

Episode 2.11: You, Me, & Ennui Makes Three

Addison and Julia drive to Nana's and Malcolm asks a spiraling Hazel for help.

Content warning: Language, references to rape and murder, drinking

Credits:

- Brenna Anderson-Dowd (she/her): Hazel Thornton
- Frederick Elmore (he/him): Vinnie Julia
- Keith Baldwin (he/him): Malcolm
- Taryn Baldwin (they/them): Addison
- Tabetha McNeal (she/her): Ingrethe
- Sound designer: Frederick Elmore (he/him)
- Written by: Brenna Anderson-Dowd (she/her)
- Music: Kevin Elmore (he/him)

[Website](#) | [Tumblr](#) | [Discord](#) | Email: feedingwerewolves@gmail.com

INTRO: Kerfuffle and Chaos Productions presents Care and Feeding of Werewolves.

Episode 31: You, Me, & Ennui Makes Three

MUSIC: THEME SONG

SCENE ONE:

HAZEL

Licorice root: check. Lindworm... Ok, whoever used the last of the Lindworm scales without adding it to the list is fired.

(BEAT) Oh, right, that would be me.

SOUND: _____ FOOTSTEPS

What are all of you doing here?

KVOTHE

We got your texts.

INGRETHER

What's this about canceling classes?

HAZEL

Ingrethe, too? What is this? An intervention?

MALCOLM

Good. You know you need one.

HAZEL

No, I don't. And don't you have bigger things to deal with right now?

MALCOLM

I'm good at compartmentalizing.

INGRETHER

Might as well talk to us because we're not going anywhere until you do.

HAZEL

(SIGHS) People are too afraid to come because everyone thinks I'm using Malcolm here to infect everyone with the Blight.

KVOTHE

What are you talking about? We have a waiting list for classes!

HAZEL

They're going to stop coming so there's no point in wasting your time.

MALCOLM

So you're going to strip the chance to learn from people who want to protect themselves because you feel unappreciated?

HAZEL

Threats are a little more than feeling unappreciated!

KVOTHE

Yeah, it's a shock to the cis the first time they experience that. We get that at the bar with every drag show.

HAZEL

Yeah, but these aren't human homophobes. Instead of getting slapped with lawsuits or a picket line out front, I have to deal with hexes and everyone knows where I live.

KVOTHE

And you think I don't? Seriously, Hazel, think about my work as the council's hunter.

HAZEL

Yeah, but you have the authority of the council behind you.

KVOTHE

You know their authority means nothing to the people I bust. I say this with all the love in my heart: please check your privilege. From one survivor to a new survivor. Let. Me. Help.

HAZEL

I'm allowed to feel my feels. Y'all are the ones in here making me talk.

MALCOLM

You are. Until you make decisions that take opportunities from others.

INGRETHE

He's harsh, but he's not wrong.

MALCOLM

You have a team: you, me, Kvothe, Ingrethe, Julia, Addison, your grandmother.

SOUND: AUTO CHIRP

And Auto.

INGRETHE

You aren't alone. I can help you deal with the threats. We can go through them, forward them to the appropriate people, and figure out which ones to take seriously.

KVOTHE

And don't forget the Garden itself. It took antimagic to break in.

MALCOLM

Yeah, I'm not doing that again. I think the floorboards tried to bite me.

What does Julia have to say about your pity party?

HAZEL

If you're trying to make me dislike you, you can stop because you succeeded a long time ago.

MALCOLM

On that, at least, we can agree.

INGRETHE

(HAND CLAP) Ok, let's get you and me on the computer while the guys go over your security. Come on, up you get.

HAZEL

(GRUMBLING)

MALCOLM

Ingrethe just dragged Hazel off by her braid and her hand wasn't bitten off.

KVOTHE

I love it when she does that.

SCENE TWO: ROAD TRIP

ADDISON

(SNORING)

JULIA

Heh, they look so peaceful when they're unconscious.

ADDISON

(HAVING A NIGHTMARE)

JULIA

Hey, hey, Ads, wake up.

ADDISON

(WAKES) Ugh, I was having a dream about that ugly chainsaw carving of something that was supposed to look like a sasquatch?

JULIA

And ended up looking more like a morlock and Rush Limbaugh had a baby?

