

Have Monster, Will Travel
Episode 4: Uncle Dan Monster

RILEY

[whispering:] Crypto-Curious. I just want you to listen to this.

(roar.)

Can you hear that?

(different roar.)

He has been practicing that all day.

(roar.)

Like right now, he's in this crouched-low wrestler's stance, just kinda gyrating with his arms out ready to bear-hug somebody.

(roar.)

It the kind of adorable where you feel this evolutionary-imperative to protect him from harm.

(roar.)

Like you hear that and just know he probably has puppy-dog breath right now.

RENDER

I can hear you!

RILEY

Yeah, but pretend like you can't. Keep going.

RENDER

Why, so you can record me?

RILEY

That would be a violation of trust and I don't know what kind of person would do that.



RENDER

... Hi Crypto-Curious.

RILEY

Render says hi. – Okay, but just give me a few more.

RENDER

No.

RILEY

Come on, it's so stinking cute.

RENDER

It's not cute, it's who I am!

(RENDER sulks.)

RILEY

What's going on?

RENDER

I'm a monster without a roar.

RILEY

You're working on it.

RENDER

It doesn't seem like the sort of thing a monster should have to work on.

RILEY

Or maybe your kind doesn't roar. I mean look how big you are.

RENDER

You're just trying to cheer me up.

RILEY

I don't know why you've made this such a big deal.

I don't think a roar is something you can force.



RENDER

What if they don't like me?

RILEY

Ren...

RENDER

We were supposed to have found them by now. The town was exactly where the Paladin said it would be, the town with the abandoned water tower in the shape of a butt.

RILEY

It's a peach.

RENDER

No. I've eaten a peach. Peaches are not that color.

RILEY

We've been over this.

RENDER

It looks exactly like a human butt.

RILEY

It's not a butt.

RENDER

Get out your phone – we can pull up pictures –

RILEY

I promise you. They did not build a water tower in the shape of a human butt.

RENDER

It doesn't matter anyway. We've been here for four days and haven't seen anything. OKCryptid calls this a hot spot, but we haven't got anything to go on.

You can't turn up any leads in town. I don't know what to look for out here.

RILEY

If your family is nearby, we will find them.



RENDER

I just keep thinking...

They know I'm here. They just don't care.

RILEY

I don't buy that. I cared. From the instant I laid eyes on you. So that idea – it doesn't pass the smell test.

RENDER

But what if the reason you found me is because... because of me. Because of something that makes me unwanted.

RILEY

Then that's their loss, not yours.

When we find your family – and we are going to find your family – they are going to love you. Not because of some monster roar you figured out but because of the monster you already are. Okay?

(RENDER still isn't convinced.)

Okay here we go.

RENDER

What?

RILEY

We're not doing this... Not on my watch. Up.

RENDER

What are we doing?

RILEY

We're solving this whole roar problem right now.

RENDER

You don't have to do that.



RILEY

No. We're doing it. You and me are gonna solve this roar problem right now.

And we're gonna do a little bit of exercise while we do it.

RENDER

I don't wanna do that.

RILEY

Stretch. Because I don't know if you've noticed this, but we are not in great shape.

RENDER

[incredulously:] What??

RILEY

Well, if you wore pants, you would know they're getting a little tight right now.

RENDER

You're beautiful.

RILEY

We are drop dead gorgeous, my friend. But we also live in a van. And do a little too much sitting. And we eat like trash.

Stretch.

RENDER

Oh – I hate this.

RILEY

Everybody hates it.

(stretching:)

Yeah, get them hammies.

Okay, now face me. So, we're gonna do some lunges.

(Lunges:)



RILEY (cont.)

There you go.

Straight down, straight up. No, don't let your knee get ahead of your foot.

And now this time, when you go down, let out a big ole roar.

(Lunge. RILEY roars.)

(Lunge. RENDER roars.)

Good. How was that?

RENDER

I don't think this is how roaring is supposed to work.

RILEY

Ya know what's gonna make that roar stronger? Workin' out that core.

RENDER

I don't think I like what this is doing to you.

RILEY

And roar.

(Roar.)

(Roar.)

How was that?

RENDER

Omigosh you're so right, I totally feel it.

RILEY

Hey buddy, you better get used to this – cause we are making exercise part of our regular routine.

RENDER

Yeah, I can feel my peach butt getting firmer.



RILEY

We are not calling it that.

RENDER

And we stop now?

RILEY

Roar.

(Roar.)

(Roar.)

You want to do some jumping jacks?

RENDER

i very much do not want to do that

RILEY

Here we go!

RENDER

What if we just ate better?

