

comedy4cast #735
Batter Days
Chapter 3: Headline Headaches

Written by
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comedy4cast #735: "Batter Days", Chapter 3, "Headline Headaches"

CHAPTER 3: INTRO

SOUND: COMEDY4CAST STING

MUSIC: STORY MAIN THEME IN AND UNDER.

CLINTON

This is comedy4cast, episode 735, "Batter Days," Chapter 3. Brought to you by the comedy4cast patrons on Patreon.com. Thank you. Please consider joining Kyle, Paul, Chuck and the other people who support the show for as little as a dollar a month.

This year's original 31-chapter story is called "Batter Days" To hear it from the beginning, just go to comedy4cast -- all one word, with the number 4, .com/2022.

Now, here's Chapter 3, "Headline Headaches"

NARRATOR

Previously in our story, the town of Middling Fair has been experiencing a growing number of power and water issues. Meanwhile, disgraced former Little Wicker Baskets executive Brax Higgins arrived at the jail in the town

(MORE)

NARRATOR (cont'd)

of Convenience and was introduced to his prison cellmate, the infamous Bad Note Billy.

CHAPTER 3, SCENE 1: INT. NEWSROOM - NIGHT

SOUND: MANUAL TYPEWRITER

NARRATOR

As this chapter begins, we find ourselves in the newsroom of the Middling Fair Courier Times Roman Bold Italic. It is long past normal quitting time, but ace reporter Buzz "Scoop" Crackerjack Thomas is still hard at work, typing out his latest article.

SOUND: POWER SLOWLY SINKS.

BUZZ

Great Blackouts of Tom Brokaw. Another power glitch? Hold on. Who am I talking to? There's no one else here?

SOUND: POWER RISES AGAIN.

NARRATOR

Suddenly, the door to the Editor-in-Chief's office opens.

SOUND: DOOR OPENS

NARRATOR (cont'd)

And out pops a surprisingly young gentleman.

SIMON IS THE NEW EDITOR-IN-CHIEF AT THE NEWSPAPER. HIS FATHER, THE PUBLISHER OF THE PAPER, GAVE HIM THE JOB TO GET HIM OUT OF THE HOUSE. HE HAS LITTLE EXPERIENCE IN THE NEWS BUSINESS. HOWEVER, THAT HAS NOT STOPPED SIMON FROM DOING WHATEVER HE WANTS, IGNORING THE ADVICE OF LONG-TIME EMPLOYEES.

SIMON

Mr. Thomas. Please come in here!

NARRATOR

Simon is new to the publishing business, but his father, the owner of the newspaper, thought this job would be a good place to start. Side note: he is the only one who thought that.

BUZZ

In a second, Chief. I just need to finish up this article.

SOUND: MANUAL TYPEWRITER SOUND CONTINUES BEHIND BUZZ.

BUZZ (cont'd)

Town hall has yet to get back to this reporter on the subject. So, for now, we will have to accept the fact that our so-called Animal Control Officer can't stop birds from singing outside this reporter's window at the crack of dawn. Next week, I will examine the issue of
(MORE)

BUZZ (cont'd)

Stop signs in town. Do they mean "Stop"?
Or "Stop, then go"? Why so vague?

SOUND: PAPER IS PULLED OUT OF TYPEWRITER.

SOUND: CHAIR SLIDES OUT FROM BEHIND DESK.

SOUND: FEET ON HARDWOOD FLOOR.

**CHAPTER 3, SCENE 2: INT. EDITOR-IN-CHIEF'S OFFICE - NIGHT
(CONTINUOUS)**

BUZZ

I have to take my article down to
publishing, Chief. So I hope this won't
take long.

SIMON

It won't, Mr. Thomas.

SOUND: DOOR CLOSES

BUZZ

They always gripe about how they have to
take my type-written pages and "scan
them into the matrix" or whatever it is
they do.

SOUND: POWER SLOWLY SINKS.

SIMON

Again? What's happening to the power in
this town?

SOUND: POWER RISES AGAIN.

SIMON (cont'd)

I can't keep my Bluetooth mood lighting charged up under conditions like this.

BUZZ

Don't worry, Chief. This ace reporter will get on that story as soon as my next great assignment is done.

SIMON

Yeah, about that. I'm not approving your request.

BUZZ

Great Pomposity of Emily Post. Why not? My reporter's senses are tingling, Chief. I tell you, something is up down in those tunnels.

SIMON

I want you to go to Grassssssside Greene and do a story on their mayor. Did you know he's a dog? An actual dog?!

BUZZ

Yes. I know. I covered the story, for our paper, when he was elected.

NARRATOR

(fast and low, almost like
a legal disclaimer)

To hear what happened, listen to
comedy4cast episode 725, "The Results
Are In".

SIMON

Oh. That must have been before I started
here. I don't usually read articles. T-
L-D-R.

BUZZ

Well, now you do know. And that means I
can do the story on The Tunnels.

SIMON

No. It doesn't. I want you to write this
dog story. And take lots of pictures.
The cuter the better. Something we can
put on the home page.

