



The Story Pirates Podcast
Season 3
Episode 7

[BOAT HORN]

[Everyone is furiously talking about their adventures]

>> LEE: The loofahs were *everywhere*...

>> MEGHAN: And then we won the competition even though I didn't understand the question...

>> SIEGFRIED: What is everybody talking about?

[They ignore him.]

>> NIMENE: I was like running as fast as I can like wah! Pew!

>> PETER: The space dog was bigger than a building...

>> SIEGFRIED: What's going on?

>> MEGHAN: I had to fly the ship blindfolded-

>> PETER: Everywhere I looked, there was fire.

>> SIEGFRIED: Excuse me! PARDON ME!

>> LEE: Oh hey Siegfried, what is it?

>> SIEGFRIED: How have you all been on so many adventures?! I've just been sitting on the ship. Doing NOTHING! I've barely even sharpened my axe.

>> LEE: Oh I don't know. I guess we all just sort of... went on adventures? You could have come!

>> SEIGFRIED: No one ever said, "hey Siegfried we're going on an adventure, want to join?!"

>> MEGHAN: That's not really how adventures work!



>> SIEGFRIED: Well it should be!! By Thor if I don't go on an adventure soon I will scream. AHHHHH.

>> LEE: Siegfried! Siegfried! Stop screaming! Would you like to go on an adventure right now?

>> SIEGFRIED: YES! That is what I want.

>> LEE: Ok it's no problem. We can beam you down to the nearest planet.

>> SIEGFRIED: Great. Let me just sharpen my axe.

[Axe sharpening.]

>> SIEGFRIED: It is sharp! Now. Beam me. For I, Siegfried the Orange, will go on an adventure greater than anyone before me. I am noble and wise and -

[Beaming, then a roaring crowd getting closer]

>> SIEGFRIED: I did it! I'm on an adventure! What is this planet? It looks like I'm in the middle The Colosseum surrounded by big white stone pillars. And look at all those people sitting in stands.

>> REFEREE: *(On echo-y loudspeaker)* Gladiators! Are! You! Readyyyyy!

>> SIEGFRIED: This is a gladiator planet! Huzzah!

>> REFEREE: You, gladiator. Are you ready?

>> SIEGFRIED: Me?

>> REFEREE: Yes, you.

>> SIEGFRIED: I am ready for the fight!

>> REFEREE: Noble gladiators. We are about to begin. To win this match, as always, you must out-compliment one another. The nicest gladiator wins!

>> SIEGFRIED: Whaaaaaaa-



[THEME SONG BEGINS]

[BOAT HORN]

>>KID: I love Story Pirates!

>>KID: I like my story. (laughs)

>>KID: Don't write for other people just write for yourself.

>>KID: Alright!

>>KID: Just go for the imagination.

>>KID: This is weird.

>>KID: I was totally shocked.

>>KID: Sheep, get out of here, we're trying to finish a story.

>>KID: The Story Pirates.

[THEME SONG ENDS]

[BOAT HORN]

>> SIEGFRIED: Welcome back to the Story Pirates podcast, where we take stories written by kids, and turn them into sketch comedy and songs!

>> REFEREE: Are you ready for the battle to commence, gladiator?

>> SIEGFRIED: Yes! I just... uh... I need to stretch first! Yes! Stretching! Of course! Always important for combat of any kind. And while I'm stretching, let's do a story! And here to introduce it, is the author.



>> JONAH: Hi, my name is Jonah. I'm nine years old and I live in Michigan. This is my story, My Principal Ate a Worm.

[MY PRINCIPAL ATE A WORM]

>> CROWD: [Loud chatter as students and faculty settle into the cafetorium.]

[School bell rings]

>> JONAH: Hey Luz!

>> LUZ: Hey Jonah!

>> JONAH: Any idea what this "emergency assembly" is all about?

>> LUZ: No clue, but last emergency assembly was so crazy, Ms. Read the librarian broke her shushing finger!

>> MS. READ: Shh! [smaller] Ow.

