

INN BETWEEN

Episode: Season 3 episode 9, "The Beast"

Audio length: 12:20

Transcript provided by Ria Couh.

INTRO (00:00):

HANNAH Hello, everyone, Hannah here with an announcement and a content warning.

TESSA Let's do the announcement first, I'm very excited.

HANNAH I am, too!

I'm happy to announce the launch of our [TeePublic store](#). Have you ever wanted a mug from wizard college? Maybe you just want a sticker that proclaims that you're unusual, but you like the sunshine too much to be any different.

TESSA All of those things can be yours.

HANNAH Just go to the link in our description and check out what we've got!

Or go to thegoblinshead.com and follow the link that we've set up there. I think you're really going to like what these artists came up with.

TESSA Now, what was that about the episode?

HANNAH Ah, yes, the content warning.

This episode contains, and I'm not really sure how else to warn for this, **veterinary medicine**.

TESSA You mean to say there's an **animal who is in distress**?

HANNAH Yes, briefly. He gets better. If you'd like to know more about this episode, you can check out the transcript at thegoblinshead.com/listen. Please take care of yourselves.

TESSA And now, let's go to the inn.

RECAP (00:52):

TESSA Previously on Inn Between...

AUDIO (00:53): INN BETWEEN THEME PLAYS IN THE BACKGROUND.

CASTOR How much farther to Belling?

TODE Not long now, there's a bit more forest to pass through.

ROSIE There's a lot of things alive in this forest.

TODE Oh, yes. Not the least of which is...

AUDIO (01:09): LEAVES RUSTLE.

TODE Wait.

KNOWLES What is *that*?

AUDIO (01:51): INN BETWEEN THEME FADES AWAY.

SFX (01:54): A DOOR CREAKS OPEN.

AUDIO (01:57): BACKGROUND NOISE OF TAVERN.

SFX (01:58): SEVERAL PAIRS OF FOOTSTEPS.

KNOWLES What are you *doing*?

TODE Bringing him into the light.

KNOWLES (*scandalized*)

That is a wild animal!

TODE *(patiently)*

Yes, and he should be treated with utmost respect as such. But he also has a broken leg, and my eyes aren't what they used to be.

SFX (02:12): SEVERAL RACCOON CHITTERS.

SFX (02:13): FOOTSTEPS END. CHAIRS SCOOTING.

CASTOR Is he going to be okay?

TODE He ought to be. I'll reset the bone and then we'll see if we can get him to enjoy some berries.

ROSIE *(carefully)*

Knowles, you can sit down.

KNOWLES *(loudly)*

I'm not sharing a table with that thing!

ROSIE What did this garbage cat ever do to you?

ZARA It's called a raccoon?

ROSIE I know it's called a raccoon!

ZARA *(cooing)*

And it's sweet.

(normally)

You'll be fine.

KNOWLES *(increasingly high-pitched)*

Sweet? It's got hands! Like people do!

ROSIE *(cooing)*

All the better to be the best garbage cat it can be!

SFX (02:46): HAPPY RACCOON CHITTER.

TODE His name is Beetle Guts if anyone is interested in that.

CASTOR (*mystified*)

Beetle Guts?

TODE Named after his father and a delicious meal!

ROSIE Ooh, now I'm hungry.

CASTOR (*unsettled*)

For... beetle guts?

ROSIE I knew I felt a kinship to this little guy!

ZARA You're both fine thieves!

ROSIE Thank you, Zara!

SFX (03:06): RACCOON GROWLS.

TODE Oh, Beetle Guts, I agree completely.

CASTOR Agree about... what?

TODE Nothing that would concern you. I will need a hand holding Beetle Guts as I set his leg.

KNOWLES (*dubious*)

What... for?

TODE He does not want me to do it. Knowles, you're the strongest of us five, I'd say.

KNOWLES (*nope*)

I'm not touching that thing.

ZARA What is your *problem* with animals?

KNOWLES What are you talking about "*what's my problem?*"

ROSIE You were weird about the bear, too.

KNOWLES (*emphatically*)

I've told you; I've always lived in the city!

TODE Surely there are animals, even in the city.

KNOWLES Maybe there used to be, but in my part of town, they were pretty much all eaten when the times were rough!

CASTOR (*mildly disgusted*)

Even the rats?

KNOWLES Good eating on a rat!

ROSIE Ew.

