

comedy4cast #736
Batter Days
Chapter 4: Seven Hundred and Twenty One

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comedy4cast #736: "Batter Days", Chapter 4, "Seven Hundred And Twenty One"

CHAPTER 4: INTRO

SOUND: COMEDY4CAST STING

MUSIC: STORY MAIN THEME IN AND UNDER.

CLINTON

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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 4, "Seven Hundred and Twenty One"

NARRATOR

Previously in our story, former henchmen Kipper and Mulligan, who were cleared of all charges against them, had been invited to take up residency in The Tunnels. This artistic community is

(MORE)

NARRATOR (cont'd)

owned and operated by town resident
Cindy.

CHAPTER 4, SCENE 1: EXT. TUNNEL SECURITY CHECKPOINT - DAY

SOUND: FOOTSTEPS ON RUBBLE.

SOUND: TIRES ON GRAVEL.

NARRATOR

As this chapter begins, Mulligan and Kipper are pushing their combination motorcycle/sidecar over the debris field that was once the town's nuclear pasta plant and then the briefly cohesive One Pasta Place apartments. Few remnants of either structure remain intact.

MULLIGAN

Kipper. Kipper Kipper. This place looks like a bomb hit it.

KIPPER

It wasn't a bomb, Mulligan. It was a missile. Go back and listen to chapter 18 of the 2019 podcast-a-day story.

NARRATOR

Walking down into what is left of the apartment building's foundation, the two reach the entrance to The Tunnels. Or, more accurately, the man-made access corridor that leads to The Tunnels. The

(MORE)

NARRATOR (cont'd)

entrance is blocked by an automated security checkpoint.

SOUND: LOW-PITCHED RUMBLE FROM THE CHECKPOINT.

AUTOMATED ATTENDANT

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

MULLIGAN

Kipper, Kipper, Kipper. This isn't good. That thing will know that we're criminals!

KIPPER

Calm down, Mulligan. We were cleared. Remember? As far as the law is concerned, we're as innocent as babies. Now, let me handle this.

(loudly, towards gate)

Excuse me. Hello? We'd like to go into The Tunnels.

(pause, then, to MULLIGAN)

I don't think there's anyone...

SOUND: LOUD ELECTRONIC BEEPING.

AUTOMATED ATTENDANT

Performing biometric scan.

SOUND: VARIOUS SCANNING SOUNDS

AUTOMATED ATTENDANT (cont'd)

Scanning. Scanning. Scanning.

MULLIGAN

What does that mean, Kipper Kipper?!
This isn't like some alien probe, is it?

KIPPER

I...I'm not sure, little pal.

AUTOMATED ATTENDANT

Scan complete.

SOUND: VARIOUS COMPUTER CHIRPS.

AUTOMATED ATTENDANT (cont'd)

No contraband detected.

KIPPER

That's good.

SOUND: VARIOUS LASER EFFECTS.

AUTOMATED ATTENDANT

No Tunnels travel restrictions on file.

MULLIGAN

That's even better!

SOUND: VARIOUS LASER EFFECTS.

AUTOMATED ATTENDANT

And absolutely no fashion sense
detected.

KIPPER

Hey now. Just a second.

SOUND: WHIRRING OF MOTOR AS IT LIFTS THE SECURITY GATE.

MULLIGAN

The gate is open! The gate is open!

AUTOMATED ATTENDANT

By the way, is your refrigerator
running? It might be trying to get away
from that sweater vest

KIPPER

(incensed)

Let's go, Mulligan!

SOUND: MOTORCYCLE ENGINE KICKS INTO LIFE AND TAKES OFF.

AUTOMATED ATTENDANT

Thank you for visiting The Tunnels.
Middling Fair's premiere artist
community since 2021.

CHAPTER 4, SCENE 2: INT. ACCESS CORRIDOR - DAY (CONTINUOUS)

ALL SOUND IS ECHOED IN THE CORRIDOR, TO REPRESENT THE STARK,
FLAT WALLS.

SOUND: MOTORCYCLE SPUTTERS ALONG.

KIPPER (OVER ENGINE)

Everyone's a comedian!

MULLIGAN (OVER ENGINE)

You did it, Kipper Kipper!

KIPPER (OVER ENGINE)

I didn't do anything. It's like that thing didn't recognize us at all.

MULLIGAN (OVER ENGINE)

Does that mean that we're masters of disguise?

KIPPER (OVER ENGINE)

(sad)

No, Mulligan. I think it means nobody cares about us anymore.

MUSIC: MELANCHOLY TRANSITION STING

CHAPTER 4, SCENE 3: INT. MAYOR RORY'S OFFICE - DAY

NARRATOR

Meanwhile, at Middling Fair Town Hall, Mayor Rory has summoned Cindy, the owner of The Tunnels, to his office. The Mayor's friend and assistant, Derrick, is also present.