ADDISON

It was chasing me and chanting "HE WILL JUDGE YOU" from that doomsday billboard.

JULIA

Yeah, nothing creepy at all about blood-red letters hand painted on a billboard with no signs of people for miles.

(SPOOPY) Makes you wonder about what's living out there among the trees.

ADDISON

And in the abandoned houses eaten by blackberry bushes. It's like they grow when you aren't looking.

JULIA

The tumbleweed has been following us for miles.

SOUND: GPS REPEATING "RECALCULATING"

ADDISON

No signal, but I still got a text about my car's extended warranty.

JULIA

The rusted cars seem to stare as we pass by.

ADDISON

The sasquatch carving is there again. Is it telling the tumbleweeds where to go?

JULIA

The vultures are circling the car. Think they know something we don't?

ADDISON

Still not as creepy as that town back there with all the old rusted saws.

JULIA

Welcome travelers and tourists to Tetanus Town. Come for the decaying husks of giant logging equipment, stay for the-

ADDISON

Stay because the moss has welcomed you as its own. You are one with the forest floor now.

I'm half afraid I'm gonna look over and you're suddenly wearing plaid flannel.

JULIA

If I ever turn into Kvothe, shoot me. Ooh, a hitchhiker... ohhh, a Hitchhiker!

ADDISON

Wait, why are you pulling over?

JULIA

We're doing our good deed for the day. You are in for a treat... but only if you don't take your eyes off her, capisce?

ADDISON

Yeah, uh... I capisce.

SOUND: CAR DOOR OPEN, CLOSE

JULIA

Where to?

HITCHHIKER

(Inaudible)

JULIA

No problem.

ADDISON

Wait, you caught that?

JULIA

Sure, you just have to listen right.

(PAUSE)

It's too quiet. How bout a story?

ADDISON

I've heard that one.

JULIA

Hush you, I ain't told this one. It's about a girl. She was stranded on the side of the road after a car crash. That is, she remembered the crash. And she remembered flying from the wreck. But when she woke up, there was no wreck. She was just standing there, in the middle of nowhere, and all she knew is that she had to get home. She had to see her family. So she stuck out her thumb, and caught herself a ride.

What's your name, kid?

HITCHHIKER

(Inaudible)

JULIA

Christine Hansen?

The further she got from the accident site, though, the weirder she felt. Like she was fading away. Her skin and clothes slowly lost color...

ADDISON

Oh my god ...

JULIA

Her face became gaunt and bloody...

ADDISON

Julia...

JULIA

I see it. And as her wounds appeared, her memory disappeared. She lost her name, her sense of self. All she knew was that she had to see her family. That was all that was left of this poor soul.

(SOUND: GPS RECONNECTED)

Christine? Addison here is gonna look up your family. You can see what's going on with them.

ADDISON

I'm ... I'm sorry. They all died in a car wreck. Along with their daughter and sister, Christine.

JULIA

Do you hear what we're saying, hon? Your family is waiting for you. It's time to go to them. Can you do that?

CHRISTINE

(Inaudible)

ADDISON

Fix their memories in your mind. Do you have them still? Yes? Good. Now call to them.

CHRISTINE

(Ghostly wailing)

(SOUND: WAILING ECHOS, WIND RUSHING)

JULIA

Aaaand she's passed through.

ADDISON

That was our good deed for the day? More like for the year!

JULIA

Slacker.

(TIMESKIP)

ADDISON

So why're you leaving the Garden? I thought the Blight wouldn't really hurt you?

JULIA

Hazel ain't who she used to be.

ADDISON

Well yeah, none of us are who we used to be. You've changed, too.

JULIA

Of course I have. I'm angrier, less patient, but I own it and I'm working through it. She's got some kind of white saviour bullshit going on and she's blaming everyone but herself for it. Do you see me taking away other people's right to choose? Am I acting as judge, jury, and literal executioner?

ADDISON

What? Who's she executed? Why?

JULIA

She went to kill a guy who jumped me. The only reason she didn't is cuz he was already dead! She didn't care about what I wanted. I didn't decide fast enough for her so she went off alone – ALONE! – to kill someone in cold blood.

I need to get my fuel gauge checked.

ADDISON

Uh oh, what's wrong?

