

**The Pack**  
**Episode 5: Mutants Just Want to Be Cool**  
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THE PACK EPISODE 5: MUTANTS JUST WANT TO BE COOL

Radio fuzz...

CHIEF

We are here, broadcasting from Pack Central Station, Oldenburg. It's a beautiful day in The Accord and a lovely start to the Drier season.

I have a few community announcements. Out there in Russett, you can stop looking for Mrs. Coverworth's cat. It was found exactly where she left it - dead as it ever was. Fears of self-animated animal corpses, it turns out, were unfounded.

The Bill's Pit Volunteer Fire Brigade would like to announce an upcoming barn social. This Shrewsday, it's the social event of the year, with a fabulous dance, spot prizes and a bushmeat potluck. Brought to you in association with the Amputee's Auxiliary.

With seasonal temperatures rising, the Bonepatch cooling station has reopened. Please remember that the cooling station is not open to defectives, livestock or defective livestock.

And now I have with me our very own investigative reporter, Ms. Hannah Hawk.

HANNAH HAWK

I'm not "yours". The integrity of the press comes from its independence.

CHIEF

I only meant that you're from The Accord.

HANNAH HAWK

Chief, does your hatred of mutants come from childhood abuse or just stupidity?

CHIEF

I don't hate mutants.

HANNAH HAWK

And yet none of your Jet Pack Cops are mutants.

CHIEF

Most citizens of The Accord aren't Jet Pack Cops. I don't see the problem.

HANNAH HAWK

And I guess you don't see the problem with limiting the air time of Brosignaledias, leader of the mutants?

CHIEF

Are you insinuating that I intentionally cut off mutant broadcasts?

HANNAH HAWK

In only eighteen days of broadcasts, Brother Mathias has been interrupted or rescheduled six times.

CHIEF

Listen, the broadcast tower belongs to the Oldenburg Council of Elders and the Jet Pack Cops. Community broadcasts are important, but if I have to choose between protecting the community and some chatter that's taking up the airwaves, I'm going to choose the people's safety.

HANNAH HAWK

Oh, so you never cut away from emergencies? We've never heard Billie from Dustown cut in while things were happening in The Accord?

CHIEF

When I judge there to be enough...

HANNAH HAWK

When YOU judge? An unelected, unquestionable authority, unaccountable to anyone but the Elder Council, armed with weaponry more powerful than the...

The Chief and Hannah begin to speak over each other.

CHIEF

This is how things are done. This is how things are done. I'm sorry that's not good enough for you.

HANNAH HAWK

Why? 'Cause you say? Why? Why? Why?

There comes the sound of mutants breaking in the studio door.

MUTANT KIDNAPPER

Please move away from the microphone.

CHIEF

What is this?

MUTANT KIDNAPPER

We are mutants, and I'm afraid we're kidnapping you. We are capturing you and taking you to a secret location. You'll be our prisoner until our demands are met.

CHIEF

I'm familiar with the concept.

HANNAH HAWK

Don't hurt us. I'm sure they'll give you whatever you need.

Mutants haul Hannah Hawk and the Chief away.

There is nothing but static on the airwaves for a moment.

CLIFF DANGER

Officer Stoltz, Officer Dhakar, report to the Broadcast Centre. I'll meet you there.

HARRIETTE T'KEMBE

Cliff, should all cops converge?

CLIFF DANGER

Negative. I got this. I'm only bringing Stoltz and Dhakar because they need to learn a thing or two.

HARRIETTE T'KEMBE

Copy.

The sounds of three jet packs flying into the studio.

CLIFF DANGER

Dhakar, you're working the comm until we get the Chief back.

ROCKY DHAKAR

Yessir.

CLIFF DANGER

Stoltz, be a second set of eyes for me.

ROOK STOLTZ

What am I looking for?

CLIFF DANGER

Evidence.

ROCKY DHAKAR

This is Dhakar at The Roost. Do any cops have eyes on the Chief?

HARIETTE T'KEMBE

Negative. Should we be looking?