MAYOR RORY

All right. It's time to get down to brass tacks. Take a look at this wall

(MORE)

MAYOR RORY (cont'd)

map of Middling Fair, Cindy. Do you see what I see? Rump pum pum pum.

THERE IS AN AWKWARD PAUSE, IMPLYING THAT EVERYONE IS JUST LOOKING AT THE MAP.

CINDY

(nervous because the map shows something she's trying to hide)

Like, hmmm.

MAYOR RORY

And don't forget this part over here.

CINDY

Like, but then there's this, over here.

DERRICK

(strongly hinting to the NARRATOR)

Maybe it would help if the Narrator described the map?

NARRATOR

(caught off guard)

What? Oh. Sure. Let's see what we have here. Ah, yes. Clearly there are a number of pins, which are obviously not the heretofore mentioned brass tacks, stuck in the map. The pins are connected together by thick, red string. The resulting line begins near the entrance to The Tunnels and winds throughout

(MORE)

NARRATOR (cont'd)

Middling Fair. It crosses several business and residential areas. There. How was that?

MAYOR RORY

It's like I could picture the map that I'm already looking at. GaryVision!

DERRICK

These are places in town having power or water issues.

MAYOR RORY

And the path lines up with your underground tunnels! Plot twist and shout!

DERRICK

We hope you can explain this.

MAYOR RORY

Because we're running out of pins.

MUSIC: TRANSITION STING.

CHAPTER 4, SCENE 4: INT. ACCESS CORRIDOR - DAY

ALL SOUND IS ECHOED IN THE CORRIDOR, TO REPRESENT THE STARK, FLAT WALLS.

SOUND: MOTORCYCLE ENGINE.

NARRATOR

While the meeting continues above ground, Kipper and Mulligan have reached the halfway point in the man-made access corridor underground. Here, along the left-hand wall is the entrance to The Tunnels.

SOUND: MOTORCYCLE ENGINE STOPS.

MULLIGAN

Why'd you stop, Kipper Kipper?

KIPPER

Look at the sign, Mulligan.

MULLIGAN

Huh? Oh yeah. But we're not smoking

KIPPER

Not that sign, The other one. "No unauthorized driving beyond this point." We'll have to walk the bike in from here.

NARRATOR

The pair push the vehicle in through the tunnel opening.

SOUND: FOOTSTEPS ON RUBBLE.

SOUND: TIRES ON GRAVEL.

**CHAPTER 4, SCENE 5: INT. TUNNELS RECEPTION DESK - DAY
(CONTINUOUS)**

MUSIC: "MUSIC OF THE SPHERES" PARTICULAR TO THE ENTRANCE TO
THE TUNNELS SLOWLY FADES IN.

MULLIGAN

Woah!

NARRATOR

Awestruck, Kipper and Mulligan gaze at their surroundings. The main passageway is far larger than either of them had imagined. And everything is bathed in light that is a combination of electrified wall sconces and glowing purple spheres.

MULLIGAN

This is amazing, Kipper Kipper.

KIPPER

And listen.

A MOMENTARY PAUSE WHILE **KIPPER** AND **MULLIGAN** LISTEN TO THE "MUSIC OF THE SPHERES".

KIPPER (cont'd)

That's the sound those purple glowing things make.

MULLIGAN

Wow!

SOUND: FOOTSTEPS AND TIRES NOISES RESUME.

SOUND: MISCELLANEOUS VOICES AND NOISES FADE IN, CAN BE HEARD, ECHOED, IN THE DISTANCE, INDICATING THIS IS A BUSY PLACE.

NARRATOR

Kipper and Mulligan quickly reach a makeshift desk, constructed from simple cardboard boxes. Attached to the front of the improvised escriptorio is a handwritten sign that reads "Are you being served?" There is someone seated behind the desk.

SOUND: FOOTSTEPS AND TIRE NOISES STOP.

DANNY

Hi! Danny Hillcrest here! I'm the Talent and Artistic Creative Creators Coordinator for The Tunnels.

MULLIGAN

Hey, Danny Danny, that's a pretty wild title.

DANNY

I creatively hand-crafted it myself!

KIPPER

That's nice, I guess. But if you'll excuse us, we're here to find some place to...? Uh...to...?

MULLIGAN

(cutting to the chase)

This guy Goggles Goggles told us to come here.

DANNY

Oh! You know Goggles? He's one of our toply best brand ambassadors.

KIPPER

Does he own this place?

DANNY

No. My friend Cindy does. Badger People built the tunnels, but they departingtly left a few years ago. And they gave all this to Cindy. She opened it up to anyone who wants to come down here and be creative. Like me! Look! I made this paper unicorn, just like in "Slingblade Runner 2012"!

KIPPER

That's an airplane.

DANNY

Duh. The unicorn is inside the plane! How else could a unicorn fly? Anyway, we have 721 work studios here, all with lights, power and water!

