# FZORK

Written by Jared Suarez

## PILOT EPISODE

"The Secret of the Golden Fork"

Animated series based on original characters created by Jared Suarez.



#### EXT. NORTH PLUMDALE - HIGHWAY OVERPASS - TWILIGHT

A sea of cars jammed on an endless tarmac.

VIDEO GAME METAL BLARES from a macked-out SUV. Bent over the wheel, BRABUS ZU (18) frantically BEEEPS....! His freeze ray hairdo peeps out the sunroof. A "FOOD DELIVERY" package sits on the seat beside him.

Reveal a small town below the winding mountain highway.

#### EXT. PLUMDALE VALLEY - BUNGALOW - TWILIGHT

Like a plump circle cramped into a square frame, an angry BABUSHKA YELLS obscenities inside a doorway -- in her native Kharfusian tongue.

#### BABUSHKA

(sounds like car chase smashed with piano falling down staircase)
\*K^@^&&\_\_! \$^\*N\_\_\_\_H#) -- vitheo
gaame!

Understanding sentiment, Brabus wafts the food delivery package at the string of highway lights behind him.

BRABUS

Are you joking?! Video game? Traffic's super stuck!

The Babushka shakes her fist at Brabus.

BABUSHKA

(in broken English)
Kold fud! No moni!

DOOR SLAMS!

Brabus slumps his head into his phone.

INSERT - SCREEN: A "Food Hero" icon, stamped by a "Mission Aborted" graphic.

TIME LAPSE - Dressed like an action figure stuck on a distant planet, Brabus stands at the door until a million stars fill the sky.

## EXT./INT. QUIET STREET - PARKING SPOT/SUV - NIGHT

CRICKETS CHIRP as Brabus sleeps beside the rejected delivery bag.

A LOUD POUNDING on SUV WINDOW.

Then a flood beam invades the cabin.

Brabus flinches upright.

POLICE

You can't sleep here. This is not a hotel, son.
 (tapping hood of car)
Move along!

## EXT./INT. GAS STATION - FILLING PUMP/CASH REGISTER - NIGHT

The meter stops at "\$311.87."

Brabus tries to pay at the register.

His delivery app says "FUNDS AVAILABLE, \$287.01."

**BRABUS** 

I can pay you back--

The CLERK (19) stares at Brabus' watch.

CLERK

(fury of Asian slang)
Ang'qua! Yamma no'wah!

SUBTITLE: "Ink, or gimme your watch."

Brabus hands over his Rolex -- then sobs in his luxury SUV.

## INT. BRABUS' SUV - BACKSEAT - THE NEXT DAY

INSERT - SCREEN: BLIP! Order thumbnail appears.

Someone has placed an order for baby carrot sticks.

Brabus wakes up.

### EXT. BRICKSTONE MANSION - STAIRCASE/FRONT DOOR - DAY

At the top of a rickety staircase, a DOOR CREAKS open.

An alabaster teenage GIRL in a purple striped leotard, and full avocado mask, peers through a sliver of doorway.

Brabus stares from below as the GATE BUZZES open -- then treks up the steep hobble of stairs. Some steps are missing, others are broken or splintered.

The Girl's hand waits as Brabus arrives -- snatching the bag of baby carrots through the door.

DOOR SLAMS!

Then another hand pokes through the door -- placing a sign: "ROOM FOR RENT."

Through the door crack, an EYEBALL STARES. The same hand grabs Brabus and pulls him inside.

## INT. FZORK RESIDENCE - VESTIBULE - DAY

FZORK (47), a tall, wiry Count, decorated in a striped Italian suit, stares Brabus up and down.

FZORK

(Kharfusian accent)
Hello! Somebody. How can I help
you?

Brabus tries to look inside the residence, but like a cheetah in the jungle, Fzork moves each time to block his view.

BRABUS

I was here for the delivery.

FZORK

Delivery? No, no. I do my own shopping. You must be looking for the room. Come in.

Fzork steps aside, clearing a path for entry.

FZORK

Please, call me Tony. And your name is...?

BRABUS

Brabus --

Fzork leans in, his ear bent and listening --

FZORK

Brabus, who?

**BRABUS** 

Zu.

FZORK

Hmmm, ... ZEE-YOU??

Brabus nods.