>> JONAH/LUZ: Sorry Ms. Read!

>> PRINCIPAL: Alright, settle down students. Quiet coyote!

>> CROWD: [Chatter subsides]

>> PRINCIPAL: And good morning Hillside Elementary! You're probably wondering why I, your fearless principal, and Ms. Chu my Number Two--

>> MS. CHU: I prefer Vice Principal--

>> PRINCIPAL: --have called this emergency assembly. Well, uh...first off...the good news! Ms. Chu, would you like to do the honors?

>> MS. CHU: Gladly. You, the students of Hillside Elementary, not only collected enough cans for the district-wide food drive to exceed last year's total, but for the first time ever...we beat our food-drive rival...Valley View Academy!



>> CROWD: [big cheer]

>> PRINCIPAL: Thank you, Ms. Chu and...yup. Yes we did. We beat the school that sits literally next door to a canning factory. Which is a...

>> MS. CHU/PRINCIPAL: Huge--

>> MS. CHU: -- Victory!

>> PRINCIPAL: -- Surprise. Aaaaaand which brings me to the, uh...other news.

>> MS. CHU: [whispered] the *other* news?

>> PRINCIPAL: Yeah, the other news. It, uh, well...okay long story short I made a bet with the principal of Valley View that if we outdid them...I'd eat worms.

>> CROWD: [gasp]

[MUSIC: The musical accompaniment to shocked silence.]

>> PRINCIPAL: It was a *joke*, of course. You'd think the loser of the bet would eat the worms, am I right?! But I guess he didn't get my joke, and anyway beep bop boop, now I'm eatin' worms. In front of the whole school!

>> OSCAR: Oh Principal, aren't you forgetting something?

>> PRINCIPAL: [sarcastic] Oh great! Oscar, you made it.

>> JONAH: Who's that kid?

>> MS. READ: Shh! [smaller] Ow!

>> JONAH: Sorry, Ms. Read!

>> PRINCIPAL: Everyone, I'd like to introduce Oscar, a 5th grader from Valley View, who will also be livestreaming me eating the worms for *their* whole school.

>> CROWD: [gasp]



>> OSCAR: This is going viral, baby!

>> PRINCIPAL: Okay, I can tell you're all shocked. Because this is weird. I mean, come on, who would want to eat a worm? And, to be honest, I definitely wish this wasn't happening...but a bet's a bet, and who am I if not a principal of *principle*?

[Beat of awkward silence.]

>> STUDENT 3: (Single cough)

>> PRINCIPAL: [to self] Really? *No one* gets my jokes? [to school] So now, because this is my life, I will...eat worms. Here we go.

>> CROWD: [ugh]

[MUSIC: Worm-eating anticipation]

>> PRINCIPAL: Just gonna open up this can of worms while fully acknowledging the irony of that statement, pull out a worm and--

>> STUDENT 2: Hey, that's a fake worm!

>> CROWD: Boo! You're a fake, etc.

>> PRINCIPAL: Okay, you got me. I put a fake worm in the can, but seeing as it's neon green, covered in sugar, and deliciously gummy...I was unable to trick you. Can we cut that from the livestream? Is that a thing?

>> OSCAR: No stoppin' this train!

>> PRINCIPAL: Okay! Not a thing! Well, the rest of these worms, I assure you are...*gulp*...very very real. I'll just pull some worms out of the can and dangle them over my open mouth -

[Wormy squiggling]

>> CROWD: He's actually gonna do it!; Gross!, etc.

>> PRINCIPAL: Here I go! I'm dropping the worms into my mouth! [Gross gulping]



>> CROWD: Ewwwwwww!

>> PRINCIPAL: [mouth full of worms] The worms are in my mouth aaaaand . Down the hatch. [gulp]-Oh boy. My tummy feels a little upset.

>> SFX: Upset tummy sound

>> STUDENT 3: He looks kinda green!

>> PRINCIPAL: Is Mr. Healy the school nurse here? I might need some medical attention.