KNOWLES (*disbelieving*)

Seriously? From you?

ROSIE What?

ZARA You're not eating this one.

KNOWLES (*apalled*)

I don't want to! I don't even want to touch him!

TODE Castor, then?

CASTOR (*dubious noise*)

It's... I—It's just that those little claws look... kinda sharp?

TODE Well, how else is he to forage for his supper?

ZARA Oh, my gods. Here.

SFX (04:18): SHUFFLING AS ZARA GRABS THE RACCOON.

SFX (04:19): RACCOON GROWLING AGGRESSIVELY.

ZARA *(soothingly)*

It's okay, it'll all be over quick. Tode?

TODE Mhmm. Ready?

ZARA Ready.

SFX (04:28): RACCOON GROWLS SOME MORE.

ZARA *(reassuring tone)*

It's okay. It's alright. Berries?

TODE Yes. Here.

ZARA *(reassuring tone continues)*

Come on, buddy. Here.

SFX (04:36): RACCOON CHITTERS.

ZARA There you go.

KNOWLES Horrifying. Thank you.

TODE *(pleased)*

He will be alright.

SFX (04:44): RACCOON WARBLE.

ROSIE That was awfully... gentle there, Zara.

ZARA *Ugh.*

ROSIE Some might even say nice.

ZARA *Some might not recognize that animals, unlike people, are good.*

KNOWLES *Animals aren't good or bad, they just are.*

CASTOR *Unlike people?*

ZARA *(overlapping)*

Animals are better than people.

KNOWLES *(overlapping)*

No, people are like that too.

SFX (05:07): RACOON SHORT CHITTER.

TODE *Oh, you're right. Do explain, friends.*

KNOWLES *Well, it's like you say, Tode. Everything just wants to survive. I think people and animals all just do what they have to, to look out for them and theirs.*

ZARA *(scoff)*

Please. You don't see animals going out of their way to treat members of their own kind with deliberate and unfounded cruelty.

KNOWLES *Speaking from experience, are we?*

ROSIE *(uncomfortable)*

Uh. Ouch.

ZARA *(slightly defensive)*

I haven't done anything to other people that hasn't been done to me tenfold. And if people are naturally inclined to evil, then I must include myself.

ROSIE *You're not evil.*

ZARA *(scornful laugh)*

ROSIE No, you're not. I don't think anyone is, really. You know, deep down. Ultimately, people want to be good.

ZARA (*derisive*)

Do you find *comfort* in believing that?

ROSIE (*softly*)

It's the only think that makes sense to me.

ZARA Then what about all the suffering in the world, hm? What about all the ways people make the world hell for each other?

TODE Fascinating.

KNOWLES (*curiously*)

Where are you in all this, Tode?

TODE (*calmly*)

Previously, I would say I agree with you, Knowles. But, it occurs to me that I have seen neither the worst nor the best of people. I have hardly seen people at all. My knowledge is incomplete.

ZARA How novel! Someone admitting they don't know something!

TODE Is ignorance so rare a gift?

CASTOR Disclosing ignorance is.

ZARA (*pointedly*)

Scholars being classically so good at that.

CASTOR (*slowly*)

I do... try not to speak on matters in which I have no knowledge.

ROSIE What about this matter?

CASTOR (*confused*)

What *about* this matter?

ROSIE You know all about demons and evil. What do you think?

CASTOR (*long sigh*)

I... think it's the wrong question. The inclination of our natures toward good or evil or simple survival, that's... far less important than the question of whether our natures trap us. Can we truly escape what comes most easily to us? Or are we fated to follow our natures wherever they may lead?

ZARA (*snorts*)

(*disdainful*)

You don't believe in *fate*, do you?

CASTOR (*sincerely*)

I do in the same way one believes in... a boogeyman. I sincerely hope it doesn't exist. I have to believe that I can choose; I have to believe that... the things I do matter not because I'm inclined to do good but... because I *decide* to do good.

(*loses steam as he goes along*)

I have to believe that I can reinvent myself day to day, moment to moment, because... if I cannot, then... I am... *trapped* by my fate... without hope of escape.

ROSIE Having to choose to do the right thing over and over?

(*sigh*)

That sounds exhausting.

CASTOR It is, at first, but the alternative is to give in to the whims of your own nature. And...

(*small, self-derisive laugh*)

I don't trust my nature, do you?

