

Have Monster, Will Travel
Episode 7: Creeping Mysteria

RILEY

Okay... do. you. have. gills?

RENDER

... no.

(CLICK. CLICK. CLICK.)

Are you the... firebrand?

RILEY

No.

(CLICK.)

RENDER

Ah, yes. Of course of course of course.

RILEY

Are you tall?

RENDER

I am.

(CLICK. CLICK. CLICK. CLICK.)

Are you the som'honeys?

RILEY

No.

(CLICK.)

RENDER

I see I see. Clever...



RILEY

Hey there, Crypto-Curious - Riley here.

RENDER

You're distracting me.

RILEY

It's not even your turn.

RENDER

I'm strategizing.

RILEY

This is meant for children. You're fine.

RENDER

Go ahead. But I'm on to your tactics.

RILEY

If you're a longtime listener, you might think that our lives are nothing but galavanting around and high adventure. But, in truth, we also have our fair share of downtime.

Do you have fangs?

RENDER

Go fish.

RILEY

Wrong game.

(CLICK. CLICK.)

When we were back home, I raided a bunch of board games from Dad's basement, games we used to play when I was a kid. Like, the classics:

Can you [doop doop], it's a mystery?

You get me, I'll get you back!



RENDER

Are you the bloodskipper?

RILEY

Sorry pal.

(CLICK.)

RENDER

And the snare closes...

RILEY

But Render was very disappointed in the lack of monster representation.

RENDER

I just want to see creatures like me.

RILEY

Hey, you don't gotta convince me, chum.

So, Render has spent a good deal of time scratching out all the human characters and replacing them with monsters.

Wait. Render. Did you pick yourself?

RENDER

Ugh. You win.

(RILEY laughs, victoriously.)

It's not fair - you had these as a kid.

RILEY

So?

RENDER

You've like, trained.



RILEY

Okay - this is not an Olympic event.

Look - you're just going about it wrong. Okay. Set your board back up.

(RESET.)

And pick your card.

(RENDER and RILEY pick a card.)

Now, when I ask you a question, I don't say, "are you this one card?"

I look at all the cards and try to find a trait that multiple cards share. Like:

Do you have more than two legs?

RENDER

I don't.

RILEY

Great - and now I get to knock down these four...

(CLICK. CLICK. CLICK. CLICK.)

You're turn.

RENDER

Are you the unmentionables?

RILEY

No. See. That's not how you -

RENDER

It's my strategy!

RILEY

It's a bad strategy!



RENDER

You can't call my ideas bad.

RILEY

Well what if your ideas are bad?

You're never going to win this way. You don't see me guessing one card at a time. Like:

Oh Render, did you pick yourself again?

(hmm... silence. Isn't that interesting.)

Render... Did you pick yourself again.

(RENDER CLICKS all his pieces down in defeat.)

RENDER

You are like a Grandmaster at this.

RILEY

This game does not have Grandmasters!

(Calming down:)

Okay. Set 'em up.

(RESET.)

And now pick a card. This isn't you.

Render. Can you swim?

RENDER

No.

(CLICK. CLICK. CLICK.)

Are you the...



Broader...

RILEY

Do you...

RENDER

Good.

RILEY

call yourself the sharktopustoshark.

RENDER

Hey! You nailed it.

RILEY

I did?!

RENDER

Good job.

RILEY

I beat a Grandmaster?

RENDER

Absolutely.

RILEY

... Show me.

RENDER

What?

RILEY

The card. Show me the card.

RENDER

Okay. Rematch time.

RILEY



RENDER

Show me the card, Riley.

RILEY

No.

RENDER

Why not?

RILEY

Because, pal, you have to trust me.

RENDER

You cheater!

RILEY

What did you just call me?

RENDER

Show me.

RILEY

No. Stop! Let go.

RENDER

Show me.

RILEY

Not on your life, furball!

RENDER

I want to see.

RILEY

You know - you are such a sore winner.

RENDER

That's not even a thing.