>> MR. HEALY: I'm here! Always ready to help with a medical problem. Let's just put my stethoscope on your tummy and give it a listen.

[SFX: Stomach gurgling noises]

[MUSIC: Faint club music.]

>> MR. HEALY: Ooh, sounds like those worms are having a party in your tummy!

>> PRINCIPAL: [terrified] A party?!

>> MS. CHU: Whoa! Can I give it a listen?!

>> PRINCIPAL: I don't think that's really necess--

>> MR. HEALY: --Sure! Give a listen!

[SFX: Stomach gurgling noises]

[MUSIC: Faint club music.]

>> MS. CHU: Wow! Those worms really *are* having a party in there!

>> STUDENT 1: We wanna hear!

>> MS. CHU: Great idea! We can connect the stethoscope to the auditorium sound system and then we can *all* listen!



>> PRINCIPAL: [looking for a way out] Oh no, I don't really, I mean, how would you even hook it up?

>> MR. HEALY: My stethoscope's got bluetooth!

>> PRINCIPAL: *Why* would you need that?! Anyway, no one has the technical expertise to--

>> OSCAR: I can do it! I'm the President of the AV Club!

>> PRINCIPAL: Of course you are, Oscar.

>> CROWD: Hook it up! Hook it up! Hook it up!

>> OSCAR: All hooked up, and now we are livestreaming directly from inside the principal's stomach!

[MUSIC: Club music gets louder]

>> DJ SQUIRM-A-LOT: Wassup Wormies! It's DJ Squirm-A-Lot coming to you live from the principal's stomaaaaaaaach! He ate, like, a *buncha* us, and you know what that means...

>> WORMS: Tummy Worm Party!

[SFX: Party Air horn]

>> WORM CROWD: [loud cheer]

>> WORM 1: This party's so lit it's silly!

>> WORM 2: I'm havin' a blast in this guy's tummy!

>> WORM 3: Jiggling and juggling!

>> WORM 4: It's like jelly belly time!

>> DJ SQUIRM-A-LOT: Alright, who's hungry?!

>> WORM CROWD: [louder cheer]



>> DJ SQUIRM-A-LOT: Well good news, my squiggly-wiggly wormy-wormies, because the last thing this principal ate was *caaaaaaaaaaake!*

[SFX: Worm “biting” down on cake]

[SFX: Party Air Horn]

>> DJ SQUIRM-A-LOT: Who’s ready to eat cake until they faint?!

>> WORM CROWD: [loudest cheer]

[MUSIC: Party music gets even louder amid cheers]

[SFX: Suction-y “pop” as the stethoscope is removed from the principal’s tummy]

>> MS. CHU: So that’s what happened to the rest of my birthday cake!

>> PRINCIPAL: I thought everyone already got a slice.

>> CROWD: boo! Hiss! You’re a monster! etc.

>> MS. CHU: Alright everyone, quiet coyote! The principal’s been punished enough. Now, I think we can all agree that although this was probably the most exciting assembly of the year--

>> PRINCIPAL: [vomitous] I don’t feel so...I think I’m gonna--

>> MS. CHU: --it’s time for us all to get back to class and--

>> PRINCIPAL: [vomits]

>> CROWD: Eeeeeewww!

>> DJ SQUIRM-A-LOT: Whoah! Hey school children! Who wants *caaaaaaaaaake?!*

>> CROWD: DJ Squirm-A-Lot!?

[SFX: Party Air Horn]

>> MS. READ: Shh! [smaller] Ow!

>> DJ SQUIRM-A-LOT: Sorry Ms. Read!



>> MS. READ: THE END

>> Siegfried : And now Lee interviews the author!

>> Lee: Hey, Jonah. It's Lee, from Story Pirates.

>> Jonah: Oh my gosh.

>> Lee: (laughs) How are you?

>> Jonah: Good.

>> Lee: So your story is, "My Principal Ate A Worm."

>> Jonah: Yes. And that story really happened.

>> Lee: It really happened?

