



GOOD BOYS  
Episode 3  
Guerreros

Story by Steven LaFond



### **WITCHEVER PATH INTRO**

When was the first time you gained understanding of something your parents did to you that was meant to help you, but at the time was scary or unexplained? Because of your choices, Rico finally understood that the smelly place he hated for the first twelve years of his life was a spot Tomas and Alana took him to heal his wounds.

The stitches tight on his neck, he also had a new feeling: embarrassment from the cone keeping him from irritating his sealed wound. He returned home with his owners to find that Otter had eaten what was left over of the rat creature that had nearly killed him.

The dog motioned strangely at him on occasion, and provided him with gifts as Rico rested on the couch. For a few days, the house was quiet, with Otter barely leaving Rico's side.

Then the rats returned. But the Good Boys were ready.

Otter freed Rico from his collar and showed the cat that while Otter wasn't the quietest of hunters, he could be devious. Pretending to sleep, he ambushed the bipedal rodent that broke into their home, allowing Rico time to snap the creature's neck.

But the rat wasn't alone. Another monster saw the display and ran to escape. Rico jumped onto the sink and watched the creature pace in his driveway while Otter began to eat the remains of their fresh kill. The meat which made them both smarter, and filled Rico's dreams of dark rituals and chanting. Rico knew he could chase the intruder by leaving the home through the hole the rats made. But there was still more meat to eat, and he would be alone on the outside, where the rat may have a chance of finishing what the first intruder started.

You chose to have him regroup and eat more of the demon rat.

And so Witchever Path Presents, GOOD BOYS, EPISODE Three: Guerreros.

[quick cat eating]

### **RICO NARRATOR**

It won't be long before Tomas and Alana come downstairs. He hears them getting out of bed, faster than they had the first time. It's now or never. He inspects the rat head. The skull has mostly been pulverized by Otter's jaws. Hearing Tomas and Alana's footsteps on the floor above he eats quickly.

And as he swallows, he feels a chill crawl up his spine and behind his eyes.

The chanting from his dream echoes in his ears... No, not an echo, he isn't really hearing it.

It's a memory.

In his mind, the image of a pale hand with a serpent tattoo. The hand reaches into the cage. He sees it again holding a steering wheel. He smells burning leaves. The same hand opens the cage and points the way, across a field and orders them to go. And so the rat creatures run across the baseball diamond, through a backyard, and toward the home of... Rico and Otter.



He doesn't see what they are going to do.  
But he doesn't need to.  
They came to hurt everyone in the house.  
Rico is angry. Angry enough to piss on the jacket of the tattooed man and to claw out his eyes.

Otter pads into the mudroom next to the kitchen and barks out at the driveway.

**TOMAS**

[rushing down the stairs]  
OTTER! What is it?

[dog barking, tapping the door with his nose]  
You got to go out?

[dog barks]

[TOMAS YELLING UPSTAIRS]  
Alana, it's okay. Otter's just looking to go out.

**ALANA**

[from the stairs]  
All right. Where's Rico.

**RICO NARRATOR**

Rico leaps off the sink before Tomas can see him and runs behind around the butcher block, Tomas starts to follow him, but Otter begins desperately whining and banging his nose on the doorknob.

**TOMAS**

I think he's in the living room, but Otter's really gotta go. I got it.

[door opens and out races Otter]

**TOMAS**

Hey! No! Damn it.

**RICO NARRATOR**

From inside, Rico hears Otter give chase to the creature, hears the rat squeal and scurry away. Tomas continues to yell for his dog to come back, but Otter is focused on getting the little monster away from the house, either to kill it, or drive it off. Rico heads into the mudroom, and hops up onto the windowsill next to the door. He sees Tomas running into the darkened corner of the backyard after Otter. He hears Otter's growls and the definite sound of something in Otter's jaws.



Tomas is able to get Otter to drop whatever he found, but he's unable to get Otter to come back in. The outside light is on and it's reflecting off the thing that bald man tied to the branch. It needs to come down.

**TOMAS**

[from outside]  
Otter, come in here! Now!  
Get over here!  
Come on!

**ALANA**

[surprised]  
Rico! How'd you get your collar off?  
Come on, let's get you away from the door.

**RICO NARRATOR**

Alana goes to where she keeps the food and finds the bag of treats. She shakes them. Rico looks out the window and sees Otter running across the backyard. Tomas is chasing after the dog. He wonders if Otter caught the little monster.

