

Mimic Octopus - Flip And Mozi, Season 1, Episode 2
By Thomas Van Kalken

(Speaking into the interior of the escape pod)

Mozi: Good morning Flip! Ready for another day of exploring!? I say for this one we get lost!

Flip: Lost?

Mozi: Yeah, you know, fly by the seat of our pants. Allow Mother Earth's wind to take us to where she wants us to go!

Flip: Or, we can follow my map.

Mozi: Your map!? I thought I unplugged that thing!

Flip: So according to my map, we are currently approaching the South Pacific Ocean. I have a detailed itinerary, some colored pencils, a three ringed binder, and some index cards. Also, I have some handi-wipes and extra hair ties because you can never find those when you need them. I'm also thinking of bringing...

Mozi: Flip, Flip, Flip, Flip. I think that you need to relax.

Flip: Relax?

Mozi: Yeah, have a little fun! You don't always have to have everything planned out perfectly.

Flip: I don't?

Mozi: No! Sometimes you just need to allow yourself to go with the flow.

Flip: You mean your cousin, Flo?

Mozi: No. This has nothing to do with Florenza. And no, she still hasn't called me back.

Flip: That is rude.

Mozi: I know, right? And I'm not calling her again! If she... Wait, I'm getting off track. When I say, "go with the flow", I mean flow like the waves in that ocean thingy out there in the South Pacific. Sometimes you just have to wing it.

Flip: Ah, wing it! You mean like your cousin Jonah, who only has the one wing after

that dry cleaning accident? And...

Mozi: No! Stop bringing up my cousins! This is not about my extended family!

Flip: Okay.

Mozi: Listen, just try to be more like me, okay?

Flip: (Thinking) Be more like Mozi.

Mozi: Exactly. Enjoy yourself.

Flip: Enjoy myself...

Mozi: Be spontaneous! Impulsive! Let life tickle you upside the head!

Flip: (Considering) Spontaneous. Impulsive?

Mozi: Yeah. Sometimes you just gotta go for it and jump right in face first, you know?

Flip: Jump right in. Okay.

(Soundbite of airplane door opening, wind)

Mozi: Wait! Flip! That's not what...

Flip: (Jumping and yelling as she falls) Gooo foor iiiittt!

Mozi: Okay. That's a bold choice. Not what I meant, but a bold choice. Right behind you, Flipper! (he jumps) Yippee, yeee haw!

(theme song)

(Soundbite of underwater ambience, splashing as Mozi enters)

Flip: Yeah. This is incredible, Mozi! Weee!

Mozi: Yeah, it's kinda nice under here. But why is the air so thick and bouncy?

Flip: That's not air Mozi. We're in the water! Look at me swish!

Mozi: Water? Don't earthlings drink this stuff?

Flip: Yes, they do!

Mozi: So we're like hanging out in a big beverage?

Flip: No, silly, it's an ocean! And way too salty to drink.

Mozi: Oh.

Flip: And a lot of the earthlings cannot breathe under water, so they only swim on top. But under here is a whole new world we never knew existed!

Mozi: Yeah, look at all those wiggly things with the fins! What's up with them?

Flip: Let's say hi!

Mozi: Wait Flip, what is wrong with you? You can't just swish up on a bunch of strange wiggle fins! You need to be careful.

Flip: No, I need to relax and have fun! Remember? And this is so exciting! Let's play hide and seek! I will go hide in that brown seagrass over there.

(Flip swims away)

Mozi: Uh, I don't think you should do that. I wouldn't go...

Flip: (Hiding) I'm hiding! You have to guess where I am now. Ready or not, here you go!

Mozi: Uh, are you in that seagrass you told me you were going to hide in?

Flip: (Still hidden, but prompting) Technically, it's called kelp.

Mozi: Are you in the kelp?

Flip: (Bursting out) Yes! You are very good at this game, Mozi!

Mozi: Maybe, but I don't think you've got the hang of it.

