

## Transmission Folklore Season 2 Episode 9: Gasket Head

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### ANNOUNCEMENT

Transmission Folklore, Episode 9: Gasket Head. This episode of Transmission Folklore contains mentions of alcohol, child abuse and manipulation. Audience discretion is advised.

[The Transmission Folklore theme song plays.]

[It fades and the sound of glass shattering in a trash bag. Carter, Bianca, and Sorrel are picking up trash from the party outside. The group shuffles around the yard with trash bags, picking up random stuff that clinks or falls weightedly into the bag.]

### SORREL

(hungover) That was so loud.

### BIANCA

Your friends– (even more hungover and hurt by the loudness of her own voice) Your friends are absolute monsters.

### CARTER

To be fair, Horatio told you it was a bad idea to try and outdrink Rowen.

### BIANCA

How can someone hold so much liquor?

(a pause)

I am also a lightweight. (burps)

### CARTER

Oof.

BIANCA

'Scuse me.

SORREL

I will never have a party again.

CARTER

No one told you to get whiskey drunk.

SORREL

Luz Bella did.

BIANCA

If I recall, you told Luz Bella to get whiskey drunk after you came back out.

CARTER

You also told the rest of us to finish the magic wine.

SORREL

It stopped being a party. It was supposed to be fun.

CARTER

It was fun.

SORREL

It's never fun if I get pissy in the middle. Or so I've been told.

CARTER

It was fun.

SORREL

Okay fine. For the most part *it was fun*.

CARTER

Did you not like it?

SORREL

No I did! The only people who have thrown me parties before were Horatio and Rowen and Emery.

CARTER

Your parents didn't even throw you parties when you were younger?

SORREL

(mimicking their father) "Why would we? You don't have enough friends."

BIANCA

How many is supposed to be enough?

SORREL

Three to six. And they have to be sirens, because they're not going to throw a party above water.

BIANCA

That's really rough. That's not right for a parent to make you go through.

SORREL

It's fine. I'm okay.

BIANCA

It's okay to not be okay. Do you want a hug?

SORREL

No, thanks.

BIANCA

That's okay too.

(Bianca wretches, just barely holding it in)

CARTER

(exasperated) Mama, go lie back down. I think we all should take a break right now.

[Bianca walks back into the house. The door opens and closes. Carter and Sorrel sit down and the trash bag falls to the ground.]

SORREL

I hate cleaning. How can, like, six people make such a mess?

CARTER

It was eight. If you include you, me, and mom.

SORREL

It's a disaster.

CARTER

It'll be picked up.

(lightening the mood)

Are you ready for *your date* tonight?

SORREL

I'm nervous as all get out.

CARTER

Why?

SORREL

It doesn't feel real. Sock and I - it's been weird. We almost dated and then we didn't and then we almost are and I've never been with someone who was good for me.

CARTER

You think hir good for you?

SORREL

Ze healed you, no questions asked. Ze's nice to me and nice to himself.

CARTER

That is kind of the ideal, huh?

SORREL

I'm gonna fuck it up.

CARTER

How?

SORREL

I don't know. I'm me and I'm bad at dating.

CARTER

It'll be fine. Sock likes you.

(a beat)

Off topic but can I ask something?

SORREL

If you must.

CARTER

Why didn't you want to tell me about Emery?

SORREL

I thought they were dreams.

CARTER

They? Multiple times?

SORREL

The first two we didn't talk. It was memories and conversations I wasn't around for.  
The last one - on my birthday - it was so real.

CARTER

You didn't tell me though.

SORREL

It was weird. I was floating and falling and the world wasn't right there. You've been  
to the Reflective Space, you've seen it.

[a dark, droning song fades in- arguments taste bitter in your mouth.]

CARTER

That still doesn't explain why you didn't tell me! It's like that phone cal-

SORREL

(defensive)

Oh, it is nothing like that phone call. I know Emery. I know what they're capable of, their body language. And Emery can't touch me in the Reflective Space.

CARTER

Emery can't affect me over the phone!

SORREL

It's different. I could've handled that information at that time. You don't need another thing on your plate,

CARTER

(through gritted teeth) I'm handling it just fine-

SORREL

You're one more fall away from blowing a gasket on you and Phyrre.

