

Season 2, Episode 8:  
“Camo Hell”  
Transcription

{{Sound Cues}}

—

{{Strumming guitar music starts}}

Ivy Le, narrating:

I spent this whole season trying to figure out how to go hunting. For so long, I wasn't sure I would get to do it even once! But now I've got two hunts to get ready for (Ivy laughs) and the first one is in 24 hours. We've got a lot to do today, but I think we'll get it done. I'm a mom of two young. Which means every day of my life is like running a small nation.

Even on the day I went into *labor* with my second kiddo, I was able to squeeze in a coffee date with my first born and his daycare's annual Halloween party. I had made myself a cozy Gudetama costume. Gudetama is a depressed egg yolk in the Sanrio universe. The yolk was my baby bump. I didn't want to make a costume the month I was due, but ready-made maternity costumes are sooo dehumanizing. Like (cheugy voice:) “bun in the oven!” I'm at the juiciest I've ever been in my entire life, and you wanna make me a square appliance on the holiest day of the slut calendar? No.

So I went to my kids' Halloween party, and it was the only time I got to wear the costume I'd made. The other parents are like, “Hey, how you doing?” And I'm like, “Oh, I'm in labor.” and they're like, “Oh shit.” You know, they've all been through it. It's not like the movies, you don't have to rush *immediately* to the hospital. But I did leave halfway through the party because yeah, I- I was in labor. I didn't wanna be stuck on the road when it got too hard to drive. And everything was fine!

I stayed as long as I could. I got to savor the time with my first born, before his life completely changed. I got to wear the costume that I made. And I still birthed a healthy baby too. What's that day extra chaotic because I was trying to get it all in? Yeah, but to keep it in perspective, every day since has been with two small children.

I'll be like on a Zoom meeting, making dinner, and then one kid wants to “help cook”. Another kid is crying about “math”. Both kids need to be fed, bathed, educated, cuddled, and convinced to sleep in the next two hours— and that's every night, after work, and before I go do standup somewhere. My life just has a baseline of chaos. And I'm here for it. Or at least, I try to be as present for it as I can.

{{Guitar strums stop}}

{{FOGO Theme Music starts}}

Ivy Le, narrating (cont.):

This is my second big outdoor adventure. After reverse colonizing a whole state park last season for FOGO, I feel less stressed over all the last minute stuff this time. I'm just gonna ride the chaos, like I do in my city life all the time.

I am Ivy Le, with one E, and this is *FOGO: Fear of Going Outside*, a nature show by the most reluctant host ever. Today I'm taking you with me for all the last minute prep.

{{FOGO Theme Music stops}}

Ivy Le, narrating:

At last, my persistence and Southern charm have won the day.

{{Metallic sci-fi action music starts}}

Ivy Le, narrating (cont.):

Last week, I met Kevin, a rich, landed white man, who agreed to let me come hunt on his property sometime. Then I met Barbara, a hot bi mom, personal chef, and hunter, at her go-to gun range. She showed me how to shoot, and I showed her that she was ready to be a hunting mentor all along. And she agreed to be *my* hunting mentor. We're working on scheduling this gun hunt with Barbara ASAP, before it gets any hotter out here. But so far we can't find a day that works for everyone yet.

Meanwhile, Josh, the guy who sold me my compound bow, has been trying to help us find a place to hunt too. And this week, he said he could take us hog hunting on a friend's property, like *tomorrow*, while the landowner is out of town! I just have to pay a small land lease fee, but it's for sure the friends and family rate.

So today we are going to get last minute supplies for the bow hunt with Josh tomorrow, and also a future gun hunt with Barbara, date TBD. My car is suddenly not working, so Myrriah Gossett, FOGO's fearless producer, has to pick me up at the car shop.

Myrriah lives on the south side of Austin, Texas. I live on the north side. Josh's store is on the far west side, and we need to go there first for final adjustments to my bow.

{{Music stops}}

Josh Rickman, at Sportsman's Finest:

Have you been practicing?

Ivy, responding:

Uh, one time.

Josh:  
One time?

Ivy:  
One time. And then I did a lot of internet research and, like, manifesting.

Josh:  
I want to make sure that I give you the best chance to get one.

Ivy:  
Okay.

Josh:  
I don't know if you will. Um, that's huntin'. There's no guarantee at all.

Ivy: I mean, that's life, honey.