RILEY

Well I'm the Grandmaster, I think I would know. Stop!

RENDER

Not until you show me -

RILEY

I will bite you.

RENDER

You wouldn't dare. OWWWW!

(Theme Song.)

(RILEY and RENDER climbing out of the 1996 GMC Safari.)

Is this it?

RILEY

According to GPS.

RENDER

I thought there was a sign.

RILEY

Yeah. Me too.

Oh. Hey. Over here.

RENDER

You see something?

RILEY

Maybe. It's really overgrown. Yeah. Totally a sign.

RENDER

It's like... covered in vines.

(RILEY begins pulling away at the vines.)



RILEY

Wanna help?

RENDER

I am. Just when you think you can't go any further, that's when you'll hear me, from the stands, cheering you into a frenzy.

RILEY

Yeah. That's what I meant.

God, wish I had a machete.

RENDER

We just had breakfast.

RILEY

What?

RENDER

What.

RILEY

A machete?

RENDER

[eets-a-me, a-Mario...] Machete!

(RILEY laughs.)

What?

RILEY

Nothing.

RENDER

You have to tell me.

RILEY

Nope. If I correct all the cute, it'll quit happening.



RILEY (cont.)

(Still working:)

Just gonna point this out - you're the big, strong one.

RENDER

Are you kidding - look at those biceps - I am impressed and inspired.

RILEY

Oh forget it - I'm pretty much done.

(RILEY steps back, tired.)

There it is, right where they said it would be.

BOTH

Welcome to the town of Wouldn't-You-Like-To-Know, Population:

RILEY

Zilch!

RENDER

Nada!

(General confusion. THEY try again.)

RILEY

Nada!

RENDER

Zilch!

RILEY

Swish.

Alright, You ready?

RENDER



Do you think we pulled far enough off the road.

RILEY

I think we're good.

RENDER

I've never been in an abandoned town before.

RILEY

Well saddle up, mah-friend. Firsts is what we do.

(They start walking.)

RENDER

Do you wanna get everybody caught up?

RILEY

This is your adventure, jump in.

RENDER

Crypto-Curious, if I'm right, we are mere minutes away from getting the drop on Professor Bunion, reclaiming the Aghast Menagerie and well, I guess just those two things. But those are enough.

You see - we were (finally!) en route to the second mystery location from our pages of the Menagerie when I was doing a little stalking on the instagram page for - Oh! Do it...

RILEY

You can do it.

RENDER

Yeah, but yours is funnier.

RILEY

BOW-BOW-BOW! SASK-WATCH!

RENDER

[snort-laughing:] Professor Bunion's hilariously-bad podcast.

Well, he had this picture of this big breakfast at this small-town diner.

“Gotta fuel up if you want to catch a monster!”

Only there was a mirror behind the counter where you could the backwards letters of the name of the diner on front window.

RILEY

Render actually held my phone up to a mirror to read it which was both very unnecessary and insanely adorable.

RENDER

Well we found the diner. And we do not agree on what the term over-medium means.

RILEY

And we're drifting off course.

RENDER

Point is - this diner is in the middle of nowhere.

RILEY

Specifically, a nowhere so expansive that the only point of note in the entire county...

RENDER

Is the creepy ghost town in the middle of the woods. The town of:

BOTH

Wouldn't-You-Like-To-Know. Population:

RILEY

... mmm hmm.

RENDER

So here's the plan.

RILEY

We have a plan?

RENDER

I worked it out in the car.

RILEY

Can I tell you something?

RENDER

Huh?

RILEY

Very excited about this.

RENDER

So. We sneak up on Professor Bunion...

RILEY

Obviously.

RENDER

And I run past him so fast that I'm like a blur. And I, like, bop him on the nose.

RILEY

Sure.

RENDER

And he's all confused, like, 'what was that!'

And that's where you come in, sneaking up behind him with your stealth skills.

RILEY

That I have, of course, yes.

RENDER

And you grab that satchel bag he's always carrying around.

RENDER (cont.)

