

DR. MOGATO

by

Steve Nazarian

stevenaz226@comcast.net

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FADE IN:

TITLE CARD: "The Adventures of Doug Lipstein presents...
The Story of Dr. Mogato"

INT. TELEVISION STUDIO - DAY

DOUG LIPSTEIN (30) sits in a chair, T-shirt and jeans.
Husky. Speaks with a lisp. He is smoking a cigarette.

Doug is being interviewed by KEVIN MASTERSON (50), sitting
opposite of him. Kevin is balding, wears a suit.

DOUG

Belize, 1927, deep in the belly of the
Bubutu rainforest. I was floating down
the forbidden Winobi river with my trusty
sidekick, Peter, in a makeshift raft I
had built out of sticks, and pine cones,
and very small berries. We were
surrounded by giant radioactive
crocodiles--

KEVIN

I'm sorry to interrupt you, Doug, but did
you just say this took place in 1927?

DOUG

Yes, Kevin. That's correct.

KEVIN

And how old were you then?

DOUG

I was sixteen years old.

KEVIN

But that would mean you are over a
hundred years old today.

DOUG

Correct. What's your point?

KEVIN

Well... you look much younger than that.

Doug shifts nervously in his chair.

DOUG

Yes, well, I take very good care of
myself. I didn't get this body by
accident. I drink milk. Lots of it.
Six gallons a day.

He takes a long drag off his cigarette. Crosses his legs.

DOUG

I attend a spinning class Thursday evenings with my heavysset neighbor, Carol. I've been on a low carb diet for the past three years. I ran track in high school. I eat my own feces... a secret health tip from the Nugatu pigmy tribe of Western Guinea.

Doug ashes his cigarette in a nearby astray.

DOUG

But overall, I'd have to say limiting the carbs really has been the key.

KEVIN

Exercise and diet aside, I find it hard to believe you're over a hundred years old.

Doug rolls his eyes.

DOUG

Yes, well that's probably because I stopped aging after discovering the fountain of youth in 1932. Rule #7 of adventuring: "Looks can be deceiving, especially when a fountain of youth is involved".

KEVIN

But you told me in your last story--

DOUG

"The Battle of the Mud People".

KEVIN

Yes, "The Battle of the Mud People". You told me in that story that you were born in 1975.

DOUG

Yes, Kevin. That's correct.

KEVIN

Well if you were born in 1975 how could you have discovered the fountain of youth in 1932?

Doug scratches the back of his neck.

DOUG

A time machine.

(beat)

I built one.

(beat)

Worked pretty good, too, until this dinosaur stepped on it.

(beat)

Stupid dinosaur.

KEVIN

Hold on a second. You built a time machine? How? Out of what?

DOUG

Sticks, and pine cones, and very small berries.

KEVIN

That's what you said you built the raft out of.

DOUG

(defensive)

That's what I build everything out of.

Doug lights up another cigarette.

DOUG

Anyway, I was floating down the river on the raft. The radioactive crocodiles were thrashing about. I had just finished eating Peter when I heard a voice call to me from the water below.

KEVIN

Wait, wait, wait. I'm sorry. I don't mean to keep interrupting you, but did you just say you ate your partner, Peter?

DOUG

Sidekick, Peter. And, yes, I ate him. I had to eat something. I was so hungry.

KEVIN

So you were forced to eat him, otherwise you would have died of starvation?

Kevin drinks from a glass of water.

DOUG

No, no. Nothing like that. I had eaten a few hours before, but we had smoked a lot of pot, and I was having a major case of the munchies. So I ate Peter.

Kevin does a spit-take after his most recent sip.

KEVIN

Oh my God! Was he already dead?

DOUG

Of course. I killed him the night before. It was incredibly cold out, so I cut him open, and slept inside his body.

KEVIN

Like Han Solo did for Luke in "The Empire Strikes Back"?

DOUG

Exactly.

KEVIN

Well, not exactly. You'd need a lightsaber.

DOUG

I used a lightsaber.

KEVIN

Lightsabers aren't real, Doug.

DOUG

They are in the future. Lucas figured out how to do it for real in 2027. Everybody has one. Even pets.

KEVIN

Wow! I take it you used your time machine to find this out? How about Ton-Ton's? Are they real as well?

Doug LAUGHS heartily.

DOUG

Don't be ridiculous. Ton-Ton's are just make believe.

Doug's eyes shift, surreptitiously.

KEVIN

You mentioned smoking pot. Do you always get high when you go on an adventure?

DOUG

Of course. Rule #36 of adventuring:
"Always get high on an adventure".

