

BUBBLE EP. 7

SHREABLES

Written by

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ACT 1

Great news everyone, we're in a Flashback

A teenage Morgan and a younger hot-dad Eli crouch in some bushes under the cover of night. Eli scans the Brush landscape while Morgan uses a tablet to watch stories from the old world.

MUSIC (from the ipad): Frasier theme song, or legally dissimilar. "Baby I don't know what to do with these fruit salads and lukewarm quiche"

ELI

I don't know why the tribe keeps bringing stuff in from that shit-hole planet. What can you possibly get from watching that dreck?

MORGAN

The characters are relatable.

ELI

Relatable? You relate to them? What is it that they're doing that's just so up your alley?

MORGAN

Well, Frasier is about patriarchal conflict for one. You've got a father and a child who constantly butt heads about how best to live life. Can you kind of see why I'd be drawn to that?

ELI

Not seeing it. What's actually happening in the episode?

MORGAN

Well, in this one, Niles was at a wine tasting and he confused a malbec with a merlot and it like, really messed with him.

ELI

You are literally from a different planet than they are. You're a better, stronger person than they are. You've cut the tails off an entire pack of psychic scorpions that eat fear.

(MORE)

ELI (CONT'D)

You've killed unimaginable horrors with your teeth. Relatable characters my hot-dad ass.

MORGAN

Okay, maybe this episode is a bad example, but hat if, in the next episode, Frasier is transported to another world...

ELI

How would that happen?

MORGAN

I don't know... a portal... or some magic stones or something. Doesn't matter. So, he and Niles are on the surface of another world...

ELI

Because of a portal or magic stones.

MORGAN

Right. And they're attacked by a drooling, puss-spewing earwig monster and his brain and nervous system are paralyzed by it's deadly mix of hemotoxic and neurotoxic venom.

ELI

(grin, joining in)
Right and then the brother...

MORGAN

Niles.

ELI

Sure. Niles, will realize that if he can manually breathe for Frasier long enough to-

MORGAN

Keep Frasier's circulatory system alive and limit muscle and tissue death.

ELI

Yeah, I'd watch that. But that'll never happen. These characters are never in any kind of mortal danger.

MORGAN

There was an episode of Caroline in the City where she got food poisoning from a day-old shrimp cocktail.

ELI

What's Caroline in the City?

MORGAN

Underrated, that's what it is.

ELI

Why are you so focused on earth bullshit instead of our mission here?

MORGAN

Ugh. Fine. The Mission: We're on day 3 of tracking one of The Brush's few remaining Forgotten Stalkers. It's been destroying our livestock and we need to take it out. It's a stealthy hunter with a keen sense of smell. But if we stay downwind and concealed in these Cainhurst bushes which have an overpowering scent, we'll be able to get the jump on it.

ELI

You're going to have to stop making your Dad look like an idiot at some point.

MORGAN

Maybe. No promises.

ELI

You know I love you and I'm proud of you right?

MORGAN

Yeah. You should still say it a lot though.

ELI

And even though you like dopey Earth stuff and still wear that horrible fanny pack of your Mom's, the color of which is antithetical to our being camouflaged, I'm still very impressed at the strong, confident killing machine you've become.

MORGAN

Thanks Dad. You know, even though Fraiser and his Dad fight a lot, they still love each other.

ELI

I'll take your word for that. You know, I can't help but think we'd have an easier job tracking this stealthy killing machine if we weren't announcing our presence with spirited philosophical debates every time we make camp.

MORGAN

Chill out. We'll find it.

SFX: Transition

MORGAN (CONT'D)

Chill out. We'll find it.

End of Flashback for the time being. Back in the now, Morgan and Van move along the perimeter of Mission Beach, a Bubble much like theirs, on the outside at least. Morgan wears the stone around her neck.

VAN

Where did you Dad say the entrance was?

MORGAN

Here... ish.

VAN

And you feel like he knows what he's talking about? I remember when we were kids I always doubted him when he said he jammed with Jerry Garcia.

MORGAN

Fucking Dad. Everything from Earth was evil and mind-poisoning and made you soft, except for the fucking Grateful Dead.

