

INN BETWEEN

Episode: Season 5, Episode 7, "The Bully"

Transcript provided by Ria Couoh.

(00:00) INTRO:

HANNAH Hi, everyone! Hannah here.

A brief content warning and a promo before we begin.

Let's start with the content warning:

This episode contains **a long instance of abusive, ableist behavior (04:20–06:42)**. As always, you can check our transcript before listening at thegoblinshead.com/listen.

Please take care of yourselves!

And now, just to dramatically shift gears, the promo! Stick around after the episode for a new show that is just delightful.

Josie's Lonely Hearts Club is a fictional call-in show for the lovelorn looking for advice from our smooth-voiced DJ, Josie, also known as Joanne Holtzinger, who's not exactly lucky in love herself, alongside her faithful engineer, Frank.

The show is semi-improvised so it can get real silly or shockingly human. *Josie's Lonely Hearts Club* is sweet and strange in only the way real people can be. You are going to love it.

Now, let's go to the Inn!

(00:49): PREVIOUSLY ON...

TESSA Previously on Inn Between...

AUDIO (00:51): INN BETWEEN THEME PLAYS IN THE BACKGROUND.

MAX *(pleased)*
The Inn is following me?

TESSA *(displeased)*
Apparently it likes you.

LARKIN I've never been this far up the mountains.

PHOEBE I have.

YAK Why *does* the Inn follow us?

AUDIO (01:47): INN BETWEEN THEME FADES.

(01:50) THE BULLY.

AUDIO (01:53): BACKGROUND SOUNDS OF A TAVERN.

YAK Okay, explain this to me again.

MAX Again?

LARKIN I still have questions too.

MAX Alright, try to come with me this time. The Inn is *alive*.

YAK No, no, I got that far.

LARKIN Well—I—I actually have a few more questions about that. Uhm. Is it...
some kind of giant mimic or...?

PHOEBE Or a construct?

LARKIN Should we be *worried*?

MAX Don't be ridiculous, Larkin. It doesn't *smell* like a mimic in here.

(thoughtfully)

I don't know about constructs though, it could be.

PHOEBE *(wondrous)*

It would take so much effort to make a construct this big.

YAK Real challenge, eh?

PHOEBE A life's work, but...

YAK But why does it follow us?

PHOEBE I was... I was going to say *how*, but that too.

MAX I wouldn't hazard a guess as to how, but when I asked Tessa *why*...

(pleased with themself)

She said it's because the Inn likes me.

RUKES Us.

MAX Beg your pardon?

RUKES The Inn likes *us*.

MAX *(flatly, unamused)*

Tessa specified me.

RUKES That's funny 'cause, uh, when I asked her, the first day we re-arrived at the old Goblin's Head, she said that the Inn must have taken a shine to the group of us! Didn't say anything about you.

MAX You are so desperate to make me seem less amazing.

RUKES Aw, like I have to try.

MAX It's an exercise in futility, Rukes. I can't become less amazing. It's impossible!

YAK If you two are going to go on like this, I need a *drink*.

LARKIN (*exhausted*)

Whose turn is it?

MAX Uh... Phoebe, I believe?

PHOEBE Oh!

SFX (03:41): CRUTCHES CLACK LIGHTLY AGAINST FLOOR. CHAIR DRAGS AGAINST FLOOR.

PHOEBE Okay, uhm, same as usual?

AUDIO (03:43): SEVERAL "YEAH"S AND "MHM"S.

SFX (03:45): FOOTSTEPS ACCOMPANIED BY CRUTCHES.

RUKES (*derisive*)

So you're telling me that you're so special that a *building* has taken to following you around like a puppy.

MAX (*fading out*)

(*defensive*)

Why not? Plenty of people follow me.

SFX (03:59): FOOTSTEPS STOP. CHAIR SCOOTs AGAINST WOODEN FLOOR.

TESSA Hello, dear. What can I get you?

PHOEBE A round of the usuals!

TESSA Of course, coming right up.

SFX (04:06): FOOTSTEPS WALKING AWAY.

