

MONSTROUS BEINGS: EPISODE 14 "SPIKED BALL"

EXT. PATHWAY (HEADED TOWARDS PICNIC) - DAY

Michael, Joshua, Reggie and Connie are walking along a path that is leading towards the big grassy park that can be seen in the distance. As they approach, the music's getting louder.

MICHAEL

That must be it up ahead.

CONNIE

I hear the music.

REGGIE

How can you call it if it's got no beat.

As they get closer to the field they can see more clearly the many people at the picnic, gathered like picnic people do.

REGGIE

Let's head back. This doesn't seem like my kind of party.

CONNIE

Oh shut up, Reggie. You've never been to a party in your life.

JOSHUA

(lethargic)

I'm with you, Reg. I could use a very long nap.

REGGIE

Amen to that.

MICHAEL

We're just gonna make an appearance, then we'll sneak off to find your folks.

CONNIE

We should do it right now.

MICHAEL

I already told you, we need to make these people - these creatures rather - think we trust them.

EXT. PICNIC FIELD - DAY

Michael, Joshua, Connie and Reggie are at the foot of the big grassy picnic field. A bunch of people, all looking as normal as Apple Pie, are gathered around picnic tables: others are playing volleyball in the various sandpits. Music's playing from various radios, but all the same tune. Organ sounding: spooky but cheesy - as if Bach and John Tesh had collaborated.

Standing at the border of the path and the field, the four look like characters in a Western who have just walked into a saloon. But, unlike one of those scenes, no one is paying attention to them.

Then:

Joshua sees, beyond the group of people, standing at the far border where the promenade connects to the field on the other side, the same cloaked figure from before.

Joshua looks over at Michael and the kids, to see if they notice the figure, but it seems as if they don't.

Joshua turns to Michael.

JOSHUA  
(scared, nervous tone)  
Dad... Can we leave now?

MICHAEL  
No, son... Not yet.

Joshua looks forward again. The cloaked figure is still there.

Joshua closes his eyes, tight.

Reopens them.

The figure is gone.

Just then, from out of the picnic crowd, a smiling Mayor Arnold walks up the four visitors.

MAYOR ARNOLD  
Welcome Mr. Waits and company.  
Sorry to have been so rude, but I  
was having some delicious food over  
there.

MICHAEL

Before you offer, we just want to let you know... We're *not* hungry.

MAYOR ARNOLD

Actually, I was offering for you to join us in a game of V-ball... As you see, that team is without a rival.

Mayor Arnold motions over to a volleyball pit, about twenty yards away. There are six people standing on one side. All facing in their direction. A ball lies on the other side where there is no team, only sand.

MICHAEL

That sounds great, but, we're not staying for long. We want to head back home after about fifteen or twenty minutes.

CONNIE

(joining in on the ruse)  
Yeah, we only came to get a suntan.

REGGIE

(shoots her a look)  
Speak for yourself.

MAYOR ARNOLD

(laughs at Arnold's joke)  
Ha ha, you're a funny kid, I like you... Tell me, buddy, have you ever played volleyball?

REGGIE

As the quarterbacks say, "I'll pass".

MAYOR ARNOLD

Well, I'd love it if you could play a game with us.  
(looks at Michael)  
But I guess the team captain is too old... huh Mr. Waits? After all, most of our citizens are under fifty.

Michael clears his throat. Seems as if his ego's been chipped.

MICHAEL  
 You know what... We *will* play...  
 Come on, kids, let's go.

Michael stomps forward towards the pit; the kids follow.

Mayor Arnold watches them walking over to the pit, nodding to himself with a big smile.

INT. PICNIC FIELD/VOLLEYBALL PIT AREA - DAY

Michael and the kids have reached the pit. Michael strides over to the ball. Connie and Reggie reluctantly follow.

Joshua stops at the sidelines.

JOSHUA  
 Hey... Dad.

Michael, reaching down and about to grab the ball, straightens up, turns around.

MICHAEL  
 Yes, son?

JOSHUA  
 I'm really not in the mood to play.  
 I think I'll just stand and watch.

MICHAEL  
 Okay. Whatever you want...  
 (looks at Connie, Reggie)  
 We can take them, can't we kids?

CONNIE  
 (sarcastic)  
 Three against six... No problem.

Michael reaches down.

CLOSE-UP IN SLOW MOTION: Michael picking up the ball.

Then, one of the volleyball players on the other team walks up to the net.

VOLLEYBALL PLAYER 1  
 We have a rule... The kids must  
 serve first.

MICHAEL  
 Oh yeah?

VOLLEYBALL PLAYER 1  
Yeah. That's the way it's done  
around here.

MICHAEL  
Okay...

Michael tosses the ball to Reggie.

CLOSE-UP: Reggie catches ball.

REGGIE  
I don't know about this, Mr. Waits.  
I think this game is too white for  
me.

VOLLEYBALL PLAYER 1  
Actually, the rule is: the first  
kid to serve has to be female.

REGGIE  
Sounds good.

Reggie tosses the ball to Connie.

CLOSE-UP: Connie catches the ball.

CONNIE  
(rolling her eyes)  
Great.

She walks back to the serving area.

VOLLEYBALL PLAYER 1  
(to Joshua)  
Aren't you gonna play?

JOSHUA  
Didn't you hear me. I said I wasn't  
in the mood.

VOLLEYBALL PLAYER 1  
Maybe if you get the ball in your  
hands you'll get the desire. After  
all, volleyball is the greatest  
game ever.

REGGIE  
Yeah. Come on, Joshua. You can play  
this game... After all, you're just  
like all the people around here...  
White as a gallon of milk.

After he says the word "Milk", Joshua's eyes widen. His eyes grow fiercely red. He grabs both temples with his fingers. And then, screams out loud.

MICHAEL

Shit, Reggie. Why did you have to say that word?

Joshua looks around at the people at the picnic, who are all looking at him. He starts breathing heavily, liken to a caged wolf.

He then looks out beyond the field at the tree-line (leading to the forest), and runs off. In about five beats, he is gone.

Michael looks at the other team (who, being close, represent everyone at the picnic, all of whom are staring in their direction).

MICHAEL

He just needs to let off steam, that's all.

(to Connie)

Come on, girl. Serve it. Let's beat these suckers.

Another volleyball player now has a ball (that had been on their side, behind them).

VOLLEYBALL PLAYER 2

You guys take too long... Throw that ball away, and watch us kick your butts because we're serving... Screw the rules.

MICHAEL

(smiles)

A rebel in Nilbog... Nice.

CONNIE

(to server)

You don't have to talk me into it.

Connie tosses the ball away. The player is about to serve. But Michael isn't paying attention. He's staring off into the woods.

MICHAEL

(quietly to himself)

Go get 'em, Joshua. Clear the way for us... We'll be coming soon.

The player serves. Michael runs up, spikes the ball, scores. Reggie and Connie cheer.

REGGIE  
All right Michael!

CONNIE  
That's showing 'em!

CUT TO:

Mayor Arnold is still back at the border of the park and pathway. Sheriff Drew walks up.

SHERIFF DREW  
I guess you know, Joshua didn't touch the ball.

MAYOR ARNOLD  
Yes... So get on that bike of yours, and go after him.

Sheriff Drew nods, and walks over towards his motorcycle.

In the background, Michael has just spiked the ball - and scored again.