Fzork wraps his arm around Brabus and releases him at a pile of dishes.

FZORK

I like you Zu. You can move in. Time for work!

BRABUS

What about the room?

FZORK

Sleep in the middle of the day? Impossible! No, no. Work then sleep. You want big things to happen, work-then-sleep. Ok?

**BRABUS** 

How much, I--

FZORK

Brabus, you ask too many questions. Dinner is not until 6PM.

A big pile of produce sits on the counter.

FZORK

Finish dishes. Straighten pantry. Chop vegetables. Then, I go to market.

Fzork folds his arms and stares.

FZORK

I'm waiting...

The same beautiful Girl, no avocado, BEZELLE NORTHRUP (17), with long legs and a bracelet bag crosses the room -- and vanishes.

BRABUS steals a glimpse.

He SIGHS reluctantly -- then washes the dishes.

FZORK

Ok... Good boy!

#### INT. RESTAURANT - DINING ROOM - DAY

A gaggle of EMPLOYEES STARE from the kitchen, as a WAITER (30) serves Bezelle a final course.

WAITER

And for dessert: cold chicken and waffle soup.

The CHEF (40) peers from a kitchen door -- as Bezelle sniffs, ogles and grimaces.

The Waiter reads Bezelle's smirk and interjects --

WAITER

The soup is served cold.

Bezelle picks up a spoon, dips it in the bowl, lifts it into the air, and lets the soup dribble into itself.

She closes her eyes, inhales and frowns -- before setting the spoon on the table.

A GASP comes from the kitchen!

Bezelle voice-to-texts on her review app, "Bunch-2-Eat!"

INSERT - SCREEN: "Bunny Logo, with 5 carrots. 1M followers."

BEZELLE

(holding phone)

...and then he said, "The soup is supposed to be cold!" Cold chicken and waffle soup?

Bezelle snaps a photo and uploads it to her review.

INSERT - SUPERTITLES (while texting): NRIW (No room in Wonderland) -- then, SPJH (Some people just hallucinate).

BEZELLE

NRIW -- it's not chicken and waffles. "GIGGLE EMOJI." SPJH!

Bezelle posts the dish, rates it the "1 Carrot" icon -- then puts down her phone.

INSERT - SCREEN: Comments start piling onto the app.

"Worst chicken ever."

"Chicken and waffle soup. LOL -- for dessert?!"

"Who eats dessert last!"

Bezelle places a single baby carrot stick, from her bracelet bag, onto the table.

The Waiter throws down his apron, as the Chef pleads in tears at the edge of Bezelle's table. But Bezelle opens her compact mirror to touch up her makeup -- never flinching.

INSERT - RACK FOCUS (from mirror into crowd): Dozens of people staring through the storefront window scurry off, as the line of patrons disperse.

#### INT. PLUMDALE VALLEY - GROCERY STORE - DAY

Baskets and trolleys prodding along shelves and aisles.

Two spray can hair jobs at the register preening.

CUSTOMERS GROAN as CASHIER #1 (32) and CASHIER (29) #2 alternately SWIPE GROCERIES and GAB.

CASHIER #1

And it was on sale, so then she didn't want it. Like it was garbage.

CASHIER #2

(pushing up her updo)
She did what...? I hope you charged her...

CASHIER #1

Right? After I already rang it. Who does that?

CASHIER #2

Next time charge her twice.

GIGGLES followed by barcode BLING.

FURTHER DOWN THE AISLE

Fzork tramples lightly as he curiously peers into ladies' shopping baskets.

ON FZORK - MONTAGE: Behind a shelf. Through a canned goods rack. Staring into shopping baskets.

POV - LADY'S BASKET: Fzork's sparkling eye stares in.

A LADY (42), in tight blue slacks and a conductor-like pillbox visor, reaches on her tippy toes for a top shelf brand, holding onto her trolley.

An item in her trolley catches his eye.

FZORK lurches into the basket and snags it.

He reads the label -- one hand on her trolley, swaying it back and forth.

INSERT - GROCERY LABEL: "Bianca Flurry's Classic Snowball Pudding," with GRAPHIC LOGO of a princess armed with a snowball.

The Lady struggles to keep her balance, her arm stretched across the trolley, barely holding on, as her legs wiggle and wobble.

FZORK

(staring at label; to himself)

I can make that better than Bianca.

