

(Printed with the demonstration version of Fade In)

EPISODE 211

NARRATOR

Let's begin.

So we left off in kind of a sticky situation: October and Fish are still working with October's new mentor, Washington O'Connell. The three of them went to this speakeasy place and tried to scam Shelby Snail-Snail out of the Amulet of Haht, the key to finding the Elemental Creature of Earth. They got caught and Shelby called in a couple of scorpion goons.

CHASE 1

NARRATOR

It's a quiet Casamantan side street. Some mantis nuns are taking a stroll in the cool late afternoon sun. They seem to almost glide across the sand in their long green robes.

FISH WITH LEGS

Aaaaah!

NARRATOR

October, Fish and Washington burst through at full speed, sending one of the nuns spinning.

NUN 1

Whoa!

NARRATOR

Bonemeal and Bloodmeal, the scorpions, pelt after. Washington and Fish are still done up in their evening wear from the failed gambit. The Amulet of Haht is bouncing around October's neck.

BONEMEAL

Let Bonemeal catch you so he may crush your bones with his claws!

FISH WITH LEGS

Ah! I love my bones!

BLOODMEAL

And let Bloodmeal catch you so he may infect your blood with his venom!

OCTOBER

Ah! I love my blood!

NARRATOR

Washington puts on speed, trailing October. Hat-and-hat, they keep pace and make the corner into a different side street, jumping over some kind of overturned barrel. Fish is run-limping, shaking sand out of her stilettos with every step. She tumbles over the barrel, rolls, and comes back up with an unsteady wobble to her gait.

FISH WITH LEGS
(rhythmically)

Ow! Ow! Ow! Ow!

WASHINGTON

Left. We'll lose them in the market.

OCTOBER

Smart!

FISH WITH LEGS

Aaah!

NARRATOR

Fish skids and topples in the sand as Washington makes the left down a narrow alley.

BONEMEAL

This way, Bloodmeal!

FISH WITH LEGS

Oh no!

OCTOBER

Fish, come on!

NARRATOR

October drags her up. The scorpions get stuck at the entrance and start shimmying sideways to continue pursuit. Washington, October and Fish sprint through and come out the other end into a seething mass of insect people.

WASHINGTON

Blend into the crowd.

NARRATOR

October tips her hat over her face.

OCTOBER

Got it, boss.

FISH WITH LEGS

Casual-style. Oh. Ouch.

NARRATOR

They're jostled around by Giant Insects, it's packed. The market is a warren of wooden constructions and cloth, all built out of the sides of low, shaped stucco buildings into a tangle of thriving commerce. Fish is noodle-legged, clinging to October for dear life.

FISH WITH LEGS

Whoa! Whoa!

OCTOBER

Just take the shoes off.

FISH WITH LEGS

Excuse me?

OCTOBER

Clearly they're not working. I'll put them in my bag.

FISH WITH LEGS

Fine, but only because I respect you as a friend slash former adviser slash planning expert.

WASPIGTON

Guys, hurry up.

OCTOBER

Right behind you! Gimme the shoes.

NARRATOR

Fish takes off her shoes and hands them to October, who tucks them away. She has to fiddle with the book she's lying about to make them fit. And-- hey, it's a lot emptier around here all of a sudden.

WASPIGTON

(gasp)

NARRATOR

A chunky pincer clamps down on WaspiGton's shoulder.

BONEMEAL

You cannot flee, WaspiGton O'Connell...

BLOODMEAL

Bonemeal and Bloodmeal have found you.

WASPIGTON

Oh. Uh... Hey boys... How's it-- Ah!

BONEMEAL

Silence!

NARRATOR

The pincer tightens. The people around avoid making eye contact, their antennae projecting oblivious nonchalance to any suspicious happenings.

BLOODMEAL

Madam Snail-Snail wants her amulet back.

FISH WITH LEGS

Fish with Legs karate powers!

NARRATOR

Fish leaps at the scorpion holding WASHINGTON.

FISH WITH LEGS

Hya! Hya! Karate! Karate!

NARRATOR

But her hits do nothing against his armour-like carapace.

BONEMEAL

Stop. You cannot hurt Bonemeal with your puny kicks!

FISH WITH LEGS

If only I was wearing my battle heels!

WASHINGTON

Help-- Ah!

FISH WITH LEGS

Uh oh.

NARRATOR

Bonemeal lifts WASHINGTON as Bloodmeal comes closer.