VAN

I mean, if you're going to make an exception for one thing...

MORGAN

It should be like a thousand other things first.

VAN

Well, one man's trash is another man's band that's more like family.

MORGAN

But I think he's right about this secret entrance thing.

VAN

And once we're inside...

MORGAN

Apparently there's a couple of rogue Huntrs that are apparently sympathetic to his cause. They apparently have a lead on the other stone that Tandem wants.

VAN

That's a few more "apparently-s" than I'd like. Do you think Mitch and Annie are having any luck finding a way in?

SFX: Transition

MITCH

Mitch and Annie aren't having any luck finding a way in.

ANNIE

Why'd you say it like that?

MITCH

Sorry. I'm still a little hungover from becoming one with the planet and controlling an army of energy tentacles.

ANNIE

Yeah, that kind of ruled. Plus, you were naked.

MITCH

Please don't bring up that part of it. I know that we never got to that phase during our two and a half Tinder dates...

ANNIE

Let's round down to two.

MITCH

Fine. I know we never got there during our two Tinder dates, but I'm not super comfortable with my own nudity. I do some of my best sexual work while I'm wearing an XXL T-shirt from my college Turkey Trot.

ANNIE

You have nothing to be embarrassed about. You've got nice even love handles, manageable body hair and a thicker than average penis.

MITCH

You're just saying that.

ANNIE

I don't joke about penis thickness.

MITCH

Thanks. That means a lot.

MORGAN

(calling out)

We found it! Guy's get over here!

MITCH

Wow. Hard to have a moment out here.

ANNIE

Don't sweat it. I think it had kind of run its course.

SFX: Transition

SFX: A hatch opening

MORGAN

All right. Down the hatch I guess.

MITCH

Do we know this is it? We have no idea where it goes.

ANNIE

It's just a hatch man. Hatches rule.

(jumping in)

I'm did it! I went through a hatch!

MORGAN

Let's follow her lead I guess.

SFX: Everyone falling through the hatch and sliding down achute. They hit the ground.

The gang gazes out onto Mission Beach. A sunny So-Cal inspired beach community covered in strip malls, giant signs advertising every kind of chain restaurant, and happy, peppy residents wearing cargo shorts, really nice yoga pants... and flip flops.

SFX: The sound of flip-flops. It grows louder and louder until it's like the squaking of the Birds from The Birds (the Hitchcock movie). It gradually fades.

MORGAN (CONT'D)

What is this place?

ANNIE

And why is everyone in flip-flops. Like... they're jogging in them.

VAN

That's a good way to roll an ankle.

MITCH

These aren't your ordinary flip flops, Morgan. They're Rainbows.

MORGAN

You're not doing great with shoe choices lately.

MITCH

(sincerely)

They're great. They're actually made here in Mission Beach. The best part is that they mold to your feet for maximum comfort. Like a warm uterus for your toes.

(MORE)

MITCH (CONT'D)

(beat)

It's easy to bash this place but there's real beauty here you just have to know how to see it, even if you feel like you're the only one who does.

ANNIE

Like when a spider is barely big enough to eat the fly caught in it's web, and you blow hits on him, he gets a little stoned from it, and he just waits for the fly to exhaust itself trying to escape, knowing it'll die. The hunter has become the hunted, and only you and the spider know he was so stoned he'll never be certain it really happened.

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MITCH

Right. I mean, I don't have a great track record with recreational drugs, but... yeah, decent analogy.

ANNIE

Wait, Mitch. You don't like it here do you?

MITCH

What? No way. Fairhaven kicks the shit out of this place. I've watched Moonrise Kingdom seven times. I think pour-overs are worth the wait.

ANNIE

Yeesh. Defensive. I'd think you'd be more secure, what with that thick ol' dick of yours. Oh, sorry Morgan and Van. That's a reference to something we were talking about earlier.

VAN

Oh yeah, Mitch has a thick boy? Nice.

MORGAN

Let's put Mitch's thick penis on the backburner...

MITCH

Ouch.