And he turns around to see what's going on, but he doesn't catch you because [RRRROOOOM]

I run by in a second blur and -



RILEY

Bop him on the nose.

RENDER

Bop him. On the. Nose!

RILEY

Well this is maybe the most perfect plan I have ever heard.

RENDER

And sure, there will be some critics out there who see that second bop on the nose as bad form.

RILEY

Do you hear that?

RENDER

But honestly, after everything Professor Bunion has put us thru, a couple of nose bops is the least that he's earned.

RILEY

Shh... Hold on Ren -

RENDER

Now if I really wanted to get back at him.

RILEY

Someone's coming. Hide.

(THEY run off the road, into some bushes. The sound of an APPROACHING CAR.)

Get down!

RENDER

I am down.

RILEY

You need to get more downer than that.

(RENDER shuffles lower into the dirt. A CAR speeds by.)

What is an Uber doing all the way out here?

(RILEY and RENDER are not alone.)

POTTER

I don't think he saw us.

(Screams. Yelps! Gasps even! RILEY and RENDER leap up.)

RILEY

Umm. Hello?

POTTER

Hi!

RILEY

Alright. You've had your fun. Come out.

POTTER

Oh. I can't really do that.

RENDER

Riley...

RILEY

We're not gonna hurt you. Just come out.

RENDER

Can't you see them?

RILEY

Them?

RENDER

They're everywhere.

RILEY

Well that's my least favorite sentence.

POTTER

Hey what are you talking about over there? Talking about me? Feels like you're talking about me.

RENDER

You don't see them? The faces. The vines growing up the trees. They look like faces.

POTTER

Oh, the faces? Yeah, people like it better with the face thing, makes them more comfortable.

RILEY

Does it?

RENDER

How many of you are there?

POTTER

Oh, it's just me. You can call me Potter.

RENDER

Hi Potter. I'm Render. And this is my best friend, Riley.

RILEY

Hi.

POTTER

Best friend! That's awesome. Best friends are the best. I've got a best friend.

RILEY

Oh yeah?

POTTER

Yeah. Here - come closer come closer come closer.

RILEY



I think I might stay out here on the road.

POTTER

Well that's fine. That's great. But, if you were closer, it sure would be a lot easier to get a look at you.

RENDER

Okay.

RILEY

Umm... Render. That's the thing you say right before the fairy tale takes a dark turn. Why don't you stay over here.

RENDER

It's fine.

(RENDER walks closer.)

POTTER

Oh! You're a big fella. [Laughing:] I like you. You're a moist, well-drained soil in full sun. That's what you are!

RENDER

Oh. Is that a ... thank you?

POTTER

You're welcome.

RENDER

Can... Can I touch you? Is that rude? Sorry.

POTTER

No! It's fine it's fine. Touch. Grab a handful.

(RENDER inspects POTTER.)

RENDER

So this whole vine is you?

POTTER

Yeah. Pretty much.

RILEY

Render, look up. The vines. They cover all the treetops.

POTTER

Oh, thanks. I'm pretty proud of it.

RILEY

Can you see us?

POTTER

I mean. I don't have eyes. But I get a pretty good sense when I'm up close.

RENDER

So, why the face?

POTTER

Oh - that was the little girl's idea.

(POTTER starts humming a sad tune.)

RILEY

Little girl.

POTTER

She's around here somewhere. We'll probably run into her.

RILEY

A little girl in a ghost town.

POTTER

A ghost town?

Oh. [wink wink nudge:] that sounds dangerous.

RENDER

Not real ghosts. I thought the same thing. It just means no one lives here anymore.

POTTER

Well... If you say so.

RILEY

So if the face is just to look at - where's your voice coming from?

POTTER

Great question. Great question.

I have no idea. I don't know how any of this works, I never went to college.

(POTTER, that mad, flirty, som'bitch starts laughing vacantly.)

Honestly, it's better if you don't fixate on it too much.

RENDER

oof. You got me. Your little tendrils are... wrapping around my wrist.

RILEY

Render!

