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GOOD BOYS  
Episode 4  
Hindsight

Written by Journee and Steven LaFond



## WITCHEVER PATH INTRO

Rico and Otter have possessed great intelligence for less than a week. And in the last 24 hours, they have now gained increased dexterity and motor control... but though they can understand human language, can they understand the world that humans have made?

A man came to the house, recognized by scent and prophetic dream to be the fiend responsible for the demon rat invasion. He had been invited into the home by Tomas and Alana under the pretense that he would rid the two of them of this infestation.

A spirit in their dreams warned Rico his family was in danger. And when the man and Tomas went into the basement, and Alana locked Otter into the bathroom, Rico became uneasy. Now that Rico could open doors, he was faced with a choice. Which door would he open to defend his home?

You chose to have him attempt to free Otter.

And so Witchever Path Presents, GOOD BOYS, EPISODE Four: Hindsight

### **RICO Narrator**

Rico hears the man's footsteps in the dirt basement. Tomas is following the exterminator around.

### **Exterminator**

Yeah, you caught this in time. I can probably get some traps put in, or even poison. Your call.

### **TOMAS**

Traps. I got animals. I don't want them to get sick from eating a poisoned rat.

### **Exterminator**

Yeah, I guess that's not a bad move.



**RICO Narrator**

The man was giving Tomas a choice.. Poison... something bad in the meat that would hurt Otter and Rico. They're not talking about what made the rats walk on their back legs, or wield bones the way Alana uses her knives to cut food. They're talking about something that would kill.

But Tomas said no. He wants traps. What are traps?

Rico looks at the round door knob. He could grip it with his two front paws. Opening it would be quick, but what could he do against a large man? He could hurt a person, certainly. But not without being hurt or worse. With speed, Rico runs to the sliding door. Otter is barking ferociously. The dog is throwing himself on the door.

[cat meows]

Rico's voice calms Otter. He gives a quiet bark of understanding. There is a broom in the track of the slider, keeping it from opening. If Rico can move it, Otter should be able to get out. He grabs at the broom head with his paws. He runs his toes across the bristles and then tenses his feet, his rudimentary thumbs gripping the broom firmly. He pulls the broom head toward his chest and scoots back. The broom is light, but unwieldy. He pulls the head across the floor and the handle follows. Rico hears Otter's feet tapping anxiously on the other side.

Positioning himself next to the door, Rico gets to the edge of the unfinished wood and pushes with his front paws to slide it aside. It rolls open slowly until Otter's snout pokes out and assists.

The door rolls and meets the frame with a loud crash.

Otter sniffs the air, eyes wide. It's clear that he smells what Rico does. The man downstairs smells of death... and the rats.

[Otter growls]

Rico touches his brother's snout to quiet him as he had done before. They make eye contact and Otter is waiting for Rico's command. The cat chirps and walks into the living room.

**EXTERMINATOR**

I can get the traps from the van, but I'll want to check out the garage, too.

It's going to be pretty easy to do.

**TOMAS**

Yeah, I can do that for you. I didn't see any mess down here, though.

**EXTERMINATOR**

Yeah, but we'll get the traps down anyway. If we close off one point of entry, they're going to find another. And the dirt floor is gonna be easy to get through.

You could always let the killer down here.

**TOMAS**



Yeah, dirty cat prints on the furniture isn't for us.

[door opens]

The garage is this way through the kitchen

[Amari, have yourself cut off like a dog suddenly appears to bark incessantly]

WHOA! Otter!

[OTTER BARKING FEROCIOUSLY, FEET DRAGGING ON THE FLOOR, TOMAS STRAINING NOISES  
AND ORDERING OTTER TO STOP.]

#### **RICO Narrator**

Otter is warning the exterminator as best he can. The barking hurts Rico's ears, but the exterminator is afraid. The man is standing slightly behind the basement door, hand on the inner door knob. Otter struggles with Tomas who has his hand on the dog's collar. The office door opens and Alana emerges from the room.

**ALANA**

Otter! Otter, no!

Come here.

**SIT**

**OTTER.**

#### **RICO Narrator**

Otter lies down with Tomas still holding the collar. Tomas is off balance.

The exterminator slowly edges his way off the stairs and into the living room, leaving the basement door slightly ajar. As the man slides in, he puts his back to the dining table. Rico leaps onto one of the chairs and takes cover underneath the tabletop. Should the man get closer, he'll strike if he must. The man's tattooed hand is in a fist.

[OTTER GROWLING]

#### **RICO Narrator**

With every sidestep the man makes, Otter growls.

**ALANA**

Sorry, he's not usually like this.

