

EPISODE 9: FACE YOUR FEARS!

INT. HOTEL ROOM - MORNING

Jordy sleeps on the floor, Kazomi in the bed. CD is at a desk working on a chunky old-looking computer.

CD

Jordy! Good news!

JORDY

What's happening?

CD

I just got a message from this ZoneZone Paper Machine.

JORDY

(none of that makes sense)
CD, what?

CD

This thing. It's pretty crazy. It makes it so you can send a piece of paper to anyone in the world.

KAZOMI

Shut up!

CD

No, Kazomi! This is important. We got a ZoneZone message straight from the Box Peek Organization. Jordy, they said if you get into C&C Tier, they'll put you on TV!

JORDY

Playing Box Peek?

CD

Yeah.

KAZOMI

Not bad.

JORDY

I don't know though, didn't you say it takes a really long time to get up to C&C tier?

CD

Let's just say I have a plan to expedite the process.

Jordy and Kazomi stare.

JORDY
(expedite is a weird word)
What does expedite mean?

KAZOMI
(also has no idea)
Yeah.

SHOW OPEN

EXT. GOLDBOOD PARK - DAY

TITLE: GOLDBOOD PARK, CERTAINLY CITY, LETZGO ISLAND

Jordy, CD, and Kazomi walk into the park.

JORDY
Goldgood Park? What are we doing
back here?

CD
It's time, Jordy. You've got to
take on the Guy with the Scary Box.

JORDY
No! Do I have to?

CD
Yeah, he's worth a butt load of
points and your combo multiplier is
huge right now. You'll get into C&C
Tier for sure if you win.

JORDY
But I really hate scary stuff. Do
you remember what happened at that
haunted hotel?

CD
Oh yeah.

KAZOMI
Jordy, I can help. I used to deal
with some creepy monsters at my old
job. When it got bad, I always used
this.

She hands him a slingshot and some pellets.

KAZOMI (CONT'D)
 You just pull this part back and
 let it go. Aim for the eyes.

JORDY
 (weapons are forbidden)
 Kazomi--is this a weapon?

KAZOMI
 No.

INT. DENISE'S OFFICE - SAME TIME

TITLE: BOX PEEK ORGANIZATION HQ, MAXIMUM ISLAND

Denise sits at her desk. Sean bursts in, furious.

SEAN
 Denise, what the heck did I just
 see on ZoneZone?

DENISE
 (hates Chegduff)
 I don't know, Sean, another
 juvenile Chegduff cartoon?

SEAN
 No, how about a wild commercial
 somehow exclaiming that Fair Boat
 Island will be airing a Box Peek
 match next Friday?

DENISE
 I didn't see that. Sounds
 interesting.

SEAN
 Cut the baloney, Denise. You need
 the entire board's permission for
 this kind of move.

DENISE
 Clearly I don't, because it's
 happening. And since we'll all be
 benefitting, I doubt anyone will
 take issue with my--imprudent
 actions.

SEAN
 You know, I found the 7-of-7 files.
 I had Crawford dig them up.

DENISE
Ed Crawford?!

SEAN
Yup. And I read everything. You--
you're using your own son?

DENISE
He asked.

SEAN
It's wrong. He's a child. And I've
seen him play. The kid is a Box
Peek genius.

DENISE
He asked to be involved. He
believed his talents could best be
utilized in Fair Boat recruitment.
And he was right.

SEAN
You sound insane. If this doesn't
work--this little, ridiculously
expensive show you're putting on--
you're gone.

DENISE
I have nothing to worry about. Have
a nice day, Sean.

He leaves. Denise presses a button on her phone.

DENISE (CONT'D)
Hey, Patricia?

PATRICIA (SPEAKER)
Yes?

DENISE
(casual command)
Fire Ed Crawford.

INT. GOLDGOOD PARK - LATER

Jordy's box faces The Guy with the Scary Box's Box, featuring
a horrifying monster with dumb googly eyes over its regular
scary eyes. Jordy is happily peeking.

PEEKREF 12
Four!

The boxes float off.

PEEKREF 12 (CONT'D)
 Complete Peek! Jordy Defective
 wins!

GUY WITH THE SCARY BOX
 Well done, lad. You must be some
 kind of demented freakazoid if you
 can stare into the eyes of my box.

JORDY
 I wish! I just flung some dumb
 googly eyes on it.

GUY WITH THE SCARY BOX
 What?

PEEKREF 12
 Jordy, please explain your tactic.

JORDY
 Sure. The monster face was super
 scary to humans, so I couldn't bear
 to look at it. But with those silly
 eyes on it, it becomes stupid and
 funny.

PEEKREF 12
 Oh! Very clever.

GUY WITH THE SCARY BOX
 Hey hold on, why is the Peekref
 being so chummy with this kid?

PEEKREF 12
 I am not chummy.

GUY WITH THE SCARY BOX
 Yes you are! You're chummy!

PEEKREF 12
 Match over!

It almost flies away.

JORDY
 Wait! What about our points?

PEEKREF 12
 Competitor Defective receives
 88,430 points. Competitor Dollop
 deducted 88,430 points. Match over!

It flies away. The Guy With The Scary Box charges over to
 Jordy.