Ivy Le, narrating:  
When I went to practice at an archery range, some folks volunteered their doubts that I could kill something with my bow. At least at the poundage it was set to.

{{Metallic percussive beat begins}}

Ivy Le, narrating (cont.):  
Poundage, or draw weight, is the amount of force it takes to draw the bow back. I've heard a lot of people say it's gotta be at least 40 pounds to kill anything, but it's a little more complicated than that because physics. The draw weight is a big factor of course. But so is the weight of the arrow, the accuracy of the archer, the distance between the predator and the prey, and the shape and surface area of the arrow tip.

Josh, at Sportsman's Finest:  
All right. Let's see what you are pulling, weight wise. 27.8. I remembered.

Ivy:  
27.8 is my poundage, okay.

Josh:  
That's what you're currently at. Let's get you up. Let's try about 32.

Ivy:  
Oh, I thought we were just gonna take me up to, like 30. All right, let's go. (Ivy giggles.)

Josh:  
You won't notice too much.

Ivy:  
(Very casual:) Won't notice it? Alright.

Ivy Le, narrating:  
Josh increases my draw weight, which actually made it *easier* for me to shoot, by spreading the work evenly across both sides of my body. And he switches out my practice arrow tips to broadheads. Broadheads are basically knives at the tip of my arrows, so I can stab my prey at high speed from a safe distance away.

Josh, at Sportsman's Finest:  
No, I'm gonna give you these.

Ivy, responding:  
Oh, okay.

Josh:  
'Cause I don't know if Academy has these.

Ivy:  
Oh, okay.

Josh:  
And, uh, ethically, I would much rather you shoot these, so...

{{A bow string squeaks}}

Ivy:  
Okay.

Josh,  
This, uh, I'll, I'll cover this. Don't worry. These are gonna be y'all's to use.

Ivy:  
But why? Why do you mean ethically you would rather us shoot these?

Josh:  
So you are shooting lower poundage, right?

Ivy:  
Mm-hmm.

Josh:

– you had some people at the range bring that up, like, “Oh, 27. You can't kill things with it.” You can, okay? But your arrow set up needs to tailor for that, okay? In momentum, the equation for momentum, right? It's mass times velocity. So, we can either get you more velocity, i.e.

poundage, or we can make a heavier arrow and accomplish, in essence the same thing: more momentum, thus more energy into the target. Does that make sense?

Ivy:

Mm-hmm.

Josh:

So with yourself–

Ivy:

So, we've just increased my poundage, but we're making a smaller arrow?

Josh:

We're making a smaller surface area point.

Ivy:

Okay.

Josh:

So less resistance from friction. Make sense?

Ivy:

Yeah. Okay.

{{Hip-bop beat starts quietly}}

Josh:

Okay, so let's get these on. These are honestly awesome because frankly, I'm gonna be y'all's huntin' guy, I don't want to taste a pig through the night for like three hours because we didn't hit it right.

(Ivy and Josh laugh.)

Ivy Le, narrating:

We go out back to their archery range to test drive my bow on a foam life-sized pig target. Between Josh's adjustments and the Hello Kitty finger placement customizations I made, I am killing it, y'all. Which is good because I have literally no time left to practice. Josh gives me a rundown of what I still need to get, and we get the hell out of there.

Josh, at Sportsman's Finest:  
Get a cooler.

Ivy, responding:  
How big does it mean to be?

Josh:  
45 to 60 quart.

Myrriah (FOGO's producer), responding:  
Do you need anything to hoist it?

Josh:  
No, we can process on the ground. Uh, I'll bring the range finder. I have binoculars. I'll bring the lights, if y'all wanna just bring like a headlamp or something. Okay. I bring a little backpack with a couple of just essential things: snacks, water, toilet paper— sometimes nature calls while you're out there—, gloves— like latex gloves for when we clean the animal—, if you have a little sharpening stone for your knife. Mainly honestly, I just have snacks. That's the majority of what's in my bag besides a a knife.

Ivy:  
Also majority of my bag.

Josh:  
I think that's gonna be about it though.

Ivy:  
No, that's a good list.

Myrriah:  
Yeah.

