

Episode 12 - ENTRAPMENT

*Act 1: Burt becomes convinced that the show is themed around catching the fish doing something illegal or controversial and that it is tied to the police. Jean enters and her motherly vibe brings out a childish side of Burt. During the **Triathlon**, Jeff enters, and Burt's team wins due to Alex carrying the team and Payton's contributions.*

*Act 2: After winning the Triathlon with Alex and Mizzy, Burt returns to his original alliance with them and puts Simbal behind him. The **Prison Experiment** begins, and Jean watches Burt sexually harass the inmates with approval. Alex's leadership falls apart and Payton is taken aside for not engaging in the challenge.*

Act 1

Down in the bar with Simbal, TTS tries to convince Alex and Binx to admit they are attracted to each other, but they refuse to confirm or deny it.⁶⁴⁰³

Payton and Burt replace them at the bar once the sun is up, and Simbal convinces Burt that he will be next to be eliminated. Burt makes schizo connections that aren't there to help Simbal convince him, calling the others "morally bankrupt personalities."^{6453, 6455} In an attempt to correct Burt's course, TTS spins Burt up, making him believe that Mizzy is racist.^{6464, 6466}

Confessional: TTS tells Burt the lyrics to Mizzy's most famous song are "dump dump dump dump all the indians into the ocean" "I don't like the Blacks, I don't like the Jews, if you want to know why, just turn on the news" ("That's a stupid lyric!")

Connor yanks Burt out of the confessional so that the other fish can contest the TTS he is receiving.⁶⁴⁷¹ Burt questions whether Alex has children and a wife and he, offended, says of course he does but they're not biologically his. TTS says Alex is the dad that stepped up and he celebrates.⁶⁵⁷⁴

*Confessional: Alex talks about his fat wife, and her curves.*⁶⁴⁸⁴

With his mind freed up, Burt asks Mizzy if the show is a surprise arrest-type show run by the police.⁶⁴⁹⁰ In response, Ben brings Burt a corkboard to organize his thoughts on, while TTS fires off ideas to build out the police theory.⁶⁴⁹¹ Before long Burt is ripping apart plushies and is convinced that "Circumflex" is a code word that refers to him.⁶⁵²²

*Confessional: Burt tells Goldstriker his to-catch-a-predator theory. Goldstriker laughs it off and tells Burt he should bet on who the next freeloader is. Burt resists, saying he doesn't want to gamble and Goldstriker warns him he will have to do things he doesn't want to do. He bets the freeloader will be a woman over 30.*⁶⁵¹⁰

Goldstriker addresses the fish, mentioning offhand that he has agreed to remain on the show. (Some portion of this conversation involves chips - we are completely axing them so just keep it to his decision to stay and Alex's reaction.)⁶⁵⁰³

*Confessional: Alex promises Goldstriker that he will be his protege. Goldstriker laughs and says Alex's enthusiasm is endearing.*⁶⁵⁰⁶

Goldstriker invites a new guest, Jean, the formerly-homeless lady.⁶⁵²³ Burt is asked to film a scene talking to Jean about his theories, both with and without her present, giving the impression that Jean may not even be real.⁶⁵⁴⁵ Jean references "hooking up," with Sam, when explaining her history with the show.⁶⁵⁵⁰

Confessional: Sam is alarmed and wonders what the fuck Jean meant by that. Going forward he keeps referring to Jean as "babe."^{6554, 6564}

Burt shares his odd reservations about competing, saying he wants the next challenge to be completely fair, before Goldstriker announces the next challenge is the Triathlon, and that half Burt's team are vegans.⁶⁵⁹⁵ For fairness, Binx is moved to the other team. Alex starts off puking up hotdogs almost immediately and downs most of the milk because he says he likes it, but Mizzy and Binx are notably not participating in any way. Jobe's team stalls because they can't seem to complete the sing-the-alphabet step in synch.⁶⁶¹¹ Because Alex's team can't help him with smoking, Jeff, another freeloader, enters out of nowhere to help him, although he takes the bulk of the smoking step.⁶⁶¹⁶ Payton also assists in catching her team up when they must do somersaults.⁶⁶²² Burt leaves to take a shit at one point (I didn't catch when.) Jobe's team has its own dramas, but they are likely better captured on Fx3 because they are usually standing too far from the dining room camera to be seen or heard well.

