

comedy4cast #750
Batter Days
Chapter 16: This Stop is the Pits

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comedy4cast #750: "Batter Days," Chapter 18, "This Stop Is The Pits"

CHAPTER 18: 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 18, "This Stop Is the Pits".

MUSIC: STORY MAIN THEME UP AND OUT.

NARRATOR

Previously, despite a full day's worth of travel, the converted 1976 Tiara Megacoach tri-axle school bus, also known as Princess, was able to press on towards Niagara Falls. That's because it

(MORE)

NARRATOR (cont'd)

is outfitted with a high-capacity, solar-rechargeable battery system and has a traditional engine that can be used in case of emergency. However, the sad collection of motorized art pieces that has been pursuing the bus is not as fortunate. Vehicles like the motorized, oversized octagonal snow globe sedan...

SOUND: SMALL MOTOR PUTTERS ALONG THE HIGHWAY.

SOUND: TAPPING ON GLASS.

SNOW GLOBE ARTIST (BEHIND GLASS)

I really should have thought about air holes!

SOUND: MOTOR FADES OFF INTO THE DISTANCE.

NARRATOR

And the fire-breathing paper mache dragon built on a Vespa scooter...

SOUND: SCOOTER MOTOR HEADING DOWN THE ROAD.

SOUND: A FIREBALL BURSTS OUT OF THE VEHICLE.

SOUND: TINY BIKE HORN HONKS AS VEHICLE ROLLS BY AND FADES.

NARRATOR (cont'd)

Need to refuel as soon as possible.

CHAPTER 18, SCENE 1: EXT. GAS STATION - NIGHT

MUSIC: SOMEWHAT EERIE MUSIC IN. MORE ATMOSPHERIC AT THIS POINT.

SOUND: VEHICLE ENGINES.

NARRATOR

As this chapter begins, the convoy of extraordinarily odd vehicles has traveled several miles off the highway, following an endless set of signs for the Ottertown Truck Stop. Along one particularly twisting section of the dark path, the swarm of rickety transports reaches their destination. Goggles, on his gas-powered surfboard, and Kipper and Mulligan, in their motorcycle and sidecar rig, are the first to pull up to the pumps.

SOUND: TIRES ROLLING OVER GRAVEL, THEN STOPPING.

SOUND: CRICKETS AND OTHER SOUNDS OF THE NIGHTTIME WILDERNESS.

SOUND: FLICKERING BUZZ OF A NEON LIGHT.

NARRATOR (cont'd)

However, it is not the sprawling, 24-hour rest stop the group was expecting. It is, in fact, a small, two pump operation with an adjacent gravel parking lot. The thin fog that hangs over the station is illuminated by the

(MORE)

NARRATOR (cont'd)

harsh glow of a neon sign that simply states "Open." A light goes on inside a small shack located near the pumps. A lone figure is seen opening the door and approaching the trio of travelers.

SOUND: WOLF HOWLS IN THE DISTANCE.

SOUND: DOOR CREAKS OPEN.

SOUND: FOOTSTEPS ON GRAVEL.

MULLIGAN

(whispering, working himself up)

Who's that, Kipper Kipper Kipper? An axe murderer? A chainsaw murderer? A really sharp plastic spoon murderer?

KIPPER

Calm down, Mulligan. It's probably just the gas station owner.

MUSIC: THE MUSIC HAS MORPHED, AS IF FOLLOWING MULLIGAN'S LEAD, INTO SOMETHING A BIT SCARY.

MULLIGAN

Who wants to wear our skin like a coat!
Hide me, Kipper Kipper. I'm wash and wear! We always go first!

GOGGLES

Just chill out, man. I've got this.

SOUND: FOOTSTEPS STOP.

MUSIC: THE MUSIC CRESCENDOS.

GOGGLES (cont'd)

(gulps, now a bit nervous)

Howdy, man.

SOUND: WOLF HOWLS IN THE DISTANCE.

A pause. There is no reply from the man, which only serves to heighten the suspense.

GOGGLES (cont'd)

Hey, co...cool place you have here.

MUSIC: THE MUSIC CRESCENDOS AGAIN.

The **station owner** is a personable hustler, out to make an extra buck or two, while providing a basic service. He sounds a lot like mr. Haney, the salesman from the tv shows "petticoat junction" and "green acres".

STATION OWNER

Well, thank you kindly. I kinda like it.
What can I do for you today, gents?

KIPPER

There? You see, Mulligan. He's just a normal person.

MULLIGAN

Until he turns into a bat! Vampire,
Kipper Kipper! Vampire!

GOGGLES

Fill 'er up with your finest petrol, my
good sir.

STATION OWNER

Yes, sir. You got it.

SOUND: FOOTSTEPS ON GRAVEL.

NARRATOR

With that, the station owner begins to
walk back to the small shack.

MULLIGAN

That's it, Kipper Kipper Kipper! He's
going to turn into Dracula! With a sharp
spoon!

GOGGLES

(louder, to get the
STATION OWNER's attention)

Excuse me, man? Aren't ya gonna fill 'er
up?

SOUND: FOOTSTEPS STOP AS THE STATION OWNER TURNS.

STATION OWNER

I sure am. Just as soon as the delivery
truck gets here in, oh, a few hours. I'm
plum out right now.

GOGGLES

Well that's a bummer, man. Where's the next closest station?

SOUND: THE STATION OWNER TAKES A FEW STEPS BACK TOWARDS GOGGLES.

STATION OWNER

You just go up this same road a ways.

GOGGLES

Cool. How far?

STATION OWNER

Oh, 50 miles or so, I reckon'.