{{Quiet hip-bop beat stops}}

Ivy Le, narrating:  
We're gonna go meet Josh at his place a few hours before sunset tomorrow. Right now, Myrriah and I have to head back up north for supplies. Josh's store is a little pricey, in a very wealthy part of town, so we are meeting our next guest at Academy Sports, in a regular neighborhood. We pull into Academy Sports, stuffing our faces with Sonic burgers and slushies, with the Nerds on them, when fucking Asian Ruby Rose pulls past us in a giant pickup truck. Then the driver steps out of the truck, dressed like an extra on the movie Top Gun, and she starts walking straight towards us. I was like, "Hey Myrriah, why do you think this unreasonably attractive person is walking towards us right now?" And Myrriah's like, "Oh, that's our guest today, Jess!"  
{{Quick flute notes play, wind blows}}

Jess Saddington, at Academy Sports:

My name is Jess Saddington. I am a newer hunter, and I did a hog hunt this last year and bagged seven hogs.

Ivy Le, narrating:

(Screaming:) That's our guest today!? (Not screaming:) Do you ever have a coworker tell you something in a meeting as if you were already supposed to know, so you make a mental note to check your emails when you get back to your desk and see if they really had sent you the info?

Well, I checked, and Myrriah had not! I don't normally want to objectify our guests...

{{Sexy piano music starts}}

Ivy Le, narrating (cont.):

Well, except for Adam, the smoking hot therapist in season one... Oh, uh, Hot Asian REI Brian too, season one, episode four, who can forget? And, well, I guess there's Barbara, the hot bi mom, with the guns... Look, I have eyes, okay? I'm just reporting to you what I see. Because it is literally my job, okay!? Back to Jess, our unreasonably attractive guest, who owns a bar and bagged *seven* hogs in one hunting trip.

{{Piano music stops}}

Jess, at Academy Sports:

Like, I really got into guns because, uh... mostly because I wanted to learn how to shoot. I thought it would be a practical skill. Um, and then after January 6th, I was like, well, I live in Texas and everybody else knows how to use a gun, so, maybe I should too? I'm more of an all or nothing person. Um—

Ivy, responding:

I get that.

Jess:

So, you know, it's either—

Ivy:

Mm-hmm.

Jess:

— nothing at all, or 110%. And went the 110% (Jess laughs) with firearms—

Ivy:

Uh-huh.

Jess:

– and firearm safety.

Ivy:

Um,

Ivy: well, how do you progress? Because, um, we've talked to some gun folks, um, and they're- they're- most of 'em are not hunters. In fact, less than 10% of Texans are hunters.

Jess:

I did not know that.

Ivy:

So most gun people are not hunters. So how did you personally go from just, you know, handguns to being like, oh, I think I'll actually try to do hunting.

Jess:

I- you know what, I'm not sure. I think it was first time I shot a rifle. I was like, well, you know, are you just gonna go to the range and shoot at targets all day with a rifle? Or, you know, why have this high powered, you know, firearm if you're not gonna actually use it to get food. Yeah, that, I don't know. That was the natural step. And I have a friend of mine who- he- I don't think he had been hunting before, but I do know some guys that do hunt and, you know, they're cis, hetero, white males–

Ivy:

Mm-hmm.

Jess:

–uh, because that is, I would think, the demographic of most hunters in Texas.

Ivy:

I mean, you're the hunter, you tell me. Is it, does that sound right?

Jess:

When I went to the hunting ranch? Yeah. (Jess laughs.) Yeah. I was the only female, and I was the only person of color, so...

Ivy:

Woah. The two-fer.

Jess:



Yeah. But they were, uh, super chill dudes. I wasn't expecting any weirdness or anything, and there definitely wasn't any, and everybody was... it was a- it felt pretty inclusive, at least where I went.

Ivy Le, narrating:

Jess is going to lend me her experience as I go through the store, figuring out what I need to buy, versus what I don't.

{{Dreamy string music starts}}

Ivy Le, narrating (cont.):

We're greeted by someone from the corporate office because Nicole, the hunting and fishing editor we met in episode three, made good on her offer to help in any way she could from Montana. She put us in touch with Academy Sports, and they sent Steve Lum as their rep to the store today, with a gift certificate!

Steve Lum, at Academy Sports:

Hey! But this is also for you!

Ivy, responding:

Oh, awesome.

Steve:

You got \$500 to Academy.

Ivy, super excited:

(Guttural voice:) OHHHH, Jess, I'm treatin' you. I'm treatin' you, homie!! (Ivy giggles.)