#### **EXTERMINATOR**

Sure. You got a decent hold on him?

**TOMAS**

Yeah, Alana, can you get his leash?

**ALANA**

Sure, it's in the kitchen, let me just get past you, um, sir.



**Exterminator**

Lady, you're not giving me a lot of space here. Gimme a second to move, all right?

[Sound of TOMAS falling, rattle of the collar, and the dog jumping.]

**EXTERMINATOR**

[screaming and cussing]

[ALANA and TOMAS, about Fifteen seconds of things like OTTER, STOP, NO, as they pull him off]

[ripping of the guy's clothes]

**RICO Narrator**

The man's sleeve rips like paper in Otter's jaws. The man tries to wrestle away from Otter on the floor. Tomas gets behind Otter and grabs his collar again and pulls with all of his strength.

He strains against Otter's strength and Otter tries to shake him off.

Alana runs into the kitchen and grabs Otter's leash.

The exterminator stands and walks backward. His face is frightened but furious.

His skin is redder, but there is no blood.

**Exterminator**

Fucking [beeped slur] dog!

He fucking attacked me!

**ALANA**

I got it! [puts on leash]

Otter, come on, leave it!

**TOMAS**

I got him... I'll get him out of here!

**RICO Narrator**

Tomas drags Otter out of the room, through the kitchen and out the backdoor off the mudroom.

Rico hears Tomas open a car door. Then he hears Tomas scream.

Otter bit him. Rico can tell. He hears the car door slam. Otter's barking is muffled.

Alana is standing closer to the kitchen further away from the exterminator.

She is staring at the tattoos on the man's forearms.

From under the table, Rico can see the man shifting his weight. His stance is aggressive.

He is trying to scare her.

**EXTERMINATOR**

That dog is a fucking monster.

[door opens, TOMAS walks in]



**ALANA**

What did you call my dog before?

**EXTERMINATOR**

It's a fucking monster. You've got a fucking out of control dog.  
He should be put down.

**TOMAS**

[confused, trying to focus on this, but he's been bit on the hand to the point of bleeding. He's squeezing it to stop the bleeding]

What's going on?

**RICO**

It's not just the way Tomas is speaking. Rico can smell the blood. Alana hasn't noticed yet.

**ALANA**

What did you call my dog before?

**Exterminator**

What's it matter?

**ALANA**

You called him a fucking [beeped slur] dog.  
We're [beeped slurs].

**Exterminator**

You're gonna fucking – are you fucking kidding me?  
Fucking typical of you people.  
I get attacked in your house, and you're worried about what I said?!  
Fucking idiots.  
I'm calling the cops. Your dog needs to be put down.

**TOMAS**

He ripped your shirt.  
And seeing your fucking tattoos, you're lucky I didn't let him do worse.  
Get the fuck out of my house.

**Exterminator**

You fucking [beeped].  
Let's see what the cops think.



**ALANA**

I'm calling them.

Get your racist ass out of my home.

**Exterminator**

You sic your dog on me when I get out there, I'm fucking shooting him.

**ALANA**

Go out the front door, then.

Get out now, or you won't get to shoot anybody.

**RICO**

The man walks through the thin hallway next to the stairwell. Halfway to the door he knocks several small photos from the wall. The glass is startling. Otter's attack and Alana's threats were effective. The pink man leaves.

**ALANA**

[freaked out , her husband is bleeding]

Otter did that?

**TOMAS**

He was trying to get back inside, and he must have panicked.

He thought the guy was attacking you.

**ALANA**

He might have been right.

Oh god, let me look at your hand.

**TOMAS**

It's not too bad, just the top skin. I don't think I need stitches.

The moment I yelled, he let go.

[ pauses]

Has he left the driveway yet?

**ALANA**

He's pulling out now.

**TOMAS**

Call the cops. We got to make sure this is done right, ahead of time.

Also, call your brother. I think we're gonna need his legal advice.

**ALANA**

But what about your hand?



**TOMAS**

Yeah, I'll take care of that.  
Did you let Otter out?

**ALANA**

No, I locked him in with the broom. I know I did.  
He shouldn't have been able to get out.

**TOMAS**

Well, Otter attacked him first.  
He's never done anything like that before.  
I don't know what's going to happen next.

**RICO's Narrator**

Otter is brought in after Tomas applies a sharp smelling liquid to his wounded hand. Rico sees his brother slink into the living room, nervous, and guilty. He whimpers around Tomas' feet. He bows his head a lot, looking to see if Tomas will let him lick the wound. He gets a pet.