RILEY

Do you have any idea how much running we do?

And roar.

(Roar.)

(Roar.)

RENDER

We don't do that much.

RILEY

Most people never have a reason to shout "Run for it!" One of us says it at least once a week.
That is not natural.



RENDER

Okay, well then, the running is the exercise.

RILEY

Uhhhh... You turned a Kia Soul into a monster.

RENDER

For the greater good.

RILEY

Yeah, well it still chased us for a while before it got the message.

One of these days, we're not gonna be able to outrun whatever nonsense wants to eat us, ya know?

RENDER

I guess...

RILEY

Roar.

(a big roar.)

(a very big roar.)

(In the distance, a humongous roar. RILEY and RENDER stop in their tracks.)

RENDER

Riley...

RILEY

Don't say it.

RENDER

Do you think?

RILEY

I know we have to but don't.



RENDER

It's them – come on – RUN FOR IT!

(RENDER runs off.)

RILEY

... I've got to buy more sports bras.

(THEME SONG.)

(Deeper in the already deep woods. ERIC MCDERMOTT is trying unsuccessfully to set up a bear trap. RENDER runs on.)

RENDER

Whoa!

ERIC

Oh!

RENDER

What are you doing here?

ERIC

You got here a lot faster than I thought you would.

RENDER

Wait. Was that you roaring?

ERIC

That was you and the girl on the other end, right?

RENDER

Yeah.

ERIC

I thought it probably was, but I wasn't sure. Yeah, you got here really fast.

RENDER

Well, a lot of it was downhill.



ERIC

Still. I thought I would have time to set this up first.

RENDER

What is that?

ERIC

Oh – you look like you’re strong. Can you? ...

I can’t get this to open. I don’t think it’s stuck, just... I mean it’s very tough.

RENDER

Oh. Alright.

ERIC

Yeah, you just grab the two sides there and like –

(ERIC demonstrates with his hands)

You know, kinda pull it apart.

RENDER

Well yeah, I’ll try.

ERIC

You gotta put it on the ground first.

(RENDER does. The bear trap slowly opens.)

Careful. Careful.

RENDER

Is that it?

ERIC

No, it’s supposed to click once it’s done.

I think a little farther.



(The bear trap clicks into place.)

ERIC (cont.)

Awesome thanks.

RENDER

Wait... so, the roaring. That was you?

ERIC

Yeah.

(ERIC demonstrates.)

RENDER

Oh...

Oh, okay.

ERIC

Who did you think it was?

(RILEY runs on, out of breath.)

RILEY

Render – get away from that!

(RENDER steps back.)

What are you doing?

ERIC / RENDER

Me?

RILEY

Both of you. What are you doing with a bear trap?

RENDER

Is that a bear trap?



RILEY

Obviously.

RENDER

Don't say it like that. Okay, yes – it looks like a bear trap- but I've never seen one up close before – and like what would anyone even need with a –

Was this for me?

RILEY

Yyyyeah.

ERIC

You know what, this is a little embarrassing but yes, it was.

RENDER

My leg?

RILEY

You oughta be ashamed.

ERIC

I oughta be ashamed?

RILEY

Yeah. You.

RENDER

My leg!

RILEY

What is wrong with you?

ERIC

You totaled my car.

RILEY

That is not a proportional response.



RENDER

My leg! Gah!

ERIC

Uhh – yes it is. Do you know what my car insurance company told me?

I voided my policy when I drove that deep into the marshlands.

Not to mention I never found that phone.

RILEY

And so what – you go out, buy a bear trap – A Bear Trap! – and then set it up in the middle of –

Was that him roaring.

RENDER

That was him roaring.

RILEY

You're despicable.

ERIC

Well I don't like you either.

RILEY

Then stop following us!

RENDER

Wait – how did you find us?

ERIC

It wasn't that hard. Your OKCryptid handle is 1996GMCSafariSquad – as soon as you started digging around, asking for updates, I knew where to find you. Safari Squad... amateur.

RILEY

Oh and I'm sure you're just soooo clever.

ERIC

Uh – yeah. Bigfoott with a –



RILEY

Big B and two Ts, yeah, color me impressed.

ERIC

It's clever – everyone who knows me says it's clever.

RENDER

It's consistent. I don't know if it's clever – but it is consistent.

RILEY

Well, it's your fault that your car is gone – not ours.

ERIC

You broke into it and turned it into a monster.

RILEY

With water you stole from the unmentionables.

I offered to buy the menagerie from you – I offered to pay for a copy of it – if you hadn't been so greedy, you wouldn't be stuck with us now.

