

comedy4cast #742
Batter Days
Chapter 10: A Towering Connection

Written by
Clinton Alvord

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comedy4cast@gmail.com

comedy4cast #742: "Batter Days", Chapter 10, "A Towering Connection"

CHAPTER 10: 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 10, "A Towering Connection"

MUSIC: STORY MAIN THEME UP AND OUT.

NARRATOR

Previously, Mayor Rory threatened to close The Tunnels. It seems the

(MORE)

NARRATOR (cont'd)

mysterious spheres left by the Badger People are causing power and water problems throughout Middling Fair. But, through the writings of Romeo Sykes, Cindy has learned of the existence of a golden sphere, which the Badger People refer to as the Waffle Batter sphere. Detective Haartte and Buzz "Scoop" Crackerjack Thomas traveled to the prison in the nearby town of Convenience to speak with disgraced executive Brax Higgins. Higgins had crossed paths with Romeo Sykes in 2020.

CHAPTER 10, SCENE 1: INT. BUZZ'S STUDIO - MID AFTERNOON**NARRATOR**

As this chapter begins, Haartte and Buzz have returned from the Sony Betamax...

SOUND: RUSTLE OF PAPER.

NARRATOR (cont'd)

(frustrated)

The "Polaroid Swinger Picture Perfect Penitentiary." Fine. After returning from "that place" Detective Haartte proceeded directly to Cindy's office in The Tunnels for a debriefing. However, Buzz realized he had booked guests for his Tunnel radio station. The station is serving as his cover story. You see, Buzz must deliver a tremendous, viral story about The Tunnels to his boss, or

(MORE)

NARRATOR (cont'd)

he will be fired. Keeping that a secret, Buzz has made a deal with Cindy to remain silent for the moment, in exchange for exclusive rights to the story, as well as the opportunity to be kept up to date on what is happening. But, at the moment, Buzz has a show to do.

ANNOUNCER

Broadcasting from The Tunnels, on a carrier current system that transmits only to The Tunnels, with news only about The Tunnels, from people working in The Tunnels, this is "I Guess That Passes For Art," with your host, Buzz "Snap Into a Slim Jim" Tomlin.

MUSIC: RENAISSANCE MUSIC CAN BE HEARD IN THE BACKGROUND.

BUZZ

Gah! Again? This is Buzz "Scoop" Crackerjack Thomas, broadcasting from my studio overlooking the Underdome, here in The Tunnels. Which I think we have already established to a ridiculous level of detail. And, "lucky for me," the never ending renaissance fair is still happening right outside my window. The actual renaissance didn't last this long! Be that as it may, with me today, for an interview I totally forgot I had scheduled, are Kipper and Mulligan, two

(MORE)

BUZZ (cont'd)

former criminals. Henchmen who worked for Brax Higgins.

KIPPER

Now hold on, Thomas, we were cleared.

BUZZ

Right. And now you're just a pair of artists.

KIPPER

That's right.

MULLIGAN

It sure is, Buzz Buzz Buzz.

BUZZ

(not buying it)

Uh huh. And what sort of project are you creating down here? It must be... redundant.

KIPPER

Well, you see, we brought our old motorcycle down here to see if we could turn it into some kind of work of art.

MULLIGAN

Yeah. And we've done a lot of work on it in the past few days. Shout out to all the artists with studios in our corridor! Sector 47 rules! Wooohoo!

BUZZ

I'd love to hear more, but I'm not interested. Besides, this reporter has a secret meeting to get to. So, if you'll excuse me, this interview is over.

KIPPER

It's like I told you, Mulligan, people still think we're criminals.

BUZZ

Oh, I don't think you're criminals.

(slow and deliberate)

In fact, I don't think about you at all.

MULLIGAN

Hey, Buzz Buzz Buzz. While you're gone, can I use your station to stream my Spotify playlist?

BUZZ

(laughs)

So cute.

(angry)

No! Get out!

KIPPER

Humph. Come on, Mulligan! We're leaving!

MULLIGAN

Bye, Buzz Buzz Buzz Buzz!

SOUND: FOOTSTEPS ON GRAVEL.

SOUND: DOOR OPENS.

MUSIC: VOLUME OF RENAISSANCE MUSIC INCREASES.

SOUND: DOOR CLOSES.

MUSIC: RENAISSANCE MUSIC VOLUME LOWERS AGAIN.

BUZZ

Apologies, Mr. And Mrs. Tunnel, and all the artists at sea, but this reporter has to boogie. Here's some great music to tide you over until I get back.

SOUND: NEEDLE DROP.

MUSIC: HORRIBLE GENERIC MUSIC BEGINS TO PLAY.

SOUND: FOOTSTEPS ON GRAVEL.