POTTER

Oh. Yeah. They do that. No big deal. Just snap 'em off.

RENDER

I couldn't.

POTTER

It's fine it's fine. Who cares?

RENDER

Doesn't it hurt?

POTTER

Not at all.

RENDER



Oo - it's getting tighter.

RILEY

Will you let go of him?

(RILEY runs up, snapping the vine. POTTER screams bloody murder. RILEY and RENDER join in, horrified.)

POTTER

[laughing again:] I'm just kidding. Oh - I wish I could have seen your faces all "Wah!"

RILEY

That's not funny.

RENDER

It was pretty good.

RILEY

Well come away from there?

And you shouldn't grab people

RENDER

or monsters -

RILEY

or monsters without their permission.

POTTER

I'm sorry. I can't help it.

Come here, Riley. I want to apologize.

RILEY

No. You come to me.

POTTER

I can't.

RILEY

Why not?

POTTER

It's the blacktop - it's too hot for me.

Come here come here come here come here. I want to get a better sense of you.

Please.

RILEY

Okay. Render. Stay on the road.

(RILEY walks into the brush, closer to POTTER.)

POTTER

A little closer.

(more steps.)

Closer.

(step.)

Oh come on, really close.

(The sound of tendrils seeking. POTTER grabs RILEY. She gasps.)

POTTER (cont.)

Oh. I know you.

I know all about people like you. You thrive in dry, acidic soils. You... you're drought-tolerant.

(tendrils pulls RILEY in closer. POTTER talks, sharing a secret.)

I can't help it. I just grab all the stuff I like. And I like a lot.

The little girl. She used to say. Don't. Don't grow so tall. If you don't stop growing, my daddy will cut you down.



But I didn't stop growing.

And her daddy? He didn't cut me down.

[singing a little tune:] *blackberry, honeysuckle, I wish I knew the words...*

RILEY

I'd like you to let go of me now.

POTTER

Can't. You'll have to break it.

(snap.)

(RILEY backs out of the woods. POTTER snaps to.)

Oh. You're back. Yes yes yes yes. Come in come in. I'll show you.

RENDER

Come in where?

RILEY

Show us?

POTTER

What? Oh. No. Not you. I was talking to the other one.

POTTER (cont.)

[grumble grumble...] Hold on, I'll be right back.

(All quiet in the woods.)

RENDER

Potter? You still there?

RILEY

Ren. We gotta get out of here.

RENDER

Who were they talking to?

RILEY

Uh, look around Goober-Grape, It's just us. They're clearly crazy.

RENDER

Are you for real?

RILEY

Are you for real? ... We have got to work on your radar.

Come on.

RENDER

Back to the Safari?

RILEY

Yeah. Bout that time, don't you think?

RENDER

What about the town?

RILEY

It'll look picturesque in a rearview mirror, I'm sure.

RENDER

I think you're overreacting.

RILEY

Were you listening a second ago?

RENDER

I see.

RILEY

What, I see? ...

RENDER

You're jealous.

RILEY

Oh, please.

RENDER

You're jealous that Potter likes me more.

RILEY

That's what you think is going on here?

RENDER

It is adorable and I love you and don't. ever. change.

RILEY

I... I don't even know what to say.

RENDER

There are no vines in the road. We stick to the road, check out the town, get out.

Easy, Peasy, Lemon-squeezey.

RILEY

Fine. Whatever. So long as we get as far away from that vine-face as possible.

(THEY start walking.)

RENDER

Besides, what's the worst that can happen? They grab you with those little tendrils. Just snap them.

Like pulling weeds.

RILEY

Yeah. Cause yardwork is a thing you're known for.

POTTER

Oh good good good!

(Shrieks. You know who.)

I meant to tell you to meet me in town. You read my mind. Or... my plant thinker. You get it. You get it.

(They stop walking.)

RILEY

Were... you listening to us back there.

POTTER

No. I was busy.

RENDER

Did you leave and come back?

POTTER

Oh. Well. Yes. Kinda.