MORGAN

We're supposed to meet our contacts
at the rendezvous point.

VAN

Cool. Where is that exactly?

SFX: Transition

SFX: Restaurant ambiance.

Music: A bed of pop music that you'd hear in a chain
restaurant.

The gang sits nervously at a table in a TGI Friday's. They
all peruse giant laminated menus.

VAN (CONT'D)

I'm not nuts about the calorie
counts at this rendezvous point.

ANNIE

At the moment, I'm seeing nothing
but yes's on here. I wanna be up to
my tits in starters, so don't
chintz out.

VAN

Trans fats galore, massive sodium,
tons of sugar. This place will
literally destroy my skin.

MITCH

Annie's right. This stuff is mana
from heaven. Is there anything more
comforting than an order of Philly
Cheesesteak Eggrolls, loaded potato
skins, and a Diet Coke with free
refills?

MORGAN

So you DON'T like it here Mitch?

MITCH

No way! I'm Fairhaven all the way.
Literally the only wine I drink is
made by Tim Heidecker and Eric
Wareheim. But tonight I'm ordering
a round of Oreo Speedwagons for the
table... ironically.

VAN

Hey, are those people waving at us?

Two Mission Beach locals are enthusiastically waving at them from across the restaurant. A man and woman with intense spray tans, killer beach bods and Church Youth Pastor attitudes. The gang puts down their giant menus and approaches.

HUNTER #1

Hey there kids! You guys aren't per chance here to rendezvous with a couple of dingalings who forgot to plan a secret phrase.

MORGAN

Umm... maybe?

HUNTER #2

But you're here to rendezvous right? For "something" that's definitely not "treacherous"?

HUNTER #1

We're so sorry. If we had our poop together we would have come up with some cool spy phrase like "Does the crow fly at dawn?"

HUNTER #2

Or "Do you get lost between the moon and New York City?"

HUNTER #1

Aw, our wedding song!

SFX: They kiss and snuggle

MORGAN

Yeah, Eli sent us?

HUNTER #1

YES! You're them! Sit right down. And don't worry, we'll be keeping a low profile from here on out.

WAITER

Hey, sorry to interrupt but I hear we have a BIRTHDAY IN THE HOUSE!

WAITER GROUP

(singing)

Happy Happy Birthday from all your friends today...

HUNTER #1

Honey! YOU REMEMBERED!

SFX: They kiss and snuggle

ACT 2

Continuing with the Flashback now. Teenage Morgan and hot-dad Eli are watching the Forgotten Stalker from a distance. It's a slightly reptilian panther-like creature that slinks along a distant ridge.

MORGAN

We can take it. Our arrows would close the distance.

ELI

Absolutely not. Patience, Morgan.

MORGAN

Why must you literally choose the most difficult way of doing things?

ELI

We're playing the long game here. And you need to trust me.

MORGAN

Oh, I absolutely trust that we're doing this the long way. And I'm going to go ahead and play a much shorter game.

SFX: Arrow firing

Morgan fires off an arrow. But it misses. Badly. The creature * pauses to look back at them, then runs off into The Brush.

ELI

Well, that failed. Maybe if you would have listened to me.

MORGAN

I don't want to listen to you! I just don't want to be here anymore!

SFX: Transition

SFX: Restaurant sounds

MORGAN (CONT'D)

I just don't want to be here anymore.

MITCH

Aw come on, you'll love these shareable apps. They're super shareable.

ANNIE

Hey, before we go over the plan again, there's something I need clarified.

HUNTER #1

Shoot. Go ahead.

ANNIE

So you two are Hunters... but you're also both named "Hunter." Is that weird?

HUNTER #2

Not really!

HUNTER #1

It's the most common name out here in Mission Beach.

ANNIE

Doesn't it get confusing?

HUNTER #1

Not really. I call him "Hun"

HUNTER #2

And I call her "Hunny"

SFX: The kiss and snuggle

ANNIE

Cool. I mean, yuck.

HUNTER #1

So, what our reconnaissance has found is that Tandem has a perimeter around the Mission Beach country club.

HUNTER #2

We think something from the Brush has gotten in there and infected the members.

