

GOOD BOYS Episode 2 Have Some

Story by Steven LaFond



WITCHEVER PATH INTRO

Last time you were with us, you were introduced to Rico, the white death. A proud cat, he stalks the hunting ground of the garage daily. Nothing escapes him, save for the times his brother, Otter, interrupts his hunting with incessant barking and demands to play.

Their feeders and bathroom attendants, Alana and Tomas, are wonderful people, if completely inept at hunting. Their lives together were easy, and Rico found peace in his routine.

Until the day strange men came to his home. The pale men menaced his people, and while Tomas successfully drove them away, Rico witnessed a third man tie a mysterious bauble onto a tree in the backyard.

Later that night, an intruder forced its way into the garage. A rat. But unlike any rodent Rico had toyed with, this one was not prey. Standing on its hind legs, the foul creature wielded a bone and fought Rico with more ferocity than anything ever had. After being stabbed and bit by the monstrous intruder, Rico retreated into the kitchen, pursued by this monster.

It was only the quick ferocity of Otter that spared Rico more pain as the massive rottweiler snatched up the creature in his jaws, biting the rat in two. Proud of his brother, Rico tasted their prize, only to be overcome with a strange sensation... and understanding.

As Tomas and Alana made their way through the dark of the house, Rico could now understand all of their words. He was aware that the meat he had eaten had given him that understanding. With the people in his house closing in on the kitchen, he had a choice. Save some of the meat to give to Otter, so he could share this knowledge... or let them take the foul corpse away.

It was a choice that needed to be made immediately. And you did it for him.

And so Witchever Path Presents, GOOD BOYS, EPISODE TWO: Have Some.

[click of the light]

TOMAS

[seeing the scene in front of him]
What the Fuck?
Oh...

[ALANA is coming in right behind him]

ALANA

[anxious because of his reaction to the situation]
What is it?



TOMAS

[trying to shield her from this]

Don't come in here.. the boys killed something.

OTTER. COME. LEAVE IT.

Wai- RICO! Drop it. Drop! Shit ---

[Reaches for the cat, Rico bolts across the floor, sounds of things falling!]

RICO NARRATOR

Rico's neck throbs as he dodges Tomas and makes his way through the pet door and into the garage. The dog circles and barks around Tomas, giving Rico another five seconds. Good Boy. Otter is a good boy. Tomas will be distracted by the other half of the rat and a barking dog. Rico can hide this piece.

He drops the rat's head and front quarters behind the chest freezer. Rico's ear and neck are wet with blood. It's both his and the intruder's. He goes to clean himself but the pain in his neck is sharp.

He needs to rest. There is space by the work bench, but the rat snuck in over there. Hiding out here is no good. Rico looks back at the door. His people are talking.

ALANA

[horrified by the scene]
Oh God.

TOMAS

It's a bloody mess. Just hang back, I'll get a bag.

ALANA

I have to see... oh my god. There's blood all over the floor. Otter, come here.

[relieved]
He's okay. Where's Rico?

[sees blood leading to the pet door]

Tomas... was Rico hurt?

TOMAS

[distracted a bit by the blood]
I'm not sure. He ran into the garage before I could look.



[door opens]

RICO NARRATOR

Alana comes into the garage, the light from the kitchen burning through the shadows. Her hand goes to the switch, and Rico blinks in time to not be blinded. But all the extra light and the sound of Alana being scared cause him to shake.

He pees on the floor.

ALANA

[aghast at Rico, covered and blood and shaking]
Oh baby! Oh no!
Tomas, he's bleeding!
Oh Rico, what happened?
Tomas, get me a towel!

TOMAS

[ready to help]
I'll be right there!

[Otter is barking]

RICO NARRATOR

Alana has the towel in her hand. She's talking quietly and sweetly at Rico.

He knows she's trying to make him feel better, to stand still.

But the towel in her hand means only two things. A bath, or a ride in the box.

The box that brings Rico to the smelly place.

The place where they hold him down, put their steel claws into his backside, and then send him back home. He stands up to run, but the pain makes it impossible to get away from Alana.

She wraps him up in a cocoon. He can't escape.

He cries his protest. She doesn't relent.

ALANA

It's okay, honey.
We got to get to the vet.

TOMAS

All right! Otter, crate! Otter, crate!

[dog whines, barks]

Fuck. Okay... Um. I'm not done cleaning up.



ALANA

Just throw out the thing they caught and let's get in the car.

[doors open, close, trash into the basket, then into the car, speeding away]

ALANA

What did they kill?

TOMAS

I don't know, I would say a rat, but the tail and back were too big.
I thought a little possum, but the fur is brown.
It's big. I'm worried Otter ate the other half.

ALANA

Oh god, should we have brought him, too?

TOMAS

No, I think he'll be fine. We'll ask when we get there, though. If we have to, I'll leave you with Rico and go get him.