KIPPER

Uh oh. That sounds expensive.

DANNY

I guess. I don't really know. Because
it's all free!

KIPPER

Free?!

MULLIGAN

What type of artists do you have here?

DANNY

I'm happily glad that you asked.

MUSIC: "721" BEAT IN.

DANNY (cont'd)

(rapping, or at least
making the attempt)

We've got builders

We've got makers

*And all other kinds of bland mold
breakers*

Game designers

And pic takers

Even British chef-type bake-off cakery

MUSIC: A FEW BARS OF "RULE BRITANNIA."

DANNY (cont'd)

We've got knitters

Who use needles

*We've got bands, but no, they're not The
Beatles*

(MORE)

DANNY (cont'd)

*There are vloggers
And podcasters
And even younger old pro TikTok masters
Some dance a mean Fox
Trot!
Some concentrate on
Plot!
Some paint things dot by
Dot!
I love it. It's all
Hot!
Seven hundred and twenty one
Places to create your creation
Seven hundred and twenty one
Spaces, we are the Rhythm Nation!
We've got painters
who can use gouache
Animators great at stretch and then
squash
We've got actors
And directors
And that guy who can run our projectors
Some do tattoos
Or cool hairdos
And there's one who can make great
fondue
Some are poets
Some just make rhymes
In fact, the only rule here is NO MIMES!*

DANNY (cont'd)

*Seven hundred and twenty one
 Places to make cosplay for the con
 Seven hundred and twenty one
 I could just go on and on and on
 Seven hundred and twenty one
 Spaces to create your masterpiece
 Seven hundred and twenty one
 And a shop with pricey sundries
 Seven hundred and twenty one
 No more, no less. It really is a ton
 Seven hundred and twenty one
 I hope you get the idea 'cause I'm done*

MUSIC: "721" ENDS.

DANNY (cont'd)

(talking)

How does all that sound?

MULLIGAN

A little off key.

KIPPER

But we'll take it. We're in!

DANNY

I love it! Welcome to The Tunnels! Here are your normally standard issue "Safety Baseball Caps." Per the Underground Safety Hat Act, you have to wear it anytime you're in The Tunnels.

KIPPER

A baseball cap isn't much protection.

DANNY

It is when it's made out of metal.

SOUND: BANGING OF METAL CAP.

DANNY (cont'd)

I asked Cindy if I could put motivational messages on them. She said, and I quote, "Whatever."

KIPPER

Mine says "Is that a shark fin?"

MULLIGAN

Mine says "Faster! They're gaining on us!"

DANNY

Pretty motivational, huh? Okay, now to assign you a studio. Did I mention we have 721?

KIPPER

Yes!

MULLIGAN

Yes!

SOUND: PAGES FLIPPING IN BOOK.

DANNY

I love it! It looks like you two can use studio 217. Wait. I wrote that down

(MORE)

DANNY (cont'd)

wrong. I mean 721. 721! Hey! That means the tunnels are completely full! Because we have seven hundred...

KIPPER

And twenty one. We know!

MULLIGAN

And twenty one! We know!

MUSIC: SHORT TRANSITION STING.

CHAPTER 4, SCENE 6: INT. MAYOR RORY'S OFFICE - DAY

CINDY

Like, Mayor Rory, The Tunnels are, like, just a tiny artist community. I don't think we could be...

SOUND: CINDY'S PHONE RINGS - WITH A UNIQUE, CHILL RING.

CINDY (cont'd)

Like, hold on a second.

SOUND: RINGING STOPS

CINDY (cont'd)

Like, hello?

DANNY (OVER PHONE)

Hi! Danny Hillcrest here! I'm the Talent and Creative Creators Coordinator for The Tunnels...

CINDY

Like, not a thing.

DANNY (OVER PHONE)

I have great news! I just bookingly filled the last of our 721 studios. Studio 721! The Tunnels are full! They couldn't be more full if we tried to make them more full by filling them more! I mean, it's 721 studios of full, full, full! Bye!

SOUND: CLICK OF PHONE HANGING UP

CINDY

(dazed)

Like...

(short, stunned pause
before speaking to
DERRICK and MAYOR RORY)

Maybe this is a good time to share some, like, things I've found out.

CHAPTER 4: OUTRO

MUSIC: THEME IN AND UNDER

NARRATOR

What secret has Cindy been hiding? And what does it have to do with the 720...

DANNY

721!

NARRATOR

Studios in The Tunnels? For answers, be sure to come back for Chapter 5, "The Waffle Truth."

MUSIC: THEME UP AND OUT.

CLINTON

In this episode, the part of the Cindy was played by Bonnie Kenderdine. And the Narrator was played by Gary J. Chambers, garyjchambersvo.com.

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And remember, to hear the story from the beginning, just go to [comedy4cast](http://comedy4cast.com) -- all one word, with the number 4, dot com/2022.

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

MUSIC: UP AND OUT.