(softly)

But you do get better at the things you practice.

ZARA What about when there *is* no choice? When the only option is... wrong?

CASTOR Sometimes your choices are limited. Often by, as you said, people making the world hell for each other. But... the choice to do the most good possible in the moment is always there.

KNOWLES But you have to look out for yourself *eventually*. Not everyone can be a martyr. The world doesn't function like that.

CASTOR *(thoughtfully)*

True. And... part of doing good is recognizing and preserving your own value, but... that can't be the whole of it. You're no more valuable than the next person and... acting otherwise means that eventually, inevitably, you will harm someone.

TODE You've thought about this quite a lot.

CASTOR *(seriously)*

Yes. Constantly.

AUDIO (09:14): A PAUSE.

SFX (09:18): RACCOON WARBLER LOUDLY.

TODE Ah, yes, of course. Zara, Beetle Guts asks that you release him.

ZARA *(sheepish)*

Oh. Sorry.

(beat)

I just apologized to a raccoon.

SFX (09:29): RACCOON GROWLS AND HISSES.

TODE He thanks you all for the interesting philosophical discussion, which he looks forward to conveying to his friends and family. All of whom he will now see thanks to our help.

(warmly)

You are most welcome, Beetle Guts.

KNOWLES Philosophical...

(bewildered)

He could understand us?

TODE *(proudly)*

Oh yes! Every word. Raccoons are quite intelligent. Castor, if you could get the window?

CASTOR Uhm... sure.

SFX (09:53): WINDOWS OPEN.

AUDIO (09:54): OUTSIDE NOISES, BRIEF CRICKET CHIRPING. REMAINS UNTIL WINDOW CLOSES.

SFX (09:56): A LITTLE CHITTER FROM THE RACCOON. A GOODBYE.

SFX (09:59): WINDOW CLOSES.

AUDIO (10:00): A PAUSE.

ROSIE Are raccoons just... *goblins* with fur and tails?

KNOWLES That's what their little hands remind me of! Goblins! It's terrifying!

AUDIO (10:15): A PAUSE.

ROSIE *(carefully)*

You don't really think you're all evil, do you?

ZARA Everyone else seems to think so.

(skeptical)

You don't really think you're all *good*, do you?

ROSIE *(playfully)*

Everyone else seems to think so.

ZARA *(small snort)*

KNOWLES I'm starved. Who's hungry?

SFX (10:34): GENERAL NOISES OF AGREEMENT FROM THE PARTY.

ROSIE Always.

KNOWLES Let's eat.

(calling out)

Hey, Tessa?

AUDIO (10:40): BACKGROUND NOISE FADES AWAY.

OUTRO (10:41):

AUDIO (10:41): INN BETWEEN THEME PLAYS IN THE BACKGROUND.

TESSA Next time, on Inn Between...

ZARA Ultimately, most of the time, education comes back to money.

RAIST Who among mortals can match us for magical mayhem?

WIZARD Not a soul, Raist!

ZARA You wanna bet?

KNOWLES Oh, this should be good.

CREDITS (10:59):

HANNAH This episode, "The Beast", was written and directed by Hannah Wright with assistant director William Wright. The show is produced and edited by Katherine Ayers.

The voice of Castor is Caleb Del Rio. The voice of Zara is Quin Leigh. The voice of Tode is Anthony Morales. The voice of Rosie is Lucille Valentine. The voice of Knowles is JV Hampton-VanSant.

Our theme song is by Eli Hamada McIlveen and our artwork is by Gabrielle Buxman. Our transcriber is Ria Couoh.

Transcripts for this and every episode can be found on our website, thegoblinshead.com.

Find and follow us on Twitter, [@inn_between](https://twitter.com/inn_between). Or support us on patreon, at patreon.com/thegoblinshead.

If you like the show, have a deep philosophical conversation with some local wildlife. Or leave us a review.

Thanks for listening!

AUDIO (11:55): MUSIC ENDS.

POST-CREDITS (12:00):

AUDIO (12:00): BACKGROUND NOISE OF A TAVERN.

TESSA You brought a *what* into my inn?

KNOWLES A furry goblin.

ZARA It was just a raccoon.

TESSA Goblins, I can handle, but wild animals... Tode! Tode! This is unsanitary, Tode!

AUDIO (12:18): BACKGROUND NOISE FADES AWAY.

EPISODE ENDS.