

THE BLACK FOREST

EPISODE 3: LIVING RAG DOLLS

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 3: Living Rag Dolls.

EXT. THE BLACK FOREST - NIGHT

SFX: Sharpening wood.

MATTHEW

(panting)

Holy... shit. I am tired.

SFX: Sharpening stops.

MATTHEW (CONT'D)

I haven't eaten in about a day.
There doesn't seem to be wildlife.
(under his breath)
Except for a damn bear... that
disappears into thin air.

SFX: Stomach growl.

MATTHEW (CONT'D)

I've really got to find some food.
Is there a way to know which plants
are safe to eat?

SFX: Stomach growl.

MATTHEW (CONT'D)

Damn it. I've gotta get my mind off
of this. Maybe that priest is back.
was this how Aly felt? Constantly
being tired and feeling like shit
from overworking?

SFX: He gets up and starts walking.

MATTHEW (CONT'D)

(sigh)
I can't keep up. Just like now.
This forest, and all its weird shit
is too much.

SFX: After a while his walking fades to an alarm clock ringing.

FLASHBACK:

INT. POE INVESTIGATIONS - MORNING

SFX: Door opens. Matthew turns off the alarm clock.

MATTHEW

Aly. Wake up!

ALYSSA

(groggy)
Huh? What?
(realization)
Oh shit! What time is it?

MATTHEW

8:30.

SFX: Alyssa slams her hands the table.

ALYSSA

Damn it! I missed my 8 o'clock.
(beat)
It's not too late maybe they'll
still meet with me.

SFX: Pickups phone.

MATTHEW

Aly.

SFX: Dialing number.

MATTHEW (CONT'D)

Hey!

SFX: Slamming phone into receiver.

ALYSSA

(angry)
What the hell! What'd you do that
for?

MATTHEW

(irritated)

You've gotta stop Aly. You're overworking the shit out of yourself. What time did you fall asleep?

ALYSSA

(angry)

That doesn't matter. What does matter is that you hung up the damn phone!

MATTHEW

(irritated)

You already missed the meeting. Instead of calling them back you should get some rest. You haven't been sleeping too well these past few weeks.

ALYSSA

(angry)

Sleep is for the dead. I can't rest.

(yawn)

Not when I'm so close to catching up with my competition.

MATTHEW

That won't matter if you overwork yourself to a hospital. What happened to that other person?

ALYSSA

W-well...umm...

MATTHEW

Yeah, you had that one girl ummm...

SFX: Snap fingers.

MATTHEW (CONT'D)

Pat--

ALYSSA

Patricia.

MATTHEW

Oh, yeah that was her name. What happened to her? I thought you liked her?

ALYSSA

(sigh)

I did, but apparently the feeling
didn't go both ways.

MATTHEW

(sigh)

What'd you do?

ALYSSA

What do you mean what did I do. Why
can't it be that she did somethi--

MATTHEW

Aly...

ALYSSA

Okay fine. I may have worked her a
liiiiittle bit too hard.

MATTHEW

(sigh)

I knew it. You're going to be known
as the slave driver.

ALYSSA

(laughs)

That's probably my nickname
already.

MATTHEW

(laughs)

Yeah, probably. So, what do you
need help with?

ALYSSA

Are you sure? Don't you usually
sleep in before work?

MATTHEW

Yeah, I do. Don't make me change my
mind.

ALYSSA

Okay okay! Umm can you grab that
stack of papers over there. They're
all my potential cases.

SFX: He walks and then walks back. He drops the stack of
paper on the table. It fades to Matthew walking.

END FLASHBACK:

EXT. THE BLACK FOREST, PRAYING GROUNDS - NIGHT

MATTHEW

(quietly)

Okay, so I'm back at the uhh
praying grounds? Yeah, that's what
I'll call it

(beat)

,and he's here. He hasn't said
anything yet. He's just been
sitting there.

SHAMAN XAVIER

(loud exaggerated exhale)

Oh, Uzale! I come to you, whole
hearted and pure. I am willing to
do your bidding.

