

comedy4cast #731
The Taco Of Truth

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Episode released - May 18, 2022

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comedy4cast #730: Books, Crooks And Second Looks

INTRO

CLINTON

Oh. Hi there. Clinton here. Today begins the comedy4cast "2022 Summer Spectacular!" Sort of a one-time collectible variant of the April Podcast-a-Day Spectacular. You know. Supply chain issues and all of that. This episode, and the one that will premier on Friday, May 20th, make up a kind of "preambles" to the main story, prequels to the sequel, a two-part lead-in, you get the idea.

The main story, "Batter Days." will begin on Monday, May 22, with additional episodes dropping every Monday, Wednesday and Friday through the beginning of August. So, sit back, relax, and take a few notes if you like. We're gonna get you up to speed for Monday's big premier!

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 731:
The Taco of Truth. Brought to you by the
comedy4cast Patreon patrons. Thank you.

MUSIC: COMEDY4CAST INTRO UP AND OUT.

SCENE 1: EXT. CAMP PARMENTER - NIGHT

SOUND: DISTANT SOUND OF LIGHT TRAFFIC AND GENERAL NIGHTTIME
SUBURBAN BACKGROUND

SOUND: HUM OF A FLUORESCENT TUBE.

SOUND: FOOTSTEPS APPROACHING

CHIEF

(a bit quieter than normal)

You wanted to see me, sir? This feels a
bit cloak and dagger meeting outside the
barracks after lights out.

BROUGHHA

Chief. I was just down in The Tunnels.
The KRULR assault vehicle seems to be in
much better shape now than when I
ordered you and 10 Toes to slow down
your work decommissioning it. Would you
mind explaining how...

SOUND: POWER SHUTDOWN.

SOUND: NIGHTTIME NATURAL SOUNDS REMAIN, FLUORESCENT TUBE AND
OTHER MAN-MADE SOUNDS STOP.

CHIEF

What's happening?

BROUGHHA

Another town-wide blackout They've been happening a lot lately.

CHIEF

I haven't noticed them, sir. Guess I've been too busy trying hard to not be busy.

SOUND: POWER UP EFFECT, WHICH ALSO BRINGS BACK THE SOUNDS THAT DIPPED OFF DURING THE OUTAGE.

BROUGHHA

Then explain this catastrophe, Chief. Why all the excellent progress?

CHIEF

It's General Kalamity's man, sir. That soldier is working at superhuman speed. He's determined to get the bus ready for its post-decommissioning assignment as a shuttle down there. I have to admire his commitment.

BROUGHHA

Are you siding with the enemy on this issue, Chief?

CHIEF

(puzzled)

"Enemy," sir?

BROUGHHA

Strike that.

(pauses to think)

Carry on not carrying on as best as you can, Chief. I'm going to try a different tactic to meet the objectives.

CHIEF

And what are our objectives, sir?

BROUGHHA

All in good time, Chief. All in good time.

MUSIC: SHORT TRANSITION STING.

SCENE 2: LOBBY OF LITTLE WICKER BASKETS HEADQUARTERS.

SOUND: GENERAL LOBBY NOISE, WITH AN ECHO TO INDICATE THE SIZE OF THE SPACE.

BUZZ

(impatient)

Where in the world is that incompetent...

SOUND: FOOTSTEP APPROACH.

HAARTTE

Sorry, Thomas, I got here to Little Wicker HQ as fast as I could.

BUZZ

Great rotisserie of Robin Roberts! Do you have a taco?

HAARTTE

You didn't say how long this was going to take. And I'm hungry.

BUZZ

Listen, Haartte, I had to use up a lot of favors to arrange this interview with Higgins. We have to make the most of it.

HAARTTE

Right.

BUZZ

You do remember who Higgins is, right?

HAARTTE

No, but I'm guessing you do. So, who needs to panic.

BUZZ

Braxton Higgins is Head of Product Development here at Little Wicker. We're going to gather intel that will help us both with our assignments.

HAARTTE

Sounds good. I'm following up for my client, Abby Falmacher.

BUZZ

Your client is Abby Falmacher? Owner of this company? Haartte, she could have set up a meeting with Higgins without me burning through all my contacts! Why didn't you say something?

HAARTTE

No idea. Just like I have no idea why they didn't put guac on this thing.