Steve:

Yeah.

Ivy:

It's so meaningful to me that an Asian man handed this to me.

Steve:

Yeah, I think it's really awesome!

Ivy:

You're just, like—

Jess:

Meaningful for people!

Ivy:

For the people.

Jess:

Meaningful to me as well.

Ivy:

For the people. Happy AAPI heritage Month (Ivy laughs.)

Steve:

—yes, AAPI baby, all the way.

Ivy:

Steve's also Vietnamese. So today, we are three Asian Americans spending some corporation's money together. Our ancestors wildest dreams come true. You won't hear much from Steve, but he's pushing the cart around while Jess and I shop the whole time. Steve's objectives today are: make sure we sign a release form, don't say something illegal about guns, and to subtly steer us to Academy's house brands, like Magellan!

{{Bouncy fun TV commercial music plans}}

Ivy Le, in her best commercial voice (which, speaking as her agent, she is available for): There's nothing quite like adventuring with Magellan Outdoors. It's the Kirkland Brands of outdoor gear. Pretty good for the price and a safe bet for the avid indoors-person who wants to go outside *just this one time*.

{{TV Shopping music stops}}

Ivy Le, narrating:

I've been keeping a running shopping list since the beginning of this quest. Like Don, the hunting guide, said, I need a hat. I need a way to preserve all that meat when I get home, victorious, of course. I also gotta look for bullets for the gun that Barbara's gonna lend me. She said that their hearts are fine, but we do have some time before hunting with her. Josh said this morning that hunting is mostly snacks. I'll just handle the snacks at the Hong Kong Supermarket by my house later. And Jess thinks I should get a spare gun, which wasn't on my list, but I'm inclined to listen to her... because I'm very superficial and she's a very attractive person, in case you forgot.

Jess, at Academy Sports:

I would highly recommend, you know, this isn't completely necessary, but if you're doing like a walk and stock thing, sometimes you come up on things, and they'll charge you. They're, they can be really aggressive.

Ivy, responding:

So what, should I get an armor?

Jess:

(Jess laughs.) No, I was gonna say, do you have a side arm? Um, because when...

Ivy:

I have, I have just these two arms.

Jess:

Okay. (Jess laughs.) Just, you know, worst case scenario, I would, I would assume you're not actually going to be walking around too much and coming up and surprising, like, some hogs because they- they will charge you. It's- it's not great.

Ivy:

Are you saying I need to buy a gun today?

Jess:

You don't- you don't need to buy a gun. (Ivy laughs in relief \$\$\$) But I, I was just, I was just saying-

Ivy:

(Laughing nervously:) We just got here, Jess! We just met, Jess!

Jess:

Maybe be careful. (Jess laughs.) : I know, right?

Ivy, sarcastically:

I'm so enthusiastic about it.

Jess:

You don't need one, depending on what kind of huntin' you're doing. If you're- if you're going at night, and you're mainly staying in blinds, it's probably not gonna happen. But there have been instances where people have been charged, even inside of a blind, but that I did not experience any of that.

{{Creepy string music underscores}}

Jess, at Academy Sports:

The closest I got was, well, maybe it was like- maybe 175 pound hog just bolting that way. Um, somebody else had taken a shot in this and it came bolting towards my direction.

Ivy:

What if I just like, I don't know, criticize it? Will it, just like run away?

Jess:

(Jess laughs.) Unlike a toxic relationship (Jess laughs), um, not necessarily. No.

{{Quick hip-hop electronic drumbeat starts}}

Ivy Le, narrating:

I don't buy a handgun. I text Josh and he says he's bringing his. I held off on shopping for supplies because I needed to know what weather and environmental conditions to prepare for. South Texas, for example, I've been told by several military veterans, is some of the most hostile terrain on earth. Josh's friend's place, where we're bow hunting, and Kevin's ranch are both in Central Texas Hill country. Not as pokey as South Texas, but it is the time of year when rattlesnakes come out to mate, which is wonderful, fucking wonderful.

{{Rattlesnake rattle}}

Ivy Le, narrating (cont.):

Also, Josh is going to mentor this bow hunt, and he's bringing his pop-up blind. It's basically a camo tent. If I were going alone, I'd probably have to buy my own blind, as very few places are as nicely outfitted as Kevin's ranches. Knowing these details keeps me from stress-buying for every possible scenario. In fact, I'm pretty confident we can get out of here today with money *left over* on the gift card.

