

THE BLACK FOREST

EPISODE 2: MIST OF THE LOST

SFX: Recorder click on.

MATTHEW

My sister, Alyssa Poe went to The Black Forest to investigate the reason for the sudden disappearances. That was over a week ago. I haven't heard anything from her since. I'm getting worried. I have to go find her.

SFX: Recorder click off.

OPENING THEME

MATTHEW (CONT'D)

The Black Forest
Episode 2: Mist of the Lost.

EXT. THE BLACK FOREST - MORNING

SFX: Page turn.

MATTHEW

I've been looking at the book I picked up. I can't say I've really been reading it though.

(beat)

I've gotta stop talking to myself...

SFX: Page turn.

MATTHEW (CONT'D)

(confused)

Ugh. This whole thing's in a language I've never seen.

(beat)

and let's not talk about the splitting headaches I get while looking at it. It hasn't been *that* long since I've read something.

SFX: Shuts the book.

MATTHEW (CONT'D)

What should I do? Those tribesmen aren't going to help me, but I wonder if Aly found them?

SFX: Button click. The recording starts.

ALYSSA

(excited)

Audio Log # 23: I think I just heard some people. This is the first time that I've heard something other than myself. Maybe, they know something about the disappearances.

SFX: Alyssa gets up and walks.

ALYSSA (CONT'D)

It'd make my job a lot easier.

(beat)

It's been fun. I think I'll do more investigative journalist type jobs like this.

SFX: Drum banging.

ALYSSA (CONT'D)

(excited)

I hear them. Let's go say hello.

SFX: Button click. The recording stops.

MATTHEW

Damn it. So, she did find the tribesmen. Is she being kept in their village? Or could she have escaped? Are they the group? Could there be others?

SFX: Matthew paces back and forth.

MATTHEW (CONT'D)

(frustrated)

Arghhh. This sucks. I can't go waltzing into their village demanding to see my sister. I'd like to avoid being sacrificed.
HMMMMM.

SFX: He stops.

MATTHEW (CONT'D)

Damn it. I should've named her logs when I downloaded them.

(sigh)

But did you really have to make this many Aly?

SFX: He paces again. The pacing fades away to a microwave ding.

FLASHBACK:

INT. APARTMENT - NIGHT

SFX: Opens the microwave. Grabs bag and closes it. Opens popcorn bag and eats some.

MATTHEW
(chewing)
You ready?

ALYSSA
Pssh, am I? I've been waiting to watch this all week.

MATTHEW
(sigh)
Whatever. I don't get why you like watching 80's horror flicks.

SFX: Matthew sits down.

ALYSSA
They're not bad. They just have style. Plus watching them drunk is pretty fun. Right?

SFX: Alyssa takes a sip.

MATTHEW
(laugh)
Can't argue with that.
(beat)
So... are you going to turn on the TV?

ALYSSA
Ha. You mean are you going to get the remote?

MATTHEW
No no no. I insist.

ALYSSA
(laugh)
I insist back.

SFX: Phone ring.

ALYSSA (CONT'D)
Hello. This is Alyssa Poe of Poe
investigations. How can I help you?

SFX: Muffled voice.

ALYSSA (CONT'D)
Uh huh.

SFX: Muffled voice.

ALYSSA (CONT'D)
(shocked)
Really?

SFX: She gets up quickly.

ALYSSA (CONT'D)
I understand. I'll be there right
away.

SFX: Phone hangs up.

ALYSSA (CONT'D)
Sorry Matt. I gotta go. Something
went wrong with my current client.

MATTHEW
Damn. It's serious if you're
leaving before movie night.
(laugh)
Be careful.

ALYSSA
I will. Love you.

SFX: Opens door.

MATTHEW
Love you --

SFX: Door slams shut.

MATTHEW (CONT'D)
Too.
(sigh)

SFX: His sigh fades away to his footsteps crunching over
leaves.

