

comedy4cast #730
Books, Crooks And Second Looks

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Episode released - May 2, 2022

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INTRO

CLINTON

Oh. Hi there. Clinton here. How are you? Some people have been asking "what happened to this year's annual April Podcast-a-Day Spectacular?" In case you missed the announcement on social media, it's still on it's way. Only this year, it will be starting in May. Wednesday, May 18th to be precise. And that's not the only thing that's going to be different. So, subscribe, or stay subscribed, to be sure you get all the episode of the 2022 April Podcast-a-Day Spectacular...beginning in May!

SOUND: C4C STING

ANNOUNCER

The comedy4cast network. Let's dog ear this for now.

MUSIC: COMEDY4CAST INTRO IN AND UNDER.

CLINTON

This is comedy4cast, episode number 730: Books, Crooks and Second Looks. Brought to you by the comedy4cast Patreon patrons. Thank you.

MUSIC: COMEDY4CAST INTRO UP AND OUT.

SCENE 1: INT. GENERAL KALAMITY'S OFFICE - DAY

SOUND: OFFICE DOOR OPENS.

SOUND: INDICATIONS OF TOWN ACTIVITY IN THE DISTANCE, THROUGH THE OPEN DOORWAY WHILE DOOR IS OPEN.

KALAMITY

(happy and energized)

That was quite the drive, eh, soldier?
Taking the KRAWLR for a shakedown drive
in the molehill mountains was
exhilarating. There's nothing like
scaring a few squirrels while you test
out a grappling hook. Am I right?

SOLDIER

Sir, I...

SOUND: KNOCK ON OPEN OFFICE DOOR.

BROUGHHA

Good morning, General, sir.

KALAMITY

Ah, Captain Broughha! Come in, and bring
that brilliant magenta fedora with you.

BROUGHHA

Yes, sir.

SOUND: DOOR CLOSES.

BROUGHHA (cont'd)

It's part of my uniform.

KALAMITY

Of course it is. What can I do for you?

BROUGHHA

Sir, I just listened to a so-called
"podcast" by one "Lenny Treetop."

KALAMITY

(still in a good mood)

Be happy there is only one.

(laughs, but stops when he
sees BROUGHHA is not
reacting)

What about it?

BROUGHHA

Sir, Cindy, the owner of the underground
tunnels was also on the "show". She
stated that she is in possession of
books that contain information about
those strange spheres in the tunnels.

KALAMITY

So?

BROUGHHA

Sir, we know nothing about those
spheres. She needs to turn the books

(MORE)

BROUGHHA (cont'd)

over to the military for examination. I believe this is a matter of national security.

KALAMITY

I'm not sure I agree. And, fair warning, you are beginning to harsh my mellow, Captain.

BROUGHHA

Sir, with all due respect, I feel it is my duty to report my finding to General Disarray.

KALAMITY

And mellow completely harshed. I...

(pause, then continues,
with a lighter attitude)

I will have a talk with Cindy this afternoon.

BROUGHHA

Thank you, General.

KALAMITY

Dismissed.

BROUGHHA

General, sir!

SOUND: DOOR OPENS.

SOUND: INDICATIONS OF TOWN ACTIVITY IN THE DISTANCE, THROUGH THE OPEN DOORWAY WHILE DOOR IS OPEN.

SOUND: DOOR CLOSES.

SOLDIER

(puzzled)

Uh. Sir?

KALAMITY

That man reminds me a lot of myself when I was his age. Brash, to the point of being dis-likable. Fortunately, I have softened up a bit over the years.

SOLDIER

(not buying it)

Yes, sir.

KALAMITY

If me having a talk with Cindy about the books will make him feel like he has accomplished something, I think that's a small price to pay. Besides, while I'm talking with her, I can discuss this "idea" you and she have about a use for Princess down in the tunnels.

SOLDIER

(happy)

Yes, sir!

KALAMITY

I don't recall the last time you were so chatty, Soldier.

MUSIC: TRANSITION STING.

SCENE 2: INT. DETECTIVE HAARTTE'S APARTMENT - DAY

MUSIC: HAARTTE'S THEME IN AND UNDER.

HAARTTE

It was early on a Monday morning. But my potential client said they wanted to meet at my office first thing. I tried to convince them that "first thing" meant three in the afternoon. But no dice. So, I poured myself a cup of joe and sat down to hear the old lady's sad story. Who am I? The name's Haartte. Detective Haartte. Two "A's". Two "T's". Spell it right. Say it right.

MUSIC: THEME FADES OUT.

ABBY

(annoyed)

Are you about done, Haartte? I've been sitting here listening to you babble to yourself for five minutes.

HAARTTE

I had to tip my hat to her. She was pretty feisty for someone in her... eighties? Nineties?

ABBY

All right. Enough of that. I want to hire you to investigate some strange occurrences.

HAARTTE

Strange how? Were you abducted by paper clips.

ABBY

What? No. No paper clips. Over the past several months odd things have been happening at Little Wicker Baskets headquarters. For instance, someone authorized the creation of mobius strip wicker baskets.