SFX (04:11): CLOTH RUSTLES, MUTED SHUFFLING OF METAL PIECES. SOFT DINGS. CREAKS AS SCREWS ARE TINKERED WITH.

NERO Now, who...?

SFX (04:20): TINKERING STOPS.

NERO (*disbelieving chuckle*)

That can't be Phoebe, can it?

PHOEBE (*quiet, scared gasp*)

NERO It is. It's Phoebe!

PHOEBE (*nervously*)

Uhm, Nero.

NERO As I live and breathe. I haven't seen you out of Agglomeracion since... Well... Gods, *never!* Look at you, out in the *daylight!*

PHOEBE I... Yes.

NERO Where everyone can see you and everything. I heard about what happened to Miles. I'm so sorry. You must be crushed.

(*laughs*)

Oh, sorry again. What a tasteless pun.

PHOEBE (*stiffly*)

Yes. It's... awful.

NERO You must have left as soon as it happened to get *all* the way out here.

PHOEBE Something like that.

NERO You're not by yourself, are you? Miles always said you were useless by yourself.

PHOEBE No, I'm... I'm with some friends.

NERO You have friends! That must be new.

PHOEBE It is. A little.

NERO What are you working on? Another one of your... doohickies?

PHOEBE Uh, yes.

NERO Your hobbies must bring you a great deal of comfort.

PHOEBE I... Hobbies, yes.

NERO Your friends don't mind carrying you around?

PHOEBE *(a little more firmly)*

I can walk on my own, Nero.

NERO *(incredulous)*

Not last I saw.

PHOEBE With my crutches I can!

NERO *(mocking)*

What, these?

SFX (05:51): CRUTCHES CLACK AS NERO GRABS THEM.

NERO That doesn't count as on your own.

PHOEBE Nero, give that back!

NERO Or what?

(with faux concern)

You won't be able to walk?

PHOEBE *(distressed)*

Yes!

NERO Miles was right, you know? The world is way too dangerous to you.

PHOEBE *(strained, as if near tears or panic)*

Nero—!

NERO *(angrily, reproachful)*

He's not even cold, and you run off like you know what you're doing!
How sad.

PHOEBE Nero, *please!*

NERO You're out adventuring on this piece of junk? I bet I could snap this right in half.

SFX (06:18): CRUTCHES CLACK LOUDLY.

PHOEBE *(pleading)*

Don't!

NERO Or what?

(lowly, derisively)

You'll fall down on me? Make a *gadget* to annoy me?

PHOEBE *(labored, anguished breath)*

NERO He worked so hard to keep you safe, and for *what?* It's a good thing he can't see you now. He'd be so...

(disdainful)

Disappointed.

PHOEBE *(upset)*

That doesn't matter now.

SFX (06:40): HEAVY, SLOW FOOTSTEPS APPROACHING.

NERO It doesn't *matter?*

(scoffs)

That is cold-blooded.

YAK You rang for someone cold-blooded?

NERO Gods' names. Who's this?

YAK Name's Y'k'ty, and I have this strange feeling that you're *bothering* my friend Phoebe.

NERO *(with polite warmth)*

No, no, no. You've got me all wrong. I'm Nero, an old friend of Phoebe's.

(pointedly)

Isn't that right?

PHOEBE *(strangled)*

I...

(through a defeated sigh)

Yes.

YAK That so?

NERO It is. Now, if you don't mind, you interrupted our conversation.

YAK *(disbelieving)*

Sure, sure. Yeah.

I'd just like to know what you plan on doing with her crutch there.

NERO What, this?

YAK Yeah, seems to me like she wasn't too pleased about you having it.

NERO Right, well, you know what happens when you assume.

YAK *(in a fake casual tone)*

Sure. I'm just thinking if it was me and I needed them to walk, I wouldn't want to let some creepy acquaintance manhandle them like that.

NERO *(aggressively)*

Watch yourself. You don't know who you're messing with.

YAK Don't I? I think I've got you pretty well pegged!

NERO Yeah, then what am I?

YAK A bully.

(emphatically)

And I don't *like* bullies.

(deep breath)

Phoebe, what do you want your *old friend* Nero to do?

PHOEBE *(quietly)*

Can... Can I have my crutch back?

