

comedy4cast #734:  
Batter Days  
Chapter 2: Thoroughly Modern Methods

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comedy4cast #734: "Batter Days", Chapter 2, "Thoroughly Modern Methods"

## **CHAPTER 2: INTRO**

### **CLINTON**

Oh, hi. Clinton here. I hope you enjoyed Chapter 1 of this year's story. There's much more to come. Oh, and a bit of a clarification, with the exception of a few places in the story, these are all original songs. If a song was written by another composer, I'll be sure to point that out at the end of the episode. Okay, on with the show.

SOUND: COMEDY4CAST STING.

MUSIC: MAIN THEME IN AND UNDER.

### **CLINTON (cont'd)**

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(MORE)

**CLINTON (cont'd)**

2022. And be sure to subscribe, so you never miss an episode.

Now, here's Chapter 2, "Thoroughly Modern Methods"

MUSIC: STORY MAIN THEME UP AND OUT.

**NARRATOR**

Previously in our story, Mayor Rory's annual Founder's Day speech on the village green went off without a hitch -- except for the unexpected power outages. These dips in electricity appear to be a growing problem in Middling Fair. At the conclusion of the Mayor's speech, the annual Post-Founder's-Day-Speech Carnival began.

**CHAPTER 2, SCENE 1: EXT. PARK - DAY**

SOUND: CARNIVAL ATMOSPHERE CONTINUES IN THE DISTANCE.

MUSIC: CARNIVAL MUSIC IN BACKGROUND.

**NARRATOR**

As this chapter begins, only a few locals have remained to enjoy the carnival. Among them are Abby Falmacher, owner of the Little Wicker Basket Company. Little Wicker Baskets -- they're everywhere -- and the Venus Arms Hotel and Towers. Miss Falmacher is using the event as the annual hotel employee outing.

**ABBY**

Cost: Zero. Win!

**NARRATOR**

With her are Giles, the hotel's front desk clerk...

**GILES**

(clearing his throat)

Ahem.

**NARRATOR**

(adding, as if tossing him a bone)

And assistant manager. As well as the hotel's geriatric, if not downright Jurassic, bell captain, Cap. Cap is sitting on a ledge above the carnival's dunk tank.

**CAP**

"Ha ha."

(sighs)

Face it. I'm not good at improv. No. What's that thing that's like improv? Oh, yeah. Astronomy.

**ABBY**

Don't worry, Cap. I can never hit these targets.

(MORE)

**ABBY (cont'd)**

(aggressive)

Psych! I was the best pitcher the Omaha girl's softball league ever had! Take this!

SOUND: BALL WHIPPING THROUGH THE AIR.

SOUND: BALL STRIKING TARGET.

**CAP**

Whoa!

SOUND: THUD.

**CAP (IN TANK)**

Back in my day they used to put water in the dunk tank!

**CARNIE**

Sorry, mac. That's weird. I just filled it an hour ago.

WE OCCASIONALLY HEAR **CAP** CALLING OUT FOR HELP BEHIND THE FOLLOWING DIALOGUE.

**GILES**

I must say, Miss Falmacher, you seem to be slightly agitated today.

**ABBY**

Oh, it's this Brax Higgins business. His plan to take over the Little Wicker Basket Company nearly ruined the business.

**GILES**

And nearly got you killed!

**ABBY**

Yes, that, too. Thank goodness Kipper and Mulligan turned out to be so incompetent.

(sighs)

I'm afraid you're going to have to run the hotel alone for a bit, Giles. I have to go back to Pleasant View to try to right the wicker ship. Things are pretty bad at the moment.

**GILES**

How bad?

**ABBY**

I may have to start saying "Little Wicker Baskets -- they're almost everywhere.

**GILES**

Oh, my.

**CAP (IN TANK)**

Can someone get me a ladder?

**ABBY**

I'm just glad Higgins is in prison now.

**CAP (IN TANK)**

Or toss in a bunch of that cotton candy!  
so I can eat my way out?

**ABBY**

(not hearing CAP, she  
continues on about HIGGINS)

Serves him right. I hope he's "enjoying"  
his life behind bars.

MUSIC: CALLIOPE MUSIC UP AND OUT.