HAARTTE

Yeah? So?

ABBY

They have no interior. They can't hold anything. Then there's the mystery of who changed the manufacturing process to coat the baskets in toxic goo that eliminates all the trademark weave gaps. And I just found out we're manufactured a line of spherical baskets.

HAARTTE

What's wrong with those?

ABBY

They're spherical, Haartte. Spherical!

HAARTTE

I see.

ABBY

Not only that, I believe there have been attempts on my life. There was an elevator accident at Little Wicker headquarters, another one at our factory in Franklin, Pennsylvania and, just yesterday, a piano nearly fell on me.

HAARTTE

This is a busy town. Accidents happen.

ABBY

I was walking through the park.

HAARTTE

Hmm. All right. I'll take your case. But, I have to warn you, I get \$50 a day, plus expenses.

ABBY

Fine. As long as your expenses don't exceed nil percent, you're hired.

HAARTTE

Deal.

ABBY

I will expect to hear from you as soon
as possible.

SOUND: DOOR OPENS.

ABBY (cont'd)

Where will you start?

HAARTTE

I think I'll take the train to Pleasant
View and do some investigating at this
Little Wicker headquarters of yours.
And, this time, I can travel first
class.

ABBY

I suggest you look up the definition of
"nil" first. Goodbye, Detective Haartte.

MUSIC: TRANSITION STING.

SCENE 3: EXT. PLEASANT VIEW COFFEE SHOP - DAY

SOUND: CITY TRAFFIC, PEDESTRIANS.

HAARTTE

Nil. Nothing. Zip. Who knew? Oh, well.
Riding in the baggage car wasn't that
(MORE)

HAARTTE (cont'd)

horrible. They're a lot less crowded
without those pesky Traveling Willburys.

SOUND: ALL BACKGROUND SOUND COMES TO A FULL STOP.

SOUND: GLASS SHATTERS ON THE PAVEMENT, AS IF SOMEONE HAS
DROPPED IT IN SHOCK.

HAARTTE (cont'd)

Yeah. That's right. I made a reference
to the 90's!

SOUND: BACKGROUND AMBIENCE SLOWLY RETURNS.

Now, to do some good old fashioned
stakeout work. This coffee shop is right
across the street from Little Wicker
H.Q. I can sip a cup of joe and see what
happens.

SOUND: DOOR OPENS, WITH RINGING BELL.

SCENE 4: INT. PLEASANT VIEW COFFEE SHOP - DAY

SOUND: BUSY COFFEE SHOP INTERIOR.

OWNER

Welcome to the Pleasant View Venti Vidi
Vici, where every cup of coffee is just
one dollar and ninety-nine cents.
Piccolo, medio, grande. Even our
massiccio mug of mocha madness is just
(MORE)

OWNER (cont'd)

one dollar and ninety-nine cents. What can I get for you?

HAARTTE

(thrown by the atmosphere,
which is identical to
Caprica Coffee)

How...How about a Deja Vu? And make it a double.

OWNER

Coming right up. Can I have a name?

HAARTTE

After all these years you don't have one. Why start now?

OWNER

Good point. Your coffee will be ready in a minute.

HAARTTE

Thanks.

MUSIC: HAARTTE'S THEME IN.

HAARTTE (cont'd)

I decided to take a seat at a counter by the window. It would give me a perfect view of the Little Wicker Basket corporate office tower. Only a detective with years of training would think of such a...

BUZZ

Haartte?

SOUND: RECORD SCRATCH ENDS THE MUSIC.

BUZZ (cont'd)

Great overdubs of Sander Vanocer. Why are you in Pleasant View?

HAARTTE

It was Buzz "Scoop" Crackerjack Thomas. So called "Ace" investigative reporter for the Middling Fair Courier Times Roman Bold Italic.

BUZZ

Haartte, you do know everyone can hear you doing those monologues, right? But the question remains. This reporter wants to know -- why are you here?

HAARTTE

If you must know, I'm working a case involving the Little Wicker Basket Company.

BUZZ

Well, well, well. It's small world after all.

(aside to listener)

Good luck getting that ear worm out of your head.

(MORE)

BUZZ (cont'd)

(back to speaking with
HAARTTE)

I'm also here about Little Wicker
Baskets.

HAARTTE

They're everywhere.

BUZZ

They're everywhere.

HAARTTE

What's your angle, Thomas?

BUZZ

I bought one of those fancy new Little
Wicker Baskets and it was completely
useless.

HAARTTE

Which one.

BUZZ

The spherical one.

HAARTTE

Why do so many people buy those?

BUZZ

It's spherical, Haartte. Spherical! But
the company refused to take it back. So,
I am using the power of journalism to do
a thorough expose on this company.

HAARTTE

Sounds like a little bit too much like revenge journalism to me, Thomas.

BUZZ

You know what they say, Haartte. One man's revenge journalism is another man's Pulitzer Prize.

HAARTTE

Who? Who says that?