JULIA

We're halfway there and it says I still have three-quarters of a tank. I'm getting gas anyway cuz that can't be right.

ADDISON

Huh.

JULIA

What? What is it?

ADDISON

I don't know much about cars or this type of magic, but someone's tweaked it with some protective spells and to use way less gas.

JULIA

She touched my baby.

ADDISON

You're mad she made your truck safer and cheaper?

JULIA

She touched my baby! This is what I was talking about! Thinking she knows what's best and to hell with everybody else!

ADDISON

Ok Julia, try to breathe. In... out.... In... out...

JULIA

I am fucking calm! I am a goddamn sunny day!

ADDISON

Riiiiight. Why don't I drive for a bit?

JULIA

No, I need time with my sweet baby.

ADDISON

Alone time?

JULIA

No, we're strictly platonic.

ADDISON

Did.. did your car stop rattling there for awhile?

JULIA

My baby does not rattle!

ADDISON

Uh huh.

JULIA

Had she asked, it'd've been fine.

ADDISON

Would it though?

JULIA

Hey, I can take help when it's offered, and that's something no mechanic could do.

ADDISON

Can you really?

JULIA

You know what, even if I couldn't, does that mean it's ok to do it anyway? Where do I get to have a say in my life? I ain't never, never gonna go behind your back and mess with your stuff. If you need help, I'll offer it and help you as much as you allow, but people have a right to say no.

ADDISON

Listen, all I'm saying is I'm glad we're not broken down in the middle of nowhere with no cell service and the sounds of random gunshots in the middle of fire season.

JULIA

That wouldn't happen in my baby. I got a toolkit and a few spare parts in the back. How do you think I've kept this baby running?

ADDISON

The longer I'm in your baby, the more I wonder that.

JULIA

Shhh, Daisybelle, they don't mean it. They're just ungrateful.

TIMESKIP

ADDISON

Got enough snacks there?

JULIA

Road rations should always look as if a 10-year-old kid was left unsupervised with a fistful of cash.

Why's that guy staring at you?

ADDISON

Eh, he's just a jerk.

JULIA

That doesn't explain why he looks like he's about to piss himself. What'd you do?

ADDISON

(INNOCENT) I just waved at him.

JULIA

Uh huh, which hand, Ads? (BEAT) Ads, which hand?

ADDISON

All of them?

JULIA

(LAUGHING) Get in the car, kid, before he strokes out.

SOUND: TRUCK DOORS

ADDISON

Hey, why do you call me kid when we're the same age?

JULIA

I'm like 25 in orc years or something, I dunno.

ADDISON

Is that like dog years? Can't wait to see what you look like at 35.

JULIA

Oh yeah? Well you're literally part hag at 16!

ADDISON

Boogerface

JULIA

Buttmunch

ADDISON

Clownshoe aficionado

JULIA

Postmodern goth

ADDISON

Speaking of witch, I'm worried about her. [PUN INTENDED]

JULIA

Eh, she's more like casual goth.

ADDISON

You think she'll be ok?

JULIA

I'm sure she's fine.

SCENE THREE: THE GARDEN

HAZEL

(SINGING) Demons are bad, demons are bad... Auto is so cute in his little hat. Demons are bad.

SOUND: _____ MALCOLM ENTERS

What are you doing here?

MALCOLM

Why are you on the floor?

HAZEL

Performing a random gravity check, you know, to make sure it's still working. You're welcome, by the way.

MALCOLM

Are you drunk?

HAZEL

(SIGHS) Look, I'm too tired for this. Could you please just pretend I insulted you in some creative fashion and go away?

MALCOLM

You look like hell.

HAZEL

No, I said pretend *I* insulted *you*.

MALCOLM

When's the last time you slept?

HAZEL

Hopefully, I am, in fact, asleep right now and this is all just a really weird drunk dream.

You're not going away.

SOUND: _____ AUTO

HAZEL

Aww, Auto. You're such a good little hunter, but no thank you, you eat it.

SOUND: _____ AUTO

MALCOLM

Why is he bringing you a bug?

HAZEL

He's been trying to feed me since Julia and Addison left.

MALCOLM

Where'd he even find a dung beetle around here?

HAZEL

Did you just come here to interrogate me with inane questions?