Finally, the Lady rips the box from the shelf, flattens her feet -- and catches Fzork red-handed with her grocery item.

LADY

Hey! Give that back to me. Get your hands out of my groceries.

**FZORK** 

Did you pay for it?

LADY

I'm going to call the manager.

FZORK

I was shopping. What are you doing? Almost knocked down entire shelf of groceries.

Fzork returns her item.

FZORK

I was going to invite you to dinner. But now you're yelling at me.

LADY

I was? You're yelling at me.

The Lady stares in shock.

FZORK

Excuse me. Who's yelling at who?

Fzork rips off a piece of the grocery packaging and writes his address on it.

**L'ADA** 

Hey, get your hands off my groceries!

FZORK

Are you coming to dinner? Or are we going to fight about it?

He hands her the note.

Flabbergasted, she snatches it.

INSERT - TORN CARTON: "801 Plum Street, 6PM."

FZORK

Don't be late.

#### INT. FZORK RESIDENCE - KITCHEN - DAY

Fzork enters with a bag of many odd groceries which he drops on the counter.

INSERT - GROCERY BAG: Perched on top is "Plum Tree, Lifestyle Magazine" a local glossy.

FZORK

Brabus? My good friend is coming to dinner, so sparkling, sparkling. Okay...?

Brabus plays video games on his phone in the dining room.

FZORK

Come, Brabus. Video phone game you play forever. Dinner is only once. Empty grocery bag. Chop vegetables, Cook dinner. Set table.

Brabus tracks toward kitchen, eyes on his phone. Fzork snatches his phone.

**BRABUS** 

*Hey...!* 

FZORK

Look... This is kitchen. It has water, fire, refrigerator. And person, me, Tony.

Brabus stares at his phone in Fzork's hand.

Fzork DUNKS it in a fruit bowl, then starts to empty his grocery bag onto the counter.

F7ORK

(making small talk)

Why not fall in love with kitchen? It's just play, Brabus. You make anything. From your head, to the plate. You have better game?

Brabus lifts one eyebrow and smirks like Fzork.

**BRABUS** 

(mocking accent)
"Kitchen is game...?"

Fzork reads cover of magazine from the grocery bag. The photo showcases a winning recipe favored by Plumdale housewives: "Back Porch Chicken and Egg Salad."

FZORK

Ah, ha, ha! You make a joke.

INSERT - COVER CAPTION: "You could win a cooking show!"

F7ORK

What...? Win a cooking show. Uhh, no... That's wrong idea. Brabus, something for free like that. What do you think?

Brabus helps unpack the groceries.

**BRABUS** 

Try it!

FZORK

Why? Free is amazing?

BRABUS

(same mocking accent)

You said, "Kitchen play anytime!"

FZORK

Ok... Very funny. That's not what I said. Kitchen is not playground.

Fzork, not amused, emphatically points to the front door.

**BRABUS** 

Ummm,...okay. Well, you already
have an idea --

Brabus unpacks the groceries into vertical piles. Fzork audits Brabus' impromptu stacks of ingredients, scissors out random letters from each box, and deftly rearranges them like Scrabble letters -- spelling out mysterious recipe ideas: "Don\_ts and gr\_en bea\_s. S\_\_rbet and ha\_m\_urg\_r. Bl\_\_b\_r\_ies and p pc rn."

Brabus, amused, goes into puzzle mode and cuts out more letters to decrypt Fzork's gamified recipe.

FZORK

Oh.... My idea for a show. I like... What is my idea?

**BRABUS** 

You already told me.

FZORK

I did...? Yes. Let me remember... Was it video game cooking show?

Bezelle enters, crosses the room in a flash -- then vanishes.

FZORK

Oh, my darling...!

(to Brabus)

Did you see? She's like strong breeze. Always in a hurry.

Fzork knocks on her door.

FZORK

Darling... We have guest for dinner. Very good friend, okay? Please be ready... Brabus is making dinner!

Reaching into the pantry, Fzork grabs an ancient Kharfusian recipe book, hand-written in Cyrillic.

FZORK

I read, ... you cook!

Brabus winces as Fzork thumbs through cryptic pages.

FZORK

Pizza Meatball... Hamburger Ice Cream... so many choices!

## INT. KITCHEN/DINING ROOM - NIGHT

A knock at the door as Brabus sets the table.