YAK You better give it to her!

NERO Whatever.

SFX (08:08): CRUTCH CLACKS.

NERO I've got my eye on you, Phoebe. *Someone* ought to be looking out for you.

YAK *(angrily)*

Yeah, that's *my* job, dumbass.

NERO Don't talk to me, snake. You don't know the first thing about Phoebe.

YAK Oh, *snake*, am I?

NERO I said what I said.

YAK Oh, yeah? Well, here's my bite!

SFX (08:26): LOUD, HEAVY THUD AGAINST WOOD. GLASS SHAKES.

NERO (*groans*)

 (*strained with pain*)

 Ah! My face!

YAK (*with fake cheer*)

 Wow! Did you see that? Nero is so deep in his cups that he took a header on the bar!

 (*clicks their tongue*)

So clumsy.

NERO I think you broke my nose!

YAK Yeah, maybe you'll think twice next time, bully. Get out of my sight before I show you what I'm really good at.

NERO This isn't over!

 (*grunts*)

SFX (08:50): FOOTSTEPS RUSH AWAY.

YAK Yeah, right.

 (*sigh*)

 People really are the *same* everywhere. You alright, Phoebe?

SFX (09:01): BEAT.

YAK Oh, gods! I'm... sorry if I scared you. I just really can't stand that type of person, and... They don't listen to reason. I'd never do that to anyone who didn't deserve it! Promise.

PHOEBE It's not that.

YAK *(blankly)*

Oh, well... Then, what?

PHOEBE *(agitated)*

I... shouldn't have... It shouldn't have gone that far.

YAK Ah, sorry again. Violence is my go-to solution, I'm afraid.

PHOEBE No, I... should have been able...

(helplessly upset)

Why am I still afraid of Nero?

YAK Oh. I see.

(pause)

You've known him a long time, then?

PHOEBE He was a friend of my... Yes, I've known him for years.

YAK What a horrible person to have to deal with for years. Sorry.

PHOEBE *(anguished)*

But things are different now, don't you see? I... don't have to deal with him! I could have...!

YAK You could have, what? Walked away?

(gently)

How were you to do that? He had your crutch.

(beat)

Look, Nero is right about one thing. I don't know you that well. I think maybe that's on purpose on your part.

PHOEBE *(softly)*

Yes.

YAK And you don't owe me anymore than that, so that's fine. I just have an inkling about you and I that... maybe we come from similar sorts of places.

PHOEBE Really?

YAK Yeah, like maybe there was someone in your life who had altogether too much power? And used it poorly?

PHOEBE A bully.

YAK A bully. And sometimes a bully is so powerful that you can't leave.

PHOEBE But I should—

YAK *(firmly)*

There's no *point* in "should". You're free of them now, whoever they are. They can't hurt you here.

PHOEBE *(dryly)*

Except Nero.

YAK Hey, I'm the one who hurt him. I'll help you out. That's why I'm here.

SFX (11:04): BEAT.

PHOEBE Thank you.

YAK No problem.

(beat)

Anyhow, I came over because we realized you might need help carrying drinks back.

PHOEBE Oh, right.

TESSA Here you are.

SFX (11:19): GLASSES CLINK AND THUD AGAINST HARD SURFACE.

TESSA Thank you for taking care of that, dear. I was about to take my club to him myself.

YAK *(laughs)*

Glad to be of assistance.

SFX (11:28): GLASSES CLINK TOGETHER.

YAK Shall we?

PHOEBE Yes.

SFX (11:33): FOOTSTEPS, ONE SET ACCOMPANIED BY CRUTCHES.

MAX *(fading in)*

I'm telling you; he was hitting on Phoebe!

RUKES I'm sorry, which of us is the cleric of a goddess of love?

MAX Oh, I'm sure you are *well* practiced, too.

LARKIN Gods! Phoebe, please just... Can you tell them whether or not you knew that person so we can...

(exhausted)

... resolve this conversation?

SFX (11:52): GLASSES CLINK AGAINST THE TABLE.

PHOEBE I did.

SFX (11:54): CHAIRS DRAG AGAINST WOODEN FLOOR.

