HAUNTINGLY HUMDRUM

Episode: Slip Slidin’ Away

Transcription details: Transcript for episode Slip Slidin’ Away.

Audio length: 7:53.

Transcript provided by Ria Couoh.

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INTRO (0:00):

SHADE Hello, everyone.

I’d like to give a content warning for discussion of COVID-19, the pandemic and quarantine.

AUDIO (0:10): “THE SHOW MUST BE GO” BY KEVIN MACLEOD PLAYS.

SHADE Hauntingly Humdrum, a slice of life Halloween Anthology.

This episode: “Slip, Slidin’ Away”.

AUDIO (0:32): MUSIC FADES AWAY.

AUDIO (0:33): EERIE, REPETITIVE PIANO MUSIC TO EVOKE A FEELING OF LONELINESS.

SFX: SLITHERY NOISE, AS IF BY VERY SLIMY, BOUNCY JELLO, REMINISCENT OF OPEN-MOUTHED CHEWING. DISPLACED AIR IN SUCTION.

THE BLOB This is my quarantine story, my life in isolation. We’ve all got one now, right? Mine might not be any more interesting, but at least it’s unique. I mean, there’s only one of me.

(aside)
At least on this planet.

This part’s kinda funny, so sit with this image – stuck at home like anyone else, the giant, human-eating Blob. Watching the world through a window, afraid to slide around the block because of what I might catch.

For all of – hell, has it been seven months now? Eight? It’s been me and this apartment. I read until I couldn’t focus on books anymore. I’ve played every farming sim that’s out there. I’ve watched every movie on Quiver.

(wry)

I know, stereotypical, big monster sits up at night with horror movies. I like what I like!

The problem was, I’d started losing pieces of myself.

Attention: this is not a metaphor. Actual pieces. I’d be sitting at the computer half the day, when I got up again some of me has seeped between the floorboards.

SFX (2:05): A BOUNCE AND DRIP OF INDETERMINATE GOOEY MATERIAL AS A PIECE OF THE BLOB FALLS.

THE BLOB  Or I’d be cooking…

(dryly)

For one these days, always for one.

(normal tone)

…and not notice that a bit has slid down the kitchen drain. Or…

(nervous chuckle)

…I’d go out to check the mail, which I do three or four times a morning sometimes, and lose half a pound crossing the doormat. I don’t know why I’ve got that kind with the big plastic loops anyway, I never thought about it until now.

It didn’t bother me at first. Blobs… lose a bit now and then, it’s just part of how we work. Like humans losing skin cells, which as disgusting as it
sounds, *you* shed constantly. We’re pretty sanitary in comparison. It may look like the remains of a potluck jello salad, but the bits melt away and… they’re gone.

(*more unsettled now*)

But eventually… it was happening more and more often, I could feel the difference in my… shape, you know? Something in my surface tension starting to… slip.

It built up. The slipping under doors, the times I’d forget about the heat grating until I’d crossed it…

**SFX (3:15): HISSING NOISE.**

**THE BLOB** And before I knew it, I was spending whole days in the tub with the drain plug tamped down, shaking, barely keeping myself together.

Or I’d go the whole other way! Panic and slither frantic circles around the apartment with no sense of purpose except the movement. And then I’d turn around, and there’s bits of me scattered to every corner. Like, ‘*bits*’ doesn’t even convey it properly.

(*perking up slightly*)

Ah, don’t worry! I can see you worrying. This isn’t a gloomy story.

(*rambling*)

I mean, it is, and not just because I’m a monster who once tried to devour you and everyone you love… But there’s a better part coming.

I wish I could take credit for making it better. I wish this were my, "*I finally stopped shaking and scattering and pulled my amorphous self up by my metaphorical bootstraps*” moment… But it was this chat session I wound up in.

**SFX (4:10): ELECTRONIC BOOP OF AN APP LOADING UP.**

**THE BLOB** There’s a Discord for the bunch of us, the Giant Gila Monster and the Tingler, the Body Snatchers – they weren’t having a great time either, let me tell you. And the Fifty Foot Woman said…

**SFX (4:21): COMPUTER KEYBOARD TYPING NOISES.**
THE BLOB *(in a higher key, with a breathier, calmer tone to imitate her)*

“*I thought I was self-sustaining when the world was more normal. But I only felt like that because I was constantly in motion, chasing the next project, the next goal, the next victim without thinking about... is this really good for me? Now there’s nothing left but that pause.*”

SFX *(4:37): KEYBOARD TYPING NOISES STOP.*

THE BLOB *(normal tone)*

Wow, that hit me. Hit. Me. Rippled right to the core and back again.

I could have written those words myself. I wouldn’t have, I mostly lurk.

*(sheepish)*

You don’t type well when you’re a heap of sentient goo.

But I sat with that for a while and realized that’s really what I was feeling. It wasn’t that the sliding away was some new experience... It’s just that... I’d lost every other sense of purpose and I was obsessing over the little bits that always go.

I felt different, sure, but that’s because the world is different and the things we lose are harder to hide.

So, what do you do when you’re the embodiment of ooze and you come to that harsh realization?

It’s not like knowing fixes the problem and you suddenly grow a thicker skin. But it did... help to understand that I’d never really kept myself together. And I could use this time to try to figure out how that would work.

*(honest, sincere tone)*

I’m... talking to someone about it, a couple of times a week now. Some days it helps, some days I... find myself back in the tub again. But then I just tell myself, “Okay, I’m here because this is what I need right this moment.”

And there’s less shaking. Less pacing.

*(with humour)*
These days, I don’t make myself cook, I order in a nice delivery person and settle down.

I thought my story was unique, but now that I’ve told it … I’m not so sure. This is the Blob, the … indestructible creature, signing off from the eye of the pandemic! Keep on creeping and crawling!

SFX: THE JELLO SLITHERS AWAY. RUSTLING.

AUDIO (7:07): BACKGROUND MUSIC FADES AWAY.

OUTRO:

AUDIO (7:09): “THE SHOW MUST BE GO” BY KEVIN MACLEOD PLAYS.

SHADE Thank you so much for joining us on this episode of Hauntingly Humdrum.

This episode was written by D.J. Sylvis.

The Blob was performed by Mike Cuellar, host of the Weird Tales Podcast.

Sound designed by Nikko Goldstein.

The music used for the intro and outro of the podcast is: “The Show Must Be Go” by Kevin Macleod.

Links for transcripts and cast and crew information can be found in the show notes.

Happy Halloween!

AUDIO (7:52): MUSIC FADES AWAY.

AUDIO (7:53): MUSIC ENDS.

EPISODE ENDS.