

OLD TOOTHCAP

"Pilot"

Written by

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INT/EXT. OLD TOOTHCAP'S HOUSE - NIGHT

BRENDAN (27, gnomish, nursing scrubs) slams the lever of a punch card machine on the wall. The voice of THE DOCTOR (we'll meet him later) barks from a tinny speaker. A small photo of The Doctor (30's, bald, jacked) is taped above the speaker.

THE DOCTOR (FROM SPEAKER)

You are clocked in! Remember to follow the rules or I will kill you.

Brendan turns away from the machine and looks dreamily at OLD TOOTHCAP, an ancient man wearing pajamas in a wheelchair. Toothcap moans loudly in an Alzheimer's-induced panic, hyperventilating through a nosepiece connected to a large oxygen tank. Brendan strokes him like a horse.

BRENDAN

Shh. Easy.

Toothcap relaxes.

BRENDAN (CONT'D)

Sir, I just want you to know what an honor --

OUTSIDE, NIK (25, handsome, dark vibes, also in nursing scrubs) bangs on the front door. He is accompanied by a heavily made-up woman in her 60's, SHEILA.

NIK

Open the door! I'm here to fuck!

Brendan opens the door.

BRENDAN

What are you doing here? You're on day shift tomorrow.

Nik looks over Brendan's shoulder.

NIK

This is a good house for sex.

BRENDAN

You can't come here to have sex when you're not working!

He turns to Sheila and smiles politely.

BRENDAN (CONT'D)

And who's this?

Sheila opens her mouth to speak.

NIK

This is some idiot I've brought here. She