

comedy4cast #741
Batter Days
Chapter 9: Prison Bound and Determined

Written by
Clinton Alvord

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comedy4cast@gmail.com

comedy4cast #741: "Batter Days", Chapter 9, "Prison Bound And Determined"

CHAPTER 9: INTRO

SOUND: COMEDY4CAST STING

MUSIC: STORY MAIN THEME IN AND UNDER.

CLINTON

This is comedy4cast, episode 741, "Batter Days," Chapter 9. Brought to you by the comedy4cast patrons on Patreon.com. Thank you. Please consider joining Steve, Bryn, Gary and the other super cool 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 9, "Prison Bound and Determined"

MUSIC: STORY MAIN THEME UP AND OUT.

NARRATOR

Previously, Buzz "Scoop" Crackerjack Thomas happened upon Cindy and Detective Haartte talking about problems

(MORE)

NARRATOR (cont'd)

associated with The Tunnels. Needing a major scoop to save his job, Buzz was ready to report the story. However, Cindy promised him an exclusive on everything if he would remain silent for just a few days. Trusting Cindy, and needing to stay close to the action, Buzz agreed.

CHAPTER 9, SCENE 1: PRISON RECEPTION AREA - EARLY AFTERNOON**NARRATOR**

As our chapter begins, Detective Haartte and Buzz have taken a ride-share to the town of Convenience, located just South of Chasm Valley. They're here to speak with disgraced former Little Wicker Baskets executive Brax Higgins. It was their investigation that sent Higgins to jail. The pair make their way to the visitor's lobby and are greeted by the prison's new Warden, Dr. Dewayne Churr.

CHURR

Ah, Detective Haartte, Mr. Thomas. Welcome back to the Sony Betamax Bastille.

BUZZ

The sign out front said "Howard Johnson's Clam Strip..."

CHURR

(interrupting)

I'm working through the backlog of naming rights requests. The contract may be old, but money is money. You missed the Pan Am Penitentiary.

HAARTTE

You know why we're here, right?

CHURR

To speak to Brax Higgins? Yes. This way, gentlemen.

SOUND: THREE SETS OF FOOTSTEPS BEGIN WALKING DOWN THE HALL.
SLIGHT ECHO.

**CHAPTER 9, SCENE 2: PRISON HALLWAY - EARLY AFTERNOON
[CONTINUOUS]**

CHURR

Mr. Higgins will be meeting with you in the Crazy Eddie Visitation room.

HAARTTE

Hang on, Churr!

SOUND: FOOTSTEPS STOP.

HAARTTE (cont'd)

What are you trying to pull? You do know that Thomas and I have been here before, right?

CHURR

(confused)

Yes. Which is why you didn't need to go through another background check.

BUZZ

I see what Haartte is getting at, in his own sad way. The visiting rooms are down that hallway.

CHURR

The old ones are. But I'm having those turned into the Pets.com yoga studio. You two get to be the first people to utilize the new, kinder, gentler visitor's room.

SOUND: FOOTSTEPS RESUME.

HAARTTE

What was wrong with the old one?

CHURR

For one thing, as you know, you had to use pay phones to speak to prisoners and no one carries cash anymore.

HAARTTE

I do.

SOUND: JINGLE OF CHANGE IN PANTS POCKET.

BUZZ

(rolling his eyes)

Naturally.

CHURR

(seeing the room entrance)

Ah.

SOUND: FOOTSTEPS STOP.

CHURR (cont'd)

Here we are.

SOUND: DOOR OPENS.

**PCHAPTER 9, SCENE 3: PRISON VISITOR'S ROOM - EARLY AFTERNOON
[CONTINUOUS]**

NARRATOR

The smell of freshly painted walls fills the room, while soft, multi-colored lighting sets a calming tone.

BUZZ

Gah! Is this a prison or a nursery?

CHURR

We're going to pump in a wonderful, fresh pine scent once the paint dries. And watch this. I can adjust the lighting right from my phone.

SOUND: CHIRPS FROM PHONE APP.

HAARTTE

I don't see any difference.

CHURR

Oh. Wrong app. I think I just put the infirmary on Code Red. I'd better go check on that. Brax will be brought to that window over there.

BUZZ

The one with unicorn stickers?