SFX: A breeze comes in. Distorted whispering.

MATTHEW

(quietly)

What the...

SHAMAN XAVIER

We shall be offering up another
soul tonight for your liberation.

SFX: Distorted whispering.

SHAMAN XAVIER (CONT'D)

No, this time we will not be
interrupted by the spirits.

MATTHEW

(quietly)

They're going to do more
sacrifices? Sorry guy, but I can't
save you again.

(impatient)

Please say something about Aly.
Otherwise this was a waste.

SHAMAN XAVIER

We will have our day when you're
brought back into this world. All
who shun you shall perish.

SFX: Distorted whispering.

SHAMAN XAVIER (CONT'D)

Wait. What did you say? I'm not
alone here? Well of course, I walk
in your shadow.

SFX: Distorted whispering.

SHAMAN XAVIER (CONT'D)
No? That's not what you meant?

SFX: The whispering slowly fades away.

SHAMAN XAVIER (CONT'D)
The spirits are interfering with
our conversation.

SFX: Xavier gets up and starts walking.

MATTHEW
(quietly)
Shit.

SHAMAN XAVIER
(confused)
Who would venture to this side of
the forest. Only those loyal to
Uzale should be here.

SFX: Slow walking.

MATTHEW
(quietly)
Shit shit shit. I've got to get out
of here now! He's coming this
way...

SHAMAN XAVIER
Who's there?
(beat)
If you're one of my followers
please show yourself.

MATTHEW
(quietly & frantic)
What do I do? What do I do?

SHAMAN XAVIER
Heed my words. Come out and reveal
yourself now, or prepare yourself.

MATTHEW
(quietly)
Okay. I'm going to surprise him,
threaten him with my knife and...
(unsure)
Ky-yoill him? run away? Kidnap him?

SFX: The footsteps get closer.

SHAMAN XAVIER
 May you help the liberation of
 Uzale, the great one.

SFX: The footsteps pass Matthew.

MATTHEW
 (quietly)
 Screw it!

SFX: Matthew quickly stands up. Runs at Xavier. Muffled
 struggling.

SHAMAN XAVIER
 (surprised)
 Release me you--

MATTHEW
 S-shut it. I-if you move I'll...
 (beat)
 I'll--

SHAMAN XAVIER
 You'll what? Kill me? Go ahead.
 Allow me to be a sacrifice for
 Uzale.

MATTHEW
 Y-you want me to kill you?

SHAMAN XAVIER
 No, boy. I do not want you to kill
 me, but I have accepted my fate
 whatever it may be.

MATTHEW
 Y-you and your followers all crazy!

SHAMAN XAVIER
 You sound just like that young lady
 days ago, but you both shall learn
 the truth soon enough.

MATTHEW
 Where is she? That young lady?

SHAMAN XAVIER
 I know not, but I shall find her
 unless my God has gotten to her
 first.

SFX: Matthew hits Xavier in the head.

MATTHEW

Shut it.

SFX: Matthew grunts as he drags Xavier's body.

EXT. POND OF LIGHT - EARLY MORNING

SFX: Fades into Matthew drinking water from the pond.

MATTHEW

I did it. I finally found a source of water. It's weird though... this pond wasn't here before and I feel like I've passed through here already.

SFX: Stomach growls.

MATTHEW (CONT'D)

Still hungry though. There aren't any animals around, and there isn't a stream or anything that connects to the pond. It's just a hole filled with water. I hope it was safe drinking from it.

SHAMAN XAVIER

(groaning)

Where--

SFX: He struggles, but is bound to a tree.

SHAMAN XAVIER (CONT'D)

Oh, I see. You've brought me to the pond of light. Kill or release me. Torture shall do you no good.

MATTHEW

I'm not going to torture you.

(beat)

This place is called the pond of light?

SHAMAN XAVIER

Yes. What is it that you want then boy? If you wanted to join the church all you had t--

MATTHEW

I'm not joining your freakish cult either. I want all the information that you have of that young lady.

SHAMAN XAVIER

Ahh, I see. You came here for her.
A lover perhaps? A sister? No
matter--

(beat)

ask away.

