

## **Sidedoor Season 5, Episode 13: The Riverkeeper**

[MUSIC]

Lizzie Peabody: This is Sidedoor, a podcast from the Smithsonian with support from PRX. I'm Lizzie Peabody.

[MUSIC]

[NATURE SOUNDS]

Fred Tutman: You have no sense of civilization. There's sections of this river, you could be on the Amazon. I mean, there is no human habitation obvious. It's pretty cool.

[NATURE SOUNDS]

Lizzie Peabody: I met Fred Tutman on a sweltering July day by the banks of Maryland's Patuxent River, about 30 minutes outside D.C. The water was so glassy, I could see waterbugs skittering along its surface. It was hard to tell the water was moving at all until a little leaf floated by.

[NATURE SOUNDS]

Fred Tutman: And some of this land is Smithsonian land by the way, I'm pretty sure of it.

Lizzie Peabody: Really?

Fred Tutman: There's a big ownership of Smithsonian-owned land along the Patuxent in this area.

Lizzie Peabody: It's beautiful. Here, I'm gonna dip my toe in here.

[WATER SPLASHING]

[NATURE SOUNDS]

Lizzie Peabody: Fred is a member of the Director's Circle at the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center, but his full-time job is, "Riverkeeper," with a capital, "R."

[MUSIC]

Lizzie Peabody: And as the Patuxent Riverkeeper, his only job is to protect and preserve the Patuxent River. All 110 miles of it, but his love for this quiet bend in the river is personal.

[MUSIC]

Fred Tutman: I mean as a boy, this was our swimming hole. This was where I would hang out and do my little Huck Finn routine, you know? But I love this part of the river because it does

remind as a boy. Like, its placid. It's peaceful. There's nothing threatening here. Granted, they're probably copperheads and stuff, but...

[MUSIC]

Lizzie Peabody: What?! Hang on. Whoa!

Fred Tutman: (Laughs).

Lizzie Peabody: Why was that not the first thing you mentioned?! (Laughs).

Fred Tutman: Well, they don't like us much, right? I mean, there are natural hazards, but people can shrug off a copperhead bite.

[NATURE SOUNDS]

Lizzie Peabody: Fred grew up on 200 acres of farmland just across the road from here. We sat down behind his farmhouse, in the shade of some poplar trees, beneath a chorus of enthusiastic cicadas.

[NATURE SOUNDS]

Lizzie Peabody: So, your title, "Riverkeeper."

Fred Tutman: Yeah.

Sounds to me like something out of a Mark Twain novel. Like, I think of a grizzled old man poling up and down a river sort of patrolling its shores. How accurate is that?

Fred Tutman: 'Grizzled old men,' listen to you!

Lizzie Peabody: (Laughs).

Fred Tutman: What era are we in? 'Grizzled old man...'

Lizzie Peabody: I should state for the record you're neither grizzled nor old.

Fred Tutman: (Laughs).

Lizzie Peabody: So, I'm already off base with that idea.

Fred Tutman: Well, grizzled for sure, but at any rate.

Lizzie Peabody: (Laughs).

Fred Tutman: So, from what I'm told, the term actually has its origins in medieval England. That there were ferry keepers, loch keepers, various keepers. The keeper's job was to protect, "the commons," something that was shared by all, owned by all, basically in public trust.

Lizzie Peabody: So, how recently has that idea come to this country?

Fred Tutman: So, it's a young movement in the scheme of things here in America. Started on the Hudson River, in New York.

[MUSIC]

Lizzie Peabody: In the 1980s, members of the Hudson River Fishermen's Association were mad that unchecked industrial pollution was killing fish, and threatening their livelihood. I mean, they were really mad.

[MUSIC]

Fred Tutman: And the legend has it, that they were talking about blowing up oil tankers (laughs) and creating mischief, not to harm people, but to draw attention to the lack of enforcement going on in their river. And this guy, John Cronin, they say got up and said, 'We shouldn't be talking about breaking the law, we should be enforcing these laws.'

[MUSIC]

Fred Tutman: And essentially that led to him becoming the first American Riverkeeper, whose job it was really to take down the polluters and collect a bounty. The idea was that you could split the fines with the government and invest them back into cleaning up the waterway. And it was a rather successful model.

Lizzie Peabody: Bounty hunters for polluters!

Fred Tutman: (Laughs). Gotta like the idea! (Laughs).

Lizzie Peabody: (Laughs).