Flip: Oh I know! I am nowhere near as good at making fun and relaxing as you are. But I am ready to learn! And I am happy to try. I am having an unplanned experience!

(singing)

Ever since I was a wee little Flippy

I was always so well organized

I kept my facts and contacts up to a degree
That would make a supercomputer surprised
But here right now - in this beautiful ocean
I'll move any direction I want to
There's a new earth down here for us to explore!
Mozi: Um..Let's hope we don't meet any carnivores
It's so big down here it's just dynamite
That it feels like a dream here in the waves tonight
So many creatures I see it's out of sight
Oh now I feel so good here in the ocean
And that big star shaped creature to your right
Seems like he would be keen to be our friend tonight
Mozi: Flip, I just hope you realize that he might bite
Ah, it feels so good here in the ooooocean..

Mozi: Um! Flip! There's a big creature coming this way.)h, wait why did he turn away?

Flip: Probably just for the halibut.

Mozi: What? I don't understand.

Flip: Don't worry about it. It was probably just a fluke.

Ooh boy!

I see a wall of sea creatures approaching from out of the blue
And with the sand in my paws and the temperature of the water
How could anyone here not feel new

Mozi: Oooh! Look at that group of jelly things

Floating all the way up to the sky!

Flip: You see Mozi, this place is magical!

Mozi: Ha ha, I think I like you a bit irrational!

Both: It's so big down here it's just dynamite

That I feel like a dream here in the waves tonight

So many creatures I see it's out of sight

I've never felt so loose until the ocean

It's so big down here and the sea floors bright

Mozi: I see so much life here it's like- impolite

Both: So let's hope we don't get an insect bite

Oh I feel so good here in the ocean

I, i, in the ocean

I, i, in the ocean

Flip: Oooh, look Mozi, a cave!

(slight echo as she shouts into the cave) Hello? Echo!!!

Cave voice: (Echoing) Go away! I'm shedding my outer suckers here. Why is everybody shouting into my cave?!?

Flip: Oooh. He was salty! Heh heh! See what I did there Mozi? I made a joke that was funny because there's salt in the water and also that earth...

Mozi: Yeah, I get it! Less funny when you explain it.

Flip: Oh look! Striped swim worms! Let's go say hi to those earthlings!

Mozi: Hey, hey, flip! I don't know what a swim worm is, but I don't think those are them. They look more like snakes.

Flip: Yes, that's right! These are actually sea snakes! I have researched them quite

a bit. There are over 60 different species of sea snakes on earth.

Mozi: Well, are they poisonous?

Flip: Oh yes! They can- ahh! Oh no! Mozi! The sea snake is trying to bite me!

(Flip struggles as Mozi comes to the rescue)

Mozi: Hey, snakes! Get away from my friend! Back! Get away! Don't make me bite you! Arrrrgh! (Soundbite of biting)

Octo: Okay, okay. People, or whatever you are. Let's all just take a minute here. (To mozi) I'm gonna need you to go ahead and take my foot out of your mouth.

Mozi: Mmfrfghth? This is a foot?

Flip: Wow!! There's a mouth on that blobby thing in the middle of all the snakes!

Octo: And I'm gonna need you to let go of my other arm.

Mozi: Arms!? These sea snakes are your arms??

Octo: I have a lot of arms.

Mozi: I have a lot of arms too!

Octo: You do have a lot of arms.

Flip: You have six arms, 2 legs and an oblong head. By my calculations, you are not a group of sea snakes, you are an octopus!

Octo: I am an octopus.

Mozi: So why did you look like snakes?

Octo: Why did I look like snakes? Why, I am a mimic octopus.

Mozi: Mimic? So that means you imitate things?

Octo: I imitate things. (Same intonation)

Mozi: Wait, are you just saying what I'm saying back to me?

Octo: Am I just saying what you're saying?

Mozi: Yes. Why are you copying me?

Octo: Why am I copying you?

Mozi: Yes! You're copying me! (Gasp) You're a mimic octopus.