MORGAN

So, what does that have to do with the stone?

HUNTER #1

Well, usually Tandem would just blast an area that small and contained, but they're just monitoring it.

HUNTER #2

Our guess is that whatever is in there was attracted by The Stone and Tandem are waiting till it's safe to go in.

MORGAN

Okay, there's a place a private corporate army is scared to go in, and we're going into it?

HUNTER #1

Exciting huh?

HUNTER #2

We LOVE the Huntr lifestyle. It's really done wonders for our marriage.

HUNTER #1

I mean, it was amazing when we had kids.

HUNTER #2

Oh yeah. Just so much love there. Like, a really true love you wouldn't understand unless you had kids.

HUNTER #1

But even that got kind of old. So, once the kids got old enough to be home alone for a few hours, we started doing Huntr...

HUNTER #2

And we've never been happier!

MORGAN

So why are you helping Eli?

HUNTER #1

Well, we're ready to take things to the next level. We want to get out onto the surface and really push ourselves, but Tandem forbids it.

MITCH

I mean, seems like you've got it pretty good here.

HUNTER #1

Oh yeah, great schools, shopping, weekly Creed concerts...

HUNTER #2

But we just want to see what else is out there.

MORGAN

I get that. So, can you show us where this country club is?

HUNTER #1

Oh yeah. We'll even drive you.

SFX: Transition

The ample TGI Friday's parking lot. Hunter and Hunter show the gang a mint-condition VW Bus, decked out with lights, rims and huge speakers.

MITCH

I can't believe you guys have a party bus!

HUNTER #2

We love this thing. When we're not on a hunt, we run a side business with it called Beach Boulevard Mobile Productions "The kick ass party that moves around."

ANNIE

That's not a great slogan.

HUNTER #1

We do bachelor parties, holiday bar hops, you name it. Hell, we could probably lock a half dozen people in the van, call it an escape room and charge them; people love this thing.

MITCH

What a cherry set up. Fairy 100 LED lights, Optix Brand Disco Ball with 5 unique rotation speeds, and what are the specs on the stripper pole?

HUNTER #1

It's a Bada-Bing Brand mobile burlesque accessory, but I made some modifications myself...

MITCH

I can tell! The reinforcement bolts aren't the ones that come standard.

HUNTER #2

You've got a good eye for Party Bus specs.

HUNTER #1

We wanted to increase the weight limit from 250 pounds to an even 300. We consider ourselves a body-positive party bus and wanted to be more accommodating to anyone who wants to shake their ass while they're drunk off Fireball shots.

MITCH

God, look at it... I love you, Van.

VAN

I love you, Mitch.

MITCH

Oh, I was talking to the VW.

SFX: Transition

SFX: Driving noises

Music: Party music plays in the background.

MITCH (CONT'D)

Hey Hunter, this might sound weird but I want your life.

HUNTER #2

Not weird at all Mitch. I've got the gal of my dreams, a sexy but not overtly sexual job and three beautiful kids who are all in college prep courses.

MITCH

I really... like it here. I mean, it just makes sense. When I see a 7-11, it's always right where it's supposed to be;

(MORE)

MITCH (CONT'D)

next to a super clean, weird donut shop I've never heard of. In Fairhaven they'll have a 7-Eleven right down the block from an Urth Café, spelled U-R-T-H.

HUNTER #2

I know exactly what you mean.

MITCH

If I had any money at all I'd buy an Urth Café, turn it into a RadioShack, let it go out of business, then make it into an H&R Block that never looks busy. Just to give the place some texture.

HUNTER #2

Well Mitch, if we're successful, these walls will come down and you can come visit anytime and play on one of our two pool tables. We've got both bumper and regular.

MITCH

Wow. Regular.

HUNTER #1

Hey kids, grab those weapons because we're here.

HUNTER #2

This is where we leave you. We'd come with but our kids have water polo in the am.

VAN

We understand.