You know you don't have to stand still, right? You can keep walking.

RILEY

You can walk?

POTTER

No. I can only be one place at a time. But I'm also everywhere. It's ... confusing?

Keep walking keep walking keep walking. I'll show you.

(THEY start walking. POTTER is a little behind them.)

Keep going. Yes. Yes.

(More footsteps.)

RILEY

[quietly:] Yeah. This is how you end up in an oven in fairy tales.

POTTER

[very distant:] You're doing great - just a little further.

(walking)

[suddenly very close:] And now I'm here.

(RILEY jumps, gasps.)

You scare easy.

RILEY

Yes, I'm learning that.

POTTER

So yeah. I just kinda go where I want.

(THEY keep walking. POTTER sings to himself:)

Blackberry, Honeysuckle, zippy zippy zip. [hums a little more]

RENDER

So this is the town?

POTTER

Adorable isn't it.

RILEY

It's very quiet.

POTTER

You noticed?

RILEY

Yeah.

POTTER

It used to be more active - like really buzzing. And then there was this period where people started leaving. But that all calmed down.

RILEY

I can't imagine why...

RENDER

It was probably all the vines, don't you think?

POTTER

You should meet the townspeople. They're very nice - you'd like them. They're just inside this house.

RILEY

Oh no, I don't think we've got time for that. Thank you tho.

RENDER

What? We've got all day.

RILEY

Render?

POTTER

It'll just take a second.

RENDER

Sure.

RILEY

What has gotten into you?

RENDER

They're nice. They like us. And we didn't come all this way to not investigate.

RILEY

That is a murder house. You're being drawn into a murder house.

RENDER

Omigod - you can't stand that Potter likes me more. Wow.

RILEY

This is not about that.

RENDER

Look - I'm going to go in there. You stay here. If I run into trouble, which I won't, I'll call.

(RENDER walks towards the house.)

POTTER

[calling from off:] Come on - it's just inside here.

RENDER

Oh. Wow. I love what you've done with the place.

(RENDER goes in. RILEY waits a moment.)

RILEY

Alright. Into the oven we go.

(RILEY runs after RENDER.)

(Inside the house.)

RILEY (cont.)

Render!

RENDER

[distant, calling:] We're in the basement.

RILEY

[to herself:] Ooooh of course. Why are you doing this to me?

[sigh.] Snot Otter.

(Basement steps.)

RENDER

You made all this?

POTTER

Yeah yeah yeah

RENDER

That is so cool. Riley! Potter's making their own rocking chairs!

POTTER

It took some doing to get good at. [laughing:] my first ones were dreadful.

RILEY

They're nice. Render, we really should get going, pal.

POTTER

Oh you have to try it.

(A tendril whips out, snagging RILEY, pulling her down into the rocking chair with force. The chair creaks, rocking.)

RENDER

Okay, not cool, Potter. Maybe you don't realize it cause you're a vine. But getting tugged around can really hurt somebody.

POTTER

Oh can it?

(Tendrils reach out, wrapping around RENDER'S wrist and ankles.)

RILEY

I can't get up. It's too tight.

POTTER

Can it hurt, Render? Getting ripped up, picked, burned in a pile. Does the phrase 'dead heading' sound pleasant to you?

RENDER

You said it didn't hurt.

POTTER

Of course it hurts. Every single time.

(RENDER rips free, only to be grabbed again. Struggling. Ripping.)

RILEY

Render, hurry.

RENDER

Yeah. I got you.

I can't break them. They're too thick.

RILEY

Then find something.

RENDER

Yeah.

POTTER

Where are you going?

RENDER

Umm... push broom - dustpan - mop - hockey stick

POTTER

Oo - set that aside - I was looking for that.

RENDER

Hey - there's this big bladey thing.

RILEY

Machete.

RENDER

Umm... Now is not the time to be thinking about food.

RILEY

That is a machete!

RENDER

Really? That's what a machete is?

POTTER

Yeah. [to RILEY:] didn't know what a machete is? That's wild.

RILEY

Can you use it please?!