I do wish I'd had more than a day's notice, but I should have known. People out here in the country don't like to make hard and fast appointments too far in advance. As for weather, we are at Academy Sports in May in Texas. And it is hot and humid, and a lot of hunting gear is designed for deer hunts in the winter! And because it's way past hunting season, there's hardly any hunting inventory left at most retailers.

No one in their right mind is going out to hunt hogs right now! Kevin told me your meat could spoil before you can get it out of the field, it's so hot. Everyone else *but me* is switching to fishing for the summer. We don't have a lot of choices. And we don't have a lot of time.

{{Drumbeat stops, and string tones start}}

Jess:

We're walking by archery.

Ivy:

Uh, I could use a guard for the left boob.

Jess:

Left boob guard...

Ivy:

You guys got- you guys got anything for the left boob?

Ivy Le, interjecting via narration:  
They did not have a chest guard.

Ivy:  
What is this? Why is- why do you have like a camel pencil case?!

Jess:  
(Trying hard not to laugh:) This for your shotgun shells.

Ivy:  
Nevermind. (Jess laughs.) Nevermind.

Ivy Le, interjecting via narration:  
Jess's expertise is already paying off! We go over to the back wall that's just got shelves and shelves, all the way up to the ceiling, filled with coolers.

Ivy:  
Looks like you can even measure in quarts, liters or "number of cans." (Ivy laughs.) So like this one's 110 quarts, 104 liters, or 168 cans. I don't know what the can measurement is. Do you know what you're- you own a bar? What's the like 110 pound pig? How many cans is that? (Ivy laughs.)

Jess:  
I was saying 110 pound pig, you're gonna end up getting like, you know, maybe 50 pounds of meat, if not less, depending on what you're taking and how well you clean it.

Ivy Le, narrating:  
I do get a bright orange Magellan cooler. It's the mid-price model at \$200, making it the most expensive cooler I've ever owned. But it'll look nice at parties and keep a hog cool overnight. We go to the spices and food aisle next.

Ivy, at Academy Sports:  
Ah, this is the aisle that made me be like, "Oh, academy sports is, uh, thinking of me."

Jess:  
Oh my gosh. FoodSaver has a camo one- (Jess cracks up.)

Ivy:  
What?

Jess:  
That there's a- a camo... There's a camo vacuum sealer.

Jess:

Yeah. I actually have a FoodSaver vacuum sealer. And uh, um, my buddy and I vacuum sealed all that meat in, like, two hours. And just ran it constantly, and it worked really well.

Ivy:

I didn't know how much vacuum sealers cost, so I'm not keen to spend \$170 on one, but—

Jess:

That one's fine.

Ivy:

In this case, for some reason, I *am* drawn to the vac- the camo vacuum sealer I am. (Ivy laughs incredulously.) I am charmed by the camo!

Jess:

The longer you spend looking at hunting things, the more open you'll become to camo, Ivy. Trust me.

Ivy Le, narrating:

Jess is very pro-camo. She was the most effusive I'd seen her when we got to the apparel section of the store. Don, the hunting guide, challenged me to bring classical sexy back to hunting. Jess on the other hand, has bought so much men's woodland camo here, she has an Academy Sports credit card.

{{Bouncy fun TV commercial music plays}}

Ivy Le, in her BEST commercial voice. It's REALLY GOOD. Available for booking:

The Academy Sports credit card gives you 5% off every purchase, so you never pay full price! Plus free shipping for all orders over \$15 from [academysports.com](http://academysports.com).

Ivy, at Academy Sports! will give you two chances to dress me. (Ivy laughs.)

Jess:

Oh yeah?

Ivy:

Yeah.

Jess:

Okay.

Ivy:

I will give you two chances to dress me– I have– without me arguing. I would let- I would like put it on.

Jess:

Mm-hmm.

Ivy:

And really like, open my mind.

Jess:

We're working with a limited inventory here, so...

Ivy:

Okay.

Jess:

They- I- I was talking to Steve earlier, and they used to have, like, the whole back area. It was just like tons of hunting gear. But since we're in the off season...

Ivy:

Okay.

Jess:

Um, it's, it'll be a little more pick and choose-y. So let's- let's see what they have!