BUZZ

Great memory loss of Leeza Gibbons. Me. Just now. Listen, I have an idea. Let's combine resources and investigate the company together. You know what they say, two heads need two hats.

MUSIC: HAARTTE'S THEME IN.

HAARTTE

(internal monologue)

He had a point. They would need two hats. Also, any information this corny columnist has could give me a head start on my case. Or two head starts. Both with hats.

MUSIC: THEME OUT.

(to BUZZ)

Okay. I'm in.

BUZZ

I know, Haartte. I got that from your monologue. Can we talk about this "corny columnist" comment of yours?

MUSIC; TRANSITION STING**SCENE 5: EXT. CAMP PARMENTER - DAY**SOUND: MIX OF COUNTRY AND CITY SOUNDS.SOUND: FOOTSTEPS APPROACH.**BROUGHHA**

You wanted to see me, General Kalamity, sir?

KALAMITY

At ease, Captain. I wanted to let you know that I just came back from The Tunnels. I had a chance to take a look at Princess, uh, I mean the KRULR. It looks like you're almost done decommissioning that old 1976 Tiara Megacoach tri-axle school bus.

BROUGHHA

Yes, sir. But about the books...

KALAMITY

It's certainly getting crowded down there, isn't it They're even setting up

(MORE)

KALAMITY (cont'd)

some kind of Renaissance Fair market thing in that big underdome section. Adults waking around in costumes. Weird stuff.

BROUGHHA

Sir. The books?

KALAMITY

Ah, yes. I had a talk with Cindy about that.

BROUGHHA

That is fantastic, sir. Yay. When can we expect delivery?

KALAMITY

Not happening, Captain. She refused my request. But, there is good news. We talked about an idea she had about using Princess, I mean the KRULR, as a shuttle bus down there in the tunnels. Wild, I know? But since you are almost done working on the bus, I'm going to have my man begin prepping the KRULR for the assignment. In fact, once he's one, I think we need to implement the arrangement right away.

BROUGHHA

But, sir...

KALAMITY

You can still finish your assignment.
But I'm going to have to restrict your
work hours to early mornings. Those
artist types don't know the benefits of
getting up at the crack of dawn, eh,
soldier?

BROUGHHA

Yes, sir. I mean, no sir.

KALAMITY

Well, I'm off to file some paperwork
about filing cabinets for paperwork.
Carry on, Captain.

BROUGHHA

(snapping to attention)

Yes, sir. Thank you, General, sir.

SOUND: FOOTSTEPS WALKING AWAY.

BROUGHHA (cont'd)

(to himself)

This can't be happening. I promised
General Disarray he's have those books
A.S.A.P.

SOUND: FOOTSTEPS APPROACHING.

BROUGHHA (cont'd)

I need time to think.

CHIEF

Sir!

BROUGHHA

Chief. I did not hear you approaching.
What is it?

CHIEF

Sir, I am happy to report that we are almost done with the removal of classified tech from the KRULR. I believe, with any luck, we can finish up in the next day or two.

BROUGHHA

Excellent work, Chief.

(realizes something)

No! Not good. I need you and 10 Toes to slow down.

CHIEF

Sir?

BROUGHHA

That's the order, Chief. I want your progress to be so slow, you make standing in line at the D.M.V. look like rush hour.

CHIEF

(not understanding why)

Uh. Yes, sir. Will do, sir. As slow as dial-up internet, sir. May I ask why, sir?

BROUGHHA

Negative. It's top secret. Need-to-know basis. My eyes only. Disavow any knowledge. But I will tell you this -- while you two are slowing down, I will be ramping things up.

MUSIC: SHORT, DRAMATIC STING.

OUTRO**CLINTON**

In this episode...

MUSIC: LAST NOTE OF DRAMATIC STING PLAYS AGAIN.

CLINTON (cont'd)

(after a beat)

In this episode, the parts of Abby Falmacher and Chief were played by Bonnie Kenderdine. Additional voices, as well as story and music, by Clinton Alvord. Copyright 2022. All rights reserved.

MUSIC: END TITLE MUSIC IN AND UNDER.

SIR PATRICK

My goodness! Look at the time. Let's wrap this up, shall we?

CLINTON

Oh! Right you are, Sir Patrick. But first, a shout-out to the comedy4cast patrons. Thanks to Stan, Zack, Charlotte, Barry, Amy, Howard, Mike, Steve, Bryn, Chuck, Paul, Kyle, and a big welcome to our newest Patron, Darren. If you'd also like to support the show and get episodes before everyone else, just go to patreon.com and search for comedy4cast -- all one word, with the number "4".

SIR PATRICK

As always, this is Sir Patrick Stewart.

CLINTON

And I'm Clinton

SIR PATRICK

Saying

CLINTON

That's it. We're done, done, done, done, done. Bye bye.

SIR PATRICK

That's it. We're done, done, done, done,
done.

MUSIC: UP AND OUT.

MUSIC: LAST NOTE OF DRAMATIC STING PLAYS ONE MORE TIME.

THE END