CARTER

You leave Phyrre Tuxedo Cruiser out of this!

SORREL

What I'm saying is that you're busy. You're trying to reconnect with your mom and it's not going well. You're trying to reconnect with your powers and *it's not going well*. You don't need me and my problems to give you a nervous breakdown-

CARTER

-*Not telling me* will give me a nervous breakdown!

SORREL

(yelling) You can't handle it!

CARTER

Don't tell me what I can and can't handle. I've learned I can handle so much more than anyone thinks I'm capable of. I would think you of all people would know that.

SORREL

It's different with sirens, it's different with all this stuff. Especially when my dad is involved. Travis isn't a killer. He doesn't get angry. He gets inside your head and reshapes it. And that's something I can't let happen to you. Not when you've come so far. You're not ready to deal with him. You don't have powers, you can't fly right now and you're still trying to figure out shit with your mom. I get you're more capable than you thought you were, and I know you've grown and changed and we're better for it. We're better with you. Which is why I didn't tell you. You have all these little stressors that add up and bite. I didn't want to be another one.

CARTER

If your dad is as bad as you say he is then you can't do it alone! You don't have to!

SORREL

You don't get it! I have always been alone. Sirens travel in schools and I've always been an outcast in mine. My dad had too much power, my step mom was too demanding, I was destined for "great things" or whatever. It's a solitary life, always has been. You've never had to do that! Even when you didn't have your moms, you had Clare. You had a family.

CARTER

You have a family too! Look around! Look at the things left by all the people who wanted to celebrate *you*. At the seven people who literally put their lives on the line



*for you.* You can doom and gloom all you want, but don't you ever look me in the eye and tell me there aren't people who look at you like family.

SORREL

I can't call them family after everything I've done to them–

CARTER

You are still impossible! What is your self help podcast getting into your brain? What are you even trying to accomplish? *People care about you!* Let them in!

SORREL

If you would listen to me! I'm trying to make things better.

CARTER

When is it good enough?

SORREL

It's not! I will never be good enough.

[A beat. Carter is so frustrated he doesn't have anything nice to say. He's angry, he's hurt. He thought Sorrel was getting there. Clearly not. The song fades out.]

CARTER

(quieter but still angry)

Then I guess nothing I can say will make you feel different. I'm going out.

SORREL

Where?

CARTER

Out. (Carter starts to walk away– as far as his legs will take him from Sorrel)

SORREL

Whatever. I'm going to bed.

CARTER

(distant) Tell Emery I said to fuck off.

SORREL

Goodnight.

[Sorrel stomps off to the house, the door opens, slams shut and they run up the stairs and fall on the bed. The world glitches out and the Reflective Space theme fades in]

SORREL

Emery! C'mon.

[Emery glitches into the Reflective Space.]

EMERY

It's the middle of the afternoon.

SORREL

Well, it's been a rough afternoon.

EMERY

Tell me about it.

SORREL

Is everything okay?

EMERY

SAO meetings are just getting longer. They're planning something, but it's mostly going over my head right now.

SORREL

Are you listening to it?

EMERY

I'm trying. He's having Deena Mae explain it and she's droning on.

SORREL

Why would he have his wife explain - *so that people out of the know don't know what she's talking about.*

EMERY

Holy shit that makes sense.

SORREL

Which means he has reason to believe someone doesn't need to know.

EMERY

Any ideas on who that is?

SORREL

It's you.

EMERY

What?

SORREL

Em, you need to take care.

EMERY

He can't suspect anything.

SORREL

Carter said I talk in my sleep.

EMERY

And?

SORREL

You might. This isn't regular sleep.

EMERY

*Travis doesn't listen to me sleep.*

SORREL

(obviously he does)

You don't think so?

EMERY

(worried)

I'll be fine; that can't be why you called me here.

SORREL

I'm pissed.

EMERY

At me?

SORREL

At Carter.

EMERY

(amused)

What'd your faerie do?

SORREL

First of all, he's not my faerie.

EMERY

Right. He's just your emotional support nervous breakdown.

SORREL

He's not supporting me right now.