Octo: I'm a mimic octopus.

Mozi: Well, I guess that's true. You have a point there.

Octo: Imitation is what I do. I have to do it to survive. Lots of big sea creatures would love to eat an octopus like me, but not if they don't recognize me. I am a master of disguise. Check this out...

(Soundbite of octo changing shape)

Octo: Roar! I am a lionfish! So look out! Roar!

Flip: Ooh birplets! You look just like a fish!

Octo: Yes, simba, we are all connected in the great circle of life.

Mozi: Yes! Hakuna Matata and all that! I love that movie.

(Soundbite as the octo changes shape again)

Octo: Now, I'm a jellyfish!

Flip: Excellent! I enjoy the jelly

Mozi: I'm more of a peanut butter guy myself.

Octo: But wait!

(Soundbite as the octo changes shape again)

Octo: Now, I'm a flatfish.

Mozi: Oooh! Do me! Do me!

Octo: Uh, yeah. I'm sorry, but I don't know what you are exactly. You don't look like you are from around here.

Flip: I am Flip and this is Mozi. We are interstellar adventurers! Who love fun and relaxing!

Mozi: Yeah, see we write a famous travel guide for galactic explorers. You've probably heard of me. Mozi? I'm kind of a big deal. Like how to eat your way

through the asteroid belt? No? Well, the ten best cruise stops on Neptune? Oh, the frugal time traveller?... Nothing...???

(Soundbite as the octo changes to a perfect imitation of Mozi)

Octo: You've probably heard of me. Mozi? I'm kind of a big deal.

Flip: That is amazing!! This is so much fun!

Mozi: (Grumpy) Whatever. Seemed a little forced if you asked me. And she didn't get my beak right.

Flip: But Mozi, what a marvelous earthling this mimic octopus is! She is perfect for our travel guide! She can be anything she wants to be.

Octo: Well, I don't change shapes because I want to. I change shapes because I have to.

(singing)

See way, way back in ancient times

When octopuses crawled through the slimes

We found it so hard to catch our prey

That mother nature blessed us with another way

See, our bodies are like insane shape shifting play dough

We can change their color, shape, make it look like a potato,

A tornado, a rhino! Well maybe not a rhino - but

You get the idea though...

We can change shape so we can stalk our prey

Hey - it's not a choice we're just made that way

Cause we can't eat

If we don't get meat

And mimicking things lets us be discreet...

See, I don't want to - per se - I do it cause I have to - ok? Sing it with me now...

It's in my nature...

It's hard to be me

So I choose to be you!

Let me be more specific

Would that help?

See there's another reason that we mimic octopuses change

From shape to shape confusing everything in range

It's 'cause you don't exactly see a shell on me

So tell me - what protects me from the open sea?

Camouflage!

It's a spy vs spy game - and when a predator comes inside chomp range

I confuse him turning into a rock- he's shocked - there was just an octopus.

What magic box did she unlock!?

Camouflaging is the ultimate disguise

It's my protection from predatory eyes

I may not want to ... but I have to...

It's the way that my species could adapt to

An ocean where like anything could just come grab you

Camouflaging let's an octopus just pass through

I don't want to ... Do you understand?

But I have to. It's not a choice

Are you understanding? I don't want to ...

I just have to...

I don't want to ... I just have to...

I don't want to ... I just have to...

And if ya don't know..Now ya know!

Mozi: Wow, I never thought about it like that before.

Flip: I know Mozi, this is just like me! I wanted to be like you, and so - like the octopus- I imitated you and now I too am fun and relaxed and... Oh, oh look!

Mozi: Flip! Wait... where are you going?

Flip: What is that?

(music up & under, begin fade)

Mozi: Flip! Come back here! Flip!

Flip: Wow, that looks pretty!

Mozi: Flip! Get away from that!

Flip: Sharp. Pointy.

Mozi: That's a hermit crab's house.

Flip: Come here, little house.

Mozi: Flipper!

Flip: What are those sharp things coming out of their...