CHURR

No, no. The one with the Minions and Paw Patrol decals.

SOUND: DOOR CLOSES.

HAARTTE

I don't like any of this.

BUZZ

Exactly, a prison should look like a prison. That's why they call it a...a prison.

HAARTTE

Ah. That's the kind of in-depth analysis you put into all your stories, isn't it? We need to come up with a plan for how we're going to handle this interrogation. I figure I'll play Expert

(MORE)

HAARTTE (cont'd)

Detective, while you play Idiot
Reporter.

BUZZ

You're not that good of an actor,
Haartte. How about I play the Good
Reporter and you play with that box of
crayons over there!

HAARTTE

What's, exactly, is that supposed to
mean?

START OF BACKGROUND DIALOGUE TO PLAY BEHIND NARRATOR LINES.

BUZZ

Face facts. It was my award-worthy
investigative reporting that put Higgins
behind bars and you know it.

HAARTTE

I think you've chewed on one too many of
your erasers, Thomas. My sleuthing broke
the case wide open.

END OF BACKGROUND DIALOGUE.

NARRATOR

As the two men argue, a prison guard
escorts Brax Higgins into the room on
the other side of the glass. The
prisoner takes a seat and watches the
heated discussion.

SOUND: SLOW CLAPS.

BUZZ

Higgins! How long have you been here?

HIGGINS

Oh, don't let me stop you. That was very entertaining.

(pause)

And none of it involved singing.

HAARTTE

Nice work, Thomas. So much for your plan.

BUZZ

Then let's get right into it, shall we?
We know you ran into Romeo Sykes and the Badger People in 2020, Higgins.

HIGGINS

(playing with them)

What is that? Some kind of Harry Styles cover band?

BUZZ

I'm enraged! Is what I would say if I knew what you were talking about.

HAARTTE

Look, Higgins. In some article you outright told a superior reporter that you ran into Sykes.

HIGGINS

Oh. Right. The crazy guy with the filthy entourage. Disguisting. Always filling their faces with food. And not a single napkin between the lot of them. Yes. I crossed paths with him. And them. It's hard to forget someone who's held up the bathroom line for that long. What of it?

HAARTTE

We want to know if he mentioned anything about a Waffle Batter sphere.

HIGGINS

Ah. I see. And why would their clearly insane conversation about an all-powerful sphere interest you? Never mind. It doesn't matter. Why should I tell you two anything. You got me sent here. And now that you need something, you come and visit? Where were you all the other times?

(singing)

*Do you think for one second about me?
Sitting here in this name-changing jail?*

HAARTTE

(speaking)

We were supposed to?

HIGGINS

*Did you write me a letter then mail it?
Filled with news about Kate Beckinsale?*

Here I sit

Orang suit, one zip.

No pockets. No pleats. And no trim.

*Do you talk to the people who miss me?
Must be some, if you look, I am sure.*

*Do you write me a letter then mail it?
Describing the latest in couture?*

Here I sit

Miserable, I admit.

No pockets. No pleats. And no trim.

*Did you decide "No letter. Forget him."
Wipe your hands, oh so self-righteously.*

BUZZ

May I remind you, Brax -- you've only
been in here two days.

HAARTTE

Look, Higgins, if you cooperate with us,
things might go easy on you during your
trial.

HIGGINS

I've already been convicted, you idiot!

(MORE)

HIGGINS (cont'd)

(pause, composing himself)

Fine. You want some information? I'll give it to you. With one of my famous signature rhyming puzzles.

BUZZ

That's not a thing. You never did that before.

HIGGINS

Of course, I did.

HAARTTE

No, you didn't.

HIGGINS

I didn't? Why did I think I did rhymes? Oh, no. Billy is in my brain. Fine. So be it. This puzzling poem will blow your minds. No. That's messy. Just attend:

(clears throat)

The sphere you seek is rumored to have
great power
To find it you'll need more brainpower

HAARTTE

You just rhymed "power" with "power"

HIGGINS

Hush!

The place it is stored
Is not a mountain, desert or fjord

(MORE)

HIGGINS (cont'd)

Instead gaze up to find a tall "blank."
Haha! Good luck figuring...

HAARTTE

It's a tower, isn't it?

HIGGINS

What?