BUZZ

Uh huh. Which photographer will be going
with me?

SIMON

We don't have photographers anymore.
You're the photographer. Just use your
phone.

(MORE)

SIMON (cont'd)

(realizing the truth,
taunting the old man)

Oh wait...Haven't you ever used your
phone to take pictures before?

BUZZ

Quite frankly, no. And I don't intend to
start now.

SIMON

Well, you're going to.

BUZZ

No. I'm doing the investigative piece on
The Tunnels.

SIMON

Okay. I'll make you a deal, Mr. Thomas.
I'll give you a week to go get that
story down in your tunnels.

BUZZ

Only seven days?!

SIMON

Five days. I don't do weekends. That's
"me" time. And if you don't have a story
that will go viral for us by then --
you're fired.

BUZZ

And if I do come back with something
contagious for you?

SIMON

You get to keep your job.

BUZZ

Oh. Touché.

MUSIC: TRANSITION STING.

CHAPTER 3, SCENE 3: INT. CAPRICA COFFEE - NIGHT

SOUND: SMALL GROUP OF PATRONS.

SOUND: COFFEE-MAKING MACHINES

SOUND: DOOR OPENS, SETTING OFF BELL.

SOUND: DOOR CLOSES.

CAFE PATRON 1 HAS ENTERED THE CAFE.

OWNER

Welcome to Caprica Coffee's Coffee Shop,
Coffee Bar and CoffeeXpress, where every
cup of coffee is just two dollars.

Small, medium, large, extra large, even
our Caprica Coffee Coffee Cauldron is...

SOUND: ELECTRIC HUM SINKS. COFFEE-MAKING MACHINES STOP.

SOUND: PATRONS MUMBLE.

OWNER (cont'd)

Not again! That's the third time the
power has gone out this week.

CAFE PATRON

You think you have it tough. Back at my house, I can't keep my garden from drying up. How am I supposed to grow a cactus under conditions like that?

OWNER

I'm going to write a sternly-worded letter to the Mayor. Maybe I'll even throw in a few exclamation points! But first I need to fix myself my fourth cup of coffee.

SOUND: CLICK OF SWITCH, SEVERAL TIMES.

OWNER (cont'd)

Oh no! I can't make any coffee!!!!!!
Coffee!!!!!! No!!! I'm wasting my supply
of exclamation points!!!!!!

MUSIC: TRANSITION STING

CHAPTER 3, SCENE 4: INT. INMATE CELL - NIGHT**NARRATOR**

While things are clearly chaotic in Middling Fair, let's travel back to the town of Convenience and check in on Brax Higgins, the disgraced former executive at The Little Wicker Basket Company. He is currently serving time at the Happy Meadows Prison facility...

SOUND: SHUFFLING OF PAPER.

NARRATOR (cont'd)

I've just received word that there has been a change to the name of that facility. Due to the discovery of an old naming rights contract, we now go to the...

(double checking the name)

You're kidding, right? "S&H Green Stamps" Prison. Kids, go ask your grandparents. As you may recall, Brax Higgins is sharing a cell with Bad Note Billy.

BAD NOTE BILLY

(singing)

*I have a new cellmate
He likes to keep things clean
He even puts down the lid
A sight I've never seen*

HIGGINS

That's...great, Billy.

BAD NOTE BILLY

Oh, would you like another one?

HIGGINS

No, I...

BAD NOTE BILLY

(interrupting)

Of course you would. This one is about my love for candy corn, the most misunderstood of the Halloween treats. Which is saying a lot, since NECCO wafers are a thing. And I will use my harmonica.

MUSIC: RANDOM NOTES, PRODUCED BY A HARMONICA

BAD NOTE BILLY (cont'd)

(singing a cappella)

*Corn of sugar, I love you so
How they grow you, I don't know*

MUSIC: RANDOM NOTES, PRODUCED BY A HARMONICA

BAD NOTE BILLY (cont'd)

On you I love to binge

(realizing his rhyming
problem)

Stripes of white...yellow...and orange

(talking)

Ha! I was worried that I couldn't find a word that rhymes with "binge."

MUSIC: RANDOM NOTES, PRODUCED BY A HARMONICA

HIGGINS

(quietly, to himself)

Solitary. How do I get myself into solitary?

CHAPTER 3, OUTRO

MUSIC: THEME IN AND UNDER

NARRATOR

Can Brax Higgins survive imprisonment with Bad Note Billy? What will Buzz "Scoop" Crackerjack Thomas uncover in The Tunnels?

BUZZ

At this point, hopefully someone who can teach me how to use the camera on my phone!

NARRATOR

Be sure to come back for Chapter 4, "Seven Hundred And Twenty One"

MUSIC: THEME IN AND UNDER.

CLINTON

In this episode, the part of the Cafe Patron was played by Tracey Morris, from the "Disney, Indiana" podcast, at DisneyIndiana.com, and the Narrator were played by Gary J. Chambers, garyjchambersvo.com.

(MORE)

CLINTON (cont'd)

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

MUSIC: THEME UP AND OUT.