Pots are stewing on the stove.

Fzork moves serving dishes to the table.

FZORK

Coming...!

The same Lady, now as BETTINA -- tight blue slacks, low cut floral tank, with evening hair spun into a trellis of curls -- stands at the door.

FZORK

You're here!

Fzork gazes down the winding staircase to a blue Camaro.

FZORK

(to the Lady)

I thought for sure she is never coming. Then I think, "Maybe she get lost? Or, camel broken...".

LADY

(giggling)

Camel? I don't have camel.

FZORK

But look, here she is.

Fzork motions to enter.

FZORK

My name is Anton Fzork. But, please, call me Tony.

LADY

Bettina--

**FZORK** 

Bette, or Tina? Which one you go by?

BETTINA

You can call me Tina.

Bezelle enters the room taking her place at the dinner table -- her face glowing from the light bouncing off her app.

The sound of PINGS, KERCHINKS, and APPLAUSE raptures Bezelle's attention. For an instant, she side-eyes the dinner guest disapprovingly.

FZORK

No phone, darling...! Dinner is for family. Family is in house. House is not inside phone. Okay...?

Fzork grabs her phone and CHUNKS it in the fruit bowl.

Fzork hangs Bettina's coat by the door.

FZORK

(to Bettina)

She's like chef with eyeballs since baby. One look at food and she knows if it's delicious. Just like her mother. Very special to me.

Fzork kisses his daughter on the forehead. She turns pink.

FZORK

And this is Brabus. He is my very special,... uhh, well, let's say, second baby.

Bettina sits at table.

F7ORK

He's a good boy, but maybe food is terrible. Tonight we find out.

Brabus looks confident as he passes the serving dishes.

Bezelle passes on each dish, leaving her plate empty.

Fzork observes his daughter's gaunt appearance.

FZORK

(to Bezelle)

Why you don't eat?

(to Bettina)

She work all day, and then she come home, and not hungry.

BETTINA

Not everybody eats all the time.

Fzork serves himself.

FZORK

Bettina, I have question. How come nobody eat all the time except cow? Are you saying my daughter should be like cow?

BETTINA

I didn't mean that at all. (to Bezelle)

Did you already eat honey?

FZORK

Cow has four stomachs, daughter has one, so --

Bezelle rolls her eyes.

Fzork stands up abruptly.

FZORK

Oh, no...! I forgot the white wine. Excuse me, I must go to pantry.

#### INT. PANTRY - NIGHT

On a shelf there are candles lit, aromatic incense, next to a white chef coat on a hanger.

Fzork stares into the mirror.

FZORK

You look very handsome tonight.

Next to the mirror, Fzork caresses the Kharfusian cookbook, beside a picture of Marianna, his wife, at a family picnic.

INSERT - PHOTO: Closer in the frame, Bezelle crawls off the picnic blanket, teetering near the edge of a cliff.

Fzork starts crying.

FZORK

Marianna, I'm so sorry. I invited someone to dinner.

Fzork grabs the wine bottle on the shelf next to his wife. His right hand fights with his left.

FZORK

(to himself)

No, please stop! I cannot...

He starts chugging the wine.

In the mirror, he fully transforms into EDO, his alter ego, an imaginary twin brother.

EDO

(his other self)
Even more handsome...

Edo swipes his hair back, dons the chef coat, and chugs more wine. Anton is now merely Edo's reflection in the mirror.

FZORK

Edo, please... You're going to embarrass me. Put back the wine.

Edo shakes the bottle into the mirror, hurling libations at Anton.

EDO

When is the last time you had a good time?!

FZORK

(from the mirror)

The wine is for the table. It's not for you, Edo. Please, don't open bottle in the pantry. It's rude to our guest.

EDO

I'm serving a wine, if I don't try it myself? First I open, drink, and if I like it then we go.

**FZORK** 

Edo, every time you open bottle, you drink like fountain. Please, don't make me worry.

Fzork's dinner jacket is on the floor. Edo takes one last swig and leaves.

## INT. DINING ROOM/KITCHEN - NIGHT

The pantry DOOR SLAMS!

Edo stumbles into the kitchen and fumbles for the wine glasses, until -- GLASS BREAKS.

EDO

Oops...!

Brabus clears dishes and brings dessert to the table.