>> Jonah: Yes.

>> Lee: Wait, tell me about that.

>> Jonah: So we were doing this assembly, then our principal, he ate worms.

>> Lee: Like real worms?

>> Jonah: Yes. But the first one was a little fake.

>> Lee: The first one was fake?

>> Jonah: Yes and no one liked that. So they said, "Boo."

>> Lee: People booed him?

>> Jonah: Yes.

>> Lee: (laughs) So then he ate real ones?

>> Jonah: Yep, he ate a real one.



- >> Lee: Just one?
- >> Jonah: Nope. Probably like four.
- >> Lee: Are you telling me your principal stood in front of your whole school and ate four real worms?
- >> Jonah: Yes.
- >> Lee: Were they alive when he ate them?
- >> Jonah: Yes, they were alive.
- >> Lee: Oh my gosh. Are you sure?
- >> Jonah: Yeah, I'm sure!
- >> Lee: Did he hold them up and they were wiggling?
- >> Jonah: Yes, he hold them up, right above his mouth, and then they were wiggling and then he dropped them in his mouth.
- >> Lee: (laughs) I cannot believe this.
- >> Jonah: I was totally shocked. I thought I was going to, um, hurl.
- >> Lee: Wait, did he just eat the worms in front of the school because he wanted to?
- >> Jonah: No, since we raised money, we got to do it.
- >> Lee: Oh, so you raised money for something, and as a reward the principal humiliated himself by eating worms?
- >> Jonah: Yes.
- >> Lee: (laughs) What were you raising money for?
- >> Jonah: Kids with Cancer.
- >> Lee: Oh, that's so great. So your school got together to help raise money for kids with cancer?
- >> Jonah: Yeah.



- >> Lee: That's a really worthy cause.
- >> Jonah: I know.
- >> Lee: You know what? I'm sort of impressed by your principal.
- >> Jonah: Yeah. It was really fun.
- >> Lee: So the first part of your story is based on a real thing. Your principal really did eat worms in front of your school. But the second part has the worm dance party. And I'm wondering if that is also real.
- >> Jonah: No, I was trying to make it like a little fun or something. But I bet the worms was moving in his tummy.
- >> Lee: (Laughing) Hey Jonah, would you do me a favor?
- >> Jonah: Yeah.
- >> Lee: Will you tell your principal that I said congratulations?
- >> Jonah: Oh yeah.
- >> Lee: "Congratulations on eating the worm, but mostly congratulations on inspiring your school to raise money for a good cause."
- >> Jonah: Yeah. Um, when I was just walking up to my school, my principal said, I heard that you made a story about me..
- >> Lee: Oh, man. So he knows about this story?
- >> Jonah: Yes.
- >> Lee: He is going to be excited to hear it, don't you think?
- >> Jonah: Yes.
- >> Lee: Hey Jonah, thank you for talking to me, for letting us perform your story.
- >> Jonah: Thank you, bye.
- >> Lee: Bye.



Siegfried talks about the story...

>> SIGFRIED: WOW! What a great story, that was a real saga!

>> REFEREE: OK, gladiators it's time for the compliment battle. The first one is from the planet Earth! Their name is Siegfried the Orange. And battling Siegfried from planet Doom, it's Bone Crusher, the sweetie.

>> OPPONENT: Hey everybody!

>> REFEREE: He's Sweetie Pie!

>> OPPONENT: That's what they call me!

>> REFEREE: Now let the compliment battle, begin!

>> OPPONENT: Hello there, Siegfried! I really like your beard. It's so beardy! I have a hard time growing one so I'm really impressed. It seems like you put a lot of thought into it. Like you trim it and use beard salve and like you go to the barber, and when you go to the barber they cut your hair, but you also ask them for a beard trim. Great work!

>> SFX: *The crowd goes wild*

>> REFEREE: Wow, great work yourself, Bone Crusher. Now, Siegfried, it is your turn.

>> SIEGFRIED: Oh. Uhh. I think it's great that you clearly don't care what you look like.