ERIC

This has nothing to do with the menagerie. The two of you are trying to get rid of me because you see me as a threat.

RILEY

You're crazy.

ERIC

You broke into my car. The menagerie was in the front seat –

RENDER

Oh. We were wondering about that.

ERIC

If it's so important to you, why didn't you just take it.

(During this, RENDER gets distracted, starts looking around.)



RILEY

We were trying to save the lives of a bunch of paladinglings – we weren't thinking about ourselves.

(RENDER sees something off in the distance.)

ERIC

Well aren't you selfless...

RENDER

Hey Riley.

RILEY

Just a second, buddy.

We're not like you. We're not hunters. Or collectors. Or fame mongers. And I'll tell you something else. This little stunt of yours cost my friend something today.

Today's an important day to him. So for you to go tramping thru the woods, roaring and setting up traps –

ERIC

Hey – where'd he go?

(RENDER is gone.)

RILEY

Are you serious?

(RILEY turns and looks off into the woods.)

ERIC

Oh, there he is. God he is really running.

RILEY

This is going to be a terrible day.

(RILEY starts running off. ERIC follow. RILEY marches ERIC back on.)



RILEY (cont.)

[re: bear trap] You are not leaving that there.

ERIC

That's fair.

(The base of a suspiciously-shaped water tower.)

(RENDER runs on.)

UNCLE DAN

Would you look at that?

(THEY see each other. Stunned silence for a moment.)

RENDER

Oh. Hi.

UNCLE DAN

Are y'all back?

RENDER

Back?

UNCLE DAN

I just didn't figure I'd ever see any of the old –

(RENDER rushes him and gives UNCLE DAN a giant hug.)

Oh – alright – not really the touchy kind. So if you could just –

RENDER

Do you know me?

UNCLE DAN

I do now.

RENDER

No, I mean... sorry. I just. I've never seen anyone else that looks like me.



UNCLE DAN

They left you too, huh?

RENDER

What?

UNCLE DAN

Yeah – what a bunch of jerks. I wake up one morning – poof – ghost town, no one here but ole Dan, holding down the fort.

RENDER

They left you...

UNCLE DAN

Yeah, what a bunch of jerks.

RENDER

Why?

UNCLE DAN

That's the thing I can't figure out. Jealous, I guess. Too many alphas running around, ya know – bunch a jerks with no respect, ya know.

Better off without em, that's my line – plus, got this sweet little honey pad out of the deal.

RENDER

You live in that water tower?

UNCLE DAN

Pretty great, huh –

RENDER

Can I ask you –

UNCLE DAN

It's a butt.

RENDER

Oh.



UNCLE DAN

Lot of people think it's a peach. Fruit don't got pimples.

What's your name?

RENDER

Oh, uh... I'm Render.

UNCLE DAN

Render, huh? Kinda a dumb name. Whatever.

To each its own, ya know?

RENDER

I'm sorry if this sounds weird, but... are you my –

UNCLE DAN

You ain't my kid! Uh-uh, I ain't raising you.

RENDER

No, I don't mean that. I just mean. I'm looking for my family.

I'm trying to find out where I come from.

UNCLE DAN

Yeah, well families are hard. I mean just look what happened to me.

Well you can call me Dan – I ain't 'bout to start looking after you. I got kind of a bachelor thing going and it's pretty great.

RENDER

Can I call you Uncle Dan?

UNCLE DAN

Yeah. But don't expect nothing.

RENDER

So... your whole family?



UNCLE DAN

Done me wrong, that's what.

RENDER

I'm sorry.

UNCLE DAN

I'm not! Good riddance, ya know? Bringing me down!

RENDER

Did any of them look like... I mean, do I remind you of anyone.

UNCLE DAN

I don't know. Maybe. Yeah. You could be Connie's kid.

Can I give you some advice?

RENDER

Sure Uncle Dan.

UNCLE DAN

Yeah, I don't know if I like that.

You gotta let this go – family. They left you. Why would you want to get back to that?

RENDER

I don't know. I guess I just wanna know where I come from.

UNCLE DAN

Yeah, well, you might not like what you find.

RENDER

I can't believe they just... left you.

UNCLE DAN

Better off without 'em.

I'd gone to bed tore up, ya know. Buncha campers come thru and I used ta like to scare em. You know – run 'em off, go thru their stuff.



UNCLE DAN (cont.)

You can get the best kinds of things that way.

Young couple – little kids – that’s the ideal way to do it. Middle of the night, I sneak up on their campsite, right. Make sure I get right between the campfire and the tent so my shadow’s right there. And then I RIP OPEN THE TENT and flash my teeth and scream.

