

The Pack

Episode 7: Cannibals! Part 2

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THE PACK EPISODE 7: CANNIBALS! PART 2

Booger crawls through a small cavern.

In the distance, there is the faint sound of footsteps.

BOOGER

This is Booger. I'm crawling through a small tunnel, but it's opening into a wider cavern. I can hear footsteps ahead. I'm going to climb up on this ledge as I move, just in case.

Booger climbs onto a ledge. There is a whoosh of a jet pack.

BOOGER

Was that a jet pack? I'm going to peek over the ledge to look. Oh no, that's not a Cop. There's a group of cannibals. One of them, a lady, is wearing some kind of antler hat. And there's someone in shiny armor talking to them. I'll get closer.

CANNIBAL QUEEN

You see now, marshall? The Jet Pack Cops have been wiped out. The Cannibal Queen and her tribe were able to do in one day what you haven't accomplished in how many years?

ALLISTAIR CROOK

Your grace, I enjoy gloating as much as the next person, but when I do it, it has some accuracy. Firstly, you have no idea what I'm trying to accomplish, my plans are beyond your trogladytic mind. Secondly, you haven't wiped out the cops, you merely collapsed a cave on them, with my bombs I might add. If you're lucky, you've killed one, maybe two. They have jet packs, you know. They tend to move rather quickly.

CANNIBAL QUEEN

Cannibals! Search the tunnels for Cops.

ALLISTAIR CROOK

Don't get flustered. It's all part of the plan. Neither of our organizations could defeat the Jet Pack Cops on our own. Even if we worked together, their powers might be too great to overcome. We must be patient and methodical.

CANNIBAL QUEEN

You mean cowardly! We have them where we want them. Let's finish them off.

ALLISTAIR CROOK

Send all the thugs you like, they will only lose their lives. Today was a good day. I will return when I have more for you to do.

Allistair jet packs away.

BOOGER

I hope you got all that back in The Accord. Sound like trouble to me.

Booger crawls.

BOOGER

I'm heading past the Cannibal Queen into another chamber.

Booger crawls more.

BOOGER

It's some kind of supply cache. Oh, and there's a cannibal guarding it.

Booger sneaks up to the cannibal.

BOOGER

He eats people? How will he like eating my knife?

Booger quickly stabs the cannibal in his unexpected throat. The cannibal dies a quiet, but gurgle-y death.

BOOGER

Whoa. These supplies weren't made by cannibals. There are crates on shelves, made of strange materials. It's all so clean, not a scratch on anything. Some kind of advanced technology. Ancient, maybe. But it looks so new. There's a jug marked with blue waves, I think it's water.

Booger takes a jug.

BOOGER

Yep. Pure water. Just the thing to clean out my pack's intake. Now to sneak back around to Cliff.

Booger crawls some more.

Cannibals rush back into the big chamber to see the Cannibal Queen.

CANNIBAL
Queen! We could not find the Cops.

CANNIBAL QUEEN
Idiots! Do I have to do everything myself? These are your tunnels. Your home. Are you saying that these Cops, new to your tunnels, are evading you in your own home!?

CANNIBAL
They have sharp knives of metal!

Booger crawls away. The cannibal conversation fades as she crawls into the narrow tunnel.

CANNIBAL QUEEN
Aha! Cowards. You have sharp teeth of bone. There is no excuse...

Booger pulls herself through the narrow tunnel to Cliff.

BOOGER
Cliff? You still alive in here?

CLIFF DANGER
(in pain)
Yeah.

BOOGER
Oh, you don't sound good.

Booger climbs into the cave.

BOOGER
I brought water. With this clean, we can fire up both packs and get you out.

Booger washes out her jet pack's intake.

CLIFF DANGER
My leg's crushed pretty badly. You have to put a tourniquet on it, make sure I don't bleed out.

BOOGER
But if I tie off your leg, you could lose it.

CLIFF DANGER
That or my life, kid.

BOOGER
Alright.

Booger ties a quick tourniquet around Cliff's leg.