Act 3

The party bus drives off, leaving the gang to climb the fence, evade a couple of guards and head towards the country club building. *

SFX: Distant music *

ANNIE *

What's that music? I thought this place was meant to be in lockdown? *

MORGAN *

That's weird - it's coming from inside. *

That's not the only weird thing. After slipping into the club *
they're met with the sight of a good number of fit, tanned *
Mission beach residents shambling around the dance floor like *
mindless zombies. They're covered in a strange mold and *
mindlessly moaning suburban pleasantries at one another. *

ZOMBIE #1

Our youngest, Hunter can't have
refined sugar, which makes finding
a new Bible study really
challenging.

ZOMBIE #2

The wife and I have been talking
and I think we're finally ready for
a second jetski.

MITCH

I'm sensing something odd.

MORGAN

Well, I'm looking at a room full of
dancing zombies covered in mold. So
your powers may have taken a
disappointing turn for the obvious.

MITCH

No, something from The Brush. An
animal presence.

ANNIE

I know this mold. I've used it in a
few recipes. It's a nice buzz in
small doses, but it looks like
everyone here has had their wills
stolen.

VAN

Weak.

ANNIE

Mitch is right. There's got to be a
Mother around somewhere that's
producing the mold spores.

VAN

(too loud)

Spores? That's not great for me
because I have allergies.

ZOMBIE #1

Intruders. Kill them. Kill them
like they are trying to bring
peanut matter into your child's
school.

Music: Fight Music

SFX: Zombie fighting

ANNIE

If I'm wasted on the couch having a
nightmare, wake me up, Morgan!

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MORGAN

You guys, try not to kill anyone
or... anything, please!

With deft moves our heroes manage to charge their way through
the advancing horde. They're relatively easy to knock over,
because of their stiff extremities, and, you know, they're
all wearing flip flops.

ANNIE

(Shouting)

This way guys! Though to the indoor
pool.

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SFX: Door opens

VAN

Whoa!

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MITCH

Holy Shit! What's that?

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It's your basic country club indoor swimming pool, save for
the giant pulsating jellyfish is floating in it.

MORGAN

Okay. This is clearly the Mother.

More zombies are tending to it, keeping moist the giant
tendrils and tentacles that aren't able to fit in the pool.
It belches the spores into the air.

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MITCH

The stone is in here. I can feel
it. Morgan, your stone is glowing.

MORGAN

It must sense the other half.

ANNIE

I see it. It's around the neck of one of those zombies that's moistening the mother. Mmm... I kinda like the sound of that. "Moistening the Mother."

MORGAN

Anybody got a plan?

ANNIE

Is getting a little too high since June and having money problems a plan?

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MITCH

Maybe I can talk to her.

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MORGAN

Be careful Mitch. Those spores are the things infecting these people and turning them into Zombies. If one hits you, you could be trapped here forever.

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MITCH

That's a chance I'm willing to take.

VAN

Be careful Thick Boy.

MITCH

Here goes...
(in thought/reverb)
We're not here to harm you. We're stuck in our own dumb mortal bind, my friend.

SFX: The jellyfish belches slime.

The jellyfish belches a load os slime in response.

ANNIE

Maybe ask it why it's so gross.

MITCH

(thought/reverb)
Sorry about her. We came here in a party van, I think it had a wet bar, and I'm pretty sure she was drinking vodka on the way over.

SFX: Belch

MITCH (CONT'D)

(thought/reverb)

Annie? No, we're not together. I know, but... it's a little complicated. Morgan used to go out with Van, and Van is working with us, maybe that's what you're detecting. But, honestly, I don't understand what he ever saw in her. He's like, a really cool guy.

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SFX: Belch

MITCH (CONT'D)

(resuming, to jellyfish)

Annie's great... maybe something will happen down the line once we're not working together.

VAN

(whispering)

The zombies have stopped. I should go for the necklace.

MORGAN

No, Van. Don't!

SFX: Angry belch

ZOMBIE #2

They mean to harm Mother. Get them. Get them like they were trying to make our children listen to overly sexual hip-hop music!

MITCH

No, Mother!

MORGAN

Everything is fucked.

Act 3

SFX: Snarling

Music: Fight music

ELI

Everything is fucked!