MATTHEW

(surprised)

That's it?

SHAMAN XAVIER

Is that not what you want?

MATTHEW

W-well yes, but you're so--

SHAMAN XAVIER

So what? Willing? Well, of course.
It does me no favor to be
antagonistic. I can surmise that
after answering your questions that
I will be released. Are my
assumptions correct?

MATTHEW

Y-yes.

SHAMAN XAVIER

Then ask away boy.

MATTHEW

O-okay. Where did you meet her?

SHAMAN XAVIER

I'm afraid I don't remember the
date, but it was a few days ago.
She was in a daze by the forest I--

MATTHEW

In a daze?

SHAMAN XAVIER

Yes, it would seem that the spirits
had something to do with it.

MATTHEW

Then what?

SHAMAN XAVIER

That was all. I was unable to get
close due to their interference.
Since that time I've not seen nor
heard a new person until now.

MATTHEW

Your cult. Tell me abou--

SHAMAN XAVIER

Church.

MATTHEW

Whatever. Your church explain it.
Why the sacrifices? Why here?

SHAMAN XAVIER

(excited)

The Black Forest is where Uzale
resides. There is no other way
around it.

MATTHEW

If your God is so great why can't
it liberate itself?

SFX: Stomach growls.

SHAMAN XAVIER

(laughs)

That stomach has done you no
favours.

MATTHEW

Shut up. Answer the question.

SHAMAN XAVIER

Uzale is, but an infant and so we
sacrifice ourselves to give him our
wisdom. He is sealed away
incubating as he acquires more and
more knowledge.

MATTHEW

Y-you're trying to make your God
smarter?

SHAMAN XAVIER

You need not say more. I see your
skepticism, but it is due to this
world covering your eyes. You are
unable to see the true nature of
this world.

(cough)

When you were an infant the world
was vast, scary even, but you were
able to truly see.

(cough) (cough) (cough)

SFX: Matthew walks and cups water. He walks back to Xavier.

SHAMAN XAVIER (CONT'D)
 (drinking)
 Many thanks. Any more questions?

MATTHEW
 No, I don't--

SFX: Stomach growls.

MATTHEW (CONT'D)
 Actually. Food. Where the hell are
 all the animals?

SHAMAN XAVIER
 (laughing and then
 coughing a bit)
 There are no natural animals in
 this forest. Once your eyes are
 open all will be clear.

MATTHEW
 (agitated)
 Are you fuc-- okay. Fine, I'll
 bite, what do I have to do to "open
 my eyes?"

SFX: Whispering.

SHAMAN XAVIER
 Once you are warned again. Come
 talk to me again.
 (reversed speech)
 It seems that time is now.

MATTHEW
 What'd you just say?

SFX: Tremor.

MATTHEW (CONT'D)
 (confused)
 What was that?

SHAMAN XAVIER
 (laugh)
 I wonder if you'll keep your
 sanity?

SFX: The tremors get louder.

MATTHEW
 (scared)
 D-do you know what's happening?

SHAMAN XAVIER
Not at all, but the spirits are
active. Goodbye.

MATTHEW
W-what do you mean--

SFX: The ground opens up and Matthew falls down the hole.

MATTHEW (CONT'D)
(screaming)

SFX: He lands with a thud a few seconds later.

INT. THE CAVERN OF SPIRITS - UNKNOWN

SFX: Matthew gets up. Water flows down the cave's walls.

MATTHEW
(cough)
I-I'm alive? B-but, where am I?

SFX: He walks for a bit. A spirit materializes from thin air.

SPIRIT
(distorted voice of
Alyssa)
Welcome Matthew.

MATTHEW
Huh. So, this is my third warning
then? And why are you using my
sister's voice?

SPIRIT
(distorted voice of
Alyssa)
We chose something that'd be
familiar to you.

MATTHEW
Not gonna lie. It's kind of creepy.
Especially with that weird filter
or whatever.

SPIRIT
(distorted voice of
Alyssa)
We see.
(distorted voice of
Matthew)
Is this voice more acceptable?