RICO Narrator

They are worried for Rico and Otter both. Rico likes them. And now it's clear for the first time. They are bringing him to the smelly place, the fear place, but it's not to hurt Rico.

They want to help.

But the men and women there, they don't soothe.

He cries softly in Alana's arms, he wants to say he wants to go home.

She touches his forehead. He licks her fingers.

Inside the smelly place, they race him out back. He hears the sick dogs and cats. There's a shriek of a bird as he's brought into a bright room with a metal table. They try to hold him down, and as gentle as they are, it is a threat. He swipes at them, trying to appear big. He spits and hisses. They grab him and hold him and there's a pinch in his leg and he's woozy. He cries, and they whisper nice things to him. He falls asleep.

[bounce of plastic on cage]

He wakes up in the box. The smell of the car and the towel from home are familiar. He can smell the cream that's been put over his wound. He goes to lick it off, but he can't turn his head enough.

Something is around his neck. His eyes, still unfocused, can only see white.

Rico groans. He knows what this is. Otter had one on his neck when he came home, smelling different, missing his testicles. The cone kept him from licking himself. Rico didn't have testicles, or if he had, he didn't remember them.



ALANA

It's okay, Rico. We'll get you home, little guy.

RICO NARRATOR

When they get home, they bring him in quietly. Otter sniffs at the door of the box, but Tomas takes him away by his collar. Alana sets the box down on the ground and opens its metal gate. He can't get out. The collar is too big. And that worries him. The rat, what's left of him, is through his door. How will he get it for Otter before it rots?

There is a click and the top of the box opens. Alana lifts him out carefully. Her hands are so loving. The air of the house is cold on his chin and neck. Too cold. He can feel the air on his skin. What did the man do to him?

The cone around his head keeps him from licking his neck. His whiskers scrape its sides as he tries to put his head down. Rico has to pee.

ALANA

Did you leave the garage door open?

TOMAS

I don't think I did. Oh, wait.

Yeah, when we had Rico in the towel I freaked out.

ALANA

Let's see what kind of a mess Otter made.

RICO NARRATOR

While Tomas and Alana inspect the garage, Rico carefully makes his way to his litterbox. The chest freezer is pushed out from behind the wall. He sniffs the air.

He can't smell the rat's body.

Otter's standing in the doorway leading to the kitchen.

His eyes study Rico, and he tilts his head to the side.

He sits and puts his paw out into the air... and waves it at Rico.

Like a kitten batting at strings.

No. Otter wants Rico to come to him.

Rico finishes and walks up to the dog.

His breath is foul, but no more than usual.

Did he eat what was left? Or did something come and retrieve it?

[scuff of litter]

Rico is still groggy from the medicine.

He walks back into the house. With the people cleaning up the garage and complaining about the blood, RICO realizes that sleeping under the table or on their bed may be hard to do with



the collar on his neck. He makes his way to the couch and hops up with some effort. He teeters a bit on the edge of the couch and grips the cushion as he starts to fall.

But something nudges him back up.

He spins around, ready for another attack.

It's Otter. He steps back, just out of claws reach, and pants.

The dog circles and lays down in front of the couch, leaving Rico be.

He's a Good Boy, Rico thinks.

A Good Boy.

Two days pass, While it's hard to get around, Rico gets used to the collar. It's not as large as Otter's was, and he can still walk, though not as quickly as before. The wound itches, but there's nothing he can do about it. Tomas feeds him foul medicine, but follows it up with tuna fish.

Alana carries him like a baby from room to room when she's not working.

And Otter. Otter is guieter than normal.

He has begun stacking toys around Rico as he sleeps.

When the people are busy, Otter just lies down next to Rico, escorting him around the house. The house has started to smell normal. He finds, with some effort, he can squeeze through the pet door with the cone on. It's annoying, but he can at least pee on his own.

He inspects the garage as best he can without catching his cone on anything. He finds the hole by the garage door. The rat had gnawed a hole through the wooden doorway, and then had pushed against the metal door.

There was a dent where it had shoved.

The thing had been strong, but Rico was faster.

He peers through the hole.

Healthy him could get through, if he wasn't wearing this thing.

Tomas should fix it.

Alana could, but Rico needs her lap and attention.

She's softer.

ALANA

[opens door]

You okay, little man.

[he meows back]

Oh really?
Come here.

RICO Narrator

He attempts to get her attention as she gets closer, walking in circles by the wall, trying to show her the hole.

But she picks him up, not noticing the sunlight coming through the hole.



She didn't understand him. It's frustrating. He spends the day in her office. Otter comes in with a stuffed red bear and puts it next to Rico. Later that night, Tomas and Alana go upstairs and Rico and Otter commandeer the living room. They drift off to sleep.

Rico dreams of people whispering, the opening of cages. The squeal of rats and the smell of incense. Words are chanted, bones break, flesh tears, and reknits. The rat's voice joins the people's as they chant the same syllables.