Back in the Flashback, Eli fights with the Forgotten Stalker. He's pinned against a tree. And still hot.

ELI (CONT'D)

Morgan! Honey. This might be it for me! This might be... my time.

MORGAN

Oh please. Buck up.

Morgan fakes left, goes right, and delivers the death blow to the creature. Life drains from it's eyes.

MORGAN (CONT'D)

Why are you so maudlin about everything?

(mimicking)

Oh, it might be my time. This might be it for me, oh look at me, I'm dying, can you feel how epic and sad and super spiritual that is?

ELI

Okay, okay. Look, you saved my life, but there's just one thing.

MORGAN

If ever there were a sentence that defined our relationship.

ELI

It had a nest.

SFX: Baby animals purring

MORGAN

They don't look dangerous. We can take them back to Camp. We can care for them.

ELI

Hell no we won't. We're here to kill them. That's why we followed that thing for three freaking argument-filled days rather than just shoot it on site. What did you think all of this was for?

MORGAN

They're just babies! Why does everything have to be life and death with you?

ELI

Because that's what life is! It's life and death!

(MORE)

ELI (CONT'D)

Now put an arrow through those things and let's go home.

MORGAN

No. I won't do it.

ELI

It's all that shit from Earth, isn't it? Suggesting to you that there's a life out there that's all jokes and hugs and humorous misunderstandings that resolve themselves in a half hour. That's not how things are. Not for you anyway.

MORGAN

Well why can't it be?

ELI

Because Earth is a wreck. It's over. And they're making little shadows of it on here and they're going to fuck those up too. Because all they have to sell you are lies and poisons. Sure, things are trying to kill us out here, but at least they're honest about it.

MORGAN

I am so fucking sick of this brutal wilderness.

Morgan turns away from Eli and runs for the horizon. She runs for what seems like hours, until, exhausted, she gets to a clearing in which she finds a huge Tandem armored safari vehicle. The door opens, and a young Bonnie - rising up the ranks of Tandem Industries - steps out.

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BONNIE

Hey, kiddo. You look exhausted. And lost.

SFX: Transition

SFX: Zombie fighting

Back in the now at the Mission Beach Country Club, the gang fights back a horde of zombies.

ZOMBIE #2

We like to limit our kids' screen time so they don't develop attention span problems.

MORGAN

Shut up, disgusting mold zombie.

SFX: Morgan whacks the zombie

VAN

I know they're trying to kill us, but that zombie really has a point. You have to unplug once in awhile to give your brain a rest.

MORGAN

Aren't you the one with 700,000 Instagram followers?

VAN

Yeah, but I make sure to turn it off once in awhile and read a hard copy magazine.

ANNIE

Can we compare social media diets later? We're pretty outnumbered here!

MITCH

There's too many of them!

SFX: Sniper rifle blast. Zombie grunting.

Just when our heroes are about to be overwhelmed, a shot rings out, taking down a nearby zombie. Everyone turns to look at two rifle-toting shadowy figures standing in doorway.

HUNTER #1

Hey gang! Does this playdate have room for two more!

MITCH

Hunter! And other Hunter!

VAN

I thought you had to take your kid to water polo?

HUNTER #2

Oh, funny story about that. Practice got canceled.

ANNIE

That's not that funny a story.

HUNTER #1

Feel free to hit the deck while we lay down some suppressing fire.

MORGAN

You're going to kill them?

HUNTER #2

Nah, these are shock rounds, so it should just knock them out. We use these on the kids after they've had too much sugar cereal.

HUNTER #1

Hun, stop we do not! He's such a jokester this one. Anyway, hit the deck please!

SFX: A round of firing and zombies collapsing.

HUNTER #2

Hunny, you out of ammo?

HUNTER #1

Sure am Hun, but that looks like most of em. You guys good to take care of the rest?

ALL

(Ad lib Yeah, we're good/thanks/see you later!)

HUNTER #2

All right, be good you guys.

VAN

Ah crap, I meant to ask him where he got his cargo shorts.

MORGAN

Mitch, do you think we can finish this with diplomacy?