**ALANA**

Rico, come here baby.  
Don't you want a treat?

**RICO NARRATOR**

He does want them. Rico loves those crunchy brown treats with the fish-like paste inside them. They're good. But his brother, Otter, is out there with Tomas. That thing is out there, too. And if he gets too close to Alana, she may try to get that collar back onto his neck. The treat could be a trap.

**TOMAS**

There we go. Come on, come on.

[door opens]

**ALANA**

Watch the door! Rico's right here.

**TOMAS**

What? Rico, move  
[claps hands at cat, OTTER comes inside too]  
Otter was chasing something in the dark.  
He caught it too, but I got him to let it go.

**ALANA**



What was it?

**TOMAS**

I don't want have want you to panic; I think we have a rat problem.

**ALANA**

Rats?!

**TOMAS**

Yeah, it's what it looked like, and the mess we saw in the kitchen?

I think a rat's what bit Rico.

Abuelita always said if you see one, there are dozens.

**ALANA**

You think we have them in the house?

**TOMAS**

I don't know. I haven't seen any damage in the house. Rico might have stopped the first one that got in. We're gonna have to – his collar is off.

Did you take it off?

**ALANA**

No, I think he slipped out of it.

Rats. Oh God, I can't... ugh, I can't even think about it.

I'll call an exterminator in the morning.

**TOMAS**

Okay. You want me to try to get Rico's collar back on?

**RICO NARRATOR**

Rico hops off the windowsill and walks past Otter, rubbing up against the dog's side.

The gesture isn't lost on Otter, who licks the top of Rico's head.

Rico slides himself underneath the dog's body and weaves in and out between the dog's legs.

He knows he can charm them if he acts just cute enough.

**ALANA**

I don't know. It's late.

Let's take him upstairs with us and we'll figure it out.

Otter, bad boy. Don't chase rats.

[dog whines]



**TOMAS**

Oh man, look at him, it's like he gets it.  
It's okay, buddy.  
Let's go upstairs.

**RICO NARRATOR**

The four of them make it upstairs to the master bedroom. Alana picks Rico up and places him on the bed. Otter hops up onto the foot of the bed next to Rico.

**ALANA**

No, buddy, get down. Crate. Go to your crate.

**TOMAS**

[touched]

Look at him. He can't leave Rico alone.  
They have been like this since the vet.

**ALANA**

There's no room for all of us on the bed, Tomas.  
You know what it's like when Otter's up here.  
He starts at the foot of the bed, then I'm waking up halfway off the bed with his feet in my back.

**TOMAS**

Yeah. Otter, crate.  
Otter.

[Dog jumps off bed, goes over to crate, lays down with a groan]

**ALANA**

[slightly amused]  
Did he just sigh?

**TOMAS**

Yeah, he did.  
Rico, where are you going?

**RICO NARRATOR**

In the past, the spot on the bed was Rico's favorite. But Otter being sent to sleep in the crate after all he has done frustrates Rico. Otter had been by his side for days. He won't abandon his good boy.



**ALANA**

[amused quiet]

Tomas, look. *Look.*

He's just snuggling up to Otter.

**TOMAS**

That's pretty cute. Good night, guys.

**RICO Narrator**

Otter closes his eyes first. Rico cleans the blood off the bottom of Otter's muzzle. It tingles on his lips. There is power in the creature's meat. And as he drifts off to sleep, he knows that this isn't over.

[sound of the ocean]

Otter nudges Rico in the ribs and the cat slaps his brother for the rude awakening.

They are not home. There is a soft earth underneath them, and a black river to their left. The stars in the sky are in the shapes of great cats and dogs. The smell of fresh water, fish, and human food come to them on a cool breeze.

This is not home.

The call of a bird he doesn't recognize carries on the wind.

Rico stands up and follows Otter, as the dog walks a deer path toward a pile of standing stones. The river is frightening to Rico, but Otter stands between the cat and the rapidly moving waters.

As they approach the rocks, a cat, who is also a man, appears. His eyes are mismatched, one gold, the other blue. Both regard Otter and Rico with warmth and pride.

**TOMAS/Oshosi**

Hola, Guerreros. Eshu has a sense of humor after all.

I was expecting your masters.

**RICO Narrator**

Masters. Rico hates the word and cleans himself to show displeasure.

Otter cocks his head.

**TOMAS/Oshosi**

It's not to offend you, gato. You have fought bravely, and your people are like me in a way. As is Otter, here. Hello, child.

There is a doom coming to your home. Its scouts have been testing you.