MALCOLM

You knitted him a tiny hat.

HAZEL

I've entered my crazy dragon lady phase. I'm already single, even though I'm cute and talented, and live alone so might as well accept it.

MALCOLM

You've got the hair for it, too, right now.

HAZEL

I do not!

MALCOLM

There are cheetos in what's left of your ponytail.

HAZEL

I was wondering where that went.

SOUND: CRUNCH

MALCOLM

You're supposed to take it out of your hair fir... oh, never mind. How about I make you some real food?

HAZEL

Will it make you go away?

MALCOLM

Come on, where's your kitchen?

HAZEL

Scuse me a second.

SOUND: FOOTSTEPS

SOUND: VOMITING

Ooooh my head.

MALCOLM

You ok?

HAZEL

Metabolized the alcohol to sober up. Taught myself how in college.

MALCOLM

Handy.

HAZEL

Instant hangover though. Come on, the kitchen's this way.

SOUND: FOOTSTEPS

MALCOLM

What's wrong?

HAZEL

Nothing, I just... I try to keep work and personal life separate because working out of my house and being on call can blur those lines. Letting someone other than family into my home feels weird.

MALCOLM

We-

HAZEL

I'm just trying to categorize a situation that doesn't fit neatly into any boxes, that's all.

MALCOLM

I know what that's like.

SOUND: MALCOLM OPENS FRIDGE

MALCOLM

There's nothing in your fridge but whiskey and - what is this?

HAZEL

Belladonna extract.

MALCOLM

Isn't that poisonous?

HAZEL

Extremely.

MALCOLM

And you're keeping it in your fridge why?

HAZEL

Better question is where's my creamer?

MALCOLM

You have the self-preservation skills of a soggy paper bag of nuts at a squirrel convention. And what's this, some type of potion?

HAZEL

Yeah, anti-sleep potion.

MALCOLM

Why is it purple?

HAZEL

Because of the energy drink.

SOUND: _____ MAKING PANCAKES

HAZEL

What are you doing?

MALCOLM

Making pancakes.

HAZEL

How do I know you're not going to poison me?

MALCOLM

Wouldn't have to, you're doing fine enough on your own since you were keeping literal poison where you usually put your creamer in your fridge. Still tempting, though.

Here, drink this.

HAZEL

Why?

MALCOLM

My own amusement.

HAZEL

Ugh, chamomile and valerian?

MALCOLM

You need sleep, not more caffeine.

HAZEL

I shall get my revenge for such blasphemy by watching you drink bad coffee. I can't make it worth anything, which is why Julia doesn't let... But, you're probably not here for coffee and chitchat. What do you need?

MALCOLM

It can wait.

Oh, real syrup.

HAZEL

Grab the peanut butter, too.

MALCOLM

Seriously?

HAZEL

I am always serious when it comes to pancakes.

I assume you're here because of what was in those files? I have the drive, by the way. Figured you wouldn't want it in just anyone's hands.

MALCOLM

Thanks. (BEAT) You're right. I want my son and I'm prepared to go after him alone, but getting him out...

HAZEL

He might need medical help. I saw the files. I get it.

MALCOLM

I know I don't have a right to ask you. It's just... I don't have anywhere else to go.

HAZEL

You don't have to ask if I'm offering.

MALCOLM

Are you going to tell me why you were drunk on the floor?

HAZEL

The kids are out on a road trip, and I'm taking full advantage of my freedom.

MALCOLM

If you were, you'd be at the Woodsman and not alone in the dark.

HAZEL

Whatever. I was bonding with Auto, anyway.

MALCOLM

No you weren't. You were at rock bottom.

HAZEL

Why do you even care anyway?

MALCOLM

Because you look defeated, it's unnatural.

HAZEL

Not *supernatural*?

MALCOLM

More hate mail?

HAZEL

You could say that. Got a notice that you and I are being investigated by the Grand Council as potential threats to public safety. Julia hates me, but no word from him since he up and left, just from Addison. I don't think they hate me, though.

MALCOLM

You're gonna get back up and we're going to compile the evidence to prove to the Council that I'm not a bioweapon.

As for Julia... The time away might do him some good. He's been... a bit brittle. You'll both cool off and figure things out.