(fade out)

Mozi: Flip, get over here! Leave that alone!

Flip: Look, Mozi, a jellyfish! A jellyfish! I love the jelly! Let's eat!

(Soundbite of slurping. With a few slight mmmmmm mmm's from Flip)

Mozi: Are you supposed to eat jellyfish Flip?

Flip: (mouth full) Mmmft ... I don't think so, aggrph...they are very, squirmy.

Octo: (inside) Actually, it's me again. Not really a jellyfish. Could you let me out of your face-hole now?

(Soundbite of squish pop)

Flip: Oh no! You're the mimic octopus again! I almost ate you!

Mozi: Flip! What are you doing? You can't just go around shoving strange earthlings into your face-hole! You should always ask first.

Flip: But I have lightened up now, Mozi. I am going with the flow!

Mozi: That's not what that means!

Octo: You know some jellyfish sting. That's why I like to look like one. If I had actually been a real jellyfish, you'd be in a lot of pain. And I would have a lot less saliva on me right now.

Flip: You look like a jellyfish because jellyfish are dangerous?

Octo: Yes! Lionfish and sea snakes are dangerous too. If I want to keep from being eaten, I gotta make myself look like creatures that no one wants to eat.

Mozi: Why don't you change into something with a thick shell, like a crab or a clam or something else, shelly.

Flip: Shelly? You mean like your cousin Shelly who was in that Will Smith movie?

Mozi: No! What is it with you and my cousins?

Octo: (to Mozi) Well, I can only change my body to look like something. I can't actually grow a shell. But you know, I have a cousin named Shelly.

Mozi: What!? Are you pulling my tentacle?

Octo: No, I am not. It's true. And she loves Will Smith movies! Especially Men In Black.

(Background ambience begins to change. Less swishing, very still with ominous music fading in)

Mozi: Well, who doesn't love the MIB?

Octo: You know, and once Shelly actually had her memory erased.

Mozi: Woooooowwww

Octo: I know! But it turns out she just ate a bad crab.

Flip: I do take issue with the film's reinforcement of negative stereotypes of intergalactic alien travelers.

Octo: Yes! But you know the new one... (pause) Uh-oh.

Flip: What is it?

Mozi: Hey, where did all the little fin wiggle things go?

Octo: We have a problem, friends.

Flip and Mozi: A problem?

Octo: Look over there. That's our problem.

Mozi: You mean the toothy guy with the pointy nose and the big fin?

Octo: That's a great white shark.

Flip: So many teeth! Such an intense smile! We should definitely go say hi!

Octo & Mozi: No!! No, no, no, no!

Octo: We need, to hide.

Flip: But Mozi, I'm being just like you! We need to relax and have fun! That pointy-faced tooth-factory-with-a-fin is definitely fun! Look at it smiling with all those teeth! Hi!

Mozi: I don't think it's smiling, Flip. What else do earthlings do with teeth?

Flip: Well, they brush them.

Mozi: Yes, and?

Flip: And sometimes they hide them under their pillow where they're exchanged for money by a celestial being.

Mozi: Yessss... And???

Flip: Well...

(singing)

Mozi: Ok, Flip, don't you get it this is not fun and games?

Now stay here - we gotta be really still

Flip: Mozi, I think you're making this way too big of a deal

I'm sure he is just a friendly face

Mozi: I don't know about that

Flip: Hey there buddy!

Mozi: What are you doing?

Flip: See? Look at him over there with that flip fin thing and

(Soundbite of chomping)

Flip: Ahh! Wuh-oh! Mozi, I think he might not be so friendly.

Mozi: Flip, I know that!

Flip: Well, Mozi ... this is not good.

Mozi: Definitely not!

Flip: I don't know if I can really relax and have fun right now.

Mozi: I don't want you to relax and have fun, flip. I don't want you to be like me. I'm sorry I ever said that. I want you to be you. In fact, right now, I really need you to be like you. We need to think our way out of this before we get toothed into oblivion!