BUZZ

Yup. It's definitely a tower. Thanks,
Higgins. That was soooo hard. Anything
else you want to rhyme at us? Like your
ATM password?

HIGGINS

Give me a break, will you? Apparently
I'm new at this.

BUZZ

How about a poem that tells us where
this tower is located?

HIGGINS

Oh, no. I see what you're trying to do.
You think you're clever, don't you? But
you're sloppy. I detest sloppy. And
dirty. And moist. How about, instead, I
just give you a cryptic clue about the
rest of what he told me. Yes. Much
easier.

BUZZ

Lay it on us, genius.

HIGGINS

"Go North, young man."

BUZZ

Go on.

HIGGINS

No. That's it. Now, you figure it out.

(calling out)

Guard! I never thought I'd say this, but I'm ready to return to my cell.

HAARTTE

You've got to give us more than that.

HIGGINS

I don't have to give you anything! You put me in here! Just because I tried to eliminate Abby Falmacher and take over the Little Wicker Basket Company. Which actually sounds pretty bad when I say it out loud. So I'm going to stop talking right now! And when was the last time someone dusted in here?!

MUSIC: TRANSITION STING.

CHAPTER 9, SCENE 4: CAMP BARRACKS - EARLY AFTERNOON**NARRATOR**

Meanwhile, at Camp Parmenter, the small military base on the outskirts of Middling Fair, two members of the elite Magenta Fedoras team have returned from a morning working in The Tunnels.

CHIEF

We'll be back at it again at Oh seven-hundred hours tomorrow, 10 Toes.

10 TOES

(grunts in frustration)

Permission to speak freely, Chief.

CHIEF

Granted. What's on your mind?

10 TOES

Chief, I had to look busy, working on that stupid bus, for five hours today! Why are we going so slow on decommissioning the KRULR? We could have finished up here weeks ago.

CHIEF

Captain's orders. You know that. I'm sure he'll brief us when the time is right.

BROUGHHA

Correct, Chief.

CHIEF

(caught by surprise)

Captain! Atten-hut!

SOUND: SOLDIERS SNAPPING TO ATTENTION

BROUGHHA

At ease.

CHIEF

Apologies, sir. 10 Toes and I were just blowing off steam about today's detail.

BROUGHHA

And you're both probably wondering why I've ordered you to work so slow.

CHIEF

It has crossed our minds, sir.

BROUGHHA

As it should. I didn't have authorization to bring you up to speed on our assignment until just now.

10 TOES

I thought our assignment was to deliver the KRAWLR and decommission the KRULR,

(MORE)

10 TOES (cont'd)

sir. Did we do it backwards? The names are confusing, sir!

BROUGHHA

No, 10 Toes. You both did an outstanding job. But, there's another layer to our assignment here. In that library at the end of The Tunnels are a series of books.

10 TOES

Harry Potter first editions?

BROUGHHA

No. The documentation on all those damned spheres they use down there.

CHIEF

The ones that glow and make music?

BROUGHHA

And the ones that provide water and power. Washington wants us to retrieve the books and bring them back for analysis.

CHIEF

What did Little Miss No Sunshine say when you told her we're taking them?

BROUGHHA

She refused. And Kalamity isn't going to make the request again. So, we're on our own.

CHIEF

You mean the General is no longer in the loop on this?

BROUGHHA

That's right, Chief. This mission is on a "need to know" basis. And Kalamity doesn't need to know.

10 TOES

What's the plan, sir?

BROUGHHA

I've been authorized to secure those assets by any means necessary. And it's time we made our move.

MUSIC: TRANSITION STING.

CHAPTER 9: OUTRO

MUSIC: THEME IN AND UNDER

NARRATOR

What does Captain Broughha have in mind?
And what about those clues to the
location of the Waffle Batter sphere?
Can Cindy and the gang figure out their
(MORE)

NARRATOR (cont'd)

meaning in time to save The Tunnels? Be sure to come back for Chapter 10, "A Towering Connection"

CLINTON

In this episode, the part of Chief was played by Bonnie Kenderdine, the part of 10 Toes was played by Paul Barrie, from the A Window to the Magic podcast, windowtothemagic.com. And Warden Doctor Dewayne Churr, as well as the Narrator, were 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, done. Bye bye.

MUSIC: THEME UP AND OUT.