GOGGLES

50 miles? Yikes. We'll never make it that far.

STATION OWNER

You're all welcome to wait over there in the Ottertown Truck Stop de-luxe parking lot.

GOGGLES

Thanks, man.

STATION OWNER

Yes, sir. It's just twenty dollars. That's ten dollars an axle or whatever it is you have on these things.

GOGGLES

Twenty dollars? That's a lot just to park on a patch of Mother Earth.

STATION OWNER

Oh, did I forget to mention -- it comes with a free snack. Tasty and delicious.

GOGGLES

Cool.

STATION OWNER

That's just five dollars extra.

KIPPER

I guess you're right, Mulligan. He is a vampire.

MULLIGAN

He is?

KIPPER

He certainly wants to suck us dry.

GOGGLES

(sighs)

All right, everyone. We're gonna wait over there, in the lot.

STATION OWNER

Pull right through. I'll be over with the snacks in a minute! Or, I can give

(MORE)

STATION OWNER (cont'd)

you rush delivery for just a dollar more.

MUSIC: TRANSITION STING.

CHAPTER 18, SCENE 2: EXT. GAS STATION - NIGHT

SOUND: KRAWLR PULLS INTO STATION.

NARRATOR

Several minutes after the last of the artistic cavalcade of contraptions has driven over to the gravel parking lot, another vehicle arrives at the gas station. It's Captain Broughha and the Magenta Fedoras in the KRAWLR! Broughha leaps out of the armored assault transport and strides over to the station owner.

SOUND: HATCH OPENS.

BROUGHHA grunts as he jumps from the hatch to the ground.

SOUND: FEET LAND ON GRAVEL AND BEGIN WALKING.

BROUGHHA

Are you in charge of this "place?"

STATION OWNER

Yes, sir. What can I do for ya?

BROUGHHA

You can cut the chatter and fill the tank. We're on a tight schedule.

**CHAPTER 18, SCENE 3: EXT. DE-LUXE PARKING LOT - NIGHT
(CONTINUOUS)**

SOUND: NOISES OF THE NIGHT.

SOUND: MILD CHATTER IN THE BACKGROUND.

This section of dialog between **BROUGHHA** and **STATION OWNER** will play in the background behind a conversation taking place in the parking lot.

BROUGHHA (IN DISTANCE)

And this stop is highly classified. In fact this vehicle is highly classified. Even my talking to you is highly classified. If anyone asks you about it, you are to deny this conversation ever took place. Because it's classified. Highly classified.

STATION OWNER (IN DISTANCE)

Happy to oblige, Captain. In fact, at this point, I'd kinda prefer to never have to talk about any of this ever again. But who'd be come around asking about someone just wanting to get a tank of gas?

BROUGHHA (IN DISTANCE)

I could tell you, but then you would have to deny that, too.

End of background dialogue.

MULLIGAN

(quietly, over distant
dialog)

Hey, Kipper Kipper. I recognize him.

KIPPER

(over distant dialog)

Of course you do, Mulligan. We were just
talking to him.

MULLIGAN

(over distant dialog)

Yeah.

(pause)

No. I mean him. He's the one in charge
of the soldiers that have been working
on Princess down in The Tunnels.

KIPPER

(over distant dialog)

You're right, Mulligan. They're probably
after that golden sphere, too. We can't
let them get it. We need to find it.

MULLIGAN

(over distant dialog)

Yeah! Why?

KIPPER

(over distant dialog)

To prove we're not just a couple of screw-ups.

GOGGLES

(over distant dialog)

Hey, man. Has the snack tray showed up, yet? I suddenly have the munchies.

KIPPER

(over distant dialog)

Shh. Check it out, Goggles.

CHAPTER 18, SCENE 4: EXT. GAS STATION - NIGHT (CONTINUOUS)

STATION OWNER

You all must be part of that big military exercise they're holding up there at the border.

BROUGHHA

What exercises? I mean, "No." And even if I was, I wouldn't tell you. Now. Make with the refueling.

STATION OWNER

Glad to. In a few hours. When the delivery truck gets here. In the meantime, you're welcome to wait right over there in the Ottertown Truck Stop de-luxe parking lot.

(MORE)

STATION OWNER (cont'd)

(sizing up Broughha)

Normally I charge forty bucks for parking. But in your particular case, it'll just be twenty five.

BROUGHHA

That's highway robbery.

STATION OWNER

No, sir. The highway is back yonder.

**CHAPTER 18 SCENE 5: EXT. DE-LUXE PARKING LOT - NIGHT
(CONTINUOUS)****BROUGHHA (IN DISTANCE)**

I don't carry cash. Let me see if someone on my team has change.

KIPPER

They'll be coming over here in a minute.

MULLIGAN

We need to stop them from finding the golden sphere, Goggles.

GOGGLES

Oh no, man. I think we should tell them everything.

MULLIGAN

Huh?

MUSIC: TRANSITION STING.

CHAPTER 18: OUTRO**NARRATOR**

Is Goggles about to betray the team?
Will Captain Broughha end up getting the
books from Cindy and the Waffle Batter
sphere? And what happened to those
snacks? For answers, be sure to come
back for Chapter 19, "Rock And Ruse".

MUSIC: THEME IN AND UNDER.

CLINTON

In this episode, the part of the Station
Owner was played by John Bell, from the
Bell's in the Batfry podcast,
(thebatfry.com). And the Narrator was
played by Gary J. Chambers,
(garyjchambersvo.com).

Additional voices, as well as story and
music, by Clinton Alvord, copyright
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And remember, to hear the story from the
beginning, just go to comedy4cast -- 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.