BETTINA

Oh, dear! I wonder what happened to Tony? I hope he's okay.

BRABUS

Tony made a special dessert for you. He's probably just serving it.

Bezelle looks toward pantry.

BEZELLE

I don't think so....

Edo crashes the party.

EDC

(hugging Bezelle)

Oh,...! My niece is very beautiful! (looking at Bettina)

Who is this?

Bezelle stares doe-eyed.

Brabus looks confused.

Edo looks exactly like Anton, but slicker and more devious.

He sets the near empty wine bottle on the table.

EDO

I don't believe we have met. I'm Edo, from Kharfusia.

BETTINA

Really? Where is that?

EDO

Andalusia, Tunisia, Kharfusia... Don't tell me you don't know.

BETTINA

It sounds wonderful. Car-few-shia!

Edo stalks Bettina from all angles. He takes a sip of wine.

EDO

(uncomfortably close)

Is there a reason you dressed like blueberry?

Bezelle snickers at first, but Edo's face turns sour.

BETTINA

... I beg your pardon?

Bezelle starts laughing uncontrollably, practically sliding out of her seat under the table.

Edo pours the last drop of wine into a glass.

EDO

(poking at Bettina's hair)
And this, your hair? Is it normal?
Looks like Swiss cheese on
rollercoaster.

BETTINA

Who are you? And where is that nice man, Tony?

Brabus places dessert plates on table next to the dessert.

Edo leans across the table. The wine bottle TIPS AND ROLLS...

EDO

Don't worry about Tony. I take care it... He had something to do.

Edo edges closer to Bettina and sips his wine. The BOTTLE CRASHES to floor and keeps ROLLING.

EDO

Listen. This is not right way to dress. It looks cheap, now that I see it close. What is this?

(pointing at her blouse)
Maybe a stain from blueberry pie?

**BETTINA** 

(standing up to Edo) How dare you?!

EDO

Maybe you should go to dry cleaner.

BETTINA

This is a cornflower blue chiffon blouse. 100% silk.

Bettina SLAPS Edo. And runs to grab her coat.

BETTINA

I feel sorry for you. You're rude and you're a terrible host. And since we're not being friendly anymore, the food was terrible!

Brabus is mortified.

Bezelle hurls into ripples of LAUGHTER.

EDO

Oh, please! You dress like dirty blueberry muffin. I hope you don't fall down staircase.

## INT./EXT. FZORK RESIDENCE - VESTIBULE/SIDEWALK - NIGHT

Edo pushes a button by the door that turns the staircase into a water flume that rolls down to the curb.

BETTINA SCREAMS as she tumbles down to the sidewalk.

She ends up in a slosh of water by her car door.

Edo doubles over in laughter at the doorway.

BETTINA

(yelling up to the house; completely soaked)
You're crazy. I'm going to call the police.

**EDO** 

(yelling from staircase)
I already call them. Everybody
knows you came to steal my goose.

BETTINA

You're insane! You know that?! You don't even have a goose.

Edo tosses Bettina's coat down the flume and retracts the stairs.

Bettina wrings out her blouse, shakes off her coat and puts it in the trunk -- then SQUEALS OFF.

## INT. BETTINA'S CAMARO - NIGHT

Despondent and disheveled, Bettina grips the wheel.

BETTINA

You're gonna regret this!
 (talking to herself)
Thinks I drive a camel... Are you kidding me? Blueberry muffin...
What kind of person has a goose?

## INT. DINING ROOM - NIGHT

FRONT DOOR SLAMS!

Edo stumbles into the panty.

EDO

Now we have party!

Brabus, still sulking from the insult, double doses on dessert.

**BRABUS** 

(to Bezelle)

Is something wrong? Did I do something?

BEZELLE

Tony doesn't stay here all the time. He's um--

FZORK crawls in through a window in the kitchen, holding a brown bag.

FZORK

Anybody...? I'm back! We were out of white wine. Is everything okay?

Fzork unbags the bottle of wine and sits at the table.

FZORK

Two minutes, I was at grocery store, and now everybody go home.

Brabus stares in disbelief.

FZORK

Brabus, check sprinkler tomorrow. On sidewalk big puddle of water.

Fzork looks under the dining room table.

FZORK

What happened to the Lady? I made her favorite, Snowball Pudding.