SECURITY GUARD

(in distance, softly)

Sir?

BUZZ

Haartte! If you didn't...

SECURITY GUARD

(much, much louder)

Hey, you! You can go up to see Mr. Higgins now.

BUZZ

Let's go, Haartte.

SOUND: TWO SETS OF FOOTSTEPS START ACROSS THE LOBBY.

SECURITY GUARD

Hold on a second.

SOUND: FOOTSTEPS STOP.

SECURITY GUARD (cont'd)

Here. You're gonna need this.

HAARTTE

Sorry, Thomas, my hands are busy holding
a taco. You take it.

SOUND: CLINK OF METAL CAN AS IT IS

BUZZ

A can of spray disinfectant? Is this a
pandemic thing?

SECURITY GUARD

No. It's a Brax Higgins thing. You'll
see. The elevators are right over there.

HAARTTE

Never mind that. Where are the stairs?

SECURITY GUARD

Oh. Sure. Behind that door.

SOUND: FOOTSTEPS CONTINUE.

BUZZ

Stairs? Great Jumping Jacks of Jack
LaLaine. This is no time to become a
health nut, Haartte!

HAARTTE

Falmacher nearly had an "incident" with
these elevators a while ago, Thomas. And
I refuse to be somebody's fall guy by
getting the shaft.

SOUND: STAIRWELL ACCESS DOOR OPENS.

HAARTTE (cont'd)

We're hoofing it!

MUSIC: SHORT TRANSITION STING.

SCENE 3: LIBRARY/CINDY'S OFFICE IN THE TUNNELS - DAY

SOUND: MUSIC OF THE SPHERES PLAYS IN THE BACKGROUND.

SOUND: KNOCK ON THE DOOR.

CINDY

Like, who is it?

SOUND: WITH A CREAK, THE HUGE WOODEN DOORS OPEN.

CINDY (cont'd)

Like, Captain Broughha. Come in.

BROUGHHA

Thank you, Ma'am.

CINDY

Like, you can just call me "Cindy."

BROUGHHA

I don't believe I have ever been in your office before.

CINDY

Like, it's really the library. Anyone can come in.

BROUGHHA

It is interesting that you mention that. This tunnel setup of yours is certainly getting crowded.

CINDY

Like, yeah. But, like, it's not my setup. This is a community of, like, creative artists.

BROUGHHA

I can tell. Ah, I see, and hear, that you have some of those purple spheres that provide light down here.

CINDY

Like, yeah, but a whole bunch of them were destroyed last year. So, we've had

(MORE)

CINDY (cont'd)

to, like, put in some LED bulbs and a whole lot of candles.

BROUGHHA

Sounds complicated. And dangerous.

CINDY

Like, dangerous?

BROUGHHA

Dangerous? Who said anything about "Dangerous"?

CINDY

Like, you did. Just now.

BROUGHHA

Ah, Yes. I simply mean that with all these strangers down here, you have to be careful.

CINDY

Like, are you, like, calling these artists criminals?

BROUGHHA

Not necessarily. I mean, I don't think any of them are pushing NFTs. But you can never be too safe. A milligram of prevention is worth a kilo of cure.

CINDY

I never thought of that. This, like, all happened so fast. There are 721 studios down here and they're filling up fast.

BROUGHHA

It might be nothing. You could end up with 721 wonderful artists. But on the other hand....

CINDY

Like, what's on the other hand?

BROUGHHA

Exactly. You don't know.

CINDY

Like, wow. I never thought about the other hand.

BROUGHHA

Well, Miss Cindy. I just came by to say "Hello." I will leave you, and any valuables you may have in here, like certain important books, and go back about my military security business.

CINDY

(deep in thought, almost
not acknowledging the
Captain)

Like, yeah. Goodbye.

SOUND: DOOR CREAKS AS IT STARTS TO CLOSE.

BROUGHHA

(quietly, to himself)

Time to call General Disarray. Those books about the spheres are practically in my hands right now. Ha. Ha ha.

SOUND: DOOR CLOSES

MUSIC: SHORT TRANSITION STING.

SCENE 4: HALLWAY, JUST OUTSIDE STAIRWELL DOOR - DAY

SOUND: METAL DOOR OPENS.

BUZZ is heard gasping for air.