END FLASHBACK:

EXT. THE BLACK FOREST - DAY

MATTHEW

Am I really gonna do it? Can I face them?

(beat)

(determined)

No. I made up my mind and I'm going to stick to it.

(beat)

I've been walking for a while now, but I can't find the place from a few days ago. Where is it? I think I should have been there by now.

SFX: He stops. Fog appears & continues.

MATTHEW (CONT'D)

What the hell? Where'd this mist come from? I can't see anything.

SFX: Walking.

MATTHEW (CONT'D)

This came out of nowhere. It was clear skies a second ago.

(sigh)

I don't know where to go normally and now I can't even see where I'm going?

ALYSSA

(whisper)

Matthew...

MATTHEW

Oh no. The whispering's back. I'll just ignore it.

SFX: Sped up walking.

ALYSSA

(quietly)

Can you hear me...?

MATTHEW

Great. Now, I'm hallucinating Aly's voice.

ALYSSA

Matt!

MATTHEW
(confused)
Aly? Is that actually you?

SFX: Running. Stops after a bit.

ALYSSA
No, not at all. I'm a ghost.

MATTHEW
(panting)
Ha ha. Very funny Aly.
(sniffle)
Anyway, I'm s-so glad I found you.
I'm sorry I didn't come with you.

ALYSSA
It's okay Matt. You did everything
you could to find me though, right?

MATTHEW
Obviously. How did you get away
from the tribe?

ALYSSA
(laughs)
That's a long story that I'll tell
you later. What about you? How's
the forest treated you?

MATTHEW
Almost got killed by a bear my
first day. Oh, and saved a guy from
being sacrificed.
(beat)
Fun stuff.

ALYSSA
(laughs)
I see you've had quite the
adventure.

MATTHEW
(sigh)
If you can call it that. Anyway,
now that I've found you we can
leave.

ALYSSA
I don't know if I can.

MATTHEW
What do you mean you can't?

ALYSSA

I've grown a strange fondness for the place. It's almost like a home if I'm being honest.

MATTHEW

(incredulous)

A-are you serious? What the hell?

ALYSSA

I can't leave yet. I feel like I'm close to uncovering the mystery of this place.

MATTHEW

(agitated)

Who cares! I can't just leave you here. Let's go home.

ALYSSA

You have to. I think the forest chose me.

MATTHEW

What the hell are you talking about Aly? Do you even hear yourself right now?

ALYSSA

I-I know how it sounds, but you just don't understand. You haven't been here as long as I have.

MATTHEW

That's the problem. You've been here way too long. It's messing with your head. We need to leave.

ALYSSA

I'm not going anywhere, but you have to go. I don't know what'll happen to those that aren't chosen by the forest.

MATTHEW

(frustrated)

I can't just leave you! What about your job?

ALYSSA

(confused)

What about it? I know I have important things to do here.

MATTHEW

What are you talking about? You worked so hard to make it what it is today.

ALYSSA

I knew you wouldn't understand. It's fine Matt. You need to leave before he finds you too.

MATTHEW

(confused)
Before who finds me?

ALYSSA

(distorted)
You shouldn't stay here anymore. If you don't leave soon. We can't promise your safety.
(distorted laugh)

MATTHEW

(frightened)
What the--? W-who-- what are you? and what have you done with my sister!?

ALYSSA

(distorted laugh)
We haven't done anything to your sister Matthew. On the contrary we have no idea where she currently is.

MATTHEW

T-then what was this all about?

ALYSSA

(distorted)
We tried to make you leave. We want you gone.

MATTHEW

W-why?

ALYSSA

(distorted)
Because it is not safe here. Therefore, you must leave and never return.

MATTHEW

(pleading)

Then help me find Alyssa. Please!
Then we'll leave you and your
forest alone.

ALYSSA

(distorted laugh)

MATTHEW

W-what's so funny?