EMERY

Why?

SORREL

I mentioned you were contacting me.

EMERY

How'd that go?

SORREL

Everyone freaked out.

EMERY

Everyone?

SORREL

Sock, Horatio, Luz Bella, Rowen-

EMERY

You and Luz are talking again?

SORREL

We're trying to rebuild - I'm trying to. I think Luz is too.

EMERY

And the faerie?

SORREL

The worst of them. He feels like he's personally slighted because I didn't talk to him about it first.

EMERY

Was it? A personal slight?

SORREL

Obviously not. He's dealing with shit. I'm not going to worry him.

EMERY

(sarcastic)

I don't know how I could possibly worry him.

SORREL

You tried to kill him and almost did.

EMERY

I know. So what exactly does he do to help you?

SORREL

Some stuff. It just sucks. He said I wasn't trying. I'm trying so hard.

EMERY

I can see you're trying.

SORREL

Glad someone can.

EMERY

What're you gonna do about it?

SORREL

Honestly, right now? I don't know. What're you going to do about Travis?

EMERY

I'll figure it out.

SORREL

That's not a thought out plan.

EMERY

Give me time. I'll come up with something.

[The Reflective Space theme plays out into a glitch effect back to reality. Sock makes his way up the stairs, opens the bedroom door, and sits at the edge of the bed.]

SOCK

Hey. Sorrel, hey.

[Sorrel stirs.]

SORREL

Hm?

SOCK

You okay?

SORREL

Oh, yeah.

SOCK

(nervous)

Did Emery talk to you again?

SORREL

Yeah.

SOCK

What do they say?

SORREL

Travis is using my stepmom to code stuff. So, they might know about Emery.



SOCK

If you want to talk about it.

SORREL

I'm not gonna get back together or anything, if you're worried about that.

SOCK

I'm not worried. Do you want to reschedule our date?

SORREL

No I uh - it's okay.

SOCK

We can change what we're doing? We can stay here. I just want to spend time with you.

SORREL

Why would you want that?

SOCK

Because - You think so low of yourself sometimes. It breaks my heart. But you are more than you think you are. You're like... I mean this is gonna sound corny but you're like the ocean. Your waves crash along the shore. You're not steady and even. You're bracing and powerful and changing. The bend in the river before you can see the waterfall coming. You're beautiful and bright and manic.

SORREL

It's the bipolar disorder.

SOCK

Which is a part of you. It's you. All of it. Every crash of waves against broken bridges. Every beautiful reflection against the sparkling water. You are the rivers and the water and the ocean. And, ocean, you are so much in the best way.

SORREL

Cool. I like you too.

[Sock laughs in the most inviting way. This is their love story. It's tender and more intimate than Sorrel has ever been.]

[A phone rings, Emery is on the other end.]

EMERY

Hello, you're calling Emery, how may I help you?

SOCK

Hey Em.

EMERY

Who is this?

SOCK

I... oh right, you haven't heard me talk since -

EMERY

Sock?

SOCK

Yeah.

EMERY

What do I owe the pleasure? Are you coming to gloat?

SOCK

About Sorrel?

EMERY

You won. You have them.

SOCK

They're not a prize, Emery. I just wanted to check up on you.

EMERY

Why?

SOCK

You had a major life shift. You were so angry and so sad when we last spoke.

EMERY

When I broke your brain?

SOCK

I forgive you.

EMERY

What do I have to do to get under your skin? Sock's the saint, Sock only can forgive! Why? What makes you so good?

SOCK

Why do you want to be so unkind? What do you gain?

EMERY

You can't disappoint people when they expect nothing of you. Not that you'd know how to disappoint anyone.

SOCK

Why did you want to be with Sorrel so bad?

EMERY

Why do you? You can't fix them.

SOCK

No, I can't. They can work on themselves. I'm not carrying that burden for them. But I'm asking you. Sorrel and you were terrible together. You were mean to one another

and both so miserable. I've known you both to be kind but when you were going at it? There was nothing to inspire kindness there.

EMERY

It's not any of your business.

SOCK

It's not really but you have an answer and I'm sure you've been dying to tell somebody about it. There's something hidden in your soul; maybe fear, maybe anger. It's in there.