BLOODMEAL

Now let Bloodmeal sting WASHINGTON O'Connell!

OCTOBER

Watch out!

FISH WITH LEGS

Whoa!

NARRATOR

October knocks over a pile of large conspicuous wicker baskets. They topple onto the scorpions. One falls directly onto Bloodmeal, trapping him.

BLOODMEAL

Ah!

Bloodmeal!
BONEMEAL

NARRATOR
Washington wriggles out from the pile of wicker and scorpions.

WASHINGTON
Come on!

NARRATOR
He heads straight for the receding crowd. October grabs Fish by the fin and runs after him.

FISH WITH LEGS
Ah!

BONEMEAL
Hold still Bloodmeal... Bonemeal will assist you!

BLOODMEAL
Hurry, brother!

NARRATOR
Bonemeal frees him from the basket.

BLOODMEAL
Bloodmeal apologizes. He was a fool to get trapped.

BONEMEAL
No. Bonemeal and Bloodmeal are brothers. If they fail, they fail as one!

BLOODMEAL
And when they succeed, they succeed as one!

NARRATOR
They hug. Aw.

BONEMEAL
Now Bonemeal and Bloodmeal must find the amulet...

BLOODMEAL
And Washington O'Connell...

ALLEY

[ZP]

OCTOBER
Where'd he go?

FISH WITH LEGS
I don't know.

GIANT INSECT 1
Is that a human!?

CAPTAIN LOSTEM
What's going on over there?

FISH WITH LEGS
Uh oh.

NARRATOR
A little group of Warrior Ants is headed their way.

OCTOBER
This is not a good place to be. Let's-- (mousey noise)

NARRATOR
Four spikey arms wrap around October and yank her into a dark alley. Fish leaps after her.

FISH WITH LEGS
October! You let go of my almost-best friend, you--

WASPIGTON
Sh...

FISH WITH LEGS
Oh, hi Waspington.

NARRATOR
Crisis averted, we know these arms. Yeah, it was him.

WASPIGTON
Quiet. Those scorpions are still out there.

OCTOBER
Let's stick to the alleys. They had trouble keeping up with us in close quarters.

WASPIGTON
Good idea.

FISH WITH LEGS
Classic October plan.

NARRATOR
Fish heads off, having a much easier time of it without her heels. They slink down the alley, checking around corners. Waspington holds up a hand and the others stop. He listens... to something?

OCTOBER

What is it?

WASPIGTON

Thought I heard them. Come on.

NARRATOR

They continue.

WASPIGTON

Hey, kid. Thanks. You saved my stripes with the scorpions back there. That was quick thinking. Maybe I actually *should* make you my bodyguard.

OCTOBER

Oh y'know... Just keeping team-leader safe... 'Cause we're a team. Heh.

FISH WITH LEGS

Hold on. If we're officially adding a third member, I think Cherry Blossom should get first dibs.

OCTOBER

Not now, Fish.

WASPIGTON

We do make a good team. Maybe after you let me go through your book, I'll stick around and help you save the world.

OCTOBER

That'd be great! I actually had some rough ideas for a nine step mentorship program--

FISH WITH LEGS

That's nice. How you guys have a relationship beyond your transaction.

WASPIGTON

Sure...

OCTOBER

Fish!

FISH WITH LEGS

I'm just saying.

NARRATOR

Waspington gives them a confused look, then turns forward again.

WASPIGTON

Come on. This way.

FISH WITH LEGS

Psst. October. I was actually suggesting you come clean about the book.

OCTOBER

Yeah, I got that.

FISH WITH LEGS

The truth will set you free, October. Didn't we get closer after you told me the truth?

NARRATOR

Fish waddles past October and catches up with Waslington. October puts her face in her hands and does a big sigh.

OCTOBER

(sigh) Scry...

Wait. Waslington.

NARRATOR

October stops.

WASLINGTON

You good, kid?

OCTOBER

I need to tell you something.

WASLINGTON

Is it urgent? We're kind of in the middle of something...

OCTOBER

Yeah. Super quick, super casual... I didn't write the book.

WASLINGTON

What?

OCTOBER

I found the notebook when we were in Area 52... by accident. I was afraid if you found out that I didn't write it, you would just take it and abandon us, because I wouldn't be useful to you anymore. Because basically everything I know is from the notebook. And... I wanted you to think I was useful. So I lied.

FISH WITH LEGS

Good job, October. See, feelings aren't so scary. We're working on her abandonment issues. As I've mentioned, she's a child of neglect.