Flip: (back to business) Well, then. We need to think about what we've learned.. (thinking to herself wandering off).. What would the earthling do in

this situation...what would the earthling do in this situation...What would the earthling do in this situation???

Mozi: Flip! Don't wander off! Now come here! That thing has teeth that are as big as our heads. And we're in need of good strategy...

Flip: Ah! Wait! Of course!!!

Mozi: What?!

Flip: Just like the mimic octopus had just said

Mozi: Oh!

Both: We gotta turn ourselves into something that he won't wanna eat!

Oh yeah!

We gotta imitate something that's gross

Oh yeah

Like the mimic octopus

Oh yeah

Think of it soon before that thing gets any closer

Or else

I think our goose will be cooked!

(Soundbite as he scrambles on the ocean floor looking around)

Mozi: Oh, I don't know what to do! I can't find anything and now I have sand all over me, and I --

Flip: See right there!

Mozi: Where!?

Flip: You see that coral that's the same color as you?

Mozi: Uh huh

Flip: Go hide! And I'll go here by those plants!

Mozi: Are you sure that's a safe idea?

Flip: I think - if I'm correct when there's a predator that's quite as big as that...

Mozi: Uh, huh

Flip: I just don't think their brains are all that advanced...

Mozi: Well, here's hoping...

Both: Oh yeah!

We gotta imitate something that's gross

Oh yeah

Like the mimic octopus

Oh yeah

Ooh!! Something's distracting him! Say adios, buddy!!!!

Oh yeah

We might get overlooked!!!

We might get overlooked!!!

(Soundbite of ominous music loud now)

Mozi: I'm a rock. Oh yeah! A rock. Nothing to see here. Just a plain old boring ocean rock.

Flip: And I am a pretty sea flower going with the flow

(Soundbite of ominous music resumes and slowly fades)

Mozi: I'm rockin' it... Just rock over here. No roll at all.

Flip: Ooh, Mozi look! He's moving!!!

Mozi: Come on shark!

Just keep on going, going.

Keep on going going

Going going... going, going, going, gone!

Whew!

(Soundbite of ominous music fades all the way out)

Octo: Whew! That was a close one!

Flip: What'd ya think? How did we do?

Octo: Honestly Mozi, I thought your performance was a little over the top. (to Flip)
You were good though, Flip. I like that flower thing.

Mozi: Well obviously, it worked! But, I would have thought I looked good enough
to eat

Flip: Thank you so much for helping us today, earthling octopus! We learned a
great deal.

Mozi: Yeah, who knew there was so much going on inside all of this salty liquid!

Octo: It was a pleasure. Remember, you got to be yourself. Unless you're me. In
which case, you also get to be like everybody else! Bye!!!

Epilogue

(Soundbite of spaceship interior)

(Flip and Mozi are speaking directly to audience for their travel guide)

Flip: And this concludes another edition of How To Be an Earthling! I think we
learned a lot today.

Mozi: The mimic octopus is another amazing earthling with 6 arms, 2 legs, 2 eyes
and a surprising number of impersonations! If you go under the water, be careful!
You might not be seeing what you think you're seeing!

Flip: I also learned how important it is to be true to yourself, and not try too hard
to be like someone else -- especially Mozi.

Mozi: And I learned how much I like you just as you are, Flipsy.

Flip: Awww. Thank you, Mozi

Mozi: And I got to be a real rock star! Get it? Rock? See what I did there?

Flip: And I got to be an underwater flower.

Mozi: Yes you did, Flip. You made a lovely sea lily.

Flip: You mean like your cousin Lily from Alpha Centauri with the one big eye?

Mozi: No. What is it with you and my family?

(dialogue fades out as music fades in)

Flip: I don't think I resembled her at all. I was going for more of a kelp appearance.

Mozi: I know! I was talking about the sea creature, not my family

Flip: How many cousins do you have anyway?

Mozi: Only about 900. We're a small family. We like to keep to ourselves.