EMERY

I don't want to talk about it-

SOCK

It will fester-

EMERY

I don't want to be alone, alright.

SOCK

Do you want to be unhappy or alone?

EMERY

Aren't they the same thing?

SOCK

To be unhappy with someone who makes you unhappy does not give way to be happy with someone who makes you happy.

EMERY

You sound like you've been drinking or something.

SOCK

A little bit. It was their birthday.

EMERY

Are you trying to tell me not to contact Sorrel? Because I'm trying to help. I don't want to be with them anymore - I want to fix the shit I did.

SOCK

I know. I mean - I don't know. I don't know you as well as everyone else does and I don't have as soft a spot in my heart for you. I'm not perfect or all forgiving or any of the things you accuse me of. But I have been drinking and afraid and the person who cares for the person I care for is... um... something?

EMERY

You almost made sense there.

SOCK

The point is, you're putting a lot on the line here. To protect them. And I wanted to see how you felt. Because I'm afraid.

EMERY

No worries here. I'm not scared of anything.

SOCK

I know that's not true.

EMERY

I'll be fine.

SOCK

You are among the most frustrating people alive.

EMERY

Then hang up! What's stopping you?

SOCK

I want you and Sorrel to know you don't have to do this by yourselves. You are not indestructible.

EMERY

I'm fine. I've always been fine. You get used to weird and scary shit when you're all alone in the world.

SOCK

You're not though.

EMERY

You guys made pretty sure I was. Look, I get it, okay? You banished me from y'all's lives and then remembered I don't have any other friends and you remember my aunt kicked me out and I don't have any other family either and you start to feel bad. I get it.

I feel bad for Sorrel because I got Travis involved. I'm trying to make it right. You're trying to make it right. I see you trying. Wonderful, stupendous! I can tell you want to save the world, with me inside. And I appreciate that? I guess I am scared. Because you know what this guy does. I know what he does. But if I think about it too much, I'm gonna chicken out. I'm going to run away and continue being not dead but be afraid in a totally different place. It's different now? Still not used to it. (a long pause, a sigh.)  
I'm sorry it happened like that. That I broke you.

SOCK

Thank you for apologizing. No better.

EMERY

I don't want the story to end with me being a monster, okay? It doesn't - I mean, it can't make sense. It just... what happens then? I deserve to be able to do better. Like you said, I have to figure it out by myself. (a beat)

What do you think? About everything I did? You just - are okay with it now?

SOCK

I can't make that decision. Not right now.

EMERY

I thought you forgave me?

SOCK

I do. I really do not think you meant for it to escalate how it did. It did escalate though. And it really fucking sucked. Now I'm in doctor limbo and it's getting colder and things hurt more. I do not know if my logical brain and my emotional brain could meet in the middle about you at the moment.

Emery is clearly sad about this.

EMERY

Okay. That's fine, I guess.

SOCK

But I will think about it. And I hope you're doing better than you were then.

EMERY

You're far more cryptic and emotional when you're drinking.

SOCK

I'm always emotional.

EMERY

You're calm all the time.

SOCK

No, I'm not. I just let the rest of you think that. Goodbye Emery.

EMERY

Farewell.

[The phone clicks closed. Sock makes a deep sigh. A door opens and Sorrel is there.]

SORREL

I got you some water.

SOCK

Thanks - I finished off that wine way too fast.

SORREL

It happens to the best of us. I thought I was going to die this morning.

SOCK

Are you feeling better?

SORREL

For now.

SOCK

For now is a good start.

["Pilot" by Lately Kind of Yeah plays.]

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Transmission Folklore is produced by Lavender Lemonade Collective. If you're able, we'd really appreciate it if you could rate and review us on your favorite podcatcher. This episode was written by Mik Koats. Sound design was by Orion Ibert. Music composed by Mik Koats.

Sorrel is played by Mik Koats.

Carter is played by Orion Ibert.

Bianca is played by Jillian Morgan.

Emery is played by Tal Minear.

Sock is played by Aubrey Poppleton.

This week's cryptid is the idea of the unknown; something is lurking out there. Good luck.