WASLINGTON

So everything you know is from that book?

OCTOBER

I mean I did add a few footnotes. And an appendix.

NARRATOR

She pulls out the book and flips to a messy page at the back that's covered in scribbles and chaotic October squiggles.

WASPIGTON

Can I take a look?

NARRATOR

She hands it over.

WASPIGTON

These are good notes... Yeah. Some stuff about cows...

OCTOBER

Yeah, we met those cows!

WASPIGTON

Cows aren't super important to me. The Area 52 stuff?

OCTOBER

I didn't add much there. I don't know much.
(awkward laugh)

WASPIGTON

Okay.

[shuts the book]

You can keep the Amulet.

OCTOBER

What?

NARRATOR

Waspington spreads his wings and flies up.

FISH WITH LEGS

What the blarg!?

OCTOBER

My book!

NARRATOR

Fish shoots Waspington with a jet of water. He falls to the roof of the building next to them.

FISH WITH LEGS

Fish with Legs friendship powers!

NARRATOR

Fish leaps toward the wall of the alley, bounces off,

and parkours up to the roof, ending with a somersault.

OCTOBER

I'm right behind you!

NARRATOR

Her hands dart into the bag and emerge with Fish's stilettos, heel out. She shoves the point into the stonework, hoists herself up, and climbs.

[zp]

CHASE 2

On the roof Fish stands off against Waslington, who's drying himself off and getting to his feet.

WASLINGTON

You soaked my wings!

FISH WITH LEGS

Give October her book!

WASLINGTON

Sorry, I need it.

OCTOBER

(grunting)

We need it too!

NARRATOR

October heaves herself over the lip of the roof.

OCTOBER

(pants)

Y'know... To save the world!

WASLINGTON

No. This is where we part ways. You see, I'm also trying to do my best for the world. And frankly, it's a lot easier to carry a book around than a teenager and her fish.

OCTOBER

But you said we were a team!

WASLINGTON

That's because I thought you wrote the book.

FISH WITH LEGS

Audible gasp! How dare you fulfill October's greatest insecurities!

WASPIGTON

You guys can keep the Amulet. That's what you really need, right?

OCTOBER

No!

NARRATOR

Waspington jumps, wings fluttering, but they're still too wet to fly and he falls.

WASPIGTON

Ow.

FISH WITH LEGS

Ha!

OCTOBER

Fish with Legs karate powers?

FISH WITH LEGS

Fish with Legs karate powers!

NARRATOR

Fish karates toward him.

WASPIGTON

Uh oh.

NARRATOR

He hops up, spins, and leaps to the next roof with a damp wingbeat.

OCTOBER

Catch him, Fish!

NARRATOR

Fish jumps the gap. October backs up and throws herself across. She lands on the lip and tips back.

OCTOBER

Whoa!

FISH WITH LEGS

I got you.

NARRATOR

Fish grabs her and pulls her onto the roof.

OCTOBER

Thanks. Let's go.

NARRATOR

They run after Washington, who just jumped the next gap. They're more in sync now, and it's shorter, October makes it easily and they start catching up. Surprisingly athletic, these two. Oh!

[zp]

In the alley below, Bonemeal and Bloodmeal watch as WASHINGTON jumps the next divide, cutting the light, followed by October and Fish.

BLOODMEAL

Bonemeal...

BONEMEAL

Yes, Bloodmeal...

[zp]

NARRATOR

Washington comes up to the edge of the next roof, the space is wider this time but with a beat of his wet wings he makes it across. Fish and October pull up as they near the gap.

FISH WITH LEGS

Oh no, he's getting away! October planning powers: Activate!

NARRATOR

October scans the roof.

OCTOBER

Um... Got it!

NARRATOR

October kicks over someone's clothesline and tugs free a long, springy wooden pole. She hefts it in her hand and sights the space they need to cross.

OCTOBER

You trust me?

FISH WITH LEGS

To a fault.

OCTOBER

(sigh)

Let's do this.

NARRATOR

She scoops Fish in one arm and sprints at the gap. She jabs the stick into the ground at the edge, it bends, and they vault up into the air.

Ah! FISH WITH LEGS Ah! OCTOBER

NARRATOR
They fly across, leaving the pole behind, and land with a roll on the other side.

OCTOBER
It worked!

FISH WITH LEGS
October plans always work.

NARRATOR
Well...