CLIFF DANGER

Good. Now let's fire up and get me out of this.

BOOGER

On three. One, two, THREE!

Both jet packs fire up and pull Cliff out of the rocks.

They hit the wall of the cave with a hard thump and then roll to the ground. Booger grunts with pain. Cliff grunts with more pain.

BOOGER

Let me have a look at that leg.

CLIFF DANGER

How bad is it?

BOOGER

It's crushed, but it's not bleeding much. I'm gonna take off the tourniquet. Can you feel this?

CLIFF DANGER

Yes. And it doesn't feel good.

BOOGER

Okay. To get out of here we're going to have to crawl through that narrow tunnel, sneak past the cannibals and head out through the other chambers.

CLIFF DANGER

If there are cannibals, we're not sneaking past.

BOOGER

There's eight cannibals in there.

CLIFF DANGER

Eight cannibals looking to kill the other Cops. It's our job to take them out.

BOOGER

Cliff, your leg is crushed.

CLIFF DANGER

Let me worry about that.

Booger and Cliff squeeze through the narrow tunnel, shuffling their jet packs.

CLIFF DANGER

Those are the cannibals?

BOOGER

Yep.

CLIFF DANGER

That's all of them?

BOOGER

The only ones I've seen.

CLIFF DANGER

You see that far entrance?

BOOGER

Yeah.

CLIFF DANGER

You're going to block it and take out any that try to get away.

BOOGER

There's only two of us and eight of them. Am I missing something?

CLIFF DANGER

Get into position and wait for my signal.

BOOGER

Okay. But this is crazy.

Booger gets into position.

CLIFF DANGER

Now!

There are jet pack action sounds. Cannibals yell. Cliff leaps down, killing a cannibal with his crossbow on the way down. He lands on his one good foot, slicing open a cannibal's throat and stabbing another in the heart in one smooth motion.

CANNIBAL

Ambush! Run!

BOOGER

Not so fast!

Booger kills a cannibal with her crossbow and throws a knife into another's face.

CLIFF DANGER

Only three left. Like those odds now, Bugra?

BOOGER

You're under arrest!

CANNIBAL

Cannibals never surrender!

More knife and crossbow noises.

BOOGER

Alright, lady. You're the last one left. I like your hat, but I will kill you. How do you want to play this?

CANNIBAL QUEEN

Like a cannibal.

CLIFF DANGER

Let her go.

BOOGER

You can't be serious. I think she's their leader.

CLIFF DANGER

Oh, she's their leader. But I'm going to give her this one chance to turn around, walk away and never bother The Accord again.

CANNIBAL QUEEN

It's been a long time, Clifford.

CLIFF DANGER

(conflicted)

Go.

The Cannibal Queen leaves.

BOOGER

What was that?

CLIFF DANGER

There are things you just don't understand.

BOOGER

Yeah, like why we just let that cannibal go.

CLIFF DANGER

That cannibal, the Cannibal Queen, is my mother.

BOOGER

Whoa. How?

CLIFF DANGER

My father was an iron merchant. He spent a lot of time in these mountains. One day, he came across a cannibal woman. She had been separated from her tribe. She was starving to death. He should have

(MORE)

CLIFF DANGER (cont'd)
 put her down right there, but he
 was a kind-hearted man. Soft.

He brought her home, nursed her to
 health and somewhere along the way
 they fell in love. He tried to
 civilize her. And for a while they
 were happy, just long enough to
 have a baby boy named Clifford. But
 the civilization never took. My
 mother needed to be with her own
 kind, be free, hunt people down for
 food.

She left my father to raise me on
 his won. He was never the same.
 Drank himself to death, though it
 took him ten years to do it.

BOOGER

I'm sorry. I know what that's like.

CLIFF DANGER

Yeah. I mostly grew up on the
 streets, surviving however I could.
 Then one day the Chief, he was just
 a Cop back then, he saw something
 in me. My parents taught me that
 there's a line. Kindness will get
 you killed. But if you go too far
 the other way, well, then you're
 just a monster.