RENDER

Coming up. Uhhhh... I don't want to hit you.

POTTER

Oh... you're definitely going to hit her. Like 90%.

RILEY

I don't want to die here.

RENDER

Right.

(RENDER starts swinging.)

POTTER

Look what you're doing to my rocking chair!

(RILEY is free.)

RILEY

Come on.

(The door to the basement slams with the sound of unspooling tendrils.)

POTTER

I think we got off to the wrong foot. On three, we'll all drop our machetes and talk this out.

RILEY

There! [to just RENDER:] On the far end. A storm door. Can you distract him?

RENDER

Oh well. Time to put today's plan into action.



(RENDER charges POTTER and buries the machete into another vine face with a deep THUD! POTTER screams. Well... EVERYBODY scream.)

RILEY

Render!

RENDER

I was trying to bop them on the nose!

RILEY

Grab that machete and let's go.

(THEY run, up into the yard.)

This way.

RENDER

No no. We came the other way.

RILEY

The vines are thinner this way. Thru the backyards until we make it back to the street.

(Running. Music. The street.)

RILEY

Alright. You okay?

RENDER

Yeah.

RILEY

Okay. Good.

POTTER

I'm not okay - if you meant to ask.

RILEY

I did not.

POTTER

Oh come on - I'm the one getting chopped to bits - I don't know why you're the one who's mad.

RENDER

You tried to tie up my friend.

RILEY

Ignore him -

POTTER

Rude!

RILEY

Stick to the street, get back to the Safari.

RENDER

Right.

(They start running.)

POTTER

Or... And I'm just spit-balling here... step into this front yard and lie down for a quick nap.

RENDER

Oh nice try! He's trying to trick us again.

RILEY

Oh, you think?

POTTER

Oh, y'all saw thru that huh? Well it worked on the other one.

(RILEY stops.)

RILEY

The other one?

RENDER

Riley, come on.

RILEY

The Uber... 'Come on in.' Ren, someone else is here.

RENDER

You sure? Potter?

POTTER

Well... Define someone. And else. And here.

Alright fine, you're not alone.

RILEY

Look in the windows, do you see anybody?

(They pause, scanning the houses.)

RENDER

It's that one.

RILEY

Right there? How do you know?

RENDER

I'm positive. Look at the name on the mailbox.

RILEY

Potter...

(RENDER takes off running.)

Oh good, just run right in. That's how we operate.

(RILEY takes off after him.)

(Inside the house.)

RENDER

Snot! Otter! Look at this!

RILEY

Roots. It must be the entire root system for the vines.

RENDER

This must have been where it all started. It's tearing the whole house to pieces.

(Tendrils pursuing. The house rumbles.)

RILEY

We gotta keep moving.

RENDER

Where?

(from far off:)

ERIC

Upstairs!

RILEY

Eric?!

RENDER

Bunion?!

ERIC

I'll answer to either right about now.

(running up stairs.)

Riley! Big... guy.

RENDER

Do you still not know my name.

ERIC

I'm better with faces.

RILEY



You climbed into bed!

POTTER

I told him to take a nap. What?! He looked like he was getting sick.

ERIC

I think it was something I ate at that diner.

RENDER

Was it the over-medium eggs.

ERIC

Over-medium is a stretch.

POTTER

Well at least we're all together. That's what matters.

RILEY

We are leaving. Render, the machete.

ERIC

Don't worry. I've got it. All you have to do is lie perfectly still and the vines loosen their grip.

POTTER

No they don't.

ERIC

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

RILEY

Cut him loose.

RENDER

On it.

(Tendrils grab at RILEY.)

RILEY

Quickly please.

(RENDER whacks in the background.)

POTTER

Nobody ever wants to stay.

They started leaving. One family at a time. But I saw it coming. Pretty soon, it was just going to be me. So I snuck into their houses while they slept. Up thru drainage pipes, cracks in the mortar, gaps in windows.

(RENDER frees ERIC.)

RENDER

Come on, get up.