[Crickets]

>> REFEREE: Oooh. It looks like we have a clear winner for this round and Siegfried, I'm very sorry but, it's not you.

[Polite applause.]

>> OPPONENT: Aw gee, thanks everyone. It's an honor just to be here.

>> SIEGFRIED: WHAT?! No. This is all wrong. I wanted an adventure! I am incredible at battles, not at *being nice*. Beam me back everyone! Hello? Lee? Peter? Beam me back?



>> REFEREE: Who are you yelling at?

>> SIEGFRIED: Can everybody hear me up there? Beam me back!

[Beaming sounds.]

>> SMITTY: Hi there Siegfried.

>> SIEGFRIED: Who are you?

>> SMITTY: The Story Pirates sent me down here! I'm Smitty!

>> SIEGFRIED: Smitty?

>> SMITTY: That's right! From the Ship ball episode? In season 1? Remember?

>> SIEGFRIED: I haven't listened to season 1. Anyway, what are you doing here? I said beam me back! Not beam some other guy down! Hellloooo?!

>> SMITTY: Stop screaming! I'm here to give you a pep talk!

>> SIEGFRIED: A pep talk?

>> SMITTY: A pep talk! Is that allowed Mr. Referee?

>> REFEREE: Oh for sure! We love pep talks here.

>> SIEGFRIED: Of course they do.

>> SMITTY: Siegfried listen to me. You can do this. There's nothing more rewarding than being kind. Trust me, I would know. I used to be a big old grump. And look at me now! I'm giving a pep talk to a viking on a gladiator planet. I believe in you Siegfried. You just have to believe in yourself.

>> SIEGFRIED: Okay. Fine. I will try again. I'm ready!

>> REFEREE: He's ready everyone! Time for round 2. And... begin!



>> OPPONENT: My compliment is: Siegfried? Ha! More like SiegfRIEND! You must be really beloved for someone to come all the way here just to help you find your confidence! Guess you're a really special guy and I clearly have a thing or two to learn from you.

[Crowd roars!]

>> REFEREE: Wow, wow. Excellent work. Bone Crusher, more like Heart Softener. Siegfried it's your turn!

>> SIEGFRIED: Okay here I go. Your clothes look really nice.

>> OPPONENT: Thanks!

>> SIEGFRIED: On opposite day! Gahhh I can't do it! Being nice is weak! I'm strong! But losing is weak! And I'm about to lose! All hope is lost!! Time to scream again. AHHHHHH!

MIDROLL

>> SIEGFRIED: AHHHHH!

>> SMITTY: Siegfried! All hope is not lost!! I understand your pain. And I know that what you need right now is to just take some space and be alone with your thoughts. You can leave the competition. Who needs to win a compliment competition anyway?! You have nothing to prove You're a great warrior and a master of viking magic, and you still have a spectacular beard!

>> OPPONENT: That's exactly what I said!

>> SMITTY: You're not wrong!

>> SIEGFRIED: You're right. I don't have to win this competition. Huh. I feel better already. Wait, why do I feel better already? Is it because of my beard?

>> SMITTY: Why do you think?



>> SIEGFRIED: Is it because you were... complimenting me and it feels... good to receive compliments?

>> SMITTY: Yes Siegfried. Yes.

>> SIEGFRIED: So being kind isn't weak. It is strong?

>> SMITTY: Yes. Yes, Siegfried. Yes.

>> SIEGFRIED: You are very good at pep talks.

>> SMITTY: Thank you! And see? Complimenting is easy!

>> SIEGFRIED: Ok ref. I am ready for round three!

>> REFEREE: Great news. Gladiators... you may begin.

>> OPPONENT: Siegfried, I'm so impressed by how willing you are to change. You've come such a long way in this short time and it's been an honor just to watch.

[Crowd roars]

>> REFEREE: Oh wow, what a time to be alive. Siegfried, it is your turn.