[MUSIC]

Lizzie Peabody: That one American Riverkeeper grew into a movement. Today, there are over 300 waterkeeper groups worldwide: baykeepers, creekkeepers, channelkeepers, bayoukeepers, each protecting a different waterway. The idea is, with so many competing interests on any body of water, there needs to be one voice who can speak for the water itself.

[MUSIC]

Lizzie Peabody: So, you are the voice of the river.

[NATURE SOUNDS]

Fred Tutman: That's exactly right. We are the voice of the river.

Lizzie Peabody: But the Patuxent River's voice stands out in one way.

Lizzie Peabody: You are the only African American Riverkeeper in this country.

Fred Tutman: Hmm, mmm.

Lizzie Peabody: Why do you think that is?

Fred Tutman: It's very hard in these big conservation movements for people of color to be ourselves.

[MUSIC]

Fred Tutman: People of color, in particular, have some discomfort being themselves in places where they're being measured against the yardstick that is defined by white being the norm. That's the most diplomatic way I can really put it. The expectations is that this was not something that black people are supposed to be doing. And if we do, we stand in the shoes of white people, which is not necessarily the case. As you can see, I have a heritage with the outdoors that's quite distinct, and with this river, and if there's no room for that in these movements, then there's no room for diversity.

[MUSIC]

Lizzie Peabody: Fred says, from the outside, what looks like a, "diversity" problem, actually reveals an environmental movement that is incomplete. And it's the planet that ultimately pays the price.

[MUSIC]

Fred Tutman: We're losing this planet, if we don't do something about the problems that are here. We need not only all hands-on deck, but we actually need movements that are adaptable enough to embrace and serve all.

[MUSIC]

Lizzie Peabody: This time on Sidedoor, Fred Tutman, "Riverkeeper," on his work protecting the Patuxent, and his vision for getting, "all hands-on deck" to protect the planet, before it's too late.

[MUSIC]

Lizzie Peabody: Fred Tutman's family has lived along the Patuxent River for generations. And Fred feels a strong connection to this land.

Fred Tutman: The family has a fair amount of pride that we're an African American family that's been on the same land for many, many years with a deep heritage, both of the river and to the nature around us, so for us, this is our happy spot.

[MUSIC]

Fred Tutman: This is my great grandfather's farm, originally from the 1920s. He was a guy that made his own liquor and grew his own tobacco and did all kinds of stuff. He really introduced me to a lot of these wonders. It was with him that I learned fishing, hunting squirrels, and walking with his beloved, "bird dogs" he called them in the woods in the autumn.

[MUSIC]

Lizzie Peabody: In the summertime, Fred and his siblings helped with the tobacco harvest, and played and fished on the river.

[MUSIC]

Fred Tutman: I didn't know where the river came from. To be honest, I didn't care actually because it was here. (Laughs). It went that way. And it came from the other way.

[MUSIC]

Lizzie Peabody: But when Fred was about eight years old, his father moved the family to Sierra Leone for a few years. He was with the Peace Corps. And Fred says that's where he really got interested in rivers.

Fred Tutman: And just observed how the river was the lifeblood of the communities there. That's how they got news, mail, food, you know, from place to place. The river was definitely the highway. So, that really piqued my interest about what rivers are to humans, to civilization. We have all these fusions with rivers. All these connections to rivers. They are very complicated. That's why they write love songs about them, right? People love rivers for all kinds of reasons. (Laughs).

Lizzie Peabody: I actually can't think of any love songs about rivers.

Fred Tutman: (Sings, "Moon River")... (Sings, "Old Man River"). There's tons of them. Um...

Lizzie Peabody: I stand corrected.

Fred Tutman: I could probably go for days - there's a ton of river songs.

Lizzie Peabody: Fred Tutman grew up to become a singer.

[MUSIC – "I Love Rock n' Roll"]

Lizzie Peabody: No, he didn't. He did not, but he did work with them, as a music promoter.

[MUSIC – "I Love Rock n' Roll"]

Fred Tutman: I traveled with The Who.

[MUSIC – "I Love Rock n' Roll"]

Lizzie Peabody: What?!

[MUSIC – "I Love Rock n' Roll"]

Fred Tutman: Met Joan Jett. (Laughs).

[MUSIC – "I Love Rock n' Roll"]

Lizzie Peabody: Oh my Gosh!

