGMORT

Out of three.

JAVIER

Or...

MOGMORT

Death and destruction.

JAVIER

(internally)

Cher...

CHER

Okay, not the easiest curve, but
I'm a very good test taker.

MOGMORT

The trial begins!

(aside)

And just so you know, I'm rooting
for you. You seem nice, and boy,
I've kind of been sitting here for
3... 4... thousand years, and...
well...

(whispering)

I picked from the "blue" card side
of the question stack instead of
the "yellow" side...

(loud)

First Question!

(MORE)

MOGMORT (CONT'D)

What is the mean background
temperature of the universe
expressed as the minimal energy
required to change a discrete
logical knowledge datum?

JAVIER

(to self)

What... the...

CHER

(muttering)

Ok, let's see, apply Virk-ta-click-
ta-pak's bound as a ratio of
blackbody flux... multiply times
observed background microwave
radiation... convert to hexadecimal
for flavor and bonus points...
ah... point 0353F7CED916872B020C

JAVIER

Uh, point 0353F7CED916872B020C.

A loud, approving gong peals out and a gate heavily opens.

JAVIER (CONT'D)

Okay, this kinda seems doable...

MOGMORT

Second Question! How many true gods
exist in our universe?

JAVIER

Uhh, true... gods...

(muttering)

Cher, you, ah, want to take this
one?

CHER

(Lucy)

Ungnghhhhhhhnn.

JAVIER

Uh, Mogmort -- is this, sort of a,
open form essay question? If so,
how many paragraphs, and can it be
triple spaced?

MOGMORT

(tapping the card)

Nah, it's... it's looking for a
number here.

JAVIER

Cher?

CHER

(Lucy)

Uhnngnngnngnnnnnnnn.

JAVIER

Uhhhhhhhhh... okay, well, to start off, I am pretty confident the number is not...

(mumbling)

Zero kinda seems like a default, one seems kind of reasonable, uh... and I'm thinking an upper limit of say, 300, based on that movie... Clash of the Titans... so...

(aloud)

Two... The answer is not two.

MOGMORT

(subtly approving)

Mmm... mmm.

CHER

Look, he's giving you the "higher" sign, keep going.

JAVIER

So, if one was to predicate that the number of gods is not two, but say two times ten...

MOGMORT

Mmm!

JAVIER

Expanding to two times ten times two...

MOGMORT

Mnnnnnn.

JAVIER

And then realizing that's too far, but maybe going back to the two times ten and then adding another ten...

MOGMORT

Mm!

JAVIER

And another two...

MOGMORT
(rising)
Mmm...

JAVIER
Excuse me, three...

MOGMORT
(rising more)
Mmmm.

JAVIER
And finally settling on thirty four
...

MOGMORT
Mmm!!!!

JAVIER
And with a small decimal remainder
of...

MOGMORT
(mumbles oh come on as a
mmm)
Mmm mm mmm.

JAVIER
...Nothing, which rounds to thirty
four. Wait -- positive thirty
four.

Another gong, another door.

MOGMORT
Finally, the Third and Most
Difficult Question! Wooh.. this
one is, smudged, I'm just gonna get
a new one. Uh, smudged. Uh...
very smudged.
(spills box)
Oh no, the box has been spilled,
with some of the question card
randomly facing up! Let me just
reach down and grab... no, that's
smudged too. Alright, here we are.
Third Question! Which of these two
lines is longer?

JAVIER
Oh, come on that's a [trick
question]!

CHER
[Trick question], it's the same
size...

JAVIER
Same size, it just has arrows
pointing [different ways].

CHER
...[different ways], that's lame.

MOGMORT
Mmm hmm, mm hmm, mm.
(clucks tongue)
Alright, I'm going to call this a
pass.

Third gong and gate.

CHER
Fabulous!

JAVIER
Yes! Thank you, thank you, THANK
YOU Mogmort.

MOGMORT
You'll find the Passhole of Truth
just through that gate over there,
feel free to step through at
anytime. Also, no need to thank
me, but I figured since you seemed
like one of the good ones, I'd let
your friends in to watch you.

Hits button and creaking glass door sounds open.

And there are a LOT of them! I know
it's kind of bending the rules a
bit, but... hey, you passed, and I
am officially on... VACAY.

Battle noises approach.

JAVIER
But... but...

MOGMORT
Now, where did I put my trunks? I
hope they fit better than the
robes...

Battle noises very loud.

OUTRO PART 2