>> SIEGFRIED: *(He clears his throat.)* Um. Okay, let's see. You, my friend, have inspired me today. When I arrived on this planet I thought kindness was a sign of weakness. But you have shown me that in fact, there is no greater flex than being kind. Your compliments were mighty. Your diction excellent, and your body language positive beyond measure. What you've done here today takes great patience, and for that I am eternally grateful.

>> REFEREE: Wow. Let's see what the crowd has to say about that.

[The crowd LOSES THEIR MINDS!]

>> REFEREE: They love it! And I love it. The winner is...Siegfried the Orange!!

>> SIEGFRIED: I won?

>> SMITTY: You won!



>> SIEGFRIED: I WON! WOO! YES! IN YOUR FACE! HA HA! I'M THE BEST! NA-NA! I'M THE NICEST VIKING IN THE WORLD. I'M UNBEATABLE! YOU COULD *NEVER!* HAHA!

>> REFEREE: I'm sorry but in light of this victory speech we will have to strip you of your-

>> SIEGFRIED: Beam me back Story Pirates! Ooooo-haha-weeeee!

[Beaming]

>> MEGHAN: Oh hi Siegfried! Welcome back!

>> LEE: Did you have the adventure that you wanted?!

>> SIEGFRIED: I certainly did. And I learned a bunch of lessons. Right Smitty?

>> SMITTY: (*Sighing*) Leave me out of this. Yeesh.

[He walks off muttering.]

>> LEE: Wait, Smitty...Well, that's why he's only in Season 1.

>> MEGHAN: See you in Season 5, Smitty.

>> LEE: Well, now that you're back, let's do a story!

>> ALL: Yeah!

>> LEE: Listeners, this next story is about a theater artist! And when you work in theater, sometimes it means waiting for your big break. But sometimes, that big break comes when you least expect it. Here's the author to tell you more.

>> THUY: Hello, my name is Thuy, I'm ten years old, I live in New York City. And this is my story, Backstage Dreams.

[BACKSTAGE DREAMS]

[MUSIC: Dry PBS Programming]



>> Thurman JIPTON: Hello and welcome to Inside the Actors Dressing Room, the show where I, Thurman St. James Iron the III Thurtman, talk to the world's most famous actors. Today, I'm interviewing legendary performing duo, Dara Starfield-

>> DARA: Thanks for having me.

>> Thurman: and Juno Wolfcollar.

>> JUNO: Pleasure to be here!

>> Thurman JIPTON: Two titans of the theater. Let's begin: what is your favorite color?

>> DARA / JUNO: Ehhhhh...

>> Thurman: Oh, okay. You know what, point taken. Maybe - where did you meet?

>> JUNO WOLFCOLLAR: Ooo better! I remember it well. It all began midway through the opening of *The Story of Apollo and Artemis*. I was the Queen Goddess Hera and ending the first act with my famous, show stopping line:

[MUSIC: Back in time gliss]

[MUSIC: Drama! 1940s!]

>> JUNO: [New Orleans Accent] "And that, Mr. Zeus, is why I won't be coming back, not now - not ever!"

[Huge applause]

>> JUNO: Thank you! Thank you my adoring fans! Roses for me? Oh - so many roses I can't see [losing balance] ahhh - AHH!

[Crashing on boards]

>> ACTOR: Oh no! Juno Wolfcollar has fallen!

>> JUNO: My ankle, my ankle is twisted! I simply can't walk and it's only intermission - there's still half of the play to do! Someone will have to go on for me! Say, look at that person working behind the stage -



>> DARA STARFIELD: Me?

>> JUNO: Yes, you look like you got somethin', kid. What's your name?

>> DARA: Dara. Dara Starfield.

>> JUNO: Finish the show for me, Dara! You'll be a star, Starfield!

[MUSIC: Gliss back to dry PBS programming]

>> JUNO: And that's how we met.

>> Thurman: Absolutely fascinating story, now a follow up question: which is your favorite tree-

>> DARA STARFIELD: Wait stop!

>> JUNO: Whaugh?