CHAPTER 10, SCENE 2: INT. LIBRARY/CINDY'S OFFICE - MID AFTERNOON

MUSIC: THE SAME MUZAK AS IN PREVIOUS SCENE, BUT TINNY, OVER A SPEAKER.

MUSIC: "MUSIC OF THE SPHERE" PARTICULAR TO THIS ROOM IS STILL HERE, BUT SUBSERVIENT TO THE MUZAK.

NARRATOR

A few minutes later, after catching a ride on Princess, as the bus travels back and forth along the main tunnel of the underground labyrinth, Buzz has joined Cindy and Detective Haartte in the library.

CINDY

So, that's all we got out of him.

HAARTTE

I was kind of happy about that. His iambic pentameter was all over the place.

BUZZ

At least we now know the Waffle Batter sphere is hidden someplace that involves a tower and it's North of the prison in Convenience. By the way, is that my Tunnel radio station you have on there?

CINDY

Like, yeah. The droning helps me concentrate.

BUZZ

(sarcastic)

It's good to know I provide a useful service.

CINDY

Like, we have to figure this out. We only have about two days left until Mayor Rory, like, shuts us down.

BUZZ

I looked through all records on Sykes background. The only thing unusual about him...

HAARTTE

Other than the fact he chose to live with Badger People.

BUZZ

Yes. Besides that. Is that he once lived in Niagara Falls for several years -- on the Canadian side. After that he made a point of returning several times.

HAARTTE

Probably to watch them turn off the water at night. It's a whole thing, I hear.

BUZZ

(light bulb goes off)

Stop the presses. I think I remember something in Higgins records. Quick, Haartte, lend me your laptop.

HAARTTE

Are you crazy? I don't own one of those malware magnets. Technology only causes grief and aggravation. It messes with your ability to...

CINDY

(fed up, interrupting)

Like here, use mine.

SOUND: SOUND OF MANUAL TYPEWRITER TYPING.

CINDY (cont'd)

(perplexed)

How do you make it sound like that?

BUZZ

No time to explain. Just as I remembered. Higgins made a lot of questionable financial investments over the years.

(pause, then, addressing
Cindy)

Does the station really come across as droning? I mean, the format is sort of fluid right now.

CINDY

(annoyed, needing him to
focus)

Like, what about Higgins?

BUZZ

Right. One of his investments was at Niagara Falls. He owned a stake in the Skylon Tower -- a tower that's north of here, on the Canadian side. What if he let Sykes hide the Waffle Batter sphere there?

HAARTTE

It's not much, but it's all we have.

BUZZ

We need to get there pronto. Who has a car?

SOUND: CRICKETS CHIRPING.

CINDY

(mumbling)

Like, not me. Too corporate.

HAARTTE

Too much tech in them these days. Give me an old fashioned stick shift...

BUZZ

(interrupting)

Gah! What's up with you, people!?

HAARTTE

Fine. We'll use your car.

BUZZ

I actually never got my license. I was too busy writing scathing exposes on driving test examiners for putting way too much emphasis on parallel parking. Why did you mark me down on that, Mr. Jenkins? It was just one fire hydrant!

HAARTTE

Then how are we supposed to get to Niagara Falls?

CINDY

(a light going off)

Like, by bus!

BUZZ

There's a Greyhound bus that runs between Middling Fair and the Canadian border?

CINDY

Like, No. I mean Princess. We can use Princess.

HAARTTE

Then what will everyone use to get around down here?

CINDY

Like, if we can't fix this, there won't, like, be any "down here" here.

BUZZ

Cheers!

(pause)

Sorry. Do you think country music would be a better option for the radio station?

CINDY

Like, my bug-out bag is set. And Princess should be, like, be stopping at this end of The Tunnels in about 30 minutes. That gives me time to, like, check out one more option.

HAARTTE

I'll go back to the office, which just happens to be where I store all my clothes, and get all my notes.

BUZZ

That will be interesting. I'll walk somewhat briskly back to my studio to get some recording equipment. I need to document this for my exclusive story. I'll meet everyone back here.

CINDY

Like, Princess will drive through Underdome on the way out. Why don't you just, like, ride with us, hop off, get your equipment, and, like, hop on again?

BUZZ

Selecting the right field equipment for an assignment like this is a complicated matter. I have to balance off weight, battery capacity and recording quality. Not to mention clear out several memory cards to...

(pause)

And they've both left. Fine.

CHAPTER 10: OUTROMUSIC: THEME IN AND UNDER**NARRATOR**

It looks like the gang may be on the right track. But can they find the Waffle Batter sphere in time? And what about the Magenta Fedoras? Where have they gone? For answers, be sure to come back for Chapter 11, "The Princess And The Governor"

CLINTON

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

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(MORE)

CLINTON (cont'd)

one word, with the number 4, dot com/
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But for now, That's it. We're done,
done, done, done, done. Bye bye.

MUSIC: THEME UP AND OUT.