KEVIN

So you were high during "The Battle of
the Mud People" as well?

DOUG

Super high. And super hungry. I must
have eaten like six or seven mud people.
They were delicious. They taste just
like Zebra Cakes.

KEVIN

And did you sleep inside them as well?

DOUG

Of course.

KEVIN

Because of the cold?

DOUG

Why else would someone sleep inside of a
mud person?

KEVIN

And are you high right now?

DOUG

Absolutely.

KEVIN

And do you have the munchies?

Doug smiles at Kevin.

DOUG

Has anyone ever told you, you look like a
Happy Meal?

KEVIN

Yes. I've been in therapy half of my
adult life.

DOUG

The resemblance really is uncanny. Would
you mind terribly if I ate you?

Kevin leans back in his chair, uncomfortably.

KEVIN

What about berries, instead?

DOUG

Why, yes, thank you, I'd love some.

KEVIN

No, the berries from the raft. You could have eaten them instead of your partner, Peter.

DOUG

Sidekick, Peter! "Partner, Peter" sounds, well, you know... Look, they were very small berries. I would have had to eat all of them, and then the raft would have fallen apart, and I would have been eaten by radioactive crocodiles.

KEVIN

Well do you feel any remorse for Peter? Are you at least sad you had to eat him?

DOUG

Okay, I see where this is going...

Doug stands up.

KEVIN

It's not going anywhere, Doug.

DOUG

(crosses his arms)

No. Go on. Say it.

KEVIN

Say what?

DOUG

You think I had sex with Peter, don't you? That's what you think, isn't it?

KEVIN

What? No! I wasn't thinking that at all!

DOUG LIPSTEIN

I did not have sex with Peter! That is a lie!

(glances around studio)

Did Bob Carswell put you up to this? That sonuva bitch! I did not have sex with Peter! I would never have sex with Peter! Not even if Peter were the last man on earth! And do you know why I will never have sex with Peter?

KEVIN
Because he's dead?

DOUG
No.

KEVIN
Because you're not gay.

DOUG
No!

KEVIN
Wait, you are gay?

DOUG
No! I meant your answer was wrong. I am not gay.

(beat)
I mean.... I experimented, that's what college is for, right?

Someone in the studio COUGHS. Doug returns to his seat.

KEVIN
Your bio says you never went to college.

DOUG
Well, when I get done with this interview I will go back in time and go to college.

KEVIN
I thought a dinosaur stepped on it.

DOUG
I will build another one. And in my new and improved time machine, I will go back in time and go to college, so when I go back to the future and we have this conversation again, my bio will say I went to college.

KEVIN
If you did that, you would have never known I said it because you would have already changed the future.

DOUG
Well then something must have gone wrong. I probably changed my mind and decided not to go back in time. Most likely because I was unable to build another time machine. It's not as easy as it sounds.

Kevin sips from his water. Doug smokes his cigarette.

KEVIN

Okay... so you're not gay. Why didn't you have sex with Peter?

DOUG

Rule #42 of adventuring: "Never have sex with something you are going to eat".

KEVIN

I thought rule #42 was "Never eat something you want to have sex with".

DOUG

No. That's rule #79. Rule #42 is "Never have sex with something you want to eat".

KEVIN

What's the difference?

DOUG

Rule #37: "The difference between rule #42 and #79, is the difference between how horny you get when you are hungry and how hungry you get when you are horny".

KEVIN

And how do you tell the difference between those?

Doug CRACKS his knuckles and YAWNS.

DOUG

I'm still working on a rule for that.

KEVIN

Alright Doug, getting back to the story, you mentioned a voice coming from beneath the water. What did it sound like?

DOUG

It was a dark and scary voice. It struck more fear into my heart than the giant radioactive crocodiles circling the raft.

KEVIN

What did it say to you?

DOUG

It said: "Beware Dr. Mogato".

Kevin nods. Doug just sits there.

KEVIN

And...?

And nothing. That's it.

KEVIN

That's it?

DOUG

Yes. The voice was dark and scary, and incredibly brief.

KEVIN

Well, what happened when you finally met this Dr. Mogato?

DOUG

Oh. I never met him.

KEVIN

You mean you couldn't find him?

DOUG

No. Why would I want to find him?

KEVIN

Oh, I don't know, for the adventure?

DOUG

Fuck adventure.

(beat)

Rule #22: "If a dark and scary voice tells you to "Beware Dr. Mogato", listen to it and run away before he kills you, and sleeps inside you if it's really cold outside, and has sex with you or eats you depending on how hungry or horny he is".

FADE OUT.