Ivy:

Okay. All right, Jess. I'm putting my life in your hands.

Jess:

It's gonna be, like, head to toe camo. This is gonna be great. (Ivy giggles.) It's gonna be awesome. You're gonna love the way you look. It's gonna be like Men's Warehouse, but with camo.

Ivy:

I think we were about to find out why they never sold a Queer Eye show with five lesbians.

(Jess cracks up.)

Ivy Le, narrating:

Jess fills the cart with various camo prints. Some have maple leave, some look like just sticks. I never noticed how different hunter camo prints are from each other, but you can't not notice when they're clashing next to each other in a cart. And then, someone attractive, who you would prefer to impress, asks you to put them on all at the same time.

{{Funky electronic keyboard music starts}}

Ivy Le, narrating (cont.):

Jess picked out some hats too. Some are trucker hats, some are safari hats, some are fisherman's hats. I think we're trying on half the hats in this store. Yes, photos will be on Instagram, but I will probably not be posting to my personal profile because they're UGLY!

Ivy, at Academy Sports:

So I found these large- I would have to hem them.

Jess, responding:

Yeah, let's try 'em out.

Ivy:

These leaves are, I don't know... I- I have floral pants. These are as close to floral pants as...

Jess:

Let's try those out.

Ivy, not happy about it:

Okay.

Jess:

So this is the fitted look.

Ivy:

I look like I'm gonna go fight a war in South Carolina.

Jess:

This is fantastic. (Ivy laughs.) This is perfect. This, yeah? I think we're good! (Ivy cracks up. Ivy wheezes.) If you have those boots on, yeah, those you'd be, yeah. This is- this is, uh- yeah. This might be it.

Ivy:

(Ivy laaaughs.) Is it?

Jess:

Try the other hat. Where's the other hat?

Ivy:

Okay. All right. Yeah, yeah. Maybe it's just the hat.

Jess:



Yeah...

Ivy:

Maybe it's, maybe it's just the hat.

Ivy Le, narrating:

For the second look, we toned down the camo in favor of just solid nature colors, but that made me look like a giant overripe olive. So Jess had her chance as my stylist, and her free reign is over.

{{Funky electronic keyboard music stops}}

Ivy Le, narrating (cont.):

I do keep some marshy camo slacks, a mesh hat that makes me look like a nature show host from down under, and a green fishing shirt, which I know will work in the hot weather.

{{Western whistling music plays}}

Ivy, narrating:

Jess says, I need shoes. Every outdoor person has said, I need closed toed shoes, which I hate. Especially in the summer. But also right now, I really do need snake boots, as in boots that snakes cannot bite through. Not gorgeous vintage snake skin boots.

I try to give Jess a better idea of what I'm going for, as she leads me by racks of demoralizing brown and even some pink camo boots "for women". I spot a pair of knee-high Kevlar snake boots that look like brown riding boots for a royal on weekend. There are only two left, neither of them in my size, and you can hear me trying to get one on as we talk.

{{Kevlar boot squeaks}}

Ivy, at Academy Sports:

I have been challenged by a, uh, international hunting guide to ironically reclaim colonialization, (Ivy laughs.) Like imperial hunting fashion (Ivy laughs), and bring sexy back to hunting. (Ivy zips a boot.)

Jess, responding:

I mean, I think that's been a goal of a lot of, uh, hunting brands already.

Ivy:

(Ivy laughs.) Oh, really?

Jess:

Yeah.

Ivy:

By- and how would... what has indicated that to you? (Ivy laughs.)

Jess:

Uh, if you go to like Cabela's or Bass Pro, there's like a lot of-

Ivy:

Whoops. (Jess laughs.) Okay, yeah, this is not gonna get up my leg.

Jess:

There's a lot of, uh, there's a lot of, uh, women's stuff. They have very, uh, very nice Photoshop pictures of women in full makeup, but doing hunting things, you know.

Ivy:

I don't think maybe- maybe that sexy is different than what I mean by sexy. Like, sexy by whose standards? Okay, let's try this. (Boot noises.) So the challenge is not my foot, because we're trying to protect against snakes and stuff. (Velcro.) The challenge is my corpulent calves. I have- these do feel like they're not gonna be too hot, actually. Oh, wow. (Struggling) Okay. Okay, but they're never gonna zip up.

Jess,

You know, an option- another option for you might be something that's like mid-calf or just above your ankles.