The two of you must be ready.

**RICO Narrator**

Rico feels a pain in his tongue and mouth. He hold his jaw slightly open, his lips pulling back against this teeth.



**RICO/ALANA**

[sort of a hiss whisper]  
Why?

**TOMAS/Oshosi**

The white men opened a door, years ago. But those doors are Elegba's.  
When they teach one another the stolen magick, the Guerreros watch.  
We intercede.  
You are our instrument.

**RICO/ALANA**

No. My home. My people.  
Not yours.

**TOMAS/Oshosi**

Your home, our people, our fight.  
You've seen the signs. You bear the wounds.  
We protected the people over the ocean and in the new lands.  
You are here for that now.  
The people who feed you, house you.  
They will die without you.

**OTTER/Narrator**

No.

**TOMAS/Oshosi**

My time to talk is short. The rats were hunted fairly.  
You have claimed their strength.  
But the spells within them will change you.  
You will never be what you were again.

**RICO/ALANA**

And what are we?

**OTTER/Narrator**

Good Boys.

**RICO NARRATOR**

Rico wakes up, and stretches his front paws out of the crate. Something is odd with his toes. He can spread them wider than he could before. His feet seem longer. The inner most toes can curl closer to his main foot pad in a way they couldn't before. He brings the paw to his nose and squeezes it around his nostrils. The sudden shock of gripping his own face is jarring.





Otter is still snoring. Rico nearly hits him awake, but instead sniffs at his brother's paws. They look larger. Rico reaches a paw up to Otter's ear and strokes it. He finds the edge of the ear and tenses his paw. The inner toe of his left paw bends around the ear while he keeps the others on the top. Rico is holding the ear gently... like he would in his mouth. He lifts it. The feeling is so remarkable, so surprising that he accidentally unsheathes his claws.

[yelp]

Otter is awake, confused and hurt. His brown eyes look unhappy to Rico, so the cat pushes his head against Otter's chest and he lets out a purr that he hopes will soothe his massive brother. It works. The two of them head downstairs. Otter's dry food is in a container with a small gray handle that locks its lid in place. Rico reaches up, while Otter sits on his haunches and observes.

The cat is able to grip the handle, but the angle is bad. He doesn't have the strength.

Otter stands up and taps Rico lightly on the back with his massive paw.

Otter nods at Rico and then puts his own mouth on the gray handle.

He shifts his stance and twists his head, and the lid opens.

Rico is ecstatic. He tries to say words, but they are not dreaming.

Instead he pushes his full weight against his brother's chest and then begins to push the lid up.

Otter helps. It's off the tub with a successful crack.

The two of them begin to eat, Otter straight out of the container, Rico standing up on his hindlegs, scooping food out with his forepaws.

They can open things. The opportunity is not lost on Rico.

But when they are done, Tomas and Alana may see the mess.

That won't do.

He pushes the lid toward Otter, who considers it and then grabs it up in his jaws. He puts it atop the container, but upside down. Rico knocks it off, annoyed. They try again, this time Otter putting it on the right way. They are able to close it mostly, but the teeth marks from Otter's jaws are visible. Rico hopes Tomas and Alana won't notice.

They don't. The two of them feed the boys a second time, and begin their work days. Tomas uses the phone to talk to someone about "extermination". Rico's intrigued. The voice from Tomas' phone says it can be there in a few hours.

Rico and Otter look out the window toward the branch. Rico taps the glass in its general direction. Otter barks to be let out.

**ALANA**

All right, Otter. I'm coming.

Let's get you ready.

[sound of the collar]

Okay! Time to go.

[door opens]



**RICO NARRATOR**

Rico watches Otter pull Alana across the driveway in spite of her protests... toward the dangling object on the branch. Once they get there, Otter jumps up toward it and barks. Alana orders him to sit, which he does. She puts the thing in her hand and looks at it. She then brings Otter back in, dragging him by his collar.

**ALANA**

Tomas, there's some weird crystal hanging on the tree between our house and the Petersons.

**TOMAS**

Can I see it?

**ALANA**

It's still hanging up outside.

[door]

**RICO Narrator**

Tomas goes out to take a look. Rico can't see Tomas' face but he sees his shoulders tense before he yanks the thing down. And then he hears the sound of large tires, slowing down for a turn into their yard. The "exterminator" has arrived. Otter begins to bark uncontrollably. The smell from the van is death. The poisons that men spray on hives or in homes to kill vermin without hunting them. The van is white, with large black symbols on the side. The same symbols he sees on the screens and books his people look at for hours at a time.