Then we're going to go back to fighting each other.

HAZEL

Why?

MALCOLM

Because I've come to like you making my life difficult.

HAZEL

And if I don't? Keep fighting you?

MALCOLM

I don't think you could help yourself,

When we met, most women in your position would've been afraid of a stranger breaking into their house with an unconscious, traumatized kid. Instead, you got angry and hunted me down. If you'd had the intel, you'd have waged a one-witch war on Perthro, risking everything to do the right thing.

Every time you throw what I did in my face, it's a challenge for me to be a better person because I know you wouldn't waste your energy on someone you thought wasn't capable of changing. Maybe right now you need a face to be angry at to keep going. I just know the day you stop fighting with me is the day you've given up on me.

HAZEL

(BEAT) For you, that was an entire soliloquy. I'm tempted to go out back and cut you a whole bouquet of roses for that performance.

MALCOLM

I've been practicing.

HAZEL

(BEAT) Your son, does he have a name? I can't call him Subject A like Perthro does.

MALCOLM

Adam.

HAZEL

And they named it Project Eden?

MALCOLM

Yeah.

I know the chances of success are... less than ideal, but I have to try. It's like this deep need I can't describe and it's as real as hunger, pulling me towards him. If I think about what his life has been like, I want to rip someone apart with my bare hands and it feels like I could.

HAZEL

I must be tired because your nonsense is starting to make sense.

I made a mistake with Julia by not educating him, so sit down. It's lesson time. You don't seem to have the biology of a werewolf, but you definitely have the instincts which is partly why you felt the need to make tea and pancakes.

MALCOLM

You're not wrong, but I don't see how that's related to werewolves?

HAZEL

All that crap about wolf packs and alphas? Erase it from your memory banks. Packs are families. The "alphas" are the caregivers, which, yes, does include protective instincts, but that's not the core of it. They make sure everyone is safe, well, and fed.

MALCOLM

You're saying I'm an alpha?

HAZEL

Or another adult family member because all the adults help raise the pups. Anyways, we're getting off track. The point here is you even feel protective of Julia, even though he-

MALCOLM

Hates me?

HAZEL

Would like you to become intimately acquainted with a speeding train, more or less.

With you and him, it's not that you don't think he can take care of himself, right? It's about giving him the tools he needs to do that. It's partly why you volunteered to teach us how to defend ourselves. That's your way of trying to keep us safe.

Maybe it's because of how and where you were bitten, but for whatever reason, you see us as your pack.

MALCOLM

Was any of it actually my choice?

HAZEL

It's all a choice.

Take fight, flight, or fawn responses for example. Those are instincts and you've learned how to use them when there's a threat and ignore them when it's a true threat. You can choose to act on them or not. Just because it's a new need for you doesn't necessarily mean that it's bad or that you don't have a choice.

If you hadn't been teaching, what would you have been doing? Self-destructing on your own?

MALCOLM

You really wanna go there?

HAZEL

Hey, we're talking about you right now, not me.

MALCOLM

So I choose to be protective over a couple of kids that hate me.

HAZEL

From what I hear, that's basically parenthood.

MALCOLM

I wouldn't know.

HAZEL

Shit, right. Sorry.

I don't hate you anymore.

MALCOLM

But do you forgive me?

HAZEL

I- I don't know. To be fair, I don't know if I forgive myself.

So, do you have a cunning plan for this mission because I'm going to be useless until tomorrow.

MALCOLM

Technically it is tomorrow.

HAZEL

First rule of night shift: it's not tomorrow until you've slept, which I haven't.

You can crash here, if you want?

MALCOLM

I'll see you tomorrow. G'night, witch.

MUSIC: THEME SONG

CREDITS:

Thank you for listening. Today's episode was written by Brenna Anderson-Dowd in collaboration with Frederick Elmore and Keith Baldwin. Performed by Brenna Anderson-Dowd as Hazel, Kevin Elmore as Kvothe, Tabetha McNeal as Ingrethe, Keith Baldwin as Malcolm, Frederick Elmore as Julia, and Taryn Baldwin as Addison. Edited by Frederick Elmore. Music by Kevin Elmore. Please rate and review.

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Except for keeping poisons in your fridge, which one would think was common sense.