Ivy:

Okay. But like, how cute would I look if these zipped up all the way to my knees... Like, really cute.

Jess:

I do like this.

Ivy:

Yeah. Yeah, like in theory. But like I don't- they don't like me. And because they're this high tech fabric, there's no give around my calf. (Grappling the boot:) Ugh. Oh my god. Oh my god. This is like that. The scene before, like a bride's wedding.

Jess:

You don't wanna be super uncomfortable in them either, because you're gonna be out doing a lot of physical activity. (The boots squeak.) So I would recommend.

Ivy:

Ahh! Just shut up and help me zip 'em! C'mon!

Jess:

And maybe you can just- alright. Here we go. Here we go. Okay.

(Ivy does short hissing breaths.)

Jess:

Okay. Okay. There we are.

Ivy:

Okay.

Jess:

Can you still feel your ankle?

Ivy:

Um.....

{{A disappointing bass-y note plays}}

Ivy Le, narrating:

These boots hardly fit and they cost \$120, but I'm getting them. I will never find a pair of snake proof closed-toed shoes I hate less in the next 24 hours... (Ivy inhales.) But I'm starting to worry that we've maxed out the \$500 gift certificate. \$500 really just covers these boots, the cooler and the vacuum sealer, plus tax.

{{Metallic sci-fi drumbeat starts}}

Ivy Le, narrating (cont.):

We also have a large water bottle for sangria to share with Chef Barbra, a little brown stool for relaxed squatting in the blind– it looks like an all weather prayer stool. I found a pocket whetstone to sharpen knives in the field, which Josh recommended. We got Myrriah a buck knife because producers really do need to be prepared for anything. And I got some mosquito repellent diffuser for the blind and spray for my clothes.

Ivy, at Academy Sports:

The total was... \$926.49. Thank god we got hooked up.

Cashier:

All right, and \$426.49.

Ivy:

Balance here.

Cashier:

Is that a gift card?

Ivy:  
Credit card?

Cashier:  
Credit card?

Ivy:  
Credit card.

Cashier:  
And you just go ahead and insert.

Ivy Le, narrating:  
I am dumbfounded. That was nearly a grand! And I didn't even buy a gun! Even a FIVE HUNDRED DOLLAR gift certificate wasn't enough. At a store that's supposed to be affordable! In a regular neighborhood! With another frugal Asian American shopping with me! And I still have to get snacks for everybody.

After spending an insane amount of money on something I'm *not* that excited to do, Myrriah drops me off at the auto shop to pick up my car, and I pay for my very expensive car repair. I. feel. poor. I want to immediately go save some money. I wanna go make rice and soy sauce for dinner. I wanna go refill an empty shampoo bottle with water for another week, but I can't.

I have a comedy show to go do tonight, so I decide to try out the clothes I bought and road test this outfit in downtown Austin. I have this monthly queer comedy show in downtown Austin called Tongue in Cheek. Y'all gotta come check it out, if you come through. And I usually have to park about a block away, so I should know from the walk whether I can really move in these new boots or not. This is me with Aira Juliet, who also helped make FOGO season one.

Aira, on stage at Tongue in Cheek comedy show:  
How are you today, Ivy?

Ivy, responding, also on stage:  
You know what? I feel, um, *hot*. Not attractive.

Aira:  
Oh, I was like—

Ivy:  
Not attractive, not attractive—  
Aira:

You're giving John Cena, you can't see me. We're getting, what, Steve Irwin. We're getting- I'm loving it.

Ivy:

I'm trying- I'm trying to give like, uh... I'm trying to reclaim imperialist fashion.

Aira:

Okay.

Ivy:

So just like everybody that's ever tried to invade a country in Asia and like had to game there-

Aira:

It's giving colonizer...

{{Bouncy electronic music starts and fades out}}

Ivy Le, narrating/ranting:

My test run is terrible. I am sweating so hard after walking my one block. Why are people wearing hats at all? The boots never zip up all the way again, once I'm by myself, and the snake proof material is so stiff, I'm walking around like a dog wearing booties for the first time, trying to understand like, "Ugh, mom, where are my fucking legs?"

I absolutely could not outrun a wild animal, and it's too late in the night to buy a side arm, even in Texas. By the time I get home from my show, all the stores are closed, and the best I can do is... stay up all night worrying and see if I can find anything better in the morning before my very first hunt.