Another car arrives in the driveway, not ten minutes later. Rico spies it from the window. It's black and white. It's a larger car, not quite the size of the one the exterminator had, but bigger than the one his human family uses.

Two men exit. One with dark hair and skin, another pinkish one, with short whiskers under his nose. Alana meets them at the door. Otter begins to bark, but catches Rico's eyes. From under the table, Rico lifts a paw like he's touching Otter's snout. The dog whines, and goes to sit on the couch.

Alana greets them, but stands outside. She closes the door behind her. Tomas sits there for a minute, looking at his bandaged hand. Rico crawls out from under the table and leaps off the chair. Padding over to Tomas, he rubs up against his leg. He gets a scratch on the head for his trouble. There is tension in the air.

Tomas gets up and goes to the door. Otter beats his tail against the couch cushion, but Tomas tells him to stay. Rico heads to the mudroom to see the men, dressed in dark uniforms standing on the stairs. He jumps onto the windowsill while Tomas exits the house to be with Alana.

Rico listens carefully.

**ALANA**

[nervous about what is coming]  
He didn't bite him, but he did grab at his clothes.  
He tried pushing past me.  
Otter was being protective.



**OFFICER**

He came into the police station with bite marks on his hand.

**TOMAS**

He didn't get bit by the dog, officer.  
I was there.

**OFFICER**

He said the dog bit you, too. Looks like that's true.  
He also said you threatened to shoot him.

**TOMAS**

Bullshit. The guy's a nazi.  
He's the one calling everyone a [slur beeped]

**OFFICER**

Calm down. Did the dog bite you or not?

**ALANA**

Don't answer that, Tomas. Officers, my brother's on his way.  
He's a lawyer.

**OFFICER**

Why do you need a lawyer? You're not under arrest.  
But the dog's going to have to come with us.

**TOMAS**

He didn't bite that guy.

**OFFICER**

You're bit, sir. There was a dog attack reported, and two people were attacked.

**ALANA**

He threatened our family.

**OFFICER**

You want to talk or don't you want to talk?

**TOMAS**

Is he pressing charges?

**OFFICER**

We need to see the dog



Is he here?  
I don't hear him.

**RICO NARRATOR**

The man with the whiskers looks at Rico through the window.  
He looks aggressive, and stupid.  
But his body language is proof enough that he is confident.  
A predator.

**TOMAS**  
He's inside.

**OFFICER**

Will you let us in to look at him?

**ALANA**

Do you have a warrant?

**OFFICER**

You think a warrant's needed in an investigation like this?  
It's probable cause and a crime scene. We need to see the animal.

**TOMAS**  
Why?

**OFFICER**

We're taking him for observation for ten days to make sure he isn't rabid.  
If he doesn't bite anyone in the meantime, you might get him back.

**ALANA**

My brother will be here in a few minutes.  
You're not going into my house without a warrant.

**OFFICER**

Lady, you're going to get me that dog so we can take it with us, or you're coming too. And your  
brother can find you at the station.  
Don't make this harder than it has to be.

**TOMAS**  
Are you going to shoot our dog?

**OFFICER**

Do I have to?



**SECOND OFFICER**

Excuse me, sir. Do you have proof of his vaccination?

**OFFICER**

Freeman

**SECOND OFFICER**

Officer Lampson and I just need to see the canine. If he's calm, and you have proof of vaccination, he should be okay.

**TOMAS**

Yeah... I got to find it, but it's current.

**SECOND OFFICER**

If you can bring both the dog and paperwork out, we'll take it from there.

**RICO Narrator**

Tomas comes in. He goes into the office and begins tearing through the papers he and Alana keep. Rico walks into the living room and looks at Otter. The dog looks scared. Rico does as well. Tomas comes out with a piece of paper in his hand. He looks over at Otter.

**TOMAS**

Otter. Come on, boy.

**RICO Narrator**

Otter doesn't move at first, but when Tomas nods his head toward the door, Otter creeps off the couch and follows. Tomas puts the leash onto Rico's collar. He's taking him to the men outside. Men who want to take Otter away. Rico understands this is about the attack. These men are the police. The ones both the man and Rico's family threatened to call.

And they mean to take Otter.  
Rico gets in the way of the door.

[meows]

**TOMAS**

Rico, you gotta move.  
Rico. Move.

**RICO Narrator**

Tomas uses his foot to move Rico. The insult enrages him. He grips onto Tomas leg and bites through his pants.



**TOMAS**

OW, fucking Rico. Get off.

**OFFICER**

Step aside!

**TOMAS**

It's okay, my cat just scratched me.