ERIC

Thanks.

POTTER

And I held on tight. And they stayed. Frozen in their beds and chairs. They all stayed close.

Except the little girl. She asked if she could leave. And I let her.

Oh, we were best friends. She used to water me and sing songs to me.

I forget her name. That was so long ago.

Would you like to meet her?

Here.

RENDER

Oh my...

RILEY

Crypto-Curious. I don't know how else to describe this. Sitting by the window, in a vine-sculpted rocking chair. It's a blue sundress, filled from the inside and spilling out in long vines.

It's a girl. Looking out the window. Long green tendrils of hair. She's clutching a watering can.



POTTER

I lost my best friend. I wasn't good for her. I know that.

[singing:] *Blackberry, Honeysuckle*, [suddenly remembering...] *Lovely is the vine.*
It will cover all of us, just give it time.

Look at me... I'm practically deciduous.

You should go. Go!

RILEY

Okay. Come on.

ERIC

Wait. My jar.

RILEY

What is that?

ERIC

They said I could come up and get a sapling.

(RILEY grabs jar, throws. It smashed against the wall.)

RENDER

That was harsh.

RILEY

You two are unbelievable sometimes. Come on.

(Footsteps. Running.)

POTTER

Render?

RENDER

Yeah Potter.

POTTER

Bye Render.

(Footsteps. A sudden cut in sound. Music.)

RILEY

Welcome back Crypto-Curious. So... lesson learned, don't put Render in charge of replacing batteries. So, to catch you up. Professor Bunion, and his satchel bag, made it out of town before we did. That man is a remarkable runner. By the time we got back to the edge of town, he was

RILEY (cont.)

climbing into another Uber. I'm honestly shocked he had service. But... we stopped him from carrying a ravenous monster-vine with him, so that's something.

It is a beautiful day, made all the better by being alive and having my best friend with me.

He wants to believe in everybody. I think that is the most fantastic thing about Render. It's going to get me killed, but it's pretty wonderful all the same.

(The sound of a creeping tendril. RILEY rips it up.)

POTTER

[screaming, a little ways off:] Oww!

RILEY

Quit trying to grab me!

POTTER

Sorry! Habit.

RILEY

We are back at the edge of town. Sitting in the middle of the street and visiting.

It was Render's idea. I think he's sympathetic to be trapped and alone all day.

So we've been here all morning. Playing board games.

Monster board games.

POTTER

Okay okay okay okay - This time I got it. It was Colonel Professor Bunion in the Overgrown Marshland with the Lime Green Kia.

RENDER

He's good. Maybe not grandmaster good, but good.

POTTER

I don't know what any of those words meant.

RILEY

Well, we've only got a little time left before it'll be time to get back onto the road -

POTTER

Is it time for me to do the line you gave me?

RILEY

I am still wrapping up.

POTTER

Got it. You're doing great.

RILEY

So. Crypto-Curious, until we're back together again, find someone you love and hold on tight.

Just not too tight.

POTTER

Is it my turn?

RILEY

Yes! Go.

POTTER

And like they say where we're from:

It's a shape-shifter Eustice, it could be any one of us!!!

(end of episode.)

CREDITS

PETER

Hi, this is Peter Michael Marino. Have Monster, Will Travel features the vocal talents of Jordan Trovillion as Riley Kate, Paul Kerford Wilson as Render, Dave Powell as Professor Bunion and me, Peter Michael Marino as Potter. 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

Hi, this is Jordan Trovillion. Thanks as always for sticking by us - if you enjoyed today's episode, the simplest way you can help us is by recommending us to a friend - or rating and reviewing the show wherever you found us.

Have Monster, Will Travel is brought to you in part thanks to the generous support of Messed Comics. More information can be found at messedcomics.com. That's M-E-S-S-E-D Comics.com

For more knuckles and know-how, follow us on instagram @havemonsterwilltravel

Finally, a big Render-squeeze to Ezra, who recorded his "Guess Who" game with his Mom for us to use in the intro. Thanks Ezra!