[MUSIC – "I Love Rock n' Roll"]

Lizzie Peabody: Then he worked as a journalist.

Fred Tutman: Initially as a cinematographer, then as a videographer, then as a writer, then as a producer. So, I had a really great career, but I was bored to tears in the sense that I couldn't fix or change anything that I saw. And that really began to gnaw at my soul.

Lizzie Peabody: After two decades in journalism, he was tired of documenting problems he couldn't solve. So, he hung up his press passes and walked away.

Fred Tutman: So, I just split. So now, when I get on airplanes, and I occasionally run into people I used to work with at network television, they say, "(Gasps) I thought you were dead! Oh, my God, what happened to you? You were just gone! What are you doing now?" And I said, "Well, you know, I'm the Riverkeeper for the Patuxent River." I can see in their eyes now I'm really dead. (Laughs).

Lizzie Peabody: (Laughs).

Fred Tutman: I am so dead now! Because it has no pertinence, no relevance to that old life.

[MUSIC]

Lizzie Peabody: Fred wasn't exactly sure what he wanted to do next, but he knew he wanted to make change. And making change permanent often means changing laws. So, he enrolled in law school. By this time, he was in his forties, and he'd always volunteered with environmental groups, since he was a kid, but he'd never considered that as a job option. Until one day...

[MUSIC]

Fred Tutman: I actually was skipping school. (Laughs). I should have been in class that day. Instead, I was in the Department of Natural Resources in Maryland.

Lizzie Peabody: At a volunteer meeting and everything was going pretty normally until this guy walked into the room. And when he did, Fred said there was almost a palpable crackle of energy.

[MUSIC]

Fred Tutman: And I said, "Who's that guy?" And they said, "He's the Riverkeeper on the Severn." I said, "What's a Riverkeeper?" And someone handed me the Riverkeeper book.

[MUSIC]

Lizzie Peabody: And for Fred, something just clicked.

Fred Tutman: I need to do that. It was like a gnawing hunger. Like, man, I need to be the Patuxent Riverkeeper. I mean, I have been an activist on this river already, it just never occurred to me, you could have, make a living being a full-time advocate.

[MUSIC]

Lizzie Peabody: Within a year, Fred Tutman was the Patuxent Riverkeeper. He founded a small nonprofit, aptly called, "Patuxent Riverkeeper." And he figured he would work the job for about five years. It's been 17.

[MUSIC]

Lizzie Peabody: It's easy to imagine Fred as a sort of, "lone river ranger," patrolling the shores for litterers and other ne'er do wells. But he's just one guy, and the river is long. So, part of his job is building groups of volunteers all along the river who can look out for it by cleaning up trash and clearing fallen trees, but Fred says the river's biggest problems are invisible.

[NATURE SOUNDS]

Fred Tutman: Much of the stuff that's bad in these rivers you can't see. And so, we're also fighting toxics, public health issues, bad coal, leaky wastewater plants. It's pretty vast. The proverbial death by 1000 cuts, that's exactly what's cutting these rivers to shreds.

[NATURE SOUNDS]

Lizzie Peabody: The Patuxent River is in rough shape. The University of Maryland's Center for Environmental Science grades local rivers on their health, like a report card. And last year, the Patuxent got a D-, but Fred can't just sit polluters down for his version of a parent-teacher conference. That's why his law background comes in handy.

Fred Tutman: The way you get to the boardrooms of America (laughs) is you come with a pack of lawyers, whether or not you intend to sue.

Lizzie Peabody: Hmmm.

Fred Tutman: And that's how you're taken seriously, in my view. And these are serious problems we're fighting.

Lizzie Peabody: And Fred has found out the hard way that being the, "voice of the river" sometimes means being unpopular.

[NATURE SOUNDS]

Fred Tutman: You know, I've been socked in the jaw. I've been sued by...

Lizzie Peabody: You've been socked in the jaw?!

Fred Tutman: I've been physically attacked by a guy. You know, people don't appreciate when you sue them over pollution! Believe me, they don't say thank you very much and send you a card. (Laughs). Believe me, they get good and mad! We've had people mad at us for our litigation against coal plants. Someone sent me a letter once saying, "Would you stop suing those guys? Don't you know they buy band uniforms for the high school?"

Lizzie Peabody: (Laughs).

Fred Tutman: Well, sure. Well, when you put it that way. (Laughs).

Lizzie Peabody: (Laughs).

Fred Tutman: I mean, I'm not making this up. (Laughs).