**RICO**

Rico looks into Otter's eyes. The dog wants direction. But the direction Rico gave before led to this. To the men in black clothes coming for Otter. And the people in this house, they fear the men in black more than the man Otter was defending them from. Why?

Tomas opens the door and they come outside. Otter sits down next to Tomas on the pavement. He doesn't bark.

**SECOND OFFICER**

He doesn't look to be a killer.

**OFFICER**

Let's see the paperwork.  
Okay, we'll take him.

**ALANA**

Can we take him?

**OFFICER**

I thought you were waiting on your brother.

**ALANA**

I want my dog to get to where he has to go safely.

**OFFICER**

Follow us.

**RICO Narrator.**

They lock the door and take Otter to the car.  
Tomas and Alana get in it.  
Otter looks out the window at Rico.  
The cat places his paw onto the pane.



[meows]

This is wrong. This is very wrong. He watches them leave the driveway. Rico walks into the kitchen, stares at the broom he had lifted to free Otter. There's a heaviness in his chest. One that he has never felt before. He caused this. Something is going to happen to Otter. The humans were punishing the dog for biting. Alana had locked Otter away to avoid this... how did she know?

How did Rico *not* know? And the anger he had for watching his people obey the strangers is matched with his anger for himself.

[howls]

His cry echoes in the empty house. What is going to happen now? Will the rats come with everyone gone? Rico patrols the house, both the first and second floor. The smell of Otter is everywhere. His good boy. The good boy that they took away. The good boy they better bring back. They have to. They *have to*.

The hours pass, the sun begins to set. Rico's heart is heavy. He closes his eyes.

[sound of the river]

### **RICO Narrator**

The forest comes into focus. The black water of the river nearby is more frightening without Otter at his side. Rico makes his way to the rocks. He hears animals in the dense woods, but can see none of them.

**RICO/ALANA**  
Where are you?

### **RICO Narrator**

There is a soft breeze. It carries the smells of raspberries and a freshly killed rodent. On the top of the rocks is the cat, who is also a man. His mismatched eyes looking at Rico with empathy.

**TOMAS/Oshosi**

Gato, you have come back early.

**RICO/ALANA**  
Why have they taken him?



**TOMAS/Oshosi**

Their laws protect property and society.  
They are not based on nature or what is right.  
The enemy uses their laws, just as they too are at times trapped by them.  
Tomas and Alana are stuck in this web.  
And so were you.

**RICO/ALANA**

Otter. What will happen to Otter?

**TOMAS/Oshosi**

That will be up to how cunning and wise Tomas and Alana can be.  
If they can muster the right forces to work for them to cut them each free.  
You have learned a lesson of their world today.  
You'd be well to remember it.

**RICO/ALANA**

I need him.

**TOMAS/Oshosi**

Then perhaps you will need to learn to pray and offer a gift to those that can help you.

**RICO/ALANA**

What?

**TOMAS/Oshosi**

You will understand. The way the first women understood.  
The way the first priest knew.  
Wake.

**RICO Narrator**

It's dark. No one has come home. Rico is hungry. He finds the small can of his wet food on the butcher block. His toes find the tab he has seen Tomas and Alana use countless times. His toes curl around it and he pulls. It slides up and the tab pops the lid. Rico is briefly pleased and looks for Otter... but remembers. He is embarrassed and sad.

He uses his front feet to hold his can and then opens it with his mouth. He is about to eat when he hears something from the driveway. Something is moving. Rico abandons the can and spies through the kitchen window to see a rabbit, relaxed and happy. Its nose twitches as it hops into the yard and begins to nibble one of Alana's plants.

The cat who is also a man is a hunter. He is not a man, nor a cat. He is both. He is something else.

A hunter in dreams cannot hunt in the world. But Rico can hunt for him.  
But to go outside... what if there is something else out there waiting?



What if there is danger? But what does Rico have to lose?

**What does Rico do?**

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**GOOD BOYS, Episode 4 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:**

**Spider Room by Ethan Sloan  
Ghost Everywhere by Experia  
More than a Coincidence by Christian Anderson  
Chain of Events by Michael Rothery  
Save Us by Phonix Tale  
The Deep End by Jo Wandrini**

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**The rest of this month is gonna be really busy for us. We healed up from last month's illness just in time to throw more events than we ever have before. Maybe you'll decide to be out there with us. We'll be at GET A CLUE: EQUINOX fundraiser in Concord on the 14th, then performing drag at the Free Range Revue on OCT 19. Then it's to the Autumn Knights Faire on**



**the 21st! Come out and meet us in person! That's it for this time. Until we see you next, sleep with a clear consequence. Choose the Path!**