**CHAPTER 2, SCENE 2: INT. PRISON HALLWAY - DAY****NARRATOR**

In a segue that actually makes sense,  
we turn our attention to the nearby town  
of Convenience, located South of Chasm  
Valley. Convenience has the dubious  
honor of playing host to the state's  
largest prison. This is a facility so  
cruel, it is often referred to simply as  
"The Cage". Disgraced former Little  
Wicker Baskets executive Brax Higgins is  
being escorted through the grungy, dimly  
lit halls of the prison by two guards.

SOUND: BUZZ OF UNBALANCED FLUORESCENT LIGHTS.

SOUND: MULTIPLE SETS OF FOOTSTEPS ON HARD FLOORING.

SOUND: CHAINS RATTLE WHENEVER HIGGINS MOVES.

SOUND: FOOTSTEPS STOP.

SOUND: KNOCK ON DOOR.

**CHURR (THROUGH DOOR)**

Come in.

SOUND: DOOR OPENS.

SOUND: MULTIPLE SETS OF FOOTSTEPS ON HARD FLOORING.

**CHAPTER 2, SCENE 3: INT. WARDEN'S OFFICE - DAY**

SOUND: FOOTSTEPS STOP.

**GUARD**

Here he is, Warden.

Warden Doctor Dewayne **CHURR** is extremely mild-mannered and finds it hard to assert himself. You would expect to find him working in an accounting firm, not a prison full of dangerous criminals. However, he seems to be a man on a mission.

**HIGGINS** is a bitter man. His fall from grace, trial and conviction has left him even angrier at everyone and everything. He thinks the world is chaos and that people have lost their ability to be polite. He does not see, of course, that he lacks a lot of the social graces. He is also a neat freak, always trying to stay clean and organized.

**CHURR**

Oh, yes. Hello, Mr. Higgins. I'm Warden Dr. Dewayne Churr. Welcome to Happy Meadows Maximum Security Prison.



**HIGGINS**

Happy Meadows? Don't you mean "The  
Cage"?

**CHURR**

(uncontrolled)

NO!

(regaining composure)

No. It's "Happy Meadows." You see, I  
think part of the problem with this  
prison is that it has a bad reputation.

**HIGGINS**

A prison? With a bad reputation?  
Somebody alert the media.

**CHURR**

That's what I'm talking about. When  
people hear the word "prison," they  
conjure up images of bars and chains and  
guns.

SOUND: CHAINS RATTLE.

**HIGGINS**

I can't imagine why.

**CHURR**

(excited to be talking  
about this)

Right? You see, by making some simple  
changes, I believe I can rehabilitate  
(MORE)

**CHURR (cont'd)**

not only our "guests," I can also fix the reputation of this whole prison. Giving it a new name is just an example. Still working on that one. It's all part of my vision.

**HIGGINS**

"Vision"?

**CHURR**

Why should prison be so...prison-y? My research says that if you want to reform people, you have to trust them.

MUSIC: "NOBODY BELIEVED ME" VAMP BEHIND DIALOGUE.

**HIGGINS**

And the people who hired you bought all that?

**CHURR**

Well, not exactly. I had to convince them. You see...

**CHURR's** personality totally changes during the song. This mission is his passion. He can be forceful, animated and dramatic while the music lasts.

**CHURR (SINGING)**

*I heard all the wailing  
How this prison was failing  
I offered to take charge and make it  
work*

(MORE)

**CHURR (SINGING) (cont'd)**

*Nobody would listen  
My big plans for the prison  
All I got from them was a great big  
smirk.*

**HIGGINS**

*(speaking, only mildly  
interested)*

Then what happened?

**CHURR**

*(singing)*

*I said I'd...  
Take incarceration  
And flip it on its head  
  
I mean why  
Just serve out a sentence  
Let's spread some cheer instead  
  
For instance  
Nightly "guest" receptions  
Will lead to new friendships  
  
It's hard to  
Shiv your cellmate after  
You've shared some three-bean dips  
  
And when you  
Want to get things moving  
There's lifting weights, of course  
  
But would you  
Choose that as your option  
If you could ride a horse?*

**HIGGINS**

And then they hired you?