Lizzie Peabody: But Fred is intentional about the kinds of cases he takes on as Riverkeeper, not just because dental work is expensive. He's only really interested in cases that will bring lasting change to the river, like this one case from about 10 years go.

Fred Tutman: This was a fight initially over a box culvert through a stream, a headwater stream on the Patuxent River and a box culvert is basically a mass of concrete.

Lizzie Peabody: Basically, a concrete tunnel that you can plunk down in a waterway and build a road on top of.

Fred Tutman: And the problem was that the operators didn't have a permit to build that. They had a permit to build a bridge and the difference between a bridge and a box culvert is huge.

Lizzie Peabody: The box culvert essentially stopped up the stream.

Fred Tutman: And caused a lot of ecological damage, basically resources we won't get back.

Lizzie Peabody: The Patuxent Riverkeeper organization sued the Maryland Department of the Environment, and the case changed Maryland State law. Previously, a person needed to prove their life was impacted in a concrete way by the outcome of a case to have standing in a court of law, but Patuxent Riverkeeper won the case on the grounds that an aesthetic interest was enough to give legal standing. Essentially, it's the difference between, "this culvert is costing me money" and, "this culvert is accosting my eyeballs." And this ruling has lasting downstream effects for the river.

Fred Tutman: The truth is, the state will write much better bridge permits because of this. As long as people have the fear that they might be sued by Tom, Dick and Harry over his aesthetic appreciation, whether or not he will prevail in a court of law. I think it means you get a better system out of this. And that is the difference between transformative versus transactional work. That always changes a system. It means we don't have to fight that battle twice.

[MUSIC]

Lizzie Peabody: Do you consider that case to be your greatest achievement as Riverkeeper?

[MUSIC]

Fred Tutman: I don't know if that case is our best achievement. It might be our best legal achievement. I think our better achievement is that we have created a clubhouse atmosphere on the Patuxent River for the first time in this river's history, where not only is all activism and all ideas for saving and protecting this river welcome, but all people are welcome. That we can have Muslims praying on the lawn, people from many walks and all walks. And that's not true everywhere.

[MUSIC]



Lizzie Peabody: When we come back, Fred talks about his experience as a person of color in a white-dominated movement. And how he believes, as a planet, we may live or die by the voices we aren't currently hearing. More on that, after the break.

[MUSIC]

Lizzie Peabody: We're back! And we're talking with Fred Tutman, the Patuxent Riverkeeper, on his farm in Maryland.

[NATURE SOUNDS]

Fred Tutman: Blueberries. I like a vegetable garden. And sweet potatoes on the hill.

Lizzie Peabody: Oooo!

Fred Tutman: We have an orchard up there as well. Blackberries are in season. There's definitely blackberry ice cream in the future.

Lizzie Peabody: Mmm...

Lizzie Peabody: Fred Tutman has been Riverkeeper for 17 years, and for most of that time, he's been the only African American Riverkeeper in the country.

[MUSIC]

Lizzie Peabody: And this is a national moment when many Americans are taking a hard look at how our institutions have been shaped by white people and the environmental movement is no different. Fred says, it's time to challenge the status quo.

[MUSIC]

Lizzie Peabody: Help kind of define the status quo for me, so that I understand what a challenge to that signifies.

[MUSIC]

Fred Tutman: I think the status quo of what an environmentalist is, is actually drawn from our history as a movement as educators. We're trying to get other people on our bandwagon, but also, we're trying to instill in people an understanding and appreciation for nature. Such that they will make better personal choices. That's one version. (Laughs).

[MUSIC]

Fred Tutman: That's one approach to this.

[MUSIC]

Lizzie Peabody: I mean, all that sounds great to me.

Fred Tutman: Yeah... what I've been trying to do with Patuxent Riverkeeper is distinguish ourselves from those movements that don't have people and compassion at the center of it. I think that's radical to conservationists who see these as pure nature problems. These are about

saving oysters and crabs, aren't they? Well, sure. They're about that, too. What about saving the people in these communities?

[MUSIC]

Lizzie Peabody: In 2011, Fred Tutman wrote an Op-Ed, that got published in the Baltimore Sun and a bunch of other papers. His letter pointed out the conspicuous absence of black and brown voices in mainstream environmental movements. It's titled, "Take Off the Blinders: Why Green is not the New Black (or Brown, or Yellow)." It starts like this:

Fred Tutman: 'As an African American and an environmentalist, I went along for a long while with the idea that race and class are irrelevant to the cause of environmental protection. I assumed that the environment itself is connective and bridges the social divide.'