[creak in the garage]

Rico wakes up from his sleep. He stands up, the collar tight and stifling. Otter makes a small, quiet bark. It confuses Rico. Otter isn't barking toward the kitchen. He's made that noise at Rico. Rico looks at him. Otter leans his head forward and taps the pillow.

He nudges the cone, jarring Rico who raises a paw to slap him.

He nudges the cone again and then taps the cushion.

He does it two more times.

Rico bows his head.

Otter's teeth grip the collar behind Rico's ears.

He hisses. But Otter doesn't stop. The big dog chews and the plastic collar begins to choke Rico. He finds it impossible to breathe. Otter's killing him.

He's going to die.

[collar unfurls loud clatter]

The collar is off. Otter has chewed through it. Rico rubs his head on his brother.

Otter is a good boy.

But then the sound from the garage begins again.

Otter begins to growl.

Rico is in no shape for a head-to-head fight.

The dog is making too much noise before the hunt.

Rico reaches out with a paw and pushes lightly on Otter's lips.

The dog stops growling. Rico whips his tail and nudges his chin in the direction of the kitchen. Otter stops panting. He does his best to be quiet as the two of them walk into the kitchen. Otter's nails, though, are loud. Which Rico uses to his advantage. As Otter goes to the right, around the butcher block, Rico goes left. Whatever comes into the kitchen will be surrounded.

Otter is quiet, quieter than he has ever been. The sounds from the garage are familiar. The same as the night before. This time, though, there are the sounds of two of them.

He knows that they will be coming in here. He knows that he can't fight one on his own, let alone two. But Rico has his Otter.

And Otter is being clever.

The first once comes in through the hole.

It's quiet, cautious.

It peers around the darkness and sniffs.



Otter lets out a sigh. The creature shrieks and stumbles back. But then Otter snores.

The thing pauses and walks forward again, its green eyes searching the darkness.

Rico stays still. The thing raises its right arm. In its tiny paw, it holds another of those sharpened bones. It chitters over its shoulder. The second creature answers from the garage. It hesitantly begins to make its way toward the snoring.

Rico can smell its fear, sees the wet fur on its back standing straight up.

Does it smell Rico?

Rico hops up onto the butcher block. The surface is entirely bare, making his landing easy. He walks over to the ledge slowly. Looking over it, he sees Otter, lying down on his belly, making snoring noises. The rat is approaching the dog, bone dagger raised.

But it can't see what Rico can. Otter's eyes are open.

The rat is three steps away when Otter leaps to his feet and lunges forward.

It narrowly escapes his jaws, and falls onto its back.

Before it can even turn over, Rico leaps.

The snap of its neck as he lands on it is satisfying.

His stitches feel tight. He senses eyes on him and looks up, through the pet door and sees the other rat, its jaw open. It's frozen in fear. He crouches, ready to pounce if the monster attempts to make a move. It retreats back from the pet door, stumbling over things in the garage.

Otter barks at the door, and Rico hears the other rat escape. He runs over to the counter and jumps. He balances carefully around the kitchen sink to look outside. The rat stands in the driveway, out of breath and terrified. He can see the gleam of its eyes as it looks at him.

Rico knows it can see him, so he stares back.

He then begins to size up his prey. It's bigger than the other two. Half as long as Rico. That means the hole they made to come through, Rico could probably fit. He could give chase. If it's that scared, he could probably win.

But to leave the house without Otter... it would be dangerous. What if the rat has another waiting outside for him?

He hears Otter chewing, and he can smell the entrails of their fallen enemy.

His stomach rumbles, but also feels uncomfortable.

But the meat. The meat made Otter smart. The meat made Rico understand.

Maybe more meat is needed.

The rat is pacing in the driveway, near Alana's car.

It ducks behind one of her tires.

Otter, comes over, his head almost higher than the counter. He has the rat's head in his mouth.

Otter spits it onto the counter, his tail wagging. He's giving it to Rico.

Rico can see a shadow by the tire. The rat is waiting for him to leave the window.



This is the second invasion in two days. Do they just keep waiting for them to come into the house? It's worked so far... but still.

Something must be done.

Should he give chase?
Should he hold back and eat this head?

Otter is looking at him, expectantly.

What does Rico do?

You can vote now at WitcheverPath.com/vote

GOOD BOYS, Episode 2 was written by Steven and produced by Witchever Path.

It featured:

Journee LaFond as the Narrator Jes Negrón as Alana Armani Marquez-Chaves as Tomas John Henry Deonte as Otter Kevin Franklin Bowie as Rico

Foley by Witchever Path and Audio Hero.
The Witchever Path Theme song was written and performed by RYDR.

Additional music comes from EpidemicSound.com:

From Dusk and Azul by Andres Cantu Spider Room by Ethan Sloan Brain Copy Syntax Error by Oh the City Save us by Phoenix Tale