BOOGER

Wow. So, you're half-cannibal. But
 you hate cannibals... ohhh.

CLIFF DANGER

Let's round up the others and head
 back.

ANNOUNCER

And now an important message from
 the Elder Council: Traveling in the
 East Mountains can be fun,
 breathtaking moraine view and some
 of the most challenging climbing
 you can find. But it can also be
 dangerous. Remember, always kill
 cannibals. Cannibals will hunt and
 eat you, or your family, or someone
 else's family.

When mountaineering in the East, be
 sure to pack a cannibal kit. Make
 sure your kit includes a very sharp
 blade, cannibal poison, a good

(MORE)

ANNOUNCER (cont'd)

length of rope, snow boots and fire building tools to dispose of bodies, or smoke them out.

This Drier season, the Elder Council wishes you good climbing and cannibal safety. Remember, never ever show kindness to a cannibal.

XT-3000

Hello, listening humans. I am XT-3000 and this is my radio program. Human Repair. There have been many emotions expressed over the airways. Faces bitten. People dying. People having feelings about people dying. Humans will radio in to my show now, and I will correct your feelings. Caller?

JIMMY

Yeah, hey, I'm the father of that boy who got his face bit off. And this whole death thing's got me very upset.

XT-3000

I am acknowledging that it is your turn to speak.

JIMMY

My boy got chosen as First Picker. Everybody was so happy. Then a cannibal comes up and bites off his face. It shoulda been me. I was right there. I shoulda died.

At the funeral, all people would talk about was the boy. What about my feelings? They literally took turns standing there saying nice things about him. I coulda been First Picker. I coulda had my face bit, what makes the boy so special? It's not fair. Man, I never get chosen for nothing.

XT-3000

You are a live human. You need love. Your son is a dead human. He does not need love. You must inform your friends and family that they must reassign their love to you. PROBLEM SOLVED. Next caller?

KID

Um, hello?

XT-3000

It is your turn to speak, caller.
State your problem.

KID

Two days ago. A swarm of firetrap buzzards. They killed my mom. And, um, they stashed her. Way up in our tree. I tried to climb up and get her down. But she's up so high. Some pieces fell down, but she's mostly still up there. I try not to be sad, but I'm not getting much sleep. She's rotting up there and the smell keeps me up at night.

XT-3000

Your mother has chosen to decompose in a tree. You cannot control her actions, but you can take responsibility for your re-action. Do not allow your mother to manipulate your emotions.

KID

Um. Okay.

XT-3000

PROBLEM SOLVED.

CHIEF

Alright, people of The Accord. I am glad to report that the Cops have returned here to The Roost. But I am also sad to announce that Officer Clemence Fiddledown lost his life in the line duty when a cavern collapsed on him. All of the other officers came back alive, though some were injured. I'd like to observe a moment of silence for our fallen brother.

Silence.

CHIEF

Good job, Cops. Cliff. Booger. You stay behind for a moment.

BOOGER

What's up, Chief?

CHIEF

We were still receiving your transmissions while you were in those caves.

CLIFF DANGER

You heard who was talking to the
Cannibal Queen.

CHIEF

We did. And Cliff, you're going to
want to hear the recording I made.

Chief clicks a thingy.

ALLISTAIR CROOK

(from before)

Today was a good day. I will return
when I have more for you to do.

CLIFF DANGER

Allistair. How can that be? Chief,
I watched them die.

CHIEF

I don't know. But it's clear your
old partner isn't as dead as we
thought. And he's our enemy now.

BOOGER

That guy was your partner? Wow, it
was like a whole family reunion in
those caves.

CLIFF DANGER

It doesn't make any sense.

CHIEF

Go clean up. And get XT to look you
over.

XT-3000

I have already scanned Officer
Danger. His leg is crushed, but it
will heal. There will always be
pain in that area, I'm afraid.

CLIFF DANGER

Pain's just a part of life, XT.