**BRABUS** 

It's delicious.

**FZORK** 

Darling, put the white wine in the pantry for me. Next to your mother's picture.

BEZELLE

I'm going to sleep dad.

Bezelle locks herself in her room. The wine bottle at the empty table, catches a beam of light escaping the pantry.

Behind Bezelle's door we can hear a SOFT SOBBING.

FZORK

Brabus, please, put wine on shelf.

#### INT. PANTRY - NIGHT

Brabus enters the shrine of Marianna. Next to the Kharfusian cookbook he sets the wine bottle on the shelf -- then stares into the family photo.

BRABUS' POV - As his eyes move across the photo, he observes a foot at the edge of the frame, the baby almost at the edge of a cliff, and a woman about to scream for her baby's life.

A BEAM OF LIGHT crosses the photo.

Brabus reacts. On the wall, the GLOWING silhouette of a GOLDEN FORK flickers -- its presence like a floating candle light, which HOVERS -- and can SPARKLE into a laser beam.

Brabus traces its origin down the wall, and through a crack in the floor boards until -- HE IS BLINDED.

The fleeting glow vanishes. For a moment, the GHOST IMAGE of a golden fork stays in his vision.

As Brabus tries to find the door, a faint MACHINATION and RUMBLE can be heard coming from below.

## INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Fzork gets out the mattress and puts it over the sink. Two SWAN NECK FAUCETS poke through the mattress in the middle.

FZORK

Which side you sleep on?

Brabus takes the left.

**BRABUS** 

You still want to make that cooking show?

FZORK

Yes, but later. I missed dinner again and I'm already in pajamas.

Possessed by a sudden confidence, Brabus gives Fzork a pudding bowl and frames the shot.

**BRABUS** 

Hold this....

FZORK

What...? No, no...

**BRABUS** 

Now lean on the mattress, closer... Okay, perfect!

FZORK

(to tired to fight)

Brabus...

Brabus RECORDS on his phone.

BRABUS

Now tell me how you made it...

FZORK

Me, now...? You want recipe?

Brabus nods in approval.

INSIDE THE CAMERA FRAME:

FZORK

(holding bowl up)
Better than Bianca's Snowball
Pudding. First you put coconut in a
bowl. Then smash ice cream in ball.
Put ball inside cake! Then cake
inside bowl. Click here if good.

Fzork points one finger to the ceiling.

BACK TO ROOM

Brabus stops filming and hits send.

FZORK

Ok...?

**BRABUS** 

Got it! I put it on the internet.

FZORK

Night, night, Brabus! No more talking.

Fzork turns out the light and pulls the covers over his head.

Brabus gets on the other side of bed and tucks in.

The GOLDEN LIGHT now seems to be coming from inside the Snowball Pudding, perched on the kitchen counter -- right beside Brabus' phone.

INSERT - PHONE SCREEN: "Zero likes, zero shares."

As Fzork SNORES, Brabus rolls over to check his phone and SMACKS HIS HEAD on the swan neck faucet.

#### BRABUS

OW . . . !

Fzork muffles his head into a pillow and accidentally levers the swan neck faucet with his elbow -- into LOW GEAR.

Suddenly, Brabus' side of the mattress collapses -- and he FALLS FIFTY FEET past the kitchen sink into the basement.

The mattress returns to it's normal position.

#### INT. FZORK RESIDENCE - BASEMENT - NIGHT

A collapsed Brabus lies passed out on the floor.

At the far end of the basement an ASSEMBLY LINE PLINKS and PLUNKS.

On the CONVEYOR BELT, a rainbow colored GOOP is spit out of a robotic TUBE, shaped by a mold into an ORB -- then kissed with a crosshatch pattern by an illuminated GOLDEN FORK.

INSERT - CANDY ORB: a CLEF NOTE imprinted onto a perfectly round confection.

Further down the assembly line, the confection gets wrapped and put in a box labeled: "General Y's Musical Confection." Each candy wrapper bearing the image of a musical note.

Somebody drags Brabus' body across floor -- and out the basement door.

#### EXT. FZORK RESIDENCE - BACKYARD - NIGHT

Outside on the lawn, under a sliver of moon, a small piece of candy is tucked into Brabus' pajama pocket.

The candy PINGS and VIBRATES, then goes guiet.