Tomas is standing in the driveway, holding the crystal he pulled off the tree. A man, with skin as pink as a newborn mouse gets out of the van and greets Tomas. He's wearing a mask over his nose and mouth. He offers his hand to Tomas, who takes it.

**ALANA**

OTTER, let's go. Now.

[sliding door, lock, sound of Otter barking behind a door]

[door opens]

**TOMAS**

So a few nights back, we found some pieces of a rat in the house. Our cat caught it, but we're unsure if it got in through the garage or not.

**EXTERMINATOR**

Well, I appreciate you letting me in. I can take a look at some of the spots, see if there's signs of any nests. It's good you called when you did. An infestation isn't something you want to ignore.



Dog sounds big.

**ALANA**

Yeah, sorry, he's not used to new people at first. I've got him locked in the bathroom.

**EXTERMINATOR**

Smart dog. Oh, is that the killer over there?

**RICO Narrator**

The man in the mask points at Rico, and the gesture bothers him. He can smell the sweat on the man's lip, tobacco, and a bit of adrenaline.

The pink man is a threat.

He whips his tail and stares at exterminator.

Rico wants him to leave.

**EXTERMINATOR**

So, can I check out the garage, and maybe your basement? I want to make sure I can see if we can look for potential trouble spots.

**TOMAS**

Yeah, oh, would you like us to mask up?

**EXTERMINATOR**

No, I think it's fine. We wear them to all our jobs to make sure the clients don't get upset, you know? I'm vaxxed and all that, but you know... it's still good to let the client know we care enough, you know?

**ALANA**

Thank you.

**TOMAS**

Well, if you're good with it, Alana, maybe he can take it off?

**ALANA**

Ah... well, if he wants to.

**EXTERMINATOR**

Actually thank you. It's gross, but I can usually smell some of the stuff we're looking for when I'm not breathing my own coffee breath back in.

[laughs]



**RICO Narrator**

The man lifts his hands to remove his mask and Rico's eyes focus on the tattoo on the man's left hand. There is a snake coiled on itself, its rattle at the end of its tail standing up as a threat. It's him. Rico darts out of the room.

**Exterminator**

Let's check out the basement first, and then we can circle back to the garage and I'll give you my assessment? Any other animals in the house? Want to make sure I don't let anyone in or out of where they're supposed to be.

**TOMAS**

No, just us and the boys.

**Exterminator**

You got kids?

**ALANA**

He means the pets.

**EXTERMINATOR**

Cool, show me the way, boss.

**RICO Narrator**

They walk into the living room to the basement door. They open it and the scent of the dirt floor of the cellar fills Rico's nostrils. That and the smell of old rodent urine. Tomas walks down first and the man follows him. No. No.

Alana closes the door behind him. She smells nervous. Does she also know what that man is? Rico can't let the man harm his family. Otter is stuck in the bathroom, scratching at the sliding door. She walks back into her office and closes the door.

But will this rat keeper be so stupid as to attack them in this house? What did the blue-and-gold-eyed cat say?

**TOMAS/Oshosi**

You are here for that now.

They will die without you.

**RICO NARRATOR**

Rico has three doors he can open. Does he watch the exterminator?  
Get Alana's attention, or try to free Otter?



**What does Rico do?**

**You can vote now at [WitcheverPath.com/vote](https://WitcheverPath.com/vote)  
The poll will close on August 29, 2023.**

**GOOD BOYS, Episode 3 was written by Steven and Journee 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  
Final Sin by Edward Karl Hansen  
More than a Coincidence by Christian Anderson  
No one Sleeps Tonight by Leimoti  
Ghosts Everywhere - Experia**

**Fellow wanderers of the path, today we're asking you to not only vote in the current poll, but to actively share your love of the show across social media, give us a high rating on your podcast apps, and to consider becoming one of our patrons at [patreon.com/witcheverpath](https://patreon.com/witcheverpath)  
This summer, we're running an entirely separate story from GOOD BOYS, complete with its own votes strictly for Patreon subscribers. For just \$5 a month, you can get access the Squirrel Feed. For ten, you get behind the scenes posts from us that let you know more about the world of Witchever Path and our creative and personal lives.  
We love interacting with you, so give it a shot.**

**The summer is coming to an end. I'm getting older by the minute. You have choices to make.  
Sleep with a Clear Consequence. Choose the Path.**