PHOEBE Old family friend.

MAX Was he hitting on you?

PHOEBE *No.*

RUKES *(laughs mockingly)*

YAK Sometimes people are just terrible.

MAX *(sulkingly)*

Fine.

Well, settle something else for us now. Can constructs and warforged and such feel... emotions?

PHOEBE Oh, um. Sometimes. Warforged usually can.

RUKES What's the point of making a killing machine that can feel regret?

PHOEBE *Because* it's a killing machine. Don't you want it to have some moral misgivings?

LARKIN And what about constructs?

PHOEBE Not usually. They're much simpler to build most of the time since they're generally designed for only one function.

MAX But... warforged are designed for the sole purpose of being soldiers.

PHOEBE Being a soldier is a set of commands. You have to know how to fight in formation, how and when to take prisoners, how to do tactics...

LARKIN Right! As opposed to a construct, which maybe gets told to "guard this door" or something, yeah?

PHOEBE Yes! Exactly.

YAK Good to hear you talking, by the way, Phoebes.

PHOEBE *(warmly)*

Good to be heard.

RUKES So is the Inn a giant warforged, then?

TESSA *(faraway)*

The Inn is no such thing!

RUKES *(calling out)*

Then what is it?

TESSA *(hotly)*

An inn!

MAX *Hah!* Mystery solved.

YAK Glad that's sorted.

AUDIO (13:17): BACKGROUND SOUNDS OF TAVERN FADE AWAY.

(13:18) OUTRO:

(13:19) NEXT TIME ON...

AUDIO (13:19): INN BETWEEN THEME PLAYS IN THE BACKGROUND.

TESSA Next time, on Inn Between...

YAK Whatever happened to those goblins you were talking about?

MAX I promise that there were goblins in the area!

LARKIN I hope you're wrong.

YAK Ah, don't worry, goblins aren't serious.

(13:39) CREDITS:

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

The voice of Larkin is Mason Amadeus. The voice of Max is Malcolm Jay. The voice of Phoebe is Soulara Jane Joslin. The voice of Yak is Emma Laslett. The voice of Rukes is CJ Tanuan.

This episode featured the voice of special guest Brandon Nguyen as Nero. Check out more of Brandon's work on *Starfall*, *Among the Stars and Bones*, *SCP Archives*, and *The Dead*.

Our theme song is by Eli Hamada McIlveen, and our artwork is by Gabrielle Buxman. Our transcriber is Ria Couoh. Special thanks to Emma Wright for foley assistance.

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

If you like the show...

(gleefully)

Punch a guy!

Or leave us a review.

Thanks for listening!

AUDIO (14:33): MUSIC ENDS.

HANNAH This story was created in the traditional territory of the Arapaho, Cheyenne, and Ute peoples, and edited in the unceded territory of the Salish, Kootenai, and Kalispel peoples.

(14:49) POST-CREDITS:

AUDIO (14:50): BACKGROUND SOUNDS OF TAVERN.

TESSA No, that special's over now, I'm afraid. We're sold out and I don't have time to go resupply.

Listen, if you want frog's legs so badly, go track down that hag and find another rude adventurer.

AUDIO (15:04): BACKGROUND SOUNDS OF TAVERN FADE AWAY.

(15:10) PROMO:

AUDIO (15:10): SLOW, MOODY MUSIC LED BY AN ELECTRIC GUITAR.

JOSIE Goodnight, cuties, and welcome to *Josie's Lonely-Hearts Club*. I'm your host, Josie Heller. Let's spend the night together.

So, when was the last time you *craved* something? Something you can't think about too much, because wanting it so bad almost hurts? See, that's how I feel about romance.

Oh, my lonely hearts, I know. It is trite but it is true. I want it, and I'm not ashamed! I dream big, mushy dreams scattered with rose petals, but they wouldn't call it "falling in love" if it... didn't hurt a little.

So, how about you give me a jingle, and we can lick each other's wounds?

Frank, who's up first?

FRANK *Josie's Lonely-Hearts Club*, a new fiction podcast. New episodes every week, wherever you love getting your podcasts.

EPISODE ENDS.