>> DARA: Sorry to interrupt a great question Thurman-

>> Thurman: They just come to me -

>> DARA: That is NOT THE WHOLE STORY.

>> JUNO: Dara, whatever do you mean? We met that night for the first time.

>> DARA: No, Juno...you see, I knew you before. You didn't know it, but I was your competition. For years, I - shamefully - didn't book any roles.

>> Thurman: How embarrassing.

>> DARA: Yes, I went in for *all* the same roles as Juno, but she booked them every time.

>> JUNO: All the roles? Even Doreen Damages?

>> DARA: Yes

>> JUNO: *gasp* But what about Jessika Jesslika?



>> DARA: Yes.

>> JUNO: *gasp* what about in *Tina and The Teapot Dome Scandal* where I played the titular role: The Teapot.

>> DARA: JUNO! All of them. I even auditioned for Hera in *The Story of Apollo and Artemis*. I knew the play like the back of my hand, but the role went to you. So, I worked behind the stage to see you work. So, the real story began that opening night. Juno's name was up in lights. And me? Why I was working as a stage hand - helping Joe the costume designer and Luna the lighting designer.

[MUSIC: Back in time gliss, underscored in 1940s classic Hollywood]

>> JOE: Dara, come help me find the rest of the costumes!

>> DARA: Coming, Joe!

>> LUNA: Dara, come help me with the lights!

>> DARA: Just a minute, Luna! Gosh, it's so busy here at Grindoll Studios. I can't believe the 100 things I have to do backstage!

[MUSIC: Gliss]

>> DARA: Number 99: lay a wire onstage. Check! Annnnd number 100: don't touch anyone's props. Check! Done!

>> JOE: Say, thanks for hanging up those togas Dara.

>> DARA: Of course, Joe.

>> LUNA: And thanks for hanging up those fre-nels, Dara.

>> DARA: Anything to see those lights on Juno Wolfcollar. Oh! The curtain is about to go up. I have so much to learn - look at her - she's so calm!

[MUSIC: Dramatic fanfare]

>> ACTOR: It is her, the feared goddess: Hera!



>> JUNO: [New Orleans Accent] Hera? Why yes, that's me. It ain't easy taking care of all of life, but that's my gig, honeypie.

>> DARA: [whispering] Her character is flawless. Joe, did you know I auditioned for this part?

>> JOE: [whispering] We all did, Dara. But Juno Wolfcollar - she's the best there is.

>> JUNO: [New Orleans Accent] Has anyone seen my hubby Zeus? You know, barrel chested, 12 feet tall, got a buncha lightning bolts in his belt? Oh, ZEUS!

>> LUNA: Sorry to interrupt, but Dara, we're coming up on intermission.

>> DARA: Wow, I can't believe it's already been an hour. I think when she comes out, I'll introduce myself.

>> JUNO: (Far away) And that, Mr. Zeus, is why I won't be coming back, not now - not ever!

[Far away applause]

>> LUNA: Uh oh - who left that wire across the stage?

>> JOE: Oh no - Juno's heel is getting snagged on it!

>> JUNO: [falling] aghh!

[Crash!]

>> JOE: Juno, are you ok?

[MUSIC: Gliss back to dry PBS programming]

>> Thurman: This is a fascinating story. All I had next was to ask if you prefer pizza or french fries, so keep going!

>> JUNO: Dara, I had no idea you were an actor working as a stage hand who dreamed of being an actor!

>> DARA: Well, I never told you.



>> JUNO: This whole time I thought I discovered you! But you discovered yourself!

>> Thurman: Back to the story, please.

>> JUNO: Ah yes, there I was, on the ground, twisted in a toga - which incidentally is the title of my memoir -

>> DARA: -available wherever books are sold-

>> JUNO: I realized I couldn't go on. I knew that somehow, somehow, someONE needed to replace me - so I said

[MUSIC: Gliss back to 1940s]

>> JUNO: Someone needs to replace me.

>> DARA: I'll do it!

>> ALL: (Gasp!)

