

Episode 4 – Friends**Scene 7**

The second day, nighttime. Place: Along the way.

EORIK.

We rolled away from the siding at Plum Creek. Joe had got us going at a good clip, whistle blowing, steam rising from his smokestack. Number one-ninety-five! Our party was the Little Plane, myself, Kaytaiya, and this new one-armed dog they called Freckles. He had outsmarted Bowser and Wowser and engineered our escape. We all relaxed as those dogs became a memory. I was wondering, how could he be so smart and brave, yet not be able to say anyone's name?

That first night together, I was comfortably asleep on the ground, when I woke up to the sound of nearby thrashing!

FRECKLES.

[Asleep, thrashing in muffled fear. Screams in fright.] Aaah! Aaah!

KAYTAIYA.

[Shouts in alarm.] Freckles, what's wrong?! *[Realizes he is dreaming.]* Oh! Freckles! You're dreaming. Wake up, wake up!

FRECKLES.

[Waking up. Gasping.] [Disoriented/overwhelmed.] Oh!! *[Becoming aware he was having a nightmare, getting oriented.]* Ohhhh.

KAYTAIYA.

Freckles, are you alright?

FRECKLES.

[Shaken, but covering up.] Yes, I'm all right...It's nothing.

KAYTAIYA.

If that was "nothing" then I hope I never see "something!" What is it? What was your dream?

FRECKLES.

Do you really want to know?

KAYTAIYA.

Yes, I really do.

FRECKLES.

All right. I'll tell you. My arm? I was born without this arm! You should have seen my master's face change over time. Shock at first, disappointment I imagine, then embarrassment to be seen with me, like I was making him look bad! Anger, rejection, and finally a murderous rage at my imperfection. One night: down to the river!

KAYTAIYA.
Oh Freckles!

FRECKLES.
He threw me in where the current was strong. The water was cold. I tried to swim across, but I kept going under. I fought and fought but it was no use. I was so close to the other shore, but I was spent. I went down for what I thought was the last time. Then... [*Getting ready as if for dramatic finish but presents a letdown.*] a complete blank. How I got there, I don't know, but I woke up to find myself on the riverbank. Alive.

KAYTAIYA.
Were you hurt?

FRECKLES.
Not physically. But soon I discovered I had lost the ability to say anyone's name! It was like my mind said, "Freckles, don't get started with anybody, ever again." [*Pauses to reflect on what he's saying.*] I've never told this to anyone, no one. Weird, somehow I'm able to talk to you, a girl cat. Good thing you're not a girl dog, I couldn't handle that one bit. I'd be in the next county by now!

KAYTAIYA.
Oh! It's a good thing I'm not a girl dog then! But I'm glad you are talking to me. I think you need a friend!

FRECKLES.
Please help me
I'm in a box
When I breathe
My ribs have locks
Sit beside
And comfort me
Maybe a friend
Could be the key

People say
Come on inside
Right away
I run and hide
Got a mind
Of sorrow and woe
That's why I
Don't want to go

Giving up
Going in
But my mind
Ain't my best friend
I give up and go on in
I just wind up **down and out** again

KAYTAIYA.

Your start in life
Was rather wet
There's a night
That haunts you yet
But you're allowed
A better end
And I'd be proud
To call you friend

Giving up
Going in
But your mind
Won't let you win
You can make the world your friend
You just have to love yourself again

FRECKLES.

I could make the world my friend?

KAYTAIYA.

You just have to love yourself again

FRECKLES

I just have to love myself again
I just have to love myself again

KAYTAIYA. [Spoken.]

You just have to love yourself

FRECKLES. [Spoken.]

I just have to love myself

KAYTAIYA.

Friends?

FRECKLES.

Friends.

End of Scene 7

Third day, morning. Place: Further along the way.

EORIK.

The morning of the third day found us rolling along in good spirits. Freckles had gotten some sleep and hadn't had any more nightmares. It must have done him some good to share his dream with Kaytaiya because he seemed just a little bit more relaxed with us. I admired him! I imagined myself staring down those guard dogs like he had done, with nothing more than a bone on his hip. Around midday, going across a green valley, we saw two crows flying towards us.

MARTIN.

Well look what's coming down the valley
Can anybody here explain
When it could fly
Way up in the sky
Why a plane would take a train

MARTINA.

We can't afford to dilly-dally
Our need to know we can't contain
To find out why
When it could fly
A plane would take a train

Clickety-clack
That train is a crack locomotive

MARTIN.

A plane on its back
Well tell me now, Jack, what's the motive?

MARTIN and MARTINA.

Well look what's coming down the valley
Can anybody here explain
When it could fly
Up in the sky
Why a plane would take a train
Why a plane would take a train

MARTIN and MARTINA. [Cawing]

MARTINA.

Permission to come on board?

KAYTAIYA.

Are you friends to the king?

MARTINA.

[Caws.] We are friends to the memory of the good king, and we scorn the one who calls himself that now.

KAYTAIYA.

Permission granted.

MARTINA.

I am Martina. This is my husband, Martin.

MARTIN.

[Caws.]

KAYTAIYA.

I am Kaytaiya.

MARTINA.

I see. [*Aside to Kaytiaya only.*] I see you are an unusual 'cat'.

KAYTAIYA.

[*Hushed aside to Martina only.*] If you can "see" that, then you can "see" why you must not mention it! [*Now to Martina as a public statement.*] This is Eorik.

MARTINA.

[*Checking pronunciation with him.*] Ee-or-ik?

EORIK.

"It rhymes with 'meteoric'! I'm her brother!"

KAYTAIYA.

This is Freckles.

MARTINA.

You've lost an arm.

FRECKLES.

Never had that one.

KAYTAIYA.

And this is Little Plane.

MARTINA.

No other name for you?

LITTLE PLANE.

No, that's it.

MARTINA.

I see. We have never seen a plane take a train. It is curious. You, Train One-Ninety-Five, you have a name?

JOE.

I'm Joe. Like in Joe-joe-joe-joe, joe-joe-joe-joe, joe-joe-joe-joe, joe-joe-joe-joe.

MARTINA.

I see. We heard your whistle and came to investigate. It was unusual.

KAYTAIYA.

Yes, it must be unusual to hear a train on its way to Zintaurus.

MARTINA.

It was unusual because we heard it from twenty miles away!

KAYTAIYA.

How can that be?! [*Questioning to him.*] Joe?

JOE.

Well, some have it, some don't.

KAYTAIYA.

Oh my. We were trying to not call attention to ourselves. We're going to Zintaurus so that the Little Plane can start the engines of the Zintauran planes and make them fly again. Cete disabled them. We've already set off alarms at the palace and had to run for our lives. Now everyone will know where we are.

MARTINA.

No one of importance. All the lords and nobles have been called to the capitol for Cete's military parade. Only the workers themselves will hear you. Miners, farmers, factory laborers. All is work. There are no schools, no public gatherings... there is no music for the people! Cete squeezes them nearly dry. And they have forgotten any other way to be. Forgotten the truth of their own dignity. It is a powerful spell that he has placed over the land.

KAYTAIYA.

His total spell does not extend beyond the Zintauran Mountains. Cete has hesitated to test his powers against us because he doesn't know the degree of the power of Ravenna to oppose him. But he grew bold enough to put a specific spell on our planes, so we face destruction nonetheless. We here are the only chance for Zintaurus. Could you help us? Could you come with us? You could fly above us and be our eyes.

MARTINA.

Why can't the Little Plane do that?

LITTLE PLANE.

I can't fly. I crashed into the king's son and now I'm broken.

MARTINA.

[*Meaningfully.*] Ah. I see. Kaytaiya, I will join you. Martin will stay behind with our young. I will scout for danger. No one can scout for danger like a crow!

KAYTAIYA.

Oh, thank you Martina! Stay with us as long as you can!

MARTINA.

[*Caws.*]

End of Scene 8

Third day, morning. Place: The palace.

EORIK.

While we were on our way across the country, Cete was in his inner sanctum in the palace, counting bags of money, I imagine. When King Visalius ruled, the palace had mice. Now it had rats, big ones. They admired Cete greatly.

RATS.

When you were born the old doctor froze
The sneer on your face sucked the warmth from his soul
Demons had gathered, they scattered like crows
You're so evil that evil don't want ya

Now we could fall to the devil I know
But there's nowhere for you to go
You're way beyond that, bad right through the bone
You're so evil that evil don't want ya

You're so evil that evil don't want ya
You're so evil that evil don't want ya

{Knock at the door}

CETE.

Enter.

BOWSER.

Let me do the talking, Wowser.

WOWSER.

I'm not even here, Bowser

CETE.

Come in good dogs. I sent for you to get a report on the disturbance yesterday. So many alarms went off. What was it all about?

BOWSER.

Your majesty, it was really minor as it turned out. Not much at all. We took care of it.

CETE.

Minor. Not much at all. You have guilt written all over your faces!

WOWSER.

Bowser, there can't be something written on my face, I just washed it!

BOWSER.

That's just a figurative expression.

WOWSER. A what?!

BOWSER.

All right, your highness, there was a burglary. There were two cat burglars. I mean, they were actually cats.

CETE.

And what if anything was taken?

BOWSER.

Nothing of importance. Just the Little Plane. But all it ever did was sit in that shed and sniffle anyway. No big loss.

CETE.

And you let this happen?

BOWSER.

We chased them. We caught them. But then a dog showed up.

CETE. *We chased them. We caught them. A dog showed up. One dog?!*

WOWSER.

He outsmarted us.

CETE.

I can't believe that! What did these cat burglars look like?

BOWSER.

Boy cat, smallish, about a year old. White, with red points. Girl cat, medium build, some brown, some grey, some orange. Maybe three years old. Seemed to be in charge.

CETE.

Hmmm, that doesn't mean anything to me. What about the dog?

BOWSER.

Probably about three years old as well. Coat, red and white swirls. Face full of freckles. And he was missing his left arm.

CETE.

Missing his left arm? Really. Freckled? Well, well. Well, well! And they've got the plane with them now?

BOWSER.

Yes. They went off on a train.

CETE.

The Little Plane. Of course! But the plane couldn't fly. So, they set off the alarms. And now I know their plan. Oh Ravenna! You loser! I know your plan! As for you two, you shall be punished.

BOWSER and WOWSER.
[*Low, anxious whining.*]

CETE.
Bad Dogs! No supper!!

BOWSER and WOWSER.
[*Anguished whining.*]

{Door opens and closes as dogs exit}

CETE.
The Little Plane. To start their engines! A freckled one-armed dog. Hmmph! I'll deal with this! I'll mop the floor... with all of you!

End of Scene 9