WASPIGTON
Quick thinking, kid! Now, seeya!

NARRATOR
Waspington gives them a small salute as he hops off the far end of the roof. He bounces off an awning and lands neatly--

BONEMEAL
Waspington O'Connell...

NARRATOR
Directly in front of Bonemeal and Bloodmeal.

BLOODMEAL
Bonemeal and Bloodmeal have been following you...

WASPIGTON
Oh.

[Fish and October are approaching on the roof. They jump.]

BONEMEAL
You are coming with--

Ah! FISH WITH LEGS Ah! OCTOBER

Ouf! BLOODMEAL Bloodmeal! BONEMEAL

NARRATOR
October and Fish land directly on top of the scorpions.

OCTOBER
What the--

BLOODMEAL
Ow. Is Bonemeal okay?

BONEMEAL
Bonemeal is okay. The fish is not heavy. Is Bloodmeal okay?

BLOODMEAL
He is alright.

FISH WITH LEGS
I'm so glad everyone's okay!

BLOODMEAL
Bonemeal! Boss's necklace!

NARRATOR
October looks down at the amulet around her neck.

OCTOBER
Um.

BONEMEAL
Give it to Bonemeal!

NARRATOR
He grabs at her. October ducks.

FISH WITH LEGS
Wait! Where's Waspington?

BLOODMEAL
Uh...

NARRATOR
They stop and look around.

OCTOBER
There!

NARRATOR
Waspington is running toward a line of merchant stands along the edge of the street.

FISH WITH LEGS
On it!

NARRATOR
October and Fish run after him.

BONEMEAL
After them!

NARRATOR

Washington jumps and flutters over a fruit stand. The vendor ducks, confused.

VENDOR

Ah!

NARRATOR

Fish with Legs athletically hops through the gap between the canopy and the display.

VENDOR

Was that a fish with legs?

OCTOBER

I'd get out of the way if I were you.

NARRATOR

October awkwardly scoots around the stand as Bonemeal and Bloodmeal come barreling behind her.

VENDOR

Ah!

BONEMEAL

Bonemeal!

BLOODMEAL

Bloodmeal!

NARRATOR

The vendor jumps out of the way as Bonemeal and Bloodmeal smash through the stand.

[Zp]

NARRATOR

Washington runs up into a large stone building with golden-headed mantis reliefs carved into the heavy doors, shoving them open. October catches up as Fish nears the steps.

FISH WITH LEGS

He went inside!

OCTOBER

Let me get my hands on that potion-sucking, hexing, newt-bagged insect.

NARRATOR

October bursts through the door and into a huge hall.

OCTOBER

Oh. Um...

NARRATOR

A star map made of intricate tilework covers the vaulted dome ceiling. Complex gold-enhanced carvings line the walls and thick carpets, miraculously sand-free, cover the ground. Mantis nuns are making five-wicked candles. It's all very serene, no Wasington.

FISH WITH LEGS

Hello. Sorry to bother you. We're chasing after a thief. He's a bit taller than my friend here. Yellow and black... A hat just like hers.

NUN 2

That way.

SISTER SAMANTISA

That way.

NARRATOR

Two nuns point toward a side door without looking up.

FISH WITH LEGS

Thank you very much.

OCTOBER

Come on.

FISH WITH LEGS

Sorry about the sand!

NARRATOR

October drags Fish toward the door as an exasperated nun enters with a brush and dustpan.

SHOWDOWN

NARRATOR

They pop out the side door onto a wide dirt road. For deliveries, maybe? It's messy, bits of trash everywhere. Wasington is skulking by a shipping container, with the book. He looks a little cornered.

WASINGTON

Listen, kid. This has been great, but I really gotta get going.

OCTOBER

No! You're not taking my book!

FISH WITH LEGS

That was super not cool, Wasington! October was very fragile and you wasted all of Abby's therapy!

OCTOBER

Now you're gonna pay.

FISH WITH LEGS

Whoa. That sounds revengy. We are not about revenge.

OCTOBER

No, I'm all about revenge right now.

FISH WITH LEGS

I don't think he's gonna give the book back if you threaten him with revenge.

WASPIGTON

I'm not giving the book back either way.

FISH WITH LEGS

Hey, work with me. I'm holding back her wrath. I could just let her unleash her wrath on you.

OCTOBER

Oh I'm gonna unleash it.

WASPIGTON

Is that so?

OCTOBER

Rahh!