MATTHEW

I-I guess. I don't know

(beat)

Still a little weird, but whatever.

SPIRIT

(distorted voice of
Matthew)

We apologize that this meeting is
not ideal for you, but we must
continue it nonetheless.

SFX: Tremors.

SPIRIT (CONT'D)

(distorted voice of
Matthew)

We don't have much time here.

MATTHEW

Does it have something to do with
the rumbling?

SPIRIT

(distorted voice of
Matthew)

Yes, precisely. It is Uzale. It is
gaining strength daily.

MATTHEW

Then why can't you guys do
something about it? You're able to
bring me to a place like this after
all.

SPIRIT

(distorted voice of
Matthew)

We are unable to stop its growth.
We've done all we can by sealing it
in a space separate from our
reality.

MATTHEW

Okay? Then how is it still getting
strength? Why were you guys only
able to seal it and not destroy it?

SPIRIT

(distorted voice of
Matthew)

We know you have questions, but
there is not much time for answers.

(MORE)

SPIRIT (CONT'D)

Currently, there is no way to destroy Uzale. Its influence in the Black Forest is testament to that. The worshippers you've seen are also to be blamed.

MATTHEW

(surprised)

Then what the cult is doing is actually working? It isn't bullshit? Really?

SPIRIT

(distorted voice of

Matthew)

(laugh)

No, it is not "bullshit" Matthew. A piece of Uzale lives on within them. Once they perform their ritual that piece returns to Uzale with all of its host's knowledge.

MATTHEW

I-if it's so powerful, is there no way for you to destroy the space that it's in?

SPIRIT

(distorted voice of

Matthew)

We can not. Only a human with a strong enough will may enter that space.

SFX: Tremors.

MATTHEW

(confused)

If that's all then why hasn't it--

SPIRIT

(distorted voice of

Matthew)

Because once they enter and destroy that space they'll no longer be able to return to this side.

MATTHEW

O-oh. I see.

SPIRIT

(distorted voice of

Matthew)

Yes.

(MORE)

SPIRIT (CONT'D)

That is why every human we've
warned has turned back and left
this forest

(beat)

except for one.

MATTHEW

(suspicious)

And that one is referring to whom?

SPIRIT

(distorted voice of
Matthew)

You know in your heart whom I'm
referring.

MATTHEW

N-no! I don't believe you! You let
my sister go to this space? Why
didn't you stop her?!

SPIRIT

(distorted voice of
Matthew)

We did. She was--is headstrong as
well. She cared not for our
warnings and continued on..

MATTHEW

Damn it!

SFX: Matthew punches the cavern's wall.

MATTHEW (CONT'D)

(disheartened)

I should have went with her and now
she's going to die.

SPIRIT

(distorted voice of
Matthew)

She has not entered into that space
and she has certainly not died

(beat)

Yet.

MATTHEW

(angry)

Screw all of this. I'm getting her
back.

SFX: Tremors.

SPIRIT
 (distorted voice of
 Matthew)
 Then does this mean that you are
 not leaving?

MATTHEW
 Of fucking course not!

SPIRIT
 (distorted voice of
 Matthew)
 Are you certain? We will no longer
 protect you from the true nature of
 the forest. It takes a lot of
 energy keeping you safe from Uzale.

MATTHEW
 (frustrated)
 Hey, I never asked for your help.
 All I want to do is get my sister
 and get the hell out of here.

SFX: Louder tremors.

SPIRIT
 (distorted voice of
 Matthew)
 We see. We shall take this as your
 answer and cease protection. We
 wish you the best of luck. You must
 return lest you be trapped here.

MATTHEW
 Okay? And how am I going t--

SFX: Snap.

EXT. POND OF LIGHT - NIGHT

MATTHEW
 (gasp)
 I-I'm back. Damn, it's dark out
 too. Well, time to deal with--
 (beat)

SFX: Matthew hastily walks around for a bit. He stops.

MATTHEW (CONT'D)
 Shit! Where'd the priest go?

End of Episode