CLIFF DANGER

No. Stay on your current assignments.

ROOK STOLTZ

The mutants came in through here, no sign of forced entry. They grabbed the Chief and the reporter and then went out through the other door. To avoid XT-3000. Mixups with a plan.

CLIFF DANGER

We don't use that word.

ROOK STOLTZ

Fine. Mutants.

CLEMENCE FIDDLEDOWN

Hey Cliff, thangs're quiet here in Dustown. I could scoot on over to Mutantown, try to catch'em on that end.

CLIFF DANGER

They're not headed to Mutantown.

ROOK STOLTZ

How do you know?

CLIFF DANGER

Tracks. Dhakar, we're leaving. Remember, everyone's listening.

ROCKY DHAKAR

O-kay.

Cliff and Rook leave on the trail of the mutants.

ROOK STOLTZ

Where are we going?

CLIFF DANGER

To their hideout, wherever that is.

ROOK STOLTZ

You're not telling me enough.

CLIFF DANGER

Yes, I am.

ROOK STOLTZ

I'm not your sidekick anymore. You trained me, but I have my own pack now. I'm a cop, damnit.

CLIFF DANGER

You're being emotional on the air.

ROOK STOLTZ

You might outrank me, but if you know something about an active case, then I need to know.

CLIFF DANGER

I was in the same room you were. All the evidence was there.

ROOK STOLTZ

I didn't happen to catch it this time.

CLIFF DANGER

Because it's mutants and you're taking it personal.

ROOK STOLTZ

Personal? Mutants killed my family. You'd understand, but you don't know what I've been through.

CLIFF DANGER

You don't know what I been through. Now turn off your radio. We're working.

Radio fuzz for a moment and then...

ROCKY DHAKAR

Uhhh. This is Rocky. Officer Dhakar. In charge of the airways. Right now, the schedule says we should be listening to... Hannah Hawk. But she's been kidnapped. So, I will play you a message from one of our sponsors.

JP WELDER

Hello, do you need a boulder moved? I'm JP Welder, and I'm not a welder, I move boulders. Boulders big and small, we move'em all. Need metal work? Call some other jerk. Stone in the way? I'm the man to pay. But I just want to make absolutely clear, I am not a

(MORE)

JP WELDER (cont'd)  
welder. That's just my name.  
Boulders.

CHEESY SINGER  
(sung)  
JP Welder, he's not a welder.  
He moves boulders, don't ask him to  
weld!

ROCKY DHAKAR  
So that took, uh, all of thirty  
seconds... I guess I'll play  
another commercial.

Rocky plays an ad.

ROCKY DHAKAR  
Uh. How about another commercial?

Rocky plays another ad.

ROCKY DHAKAR  
The weather's nice. Warm. I think  
it's gonna be about this warm  
tomorrow.

I guess I'll just talk about what I  
know, which, as most of you know,  
is my champion knife-throwing. I'm  
working on a new trick, don't have  
it yet, but it's coming. So, I  
throw one knife in the air with a  
good lateral spin. And then I throw  
a second knife up and it ricochets  
that first knife into a target.  
It's gonna be great. I'll come show  
you all when I have it.

HANNAH HAWK  
Hello? Hello, Oldenburg?

ROCKY DHAKAR  
I read you, Miss Hawk.

HANNAH HAWK  
I have a statement from my captors:

"We the followers of the Infinite  
Spirit of Holy Loving Light, known  
as mutants but should be called  
Abnorms, have your chief of police  
and greatest news reporter. We have  
demands. If they are not met in a  
timely manner, we will be forced to  
harm our captives."

And now here is one of my captors  
with their demands.

MUTANT KIDNAPPER

We, the Abnorms of Mutantown  
demand:

One. More respect.

Two. To be called Abnorms. We've  
made our preference very clear, but  
we still hear you calling us  
mutants, or worse yet, "mixups."