ALYSSA

(distorted)

This isn't our forest boy. You have
a lot to learn of the true nature
of this forest. More than you'd
want to know.

MATTHEW

(resolute)

W-well, I'm not leaving here until
I find Aly. So, you can d-do your
worst, but I won't stop.

ALYSSA

(distorted laugh)

We commend bravery, regardless of
how stupid and naive it is. No
matter. Consider this your second
warning.

MATTHEW

(confused)

Second?

ALYSSA

We will give you one more chance to
leave. Once you make your decision,
your life and actions are no longer
a concern to us.

SFX: Alyssa disappears into mist.

MATTHEW

(frustrated)

What the hell is going on in this
forest? None of this makes any
sense and I'm still not any closer
to finding Aly.

SFX: Walking.

MATTHEW (CONT'D)
 I-I can't keep living like this.
 It's only been 10 days, but --

SFX: Xavier speed walking through bushes. Matthew stops.

SHAMAN XAVIER
 (loudly & trailing)
 I can not be late! The mist came
 early this month!

MATTHEW
 (quiet)
 What the hell is that guy doing
 here? Should I follow him?

SFX: Matt trailing behind Xavier.

MATTHEW (CONT'D)
 (quietly)
 Damn it Matt. What are you doing?
 What if he finds you?

SFX: Xavier stops. Matt stops and crouches shortly after.

EXT. THE BLACK FOREST, PRAYING GROUNDS - AFTERNOON

MATTHEW
 He's in some kind of clearing with
 trees surrounding a stone slab. Is
 he about to pray?

SHAMAN XAVIER
 I-I'm sorry Uzale. I did not mean
 to be late to this meeting.

SFX: Xavier sits.

MATTHEW
 (quietly)
 Uzale?

SHAMAN XAVIER
 I would like to humbly apologize
 for allowing that girl to escape.

MATTHEW
 (quietly)
 Girl? Is he talking about Aly?

SHAMAN XAVIER

Those accursed spirits have been more active than usual. They've forced us to move our ritual back as well. I swear to you. We will break the veil and bring you to this side.

MATTHEW

This guy's crazy, but he may know something about Aly. I'll keep following him.

SFX: Slow walking. His footsteps fade to a phone ring.

FLASHBACK:

INT. POE INVESTIGATIONS - NIGHT

SFX: Pickup phone.

ALYSSA

Hello, you've reached Poe Investigations. How may I--

SFX: Heavy breathing. Dial-tone.

ALYSSA (CONT'D)

What the fuck? Hello?

SFX: Door open.

MATTHEW

Hey, Aly.

ALYSSA

That was strange.

MATTHEW

(confused)
What was?

ALYSSA

Hmm? Oh, hey Matt. Nothing, just a random call.

MATTHEW

(irritated)
Another one of those stalkers? I told you that you need a security guard. Especially since you don't know when to leave work. Or eat.

SFX: Opening a bag.

ALYSSA

(sniff)

Ohhh. That smells amazing. What'd you get me this time?

MATTHEW

(laugh)

What? You can't tell from the smell? It's Thai this time.

ALYSSA

Hmm. So, far it's been Chinese, Japanese and now Thai. Are you taking me on a tour of Asia?

MATTHEW

(laugh)

Hey, I'm not made of money. Start coming home at a reasonable time or at least hire some more people.

ALYSSA

Yeah yeah. I will... after I finish this new job.

MATTHEW

(sigh)

You always have a new job.

ALYSSA

Not true, but anyway, this one is really important. It's my first high profile case bro.

MATTHEW

Well, sis. It won't matter how important the case is, if someone comes in and steals it right?

ALYSSA

(grumble)

Fine. I'll put up a job posting looking for a security guard. Happy?

MATTHEW

I guess.

ALYSSA

Well, give me the bag. I'm starving!

MATTHEW
 (surprised)
 You're not gonna read your fortune?
 That's a first.

ALYSSA
 Oh yeah. Almost forgot about that.