HAARTTE

Here we are. The executive level.

BUZZ

(still gasping for air)

At last!

HAARTTE

Get it together, Thomas! It's only the second floor!

BUZZ

(slowly recovering)

Reporters aren't built to do stairs,
Haartte. Our power comes from our words.

HAARTTE

Then maybe you should have talked you
way up the stairs.

BUZZ

There's Higgins office door. Let's get
this over with.

MUSIC: HAARTTE'S THEME IN AND UNDER

HAARTTE

Another door in the episode. How many
had it been so far? Three, four? This
detective had begun to lose count. Maybe
if I...

BUZZ

What are you doing?

SOUND: RECORD SCRATCH ENDS MUSIC.

BUZZ (cont'd)

Just open the door!

SOUND: DOOR OPENS.

HAARTTE

(quietly)

Five.

SCENE 5: INT. HIGGINS OFFICE RECEPTION AREA - CONTINUOUS

SOUND: TAPPING ON KEYBOARD.

SOUND: TAPPING STOPS.

ADMIN

You must be Haartte and Thomas. Mr. Higgins is expecting you. You can go into his office. He'll join you there in a minute.

SOUND: TYPING CONTINUES.

SOUND: DOOR OPENING.

HAARTTE

(quietly to himself)

Six.

SOUND: OFFICE PHONE RINGS AND IS PICKED UP.

THE **ADMIN**'S VOICE QUICKLY FADES AS HAARTTE AND BUZZ ENTER HIGGINS'S OFFICE AND SHUT THE DOOR.

ADMIN

Braxton Higgins's office...Who?...A shipper and pelican?

SOUND: DOOR CLOSES.

SCENE 6: INT. HIGGINS'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

BUZZ

Don't say it, Haartte.

HAARTTE

I wouldn't dream of it.

(pause, then, under his
breath)

Seven.

BUZZ

Sit down. We need to go over our notes
and strategy while we wait.

HAARTTE

Right.

SOUND; MOVEMENT OF CHAIRS ON FLOOR.

BUZZ

What have you got, Haartte?

HAARTTE

A taco. I already told you that. And
it's getting cold. What have you got?

BUZZ

Seriously? Fine. Looks like we'll go
with my notes. Higgins is a relatively

(MORE)

BUZZ (cont'd)

new hire here at L.W.B. His LinkedIn profile says that he has a background in...

SOUND: ANOTHER CRUNCH OF THE TACO.

BUZZ (cont'd)

In chemistry, with a degree in Basket Design from M.I.T.

HAARTTE

He's an egghead. So what?

BUZZ

M.I.T. doesn't have a degree in Basket Design! Just one in Basket Robotics.

HAARTTE

Has it occurred to you that it might be a typo.

BUZZ

Not on that page. I've never seen such a meticulous profile page. It was a little unsettling. I...

SOUND: DOOR OPENS

HAARTTE

(under his breath)

Eight.

HIGGINS

(speaking loudly, to ADMIN)

No. I have no idea who those people are.
They must be mistaken.

(turning his attention to
HAARTTE and BUZZ)

Ah. You must be Haartte and Thomas, the
two reporters.

HAARTTE

Reporters? Who said...

SOUND: SWIFT KICK IN THE SHIN.

HAARTTE (cont'd)

Ow! That was my shin, Thomas.

BUZZ

(through gritted teeth)

I know, Haartte. Be quiet. We need this
interview.

HIGGINS

What is that?

HAARTTE

A taco. Well, technically it's half a
taco. I'd offer you some, but...

HIGGINS

How did you...? Where's my waste basket?
Ah!

SOUND: METAL WASTE BASKET SET DOWN ON FLOOR.

HIGGINS (cont'd)

Put that thing in here.

BUZZ

(through gritted teeth)

Do it, Haartte.

HAARTTE

Fine. I wasn't going to finish it
anyway. I forgot to take wrapper off.
And I'm wood pulp intolerant.

SOUND: TACO THROWN INTO TRASH.

HIGGINS

Now, where's my can of disinfectant?

BUZZ

I guess you can use mine.

HIGGINS

Stand back!

SOUND: LONG SPRAYING SOUND. PAUSE. SECOND LONG SPRAYING
SOUND.

HAARTTE

I think you drowned it.

