

Episode 21 - ONE NIGHT ONLY

*Act 1: Payton reflects during the drive that she has not contributed to the show, and finally admits she regrets having stayed this long. She is eliminated by surprise and replaced with Mizzy. The fish assure Burt that his contributions to the show will lead to meaningful rewards, but when they arrive in Vegas, **Goldstriker forces everyone to beg for bus money.***

*Act 2: The Fish sightsee a little bit but are forced out of their hotel after only staying one night. Luke wonders how much he has contributed to the show and fears he's not welcome in the entourage anymore, but Goldstriker offers him a prize he teased from the first day - "a chance to become his protege." Luke discovers Jeff's heroin needles while looking for his missing ID, so **he and Goldstriker kidnap Jeff from the RV they are sleeping in and dump him downtown.***

*Act 3: Alex Stein presses the fish to sell tickets to the Ball Brothers concert. Burt is thronged by fans in person for the first time at the concert, and dances ecstatically. **Sam, Ben, and Jet continue the performance on Fremont** when their set ends before they run out of balls and are thronged by Fishtank & Sam Hyde fans.*

Act 1

The van is underway, and Binx tells Payton she made the right decision to stay with everyone because they're making crazy memories. Payton says she made it this far by just telling herself to make it one more day everyday. She admits to Binx that she believes everyone else has tested themselves but she everyone else has not, and Binx doesn't deny it.

After a long and silent ride, the fish are deposited in a hotel room in Texas and are told not to leave. Jet tells them they will be resting before they prepare for "the next leg." Burt wonders why nobody ever believed him when his theories about the show were correct. Luke says it's because it's easy to discredit him because of his schizophrenia, and compares him to Cassandra in Greek mythology.

Before the fish finally get fed, Payton mentions that she regrets staying on the show, and feels a sense of regret about staying for so long that she cannot walk out. At 9:30, Ben announces it's time to pack up again.

In the RV, Goldstriker hands Payton some chocolate, and then announces it's "elimination chocolate," and tells her she has to leave. When the fish get out of the RV to say goodbye, Payton tells them she got her phone back and is really eliminated. Mizzy returns by surprise and takes her place.

Goldstriker announces that the fish must attempt to do some challenges that are really smart to do in a tiny vehicle moving quickly down the highway- physical ones that require balance and agility.

The fish have one more enlightening conversation on the road, when Luke tells Burt that he really should be happy to be on Fishtank instead of a mainstream networked show, because Luke was on one for just one episode and it wasn't as good an experience for him as Fishtank will be.

The fish arrive in Vegas, and Goldstriker has the fish beg for bus fare.

Act 2

Riding in a limo, the driver puts on a scary documentary, and production goads Burt into reacting horrified in response to the film. His responses seem uncanny, and Jet accuses him of having been acting the entire time he was on the show.

Back at the hotel, the gang discovers that their reservations have been cancelled due to fans harassing the hotel. Staff prevents them from getting into their rooms to retrieve their stuff, so they move into the lobby and cause problems for the employees until they are allowed to pick up their things and leave.

In the morning, Jet announces that the first challenge will require the fish to figure out how to take a bus to the strip. On Fremont, they buy an "autistic and ready to fuck" shirt for Burt and Goldstriker gets into an argument with some black people who call him "Candyman with down syndrome," and he walks past a busker who is playing "Californication."

While Chris takes Binx and Burt into a weed store, Luke sneaks off to find coffee, and says he's recovering from feeling under the weather. He ends up talking to Sam about COVID. During a pit-stop, Luke takes a camera aside and worries production may kick him out abruptly "like Payton" because he can't tell if they like him or not. Goldstriker takes him aside and explains his idea for a new show, and asks Luke if he would like a job on it.

The destination for the evening is a "nerdy" bar. Luke unfortunately cannot come inside because his ID has been missing since before the gun range yesterday. Goldstriker tells Luke that "my protege keeps his ID on him at all times." It rapidly becomes clear that the entire theme of the bar activates Binx, who soys over the "fun," "geeky" plastic capeshit and funkopops all over the bar.

When they regroup at the RV, Luke returns, and confronts Jeff for stealing his bag. Luke tells Jeff that regardless of if he stole the bag, he must leave because of the paraphernalia Luke found in his bag. Goldstriker and Luke leave to drop Jeff somewhere in Vegas alone - there is

unseen footage Luke described of Goldstriker grandly welcoming a nodded off Jeff to Vegas and then leaving him on the sidewalk.

Act 3

Alex Stein arrives and leads the fish in promoting the Ball Brothers show, selling tickets to people outside Fremont.

The fish prepare for the show, and perform in front of a modest audience.

The ball brothers are abruptly cut off mid-set because it's midnight and they ran overtime, so they continue in the lobby, where they are thronged by fans of the show.