[laughing:] these little kids – I mean they went bug-eyed – it was great.

And that’s the way you do it – get them kiddies and their parents aren’t gonna wait around long enough to get their wits about ‘em – they’re gone.

RENDER

You scared a bunch of kids?

UNCLE DAN

Yea-yeah. We’re monsters. That’s part and parcel.

RENDER

But they weren’t there to hurt you.

UNCLE DAN

You don’t know. You don’t know what they’ll do to us if we give ‘em the chance.

Oh sure, the others moan and groan about it.

“Come on, Dan, you’re attracting too much attention – you gotta leave them be.”

But can’t nobody tell me what to do. Ya know.

Well they ran. And I grabbed up all their stuff, ya know. All kinds of food and drinks.

Gave me the worst gut rot. I mean I thought I was gonna die – went to bed, slept it off, woke up and they was gone.

RENDER

And you’ve been out here by yourself ever since?



UNCLE DAN

Don't worry about me, I'll get them back.

They'll wish they never treated me that way.

RENDER

So you don't know where they all went?

UNCLE DAN

Don't care neither.

RENDER

And you don't know if they –

(RILEY and ERIC rush on.)

RILEY

Render!

RENDER

Riley!

ERIC

My god they multiplied!

RILEY

They did not.

ERIC

Alright. Well... you never know. Sometimes they do.

Hi. I'm Eric. Eric McDermott. Big D, two Ts.

(no recognition:)

Oh. Uh. You probably know me as Professor Bunion.

UNCLE DAN

That's a stupid name.



ERIC

It's my understanding that it's a working title.

UNCLE DAN

You know them?

RENDER

That's my best friend, Riley.

UNCLE DAN

Are you kidding me! We don't have best friends. And we don't hang around with humans.

RENDER

No – she's nice. You'd like her.

UNCLE DAN

What kind of monster are you?

You ain't my kin. You're a traitor.

RENDER

No. You're wrong. Riley's done more for me than...

She's my family.

UNCLE DAN

Oh. They're so good. He's holding a bear trap.

(He is.)

ERIC

This was in the woods and I was like, "This shouldn't be here."

You know, I think I'll set this down.

(He does.)

Oh shoot – I think my rental car is due back soon – so if you'll all excuse...



(ERIC runs off.)

(UNCLE DAN MONSTER advances on RILEY and RENDER, growling and snarling.)

RILEY

Hey Render – you know that roar you’ve been trying to figure out. I think I know what it sounds like now.

RENDER

Oh no – my roar sounds much different than that. You wanna hear it?

RILEY

I think I know what it is.

BOTH

RUN FOR IT!

(The 1996 GMC Safari. Night. Silent. Eventually.)

RILEY

Hey. You okay?

I know you’re upset.

RENDER

I don’t know that I am.

More of me exist. I know that now.

And the ones that left – they left because they don’t want to be like that.

I like that.

RILEY

Hey Render?

You’re my family too.



(a moment, then:)

RENDER

Uncle Dan was a butt.

RILEY

A butt who lived in a butt.

RENDER

I told you!

RILEY

I know. Peaches don't have tan lines.

RENDER

I'm afraid to walk around to the other side... Hey. You got that checklist?

RILEY

Clues to our next stop?

RENDER

We've still got our two Menagerie clippings. Check.

RILEY

Best friend?

RENDER

Check.

RILEY

Adventure of a lifetime?

RENDER

Double check.

Well Crypto-Curious, not the ending we were hoping for – but that's alright. You know what they say, you can't pick your families unless you absolutely do.



RILEY

The next adventure is just a full tank of gas away on Have Monster, Will Travel.

RENDER

And like they say where I'm from: "The last fellow that went in that cave never came back!"

(end of episode.)



CREDITS

RORY

Hey it's your Uncle Dan Monster Rory Sheridan here. Have Monster, Will Travel features the vocal talents of Jordan Trovillion as Riley Kate, Paul Kerford Wilson as Render, Dave Powell as the morbidly grotesque Professor Bunion –

DAVE

Okay. I know we're doing a bit – but I hate this.

RORY

and me, Rory Sheridan. Today's episode was written by Trey Tatum and directed by Bridget Leak. Have Monster, Will Travel is a production of Queen City Flash out of Cincinnati, Ohio.

JORDAN

Hey, this is Jordan Trovillion. Thank you so much for listening. If you're enjoying Have Monster, Will Travel, it would mean the world to us if you would take a moment to rate or review the show wherever you found it. Or better yet, tell a friend – it's your generosity that is helping to grow our audience.

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