NARRATOR

October charges at Waspiington.

WASPIGTON

Whoa!

NARRATOR

She tackles him to the ground.

FISH WITH LEGS

Oh! Okay!

NARRATOR

Fish hops over and helps hold him down. It's a chaotic scramble.

OCTOBER

Give me my book!

WASPIGTON

Kid, get off! I don't want to hurt you!

NARRATOR

The two of them fend off his four arms and October grabs her book.

Got it!

OCTOBER

Yes!

FISH WITH LEGS

Stop right there, human!

CAPTAIN LOSTEM

What?

OCTOBER

A trio of Warrior Ants in wide hats come up the road riding on the backs of ostriches.

NARRATOR

On your feet.

CAPTAIN LOSTEM

October jumps to her feet.

NARRATOR

This guy was trying to--

OCTOBER

They stole my book!

WASPIGTON

Excuse me!?

OCTOBER

No offense October, but you are a very poor judge of character. This guy turned out to be a terrible mentor.

FISH WITH LEGS

You're the one who told me to trust him.

OCTOBER

Well...

FISH WITH LEGS

Alright, human. Give him his book back and we might go easy on you.

CAPTAIN LOSTEM

It's not his! It's mine.

OCTOBER

Typical human.

CAPTAIN LOSTEM

The ant dismounts, pulls out a quadruple handcuff.

NARRATOR

CAPTAIN LOSTEM
You are under arrest--

FISH WITH LEGS
Nope. Run!

NARRATOR
Fish grabs October and they book it down the road.

CAPTAIN LOSTEM
What!?

WASPIGTON
Get my book back!

CAPTAIN LOSTEM
After them!

NARRATOR
She remounts and the three ants ride after in a cloud of dust. Waspiington adjusts his drooping bowtie.

WASPIGTON
(sigh)
I'll pick it up from evidence later...

BONEMEAL
There he is!

NARRATOR
Uh oh. Bonemeal and Bloodmeal emerge from the dust cloud, strolling out of the church with a nun.

BONEMEAL
Bonemeal and Bloomeal thank Sister Samantisa for her assistance.

BLOODMEAL
Chirp skip chirp.

SISTER SAMANTISA
Chirp chirp.

NARRATOR
As Waspiington tries to slink away, a massive pincer clamps down on his shoulder.

WASPIGTON
Glrk.

BONEMEAL
Bonemeal and Bloodmeal have caught Waspiington O'Connell.

BLOODMEAL

Washington O'Connell must now face Boss Snail-Snail.

BONEMEAL

Well done, Bloodmeal.

BLOODMEAL

Well done, Bonemeal.

NARRATOR

The scorpion brothers hug, crushing Washington between their chests.

WASHINGTON

Glrk.

THE FORBIDDEN DESERT OF DURT

[ZP]

NARRATOR

The ostrich-mounted ants chase October and Fish down the wide delivery road, kicking up dust, splinters and paper. October and Fish scramble through a wooden barricade into an alley. The ostriches pull up outside, too big to fit.

CAPTAIN LOSTEM

Sergeant Ryder, you circle around the building. We'll pursue on foot.

SERGEANT RYDER

Yes, Captain.

NARRATOR

Ryder trots on. The other two dismount and hop the barricade. It's covered in posters, showing the Royal Ant crown splashed in blood red paint. The other end of the alley opens onto an endless expanse of hot, sandy dunes. Fish and October vanish into the haze.

CAPTAIN LOSTEM

(panting)

CORPORAL OBVIOUS

Captain Lostem! We're losing them!

CAPTAIN LOSTEM

Let them go. We'll never catch up.

CORPORAL OBVIOUS

But they still have the book--

CAPTAIN LOSTEM

They're heading into the Forbidden Desert of Durt... They won't last a day out there. And neither would we.

NARRATOR

As the sun sets on Casamanta, October and Fish run further and further away from the city, deeper into the expansive Forbidden Desert of Durt...

[Zp]

STINGER

NARRATOR

Meanwhile, Waspington is thrown onto the damp floor of a dark room.

WASPINGTON

Ouf!

NARRATOR

He looks up to see Shelby Snail-Snail looming over him.

SHELBY

So... Waspington O'Connell. Care to finally explain to me what you're doing with the Amulet of Haht and the Elemental Creature of Water?

WASPINGTON

Let's... make a deal.

SHELBY

That's what I was hoping for...

NARRATOR

Hey. Me too. Let's stop.