SFX: Fortune cookie bag popped. Fade back to Matthew's walking.

END FLASHBACK:

EXT. THE BLACK FOREST - AFTERNOON

MATTHEW
 (confused)
 Why hasn't this fog let up yet? I think it's actually gotten denser the longer I walk.
 (beat)
 I should probably wait it out. Better than accidentally walking into their village or something.

SFX: Matthew sits down. Button click. The recording starts.

ALYSSA
 Log # 27: So, I didn't actually find any people. That drumming I thought I heard was something the forest made. I know how crazy this sounds, believe me. My last two logs are proof of that... Actually scratch that. Don't listen to them. Please.

SFX: Alyssa walking.

ALYSSA (CONT'D)
 This is the second time that something weird has happened. It seems like the forest or whatever is trying to get me to leave. Oh, that's right. I never explained what happened.
 (yawn)
 So, after I followed the drumming noise, I was led around. I thought maybe it was a parade or something, but I was never able to get close to it.
 (beat)
 (MORE)

ALYSSA (CONT'D)

Instead, I wandered through the forest following it and in the end I ended up back at the entrance.
(yawn)

SFX: Stop walking.

ALYSSA (CONT'D)

Well, I'm back at my tent. Alyssa Poe, signing off.

SFX: Button click. The recording stops.

MATTHEW

(realization)

Oh my-- I'm so stupid! Of course she'd have a tent. She's in the middle of nowhere. I'll go look for it tomorrow.

SFX: Matthew gets up and walks for a bit.

MATTHEW (CONT'D)

At least the mist has let up some. Don't see it stopping anytime soon though.

SFX: He trips and falls.

MATTHEW (CONT'D)

(grumble)

Well there's the doll. I've gotta be close to my spot.

SFX: He gets up and starts walking again. He hears mechanical creaks and stops.

MATTHEW (CONT'D)

Hello? Who's there?

SFX: The doll creaks again.

MATTHEW (CONT'D)

I'm just hearing things... again. It's nothing.

SFX: He continues walking, but after a few seconds the doll slowly gets up which forces him to stop again.

MATTHEW (CONT'D)

What the hell is going on he-- oh, shit. It stood up.

SFX: He slowly backs away.

MATTHEW (CONT'D)
 (quietly)
 I don't think running's going to
 help.

SFX: The doll continues it's slow moving as its whole body
 creaks, here and there. Matt continues to slowly back away,
 until he steps on a branch.

MATTHEW (CONT'D)
 (quietly)
 Fuck.

SFX: He stops moving and takes a deep breath as the doll
 makes an "alert" type sound and creaks closer to matt.

MATTHEW (CONT'D)
 (light exhale)
 (quietly)
 Don't come here.

SFX: The doll continues moving closer and closer.

MATTHEW (CONT'D)
 (quietly)
 Maybe, I can...

SFX: He slowly digs into his pocket and takes something out.
 He then throws it in the opposite direction causing the doll
 to make another "alert" sound and start moving in the
 opposite direction.

MATTHEW (CONT'D)
 (quietly)
 Why is this happening?

SFX: He slowly walks away. It fades out and then back in.

MATTHEW (CONT'D)
 (yawn)
 Finally back. A nap sounds good
 right about now. My sleeping bag
 and stuff should be right around...
 he--

SFX: He stops.

MATTHEW (CONT'D)
 What?

SFX: He runs.

MATTHEW (CONT'D)
Where's all my stuff? My sleeping
bag, my food. My pack. All of it's
gone.

SFX: He slumps to the ground.

MATTHEW (CONT'D)
Damn it. Now what am I supposed to
do?
(wallowing)
That was supposed to last me at
least a month.

SFX: Rustling in the bushes.

MATTHEW (CONT'D)
Shit.

SFX: Matthew quickly gets up and runs away.

MATTHEW (CONT'D)
I've gotta hide. I can't let them
find me.

End of Episode.