

Interview 3: Max

Emily: Alright guys, just a quick thing before I bring Max on: I'm kind of freaked out, to be real. I was very adamant about this and I still am, but this is kind of freaking me out. Teresa didn't really give us any reason to think this guy is dangerous but he's for sure weird and holy cow.

(pause)

Okay, I'm going to bring him on call and we're going to get through this. I know you guys aren't actually here but talking to the microphone like you are is weirdly helpful for some reason. Like in Blair Witch (beat) Great comparison.

(more pause)

Emily: Hello and welcome, I'm here with Max.

Max: Hi.

Emily: Max is one of the very few residents of Tortilla Flat.

Max: Yep.

Emily: For those of you that don't know, which is most of you, I assume, that's actually a pretty important distinction considering it's a town of 6 people. An Arizona gem.

(pause)

Emily: Anyway, Max, as we know, was a friend of Rose's before she disappeared. We've interviewed a couple friends thus far so. Max, how long did you know Rose.

Max: Not long. Couple of weeks.

Emily: How did you meet?

Max: Internet forum, like everyone these days.

(awkward pause)

Emily: Right.

Max: She was interested in my website.

Emily: Weird in the Wilderness?

Max: Yeah.

Emily: What does it cover?

Max: All sorts of strange and unexplained things that happened out here. And still happen. Things the market controlled media won't talk about.

Emily: Such as?

Max: There's a ton, you can check the site for details. Did you want what Rose specifically was interested in?

Emily: I have a guess it has something to do with the fabled goldmine in the mountain?

Max: Not fabled, but yeah.

Emily: How'd that interest pop up?

Max: Not really sure. I know she's a big hiker, she seemed already pretty into it when she met me.

Emily: And you had info she didn't?

Max: Yeah. I've spent years compiling all sorts of stuff.

Emily: Details for this will be on my blog, by the way, guys. But how did your interactions go?

Max: We met a few times in Goldfield because it was a good halfway point between her and me. Ate at the tourist trap saloon. Eventually we started meeting up at my place.

Emily: Why?

Max: It's where all my research is.

Emily: How many times did she come over?

Max: Must have been three times a week before I stopped seeing her altogether.

Emily: And what did you discuss?

Max: My research, like I said. The truth they're hiding out in the mountains.

Emily: The truth?

Max: The trail to that goldmine is a bloodbath. Have you heard of the sniper theory?

Emily: Uh, no.

Max: Well it's common knowledge there's guardians in the mountains. That part is fact.

Emily: Right.

Max: After that it depends on what school of thought you subscribe to, for me, it's the sniper theory.

Emily: A sniper?

Max: Not like an actual sniper. But someone put there, long ago, to take shots at people who get to close. They kind of watch from afar, judge if you're worthy. The position gets handed off to different generations. I warned Rose about it.

Emily: You think somebody...

Max: Yeah. She was on a good track with the goldmine. We had some good evidence, but I told her not to go out looking. No one is allowed to find it. That mountain is ancient and before Walz and the Peraltas it belonged to the Apaches, you can't mess with this stuff.

Emily: You think she's actually dead?

Max: I do.

Emily: Have you spoken with the police at all?

Max: No.

Emily: Why not?

Max: Last time I saw her was two weeks before she went missing. No one came asking me about anything so I assumed other people saw her before she left.

Emily: Not that we know of.

Max: Well, that's rough. I can say she was talking about taking the Terrapin Trail and then veering off, towards Weaver's Needle.

Emily: That outcropping figures in a lot of Dutchman lore.

Max: It's like the mountain's antenna. Lots of things happen there, lots of people talk about it.

Emily: So you warned Rose?

Max: Yeah, she got very kind of deranged by the end of it. She'd show up at my house without warning, read over stuff for hours. Then one day I told her to leave and that was that.

Emily: And this is all true?

Max: I wouldn't say it otherwise.

Emily: Right. Max do you have anything else you can give us you think we should know?

Max: Not really, except to be careful looking for her. If she got close enough to the gold that the guardians had to do something about it, they'd probably go for anyone looking for her too.

Emily: Thank you. This is Emily signing off on this very informative interview.