Lizzie Peabody: But Fred went on to write he no longer believed that this was true.

Lizzie Peabody: So, you used to believe in that prevailing idea, that the environment could bridge the social divide. So, what changed your thinking about that?

Fred Tutman: Because the conversations I was having with black and brown communities tended to be very, very different than the ones I was having with white communities.

Lizzie Peabody: Like what?

Fred Tutman: I had a woman at a tea party say to me that this black community that we work with in the south of the river simply lacked zeal to protect the environment. She said, "After all, I called my Congressman, why can't they?" It was a narrative for why black people need to clean up those darn neighborhoods and stop laying around and loafing, essentially. It was a very bitter tea for me...

Lizzie Peabody: Hmmm.

Fred Tutman: ...because I knew I couldn't fix that perception. Actually, it would be insulting for me to try.

Lizzie Peabody: Fred says this thinking is based on a false assumption, "if you cared, you'd do what I do."

Fred Tutman: It's preposterous! In terms of its lack of understanding of this system.

[MUSIC]

Lizzie Peabody: In the United States, low-income areas, often home to people of color, can become what environmentalists call, "sacrifice zones," where a whole host of environmental problems become concentrated in a single area.

[MUSIC]

Fred Tutman: Sacrifice zones, not only being places near toxic and unwanted facilities, but also places where people have a higher than average cancer rate, where the drinking water is unsafe.

[MUSIC]

Lizzie Peabody: Fred says these zones don't form all at once. It's another case of, "death by a thousand cuts."

[MUSIC]

Fred Tutman: You know, we issue permits one at a time, but we don't look at these individual permits in the context of the other uses around them.

[MUSIC]

Lizzie Peabody: Every decision is made in isolation, which is how you get places like this one community near the Patuxent River.

[MUSIC]

Fred Tutman: Brandywine, which is getting what, five power plants within a five-mile radius, plus a Superfund site, a coal waste dump. I mean, holy cow!

Lizzie Peabody: And that's a predominantly black community?

Fred Tutman: It is historically. I don't think anyone's sat down and said, "ah, we'll just put this in a black community." I just think, systemically, places without a lot of power don't get consulted because the system itself disenfranchises them.

[MUSIC]

Lizzie Peabody: Fred says, calling your congressman only works if your congressman calls you back. And it's hard to get fired up about habitat loss for native fish, when the drinking water in your own habitat is making you sick.

[MUSIC]

Fred Tutman: I couldn't go with a straight face in front of a black community and say, "You know what? Y'all need to get some Priuses and some rain barrels and join the Chesapeake Bay Foundation." I mean, all of these prescriptions were not in sync with black reality. And I just couldn't do it. I couldn't talk out of both sides of my mouth. I don't have the answer of how you have a movement that serves all, but I'm going to stop pretending that one size fits all. I'm going to take off the blinders.

Lizzie Peabody: So, Fred wrote his Op-Ed and it rocked the boat.

Fred Tutman: I had a lot of pushback from that article. I had a couple of board members quit the next day. (Laughs).

Lizzie Peabody: Really? From the Patuxent Riverkeeper?

Fred Tutman: Yeah. I think they thought I was racializing. I thought I was actually soul-searching. That was painful. Not as painful as being punched in the jaw, but... (Laughs).

Lizzie Peabody: (Laughs).

Fred Tutman: Now, the interesting thing was a day later, four people of color called us up and asked, "How do I get on your board?"

Lizzie Peabody: Oh!

Fred Tutman: So overnight, the composition of the board flipped because of our advertising of our own position on this had the effect of really changing the organization's values.

Lizzie Peabody: The Patuxent Riverkeeper organization may be small, but that enables Fred and his team to build a passionate, local membership by staying focused on the specific needs of their communities.

Fred Tutman: "What do y'all need?" "We'll help you with that, if it's in the environmental realm?"

Lizzie Peabody: Hmmm.

Fred Tutman: "You need help with your divorce? Eh, can't help you with that, but I might be able to refer you to a lawyer, but..."

Lizzie Peabody: (Laughs).

Fred Tutman: I mean, these are very frank conversations...

Lizzie Peabody: Hmmm, mmm.

Fred Tutman: ...with people about what they really need.