**CHURR**

(calmly, almost timid)

Not exactly.

**CHURR (SINGING)**

(boisterously and dramatic)

*"You're mad!" they cried,*

*Like I was Frankenstein*

*"How sad!" they jeered*

*They were so unkind*

*"But I," (said I),*

*"I've done all my research"*

*"Doc Churr, dear sir,*

*That isn't how it works"*

*I replied*

*Don't think it's all gloomy*

*And there's no room for glee*

*For instance*

*Solitary's lonely*

*Put two in there. Or Three!*

*Don't forget*

*That the prison guards here*

*Tend to intimidate*

*But what if*

*We had them use humor*

*Meant to self-deprecate?*

*And when it*

*Comes to trusting inmates*

*This place will raise the bar*

(MORE)

**CHURR (SINGING) (cont'd)**

*We'll shout out  
 "Stay inside your jail cells!"  
 Then keep the door ajar.  
 "Doc Churr! Get out!,"  
 They said -- no, screamed at me!  
 "Hey, wait," said I,  
 "I'll do the job for free!"  
 They paused, they talked  
 Then turned and smiled at me  
 "You have the job!  
 Despite your sad C.V."*

*(slowing down)*

*"Good luck with your pipe dream."*

*(big finish)*

*That is the true story  
 You got the whole tour  
 I think I've proved clearly  
 That one thing's for sure  
 If crime is a disease  
 If crime is a disease  
 If crime is a disease...  
 I. Am. D. Churr!  
 Churr!*

SOUND: HIGGINS DOING SLOW-CLAP APPLAUSE, WITH THE SOUND OF HIS SHACKLES ACCOMPANYING EVERY MOVE OF HIS HANDS.

**HIGGINS**

*(unimpressed)*

*You really want to make this place to  
 feel like home? Just take off these  
 dirty, filthy cuffs, open the front gate*

*(MORE)*

**HIGGINS (cont'd)**

and I'll walk off to get a pack of cigarettes and never come back.

**CHURR**

(sighs)

I can see you still don't get it. But you will! Now, you probably want to get settled. We're building an amazing open floor plan common sleeping area, but for now, space is tight. You'll be sharing a cell. I think you'll like your roommate. He's rather...unique.

SOUND: TRANSITION WHOOSH.

**CHAPTER 2, SCENE 4: INT. INMATE CELL - SMASH CUT****GUARD**

Here you go. I'll let you two get acquainted. And I hope you like music.

SOUND: CELL DOOR SLIDES SHUT.

**HIGGINS**

Rude! And dusty.

HIGGINS' CELLMATE MAKES A SOUND THAT CATCHES HIGGINS ATTENTION.

**HIGGINS (cont'd)**

(cautiously, apprehensive)

Uh. Hello. My name is Brax Higgins. Who are you? And please tell me that that the only bathroom in here?

**BAD NOTE BILLY**

(mumbles quietly)

They call me Bad...

**HIGGINS**

I'm sorry. I can't hear you. You need to speak up.

**BAD NOTE BILLY**

(excited and loud)

Oh. I can be louder!

(singing, badly, a cappella)

*Oh! They call me Bad Note Billy.  
I love to sing, it's what I do.  
It's how I start each day.  
And end them the same way.  
I tried to kill someone, did you?*

**CHAPTER 2, OUTRO**

MUSIC: THEME IN AND UNDER

**NARRATOR**

Bad Note Billy? Wow, that's quite a throwback! What happens next? To find out, be sure to come back for Chapter 3, "Headline Headaches"

MUSIC: THEME UP AND OUT.

**CLINTON**

In this episode, the part of the Abby Falmacher was played by Bonnie Kenderdine, the Carnie was played by Scott Morris, from the "Disney, Indiana" podcast, at [Disney Indiana.com](http://DisneyIndiana.com), and Warden Doctor Dewayne Churr, as well as the Narrator were played by Gary J. Chambers, [garyjchambersvo.com](http://garyjchambersvo.com). The song "Give My Regards to Broadway," was written by George M. Cohen. Additional voices, as well as story and music, by Clinton Alvord, copyright 2022. All rights reserved.

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But for now, That's it. We're done, done, done, done, done. Bye bye.