Here I am, waiting to pop my hunting cherry. And like most people losing their V card, it's not exactly what I had imagined. I thought I'd be shooting a hog with a gun from a hot air balloon, accompanied by a small but award-winning documentary crew. Instead, I'm shooting a bow from a pop-up blind with, you know, Josh. I'm not thrilled with the clothes or the boots or all the money I spent, but I still have hope I can probably return some of this stuff later.

{{Dun dun. Frenetic and stressful violin music starts}}

Ivy Le, narrating (cont.):

I feel both over and under prepared. I have all this stuff, but it's not giving me the confidence that capitalism promised me it would. I almost *hope* a rattlesnake bites me, so I'm not so pissed about having to wear these boots! I feel like I prepared as hard as I could, but I still have no idea what to expect tomorrow.

{{A pounding orchestra and percussion section join the violin music}}

Ivy Le, narrating (cont.):

Real talk, what if I'm too chicken shit to take the shot? I hate finding out what I made of! I don't get why marathons use that as a selling point, at all. Some would argue that this is literally what FOGO the show is about, but I promise you, it is not why I do it. The second I book a recurring role on Abbott Elementary, boy, bye. You will never hear me struggle on this RSS feed again.

{{Orchestra music stops}}

Ivy Le, narrating (cont.):

Also, I know too much about pigs now. The more I've learned about pigs, the more I respect them. They're extremely intelligent and low-key anarchist. If I don't manage to hunt down a pig with Josh, and we can't find a date with Barbra for Kevin's ranch, we will have to wait at least, at least, half a year before we can get another shot at this. Texas Heat— and Texas freezes— for that matter are whole climate events we have to plan around down here, especially since we're going outdoors. The hotter it gets here, the harder it gets to make things happen.

{{FOGO Theme Music fades in}}

Ivy Le, narrating (cont.):

Don't get me wrong, I'm excited too. Exciting things are always like this. It's exciting because you don't know how it's gonna turn out, like, “Oh shit.” But also, “Oh shit!” It's taken so many, so *many* detours to get to this point that I'm thrilled to be here, and I'm so grateful for all the people who helped along the way. Not just the people I've met! Don and Brandon both told me: Someone in your family was a good enough hunter for you to be here as a person. And, I don't know them, but if that particular ancestor could report for duty tomorrow, that'd be great.

Next time on FOGO, I finally go hunting.

Ivy Le, whispering because SHE'S HUNTING!!!:

I- I'm just gonna breathe. Cause I- I think I- I forgot to breathe for the last six hours—

Josh, whispering back:

Right now I'm just trying to see if I can see anything else or hear anything else. 'Cause pigs are rarely— sometimes— but rarely, solo animals.

Ivy Le, reading credits:

FOGO: Fear of Going Outside is a Spotify Sound Up series and was workshopped as part of the Spotify Sound Up podcast accelerator program. FOGO is written, produced and hosted by me, Ivy Le with one E. We are produced and edited by Myrriah Gossett. Engineering, mixing, and additional sound design by Robyn Edgar. Our theme song and original music are composed by Michelangelo Rodriguez. Story Editing by Minda Wei. Production support by Benjamin Grosse-Siestrup. FOGO's board of advisors is Jeff Zhao and Martin Thomas.

Ivy Le, reading credits (cont.):

From Spotify, our executive producers are Miguel Contreras, Grace Delia, Jane Zumwalt, and Natalie Tulloch. Spotify production support provided by Shirley Ramos. And thanks to the rest of the Spotify team.

Special thanks this week to Nicole Qualtieri, who we'll tag in the show notes. She works at Fresh Tracks TV now. Also, Scott Smith at Academy Sports and Outdoors for the hookup! And all the folks at Gunpowder Inc.

Listen to FOGO: Fear of Going Outside for free on Spotify. You can follow me on just about every social media platform at @IvyLeWithOneE, that phrase all spelled out. Go to fogopodcast.com for the newsletter, merch, and transcripts.

{{Funky guitar riffs play us out}}

Jess, at Academy Sports:

I mean, a large youth might work. Or an extra large youth, even, maybe?

Ivy, flattered:

A large youth might work? You're just flirting with me at this point. Uh, you know that a large youth will not fit me. (Ivy laughs.) It will not fit me.