MITCH

(thought/reverb)

Mother, please. We don't want to fight anymore. We just need that stone and then we'll go.

SFX: Belch

MITCH (CONT'D)

Oh... I hadn't really thought about where we're actually going. Back to Fairhaven I guess? I mean, if I had it my way we'd go back to TGI Friday's.

SFX: Belch

MITCH (CONT'D)

Yeah, they have a really great happy hour. \$5 well drinks. \$2 off on all apps.

SFX: Belch

Something in what Mitch says - though God knows what exactly - *
makes the breakthrough. The zombies all stand down and the *
one wearing the stone on a necklace shambles up to Mitch and *
places it around his neck. *

MITCH (CONT'D)

Thank you Mother. You are the greatest Jellyfish I've ever met.

SFX: Boom!

MITCH (cont'd) (CONT'D)

(scared by the blast)

Shit!!

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Suddenly, the wall of the country club explodes and Tandem Troops storm in, lead by Bonnie.

SFX: Machine guns, zombies dying

MORGAN

No! Don't shoot them!

SFX: Dying belch

MITCH

No! Mother! Don't kill her!

SFX: Dying belch!

MITCH (CONT'D)

(thought/reverb)

I'm sorry. You were a peaceful creature and we destroyed you. And I said that we wouldn't. Progress is mankind's most destructive drug. Well...

(MORE)

MITCH (CONT'D)

There's cocaine, heroin, the synthetics; opioids, prescription diet pills. But progress is probably mankind's sixth most destructive drug. I'm sorry. If it's any consolation, I'm going to die, too. We all will. We failed every living creature here today.

BONNIE

Hey team! Mitch, nice stone buddy. I'll take that.

MORGAN

You didn't have to...

BONNIE

Oh like fun I didn't. We've been working on a cure for that mold of theirs forever and that was REALLY holding up the process. But you guys really came through! Wait... around you neck... is that the OTHER HALF?!

They take a minute and just look at each other. Both know how good the other one is at keeping secrets.

BONNIE (CONT'D)

This is really convenient, because we just assumed your pops, who you haven't seen since the trivia pub debacle, right?

MORGAN

Right.

BONNIE

I thought so. So, we assumed that because you guys were here, he still had his half and we sent up drone to monitor him, which I can show you right here on my phone! The future is here, huh?

Bonnie pulls up her phone. Eli is on screen in the middle of a set of crosshairs. He has no idea he's being watched.

BONNIE (CONT'D)

I mean, this is him, right.

MORGAN

Yeah. That's him.

SFX: Transition

ELI
Yeah, that's her.

(Whisper) In the Flashback again. Last one.

Eli is flanked by Talia, his second in command. He's looking through binoculars at a young Morgan, a year older, who has no idea she's being watched. She's laughing and joking with a group of kids her age, including a young Van, who was apparently really early to the man bun thing and against all odds looks really cool with it.

TALIA
So, that's her. Let's grab her and then burn this sheeple-factory to the ground. That'll teach them to steal our kids.

Eli looks again and notices how happy Morgan seems. Fuck. Happier if he's being honest.

ELI
You know what... it's not her. This kid has the same hair but... Morgan's taller.

TALIA
So we keep looking for her then?

ELI
Yeah. We'll just keep looking.

SFX: Transition

In the now, Morgan is looking at her Dad in the crosshairs and trying not to freak out.

MORGAN
Yeah, funny thing... we found the other stone out in the Brush. Mitch used the Sting and lead us to it. Stupid Eli didn't even know what it did. Probably just wanted to steal it to piss you off.

BONNIE
Well, that's surprising.

MORGAN
Yeah, probably don't waste the bullet or the bomb or whatever on him.

(MORE)

MORGAN (CONT'D)

It might make the other barefoot
wonders out there revolt and then
you'd just have to waste a bunch
more bullets or bombs or whatever.
Here, take the stone.

BONNIE

Well good! So, now that Tandem has
both of them, I guess it's back to
Fairhaven with all of us. Come on,
we'll give you a ride. Easier to
keep an eye on you that way.

END