>> LUNA: We don't need *that* much drama.

>> ALL: (Laughter)

>> DARA: That was a really good burn, Luna. But no guys, I'm serious, I auditioned, remember?

>> ALL: Oh - Right - Etc.

>> DARA: I don't need your permission! Whatever - I can do this.

[MUSIC: Gliss to end of play]

>>JUNO: There's Dara, onstage acting up a storm. She's about to finish the play!

>> DARA: [New Orleans Accent] And with Goddesses as my witness, I'll never go hungry again!

>> SFX: Huge applause



>> DARA: Thank you! Thank you! Oh gosh! It's such a pleasure. Oh I'm speechless! Thank you.

>> JUNO: Starfield, that was wonderful! I've got an idea. How about we work together! I'll do the first part before the intermission, and you do the other."

>> DARA: Why I'd be honored!

[MUSIC: Gliss back to dry PBS!]

>> Thurman: AND YOU DID THAT? FOR THE LAST 40 YEARS YOU'VE BEEN TRADING PARTS AND BREAKING HEARTS? MY GOODNESS THIS IS TOO MUCH!

>> JUNO: Thurman, are you crying?

>> Thurman: YES.

>> DARA: Well, that's just another day for us, Dara Starfield -

>> JUNO: And Juno Wolfcollar:

>> DARA / JUNO: Actors!

>> Thurman: I've been your host, Thurman, saying THE END!

[Credits Music begins]

Thanks for listening to today's episode and a special thanks to today's authors, Jonah and Thuy! Before we go, here's today's story spark: Kids, write a story about a character from your imagination who learns to be thankful in their life. Start by writing about your character waking up one morning and discover that something they really need is gone. How does your character get by without that thing they really need? And what does missing their thing teach them about being thankful? As always, grownups can submit stories at storypirates.com. Thanks for listening. Bye!!!

[THEME MUSIC BEGINS]

[Boat Horn]



The Story Pirates Podcast is a production of Gimlet Media. Executive Producers Lee Overtree and Benjamin Salka. This episode was produced by Lee Overtree, Sam Bair, Peter McNerney, Andrew Miller, Jonathon Roberts, MR Daniels and Chad Chenail. Recording, Sound design & mixing by Sam Bair at The Relic Room in New York City. Our theme song written by Bobby Lord and produced by Brendan O'Grady. Our head writer is Rachel Wenitsky. Our staff writer is Mike Cabellon. Contributing writers are Matt Gehring, Peter McNerney, Martha Marion, Meghan O'Neill and Lee Overtree. This episode featured performances by Arianna Ennis, Duke Doyle, Elana Fishbein, Eric Gersen, Hallie Haas, Quinton Johnson, Meggie McKinnon, Peter McNerney, Jack Mitchell, Meghan O'Neill, Lee Overtree, Jeanna Phillips, Jesse Thurston, Nimene Wureh and Matt Zambrano.

[Credits music ends]

>> LEE: You know, that story about backstage dreams reminds me...I have a backstage dream of my own! I also dream of being on stage as a DJ!

>> DJ: Hey Lee!

>> LEE: DJ SQUIRM A LOT?!

>> DJ: That's me! Did I just overhear you saying that you...dream of becoming a DJ?

>> LEE: Well, duh! DJ's are so cool! Like you! You're such an extremely cool and small worm DJ!

>> DJ: Hahaha, Silly Lee. Don't you know that literally anyone can be a DJ?

>> LEE: What? Anyone?

>> LEE: I...didn't know that!

>> DJ: All you have to do is just press this space bar, on my laptop

[MUSIC STARTS]

>> LEE: Wow, Look at me! I'm a DJ!!! I'M A DJ!!!!!!!



>> DJ: You're doing it Lee!

>> LEE: Is this what being a DJ is like?

>>DJ: It is!

>> LEE: What do I do now?

>> DJ: Nothing! Just look cool!

>> LEE: Ah, I can do that! Ah hahaha, I'm a DJ!

[END]