BUZZ

Can we get past the taco and get down to the business of business?

HIGGINS

Very well. As I understand it, you want to do a highlight feature about our innovative new basket designs. All my ideas, of course.

BUZZ

Oh, really. Include the new spherical ones?

HIGGINS

Yes, indeed. You know, Miss Falmacher, the owner of this company, wasn't convinced that they would be a success. A rather provincial and antiquated opinion, if I must stay so.

HAARTTE

Apparently, you must.

HIGGINS

Naturally, I knew that they were going to be the next big thing.

HAARTTE

Why is that?

HIGGINS

Isn't it obvious? They're spherical. By the way, why do you need two reporters for this story? Are you his trainee or something? His rather old trainee?

BUZZ

(through gritted teeth)

Go with it, Haartte.

HAARTTE

(fighting against saying
it)

Yes. That's right. I used to run my own thriving, successful business. But now I'm stuck being as a reporter.

HIGGINS

How very, very sad for you.

HAARTTE

I jotted down a few questions of my own.

BUZZ

What? When?

HAARTTE

I wrote them on that taco wrapper. The part I didn't eat. Let me just grab it and...

HIGGINS

Stay away from that basket! You've already made enough mess. I work hard to keep this office clean.

HAARTTE

Back off, compadre. You need to take a vacation.

HIGGINS

I'll have you know I take one every May. Like clockwork.

HAARTTE

Wow. What a shock.

BUZZ

Getting back to the actual interview -- This reporter wants to know why the Little Wicker company refuses to refund me, I mean, the average citizen, for my purchase of one of your so-called spherical baskets.

HIGGINS

Why would we do that?

BUZZ

That's been Little Wicker Basket company policy for as long as I can remember.

HIGGINS

Well, times are changing, Mr. Thomas. After all, how could those basket be best sellers if we allowed people to simply return them? That makes no sense. Besides, we're no longer interested in receiving soiled products. In fact...

SOUND: CRINKLE OF GUM WRAPPER.

HIGGINS (cont'd)

What is that, Mr. Haartte?

HAARTTE

Gum. You want a piece? It's tootie fruity.

HIGGINS

Did you not see the "No gum" sign in the elevator?

HAARTTE

Can't say that I did. We used the stairs.

HIGGINS

Don't tell me those idiots ruined another elevator!

HAARTTE

What idiots?

HIGGINS

Never mind. Gentlemen! No stop looking around. I mean you. I think this interview is over.

BUZZ

Not until you answer a few more of my questions.

HAARTTE

I've got one first.

BUZZ

(through gritted teeth)

Haartte.

HAARTTE

I couldn't help but notice, You have a plastic wastebasket. It isn't a little wicker basket.

ALL

They're everywhere!

HIGGINS

Unsurprisingly, that wasn't a question. I'm waiting for one from our new line of coated wicker baskets.

BUZZ

Coated baskets? Like the ones being made at the Franklin, Pennsylvania factory?

HIGGINS

Precisely. It's a process I designed myself. Do you know the problem with wicker, gentlemen. It's full of gaps. Things fall through gaps. Messy business. Coating the baskets will put an end to all of that.

BUZZ

But, to be objective, isn't it true that Abby Falmacher opposes this absolutely insane idea?

HIGGINS

It's not insane. It's efficient. And neat. And tidy. And maybe she did, at first. But, over time, I'm sure I can...

SOUND: DOOR BURST OPEN.

MULLIGAN

Hey, Boss. Boss, boss boss.

HIGGINS

(nervous, obviously
putting on an act)

Who...who are you?

KIPPER

Let me handle this, Mulligan. I'm sorry, Mr. Higgins, but, well, Mulligan and I haven't gotten paid since, well, I can't remember when. So, the last time you

(MORE)

KIPPER (cont'd)

called, I saw you you were using your regular phone, and I...

(noticing HAARTTE and BUZZ)

Oh. I didn't know you were in a meeting.

MULLIGAN

Hello, others, others others! We're Mulligan and Kipper.

SECURITY GUARD

Sorry, Mr. Higgins. These two ran past me.

MULLIGAN

It's okay, Mr. Security Security... Security Guard. We work for him. He told us to take care of Miss Falmacher.

BUZZ

Great epiphany of Ida Wells!