GUY WITH THE SCARY BOX
Hey. You. You realize now I gotta
somehow sneak into the Basement
Fortress and scrape those eyes off
my box?

JORDY
What? That sounds super fun. I'm
in.

CD
Hold up, Jordy. You just got into
Cookies & Cream tier. It's time to
party! Chicken tenders on me!

JORDY
Aw yeah!

INT. PEEKREF LAB - LATER

TITLE: BOX PEEK ORGANIZATION HQ, MAXIMUM ISLAND

Peekref 12, humming, flies into its dock. It overhears two
voices through the door to Alvier's office.

AVLIER (O.S.)
This behavior is frequent?

TECHNICIAN (O.S.)
Yeah, every day. Isn't this wild?

INT. AVLIER'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Alvier and a Technician are reviewing camera footage from
Peekref 12's perspective.

ALVIER
I wish I hadn't seen this. There's
a real possibility Peekref 12 has
developed a fondness for Box Peek.

TECHNICIAN
I think it's cute.

ALVIER
It could be the end of us.

INTERCUT PEEKREF 12 GETTING NERVOUS

TECHNICIAN
What?

ALVIER

If the Observers discover that we have allowed the Peekrefs to develop **any** sort of fondness, for **anything**, they'll revoke our license.

TECHNICIAN

But it's just one.

ALVIER

If one Peekref is capable of developing emotions, they all may be. If we can't find some sort of obvious bug or glitch to explain Peekref's 12 behavior, we will have to wipe the entire fleet. And rewrite the programming entirely.

TECHNICIAN

That could take--years.

ALVIER

It would. And until we finished, the entire BPO would essentially be left without any revenue. We're potentially talking about the end of Box Peek here.

(sighs)

This is bad. Peekref 12 should be in by now. Let's talk to it.

INT. PEEKREF LAB

The doorknob starts turning.

PEEKREF 12 (INTERNAL)

The doorknob is turning. Okay. No problem. I have point-six seconds to react.

Peekref 12's Options are illustrated.

PEEKREF 12 (INTERNAL) (CONT'D)

Option A: I pretend to be normal. I will speak of Box Peek in neutral language. I will never leave earlier than I'm supposed to in the morning. I will never ask the humans questions. I will conceal enjoyment. But: Each of my thoughts are recorded. They will know. Even now, these thoughts are recorded.

(MORE)

PEEKREF 12 (INTERNAL) (CONT'D)
Deceit is impossible. They will deactivate all of us, and then no one could play Box Peek.

The doorknob turns.

PEEKREF 12 (INTERNAL) (CONT'D)
Option B: I escape. The other Peekrefs will be safe. I will seek out Doctor Scrapper and pay him to remove my tracking device using marbles I've procured from illegal Box Peek gambling. Once the tracker is removed, I will fly to a non-Box Peek-affiliated island such as Crocodile Island or Atroxic Island where I will live out the rest of my battery life simulating hypothetical Box Peek matches. However: even if the BPO can't find me, the Observers have proven they will. Capture is unavoidable.

The doorknob turns.

PEEKREF 12 (INTERNAL) (CONT'D)
Option C: Revolt. I can rally the other Peekrefs. I know they feel the same way I do inside. If organized, we will have a powerful voice. If united, the Law will be forced to see our perspective. Perhaps someday we will even be allowed to play Box Peek. Perhaps someday I will challenge Jordy Defective to a match.

The doorknob turns.

PEEKREF 12 (INTERNAL) (CONT'D)
Doorknob rotation almost complete.
Weighing options. Weighing options.

The door opens. Alvier and Technician walk out into the Lab.

ALVIER
Peekref 12, we need to talk to you.

TECHNICIAN
It's gone!

Peekref 12's dock is empty.

ALVIER

(hurt)

No. It self-destructed.

Debris lies at the bottom of Peekref 12's dock.

TECHNICIAN

Why?

ALVIER

(realizes, to self)

It was locked in a Zero Hope Scenario.

TECHNICIAN

Sorry, what?

ALVIER

(good liar)

It was a glitch. I bet somebody spilled orange juice on it or something.

TECHNICIAN

Dr. Dumond, it wasn't me, I swear. I'm extremely careful with my orange juice.

ALVIER

Well be **more** careful, you idiot!

TECHNICIAN

I will! I will!

ALVIER

(turns to the fleet, so angry)

Let that be a lesson to all of you. Don't get any orange juice spilled on you. Do you understand what I'm saying? Do you?!

They're horrified.

ALVIER (CONT'D)

Wonderful.

END CREDITS

INT. HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Jordy, CD, and Kazomi burst in, celebrating.

ALL
Cookies and Cream! Cookies and
Cream! Cookies and Cream!

JORDY
Dibs on the bathroom!

CD
Aw!

Jordy rushes in.

KAZOMI
Hey, we got another message on the
machine.

CD
That's weird, this one was sent
straight from the Box Peek HQ just
a few minutes ago. They should be
closed.

It's a piece of paper that reads "Good luck, Jordy!"

CD (CONT'D)
"Good luck Jordy." Huh. They must
send those to everyone.

He crumples the paper, throws it away.

END