Lizzie Peabody: Hmmm, mmm.

Fred Tutman: Right now, we're working with a small African-American town, historically black town on the Patuxent. The Mayor told me on Friday that he wants help writing a grant proposal to get them a new dock. And we've done many of those types of transactions with towns and communities, but we're doing something the town wants done.

Lizzie Peabody: Hmmm, mmm.

Fred Tutman: And it does have environmental implications for the town. And that reciprocity, that's the engine of a long-term collaboration.

[MUSIC]

Lizzie Peabody: A dock might sound low-stakes, but that's kind of the point. The purpose of Fred's model is to be small and stay small.

[MUSIC]

Fred Tutman: Actually, we're trying to create a very limited movement. We only really care about people who care about the Patuxent! (Laughs). As sad as that sounds. (Laughs). We only know about the Patuxent.

[MUSIC]

Fred Tutman: And I think our members appreciate that. One time I wrote in our newsletter a piece about how the Danube compares to the Patuxent. I got all kinds of crazy mail from people! "Why are you talking to me about this European River?!"

Lizzie Peabody: (Laughs).

Fred Tutman: "Alright. I'll talk about the Patuxent!"

[MUSIC]

Lizzie Peabody: (Laughs).

[MUSIC]

Fred Tutman: I get it! These are Patuxent people. Cool.

[MUSIC]

Lizzie Peabody: Staying local doesn't mean neglecting the big picture. On the contrary, Fred says, it's actually building a bigger picture. A global movement with strong roots has to start in everyone's backyard.

[MUSIC]

Fred Tutman: Generally, globally, conservation movements aren't winning in a big picture. The idea that white-only movements are single-handedly going to save the planet. (Laughs). And people of color are just going to be like a footnote. These movements need people of color, badly.

[MUSIC]

Lizzie Peabody: Building the green movement that we need takes all kinds of humans. And Fred says, no matter who we are and where we live, humans have a universally powerful relationship with nature.

Fred Tutman: Anytime in the history of humanity, somebody wanted to find spiritual solace, personal inspiration, the answer to a difficult problem. They went to the mountain. They went to the desert. They went to the river, right? And they unburden themselves in front of that resource. And that was the key thing that brought me to this movement.

Lizzie Peabody: And no number of angry letters, lawsuits, or punches to the face is going to keep him from it.

[MUSIC]

Fred Tutman: They'll have to drag me out of here, someday. (Laughs). They might! (Laughs).

Lizzie Peabody: (Laughs).

[MUSIC]

Lizzie Peabody: You've been listening to Sidedoor, a podcast from the Smithsonian with support from PRX.

[MUSIC]

Lizzie Peabody: If you're interested in finding out more about a riverkeeper, or baykeeper, or other water keeper organization close to you, we'll link more information about the Waterkeeper Alliance in our Newsletter. Senior Producer Justin O'Neill has already started a list of his favorite rivers that don't have keepers. So, if his name disappears from the credits, you all know what happened.

[MUSIC]

Lizzie Peabody: If you'd like to read the full text of Fred's Op-Ed, we'll include that in the Newsletter as well! Subscribe at [si.edu/Sidedoor](http://si.edu/Sidedoor). That's [si.edu/Sidedoor](http://si.edu/Sidedoor).

[MUSIC]

Lizzie Peabody: Special thanks to Kristin Minogue of the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center, and of course, to Fred Tutman.

[MUSIC]

Lizzie Peabody: Our podcast team is Justin O'Neill, Nathalie Boyd, Ann Conanan, Caitlin Shaffer, Jess Sadeq, Lara Koch, Sharon Bryant and Tami O'Neill. Episode artwork is by Greg Fisk. Extra support comes from John, Jason and Genevieve at PRX. Our show is mixed by Tarek Fouda. Our theme song and other episode music are by Breakmaster Cylinder.

[MUSIC]

Lizzie Peabody: If you want to sponsor our show, please email [sponsorship@prx.org](mailto:sponsorship@prx.org).

[MUSIC]

Lizzie Peabody: I'm your host, Lizzie Peabody. Thanks for listening.

[MUSIC]

Lizzie Peabody: So, I sat here on the edge of the dock and there are lot of little ants, see?

Voice: Yeah.

Lizzie Peabody: And they all started crawling up my pants and I was like, "I can deal with this." And then, at a certain point, I was like, "I cannot deal with this." (Laughs).