HAARTTE

Just as I suspected all along! Generic security guard, arrest these people on suspicion of attempted murder!

SECURITY GUARD

Buddy, I'm security. The best I can do is take their employee badges.

MULLIGAN

Ooh. Hey, Kipper, Kipper! I think we're going to get some badges!

MUSIC: TRANSITION STING.

SCENE 7: EXT. NEAR ENTRANCE TO TUNNEL ACCESS CORRIDOR - DAY

SOUND: GENERAL CITY TRAFFIC OFF IN DISTANCE.

SOUND: FOOTSTEPS ON GRAVEL.

BROUGHHA

(to himself)

General Disarray seemed quite pleased to learn that I will soon have those books. Yay for me. I imagine I will be put in command of an expanded Magenta Fedoras operation. I just have to go into the tunnels and get...

SOUND: ELECTRONIC BEEPS.

SOUND: FOOTSTEPS STOP.

AUTOMATED ATTENDANT

Caution. You have reached security checkpoint alpha. Please stand by.

BROUGHHA

What is this?

KALAMITY

Ah, Broughha.

BROUGHHA

General Kalamity, sir!

KALAMITY

I see you've met Checkpoint Alpha. As I understand it, you're responsible for it being here.

BROUGHHA

Sir?

KALAMITY

I could never convince Cindy that she needed some sort of security. Then, it seems, you had a talk with her that did the trick. She called and asked me to set something up.

SOUND: ELECTRONIC BEEPS.

KALAMITY (cont'd)

I've had this thing in a crate at the base for months. My man got it up and running in no time. Outstanding.

SOUND: ELECTRONIC BEEPS.

KALAMITY (cont'd)

It has some sort of bio-matter inorganic material scanner thing to detect

(MORE)

KALAMITY (cont'd)

unauthorized items going into or out of The Tunnels. It would take someone who understands it to explain it. But Cindy was satisfied that all her valuables are safe right where they are in The Tunnels.

SOUND: POWER DROPS OUT.

SOUND: BACKGROUND NOISE OF THE CITY DROPS OUT, BUT THE NATURE SOUNDS REMAIN.

BROUGHHA

A power outage. It is a shame that the checkpoint can't operate...

KALAMITY

Don't worry. This thing is hooked up to solar power, wind power, and even a few double-A batteries!

SOUND: ELECTORNIC BEEPS.

KALAMITY (cont'd)

See?

SOUND: POWER RESTORED.

SOUND: CITY NOISE RETURNS.

KALAMITY (cont'd)

Thank you for the assist on this one, Captain. Especially with April right around the corner.

BROUGHHA

April, sir?

KALAMITY

Traditionally it's not a great month here in Middling Fair. All right. I'm off to fill out a form to order more requisition forms. As you were, soldier.

BROUGHHA

(the slightest hint of
resentment)

Sir, yes, sir!

SOUND: FOOTSTEPS WALK AWAY.

BROUGHHA (cont'd)

Wonderful. Stupid machine. How much more complicated can this get.

Grunt as BROUGHHA kicks machine.

SOUND: KICKING METAL OBJECT.

SOUND: ELECTRONIC BEEPS.

AUTOMATED ATTENDANT

Possible threat detected.

SOUND: ELECTRONIC BEEPS.

AUTOMATED ATTENDANT (cont'd)

Scanning.

SOUND: SCANNING.

AUTOMATED ATTENDANT (cont'd)

Current threat probability low, but
individual added to active watch list.
So, don't try anything funny...

SOUND: ELECTRONIC BEEPS.

AUTOMATED ATTENDANT (cont'd)

Captain Cliff Broughha.

BROUGHHA

I had to ask.

AUTOMATED ATTENDANT

Please remember to take your warning
receipt below. And thank you for
visiting The Tunnels, Middling Fair's
premier artist community since 2021.

MUSIC: SHORT TRANSITION STING.

OUTRO

CLINTON

In this episode, the parts of Cindy and
Chief were played by Bonnie Kenderdine.
Additional voices, as well as story and
music, by Clinton Alvord. Copyright
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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, Darren, and a special welcome to our newest Patron, Gary. If you'd also like to support the show and get episodes before everyone else, just go to [patreon.com](https://www.patreon.com/comedy4cast) 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