Three. We know you're having dinner  
parties. After the stashball final,  
we could smell you grilling meat.  
And not one invite. We always  
invite you to things. And you don't  
come, which is fine. But we expect  
some reciprocity. It's just  
neighbourly.

HANNAH HAWK

These demands are terrible.

MUTANT KIDNAPPER

We just have one more.

Four. You have to teach us to be  
cool. We see you walking around all  
cool, and we could be cool too. We  
just need some help.

Like, what kind of things do cool  
people say? Do you guys still say  
"wicked?" Does that mean "good?"  
And, like, would a red hat be cool?  
Or is blue a cooler colour?

ROCKY DHAKAR

Uh... I'm not really authorized to  
respond to that.

MUTANT KIDNAPPER

Okay. But just as, like, buds we're  
not being weird, right? We have  
demands, but they're cool demands,  
right?

ROOK STOLTZ

Oh man, I don't think I should be  
broadcasting this.

There is noise as Rocky turns his signal off.

We hear jet pack noises, coming in from Cliff and Rook's  
personal communicators (and bouncing off of the broadcast  
tower so the whole Accord can hear it.)



ROOK STOLTZ

Cliff, the signal is coming from this shack.

CLIFF DANGER

Yeah, they're in there.

ROOK STOLTZ

One guard.

MUTANT GUARD

Stop. I can't let you interfere with the glorious revolution.

CLIFF DANGER

Put the knife down.

ROOK STOLTZ

Cliff, she's got a weapon. We should just put her down.

CLIFF DANGER

Look at her. This is one of those mutants you're so afraid of? She can barely hold her knife.

MUTANT GUARD

Hey!

CLIFF DANGER

We'll take her in and she'll do her time.

MUTANT GUARD

That sounds fair.

ROOK STOLTZ

If we're not busting heads, why did you even bring me here?

CLIFF DANGER

Because you have to learn that you can't police the past. The mutants that burned down your village and killed your family, they're long gone. Rook, your family wants to rest and you won't let 'em.

ROOK STOLTZ

You never called me Rook before.

MUTANT GUARD

This is nice.

ROOK STOLTZ

Shut up.

MUTANT GUARD

Okay.

Radio fuzz to indicate that we're moving to Hannah in the kidnap shack.

HANNAH HAWK

Brother Mathias, you are not understanding this. There's a way you have to make demands.

BROTHER MATHIAS

You said we could have what we want.

HANNAH HAWK

Yes, but I also need to get what I want.

Cliff and Rook kick in the door.

ROOK STOLTZ

Freeze!

MUTANTS

Okay. Yes. Yes.

CLIFF DANGER

Brother Mathias, we talked about this.

BROTHER MATHIAS

Sorry.

ROOK STOLTZ

Get that gag off of the Chief.

They comply.

CHIEF

It's Hannah. It's all Hannah. It's a publicity stunt.

HANNAH HAWK

Yeah, I did it. The news has been slow and I need listeners. And it's not like the mutants don't have a point. Look at them, they're lame.

MUTANTS

Hey! Well, yeah.

CHIEF

Well, everybody just got an earful. Give me that transmitter.

So, this is how things are gonna be. Mutants are gonna be invited to dinner parties. Not because they kidnapped me, but because it's fair.

(MORE)

CHIEF (cont'd)

And Hannah can't make up the news anymore. I know sometimes there's no news. That's okay. More news will come. Everybody just calm down and go back to what they were doing.

BROTHER MATHIAS

That was a good speech, Chief. I... just picture I had a speech like that, but with God in it.

CLIFF DANGER

We're done here. Dhakar, sign off.

ROCKY DHAKAR

Oh, okay. There's a script for that, um, right here. Okay:

"That ends our day. Please tune in to further transmissions.

It is our mandate to broadcast within The Accord and also to spread culture to areas beyond. If you received our broadcast, we'd like to hear from you. Send us a message at [packcentralstation@gmail.com](mailto:packcentralstation@gmail.com). We appreciate all of your questions and comments. The Jet Pack Cops already get plenty of fan mail, but they always appreciate more.