The teams catch one another up during the Burpee round, but Goldstriker admits he was not counting because he didn't expect it to get close. During a death-match round, Binx cramps up, wiping out her team's chances of winning.⁶⁶³⁰

Goldstriker assesses the penalties that Burt's team accrued (penalty for Burt for pretending to puke without swallowing, and for leaving to take a shit) and a bonus because Alex smoked an entire pack of cigarettes alone, and awards them the victory. Alex celebrates wildly, but Binx's teammates gather around her to check on her as she says she can't even move anymore.⁶⁶³⁶

TTS continues to rib Alex and Binx, insisting they have sexual tension while they unwind from the challenge.⁶⁶⁴⁹

Act 2

Burt spends time with Jean and Jeff, trying to extract higher wisdom from them.⁶⁷⁴⁷ Jean gently mocks him, and tells him that he can't focus so hard on helping the other fish survive if he wants to win, and to stop worrying about what the other fish think of him because she doesn't care what other people think of her. (Jeff: "Don't let them rent space in your head. That space is already rented.")

Production brings Alex two radios, one for himself and Burt. Burt is strangely disturbed by the radio and thinks Alex is entrapping him with it, because he wasn't present when Alex got the radio.⁶⁸⁰⁰ Alex is put in charge of appointing "guards," and Binx and Mizzy fight over him to get the job. Binx tries to teach Alex what the Stanford Prison Experiment is to get the role but he offers it to Payton, who rejects it. Connor shouts "do you know how to spell fun? W-I-N," and

Alex hands him a badge on the spot, and then gives Binx the second badge.^{6818, 6821} Alex asks Payton if she would like to be their “inside man,” and she again says no, so Jobe is appointed.^{6831, 6836}

One prisoner, prisoner 3, is the first to arrive.⁶⁸²² Jobe enters shortly after and is introduced to prisoner three as the inside man. Alex threatens to send Burt in to rape prisoner 3 if he rats out Jobe. Goldstriker asks Burt if he would like to spend fishbucks to be a prisoner and he gleefully agrees to pay Goldstriker every fishbuck he has earned so far, even when Mizzy tries to tell Burt it's a scam.⁶⁸⁵⁷

As the tank-in-the-tank fills up, the Yard audio becomes increasingly useless so the retelling becomes more vague. Some watchable content can be found by mixing together the audio of Jean in the mail room with the Yard PTZ, as she cheers on Burt and comments on what the prisoners are doing. Otherwise, however, most of the action may only be understandable on the Fx3's microphone. Over the next few hours, Burt stalks prisoner 3 and sexually harassing him. *“Confessional” (Locker room): Binx tries to hassle Prisoner 3 but he makes her look immature. Prisoner 3 tells him his greatest concern right now is he is being portrayed as a six-foot black man's bitch.*⁶⁹⁰²

Goldstriker tells Jean and Payton how he thinks the prison experiment is going and tells Payton to get involved, and she says no. (*“Are you locked in and focused on what's happening right now?”*)⁶⁹³⁰

The prisoners reject their dinner and throw plates, and Alex is brought in as “Alex X” the psycho.⁶⁹³⁰ The prisoners are made to do a “condiment hairstyle” challenge, and the winner, Nine, gets to go to confessional with Binx.

*“Confessional” (Locker room): Nine tells Binx what a good actor she is, and how awesome this experience is, and how he and his wife are having a great time. Production barges in and takes Nine back downstairs.*⁶⁹⁴⁴

Confessional: Binx complains that production is ruining her plans because they keep interrupting her therapy sessions.

The fish are dethroned as prison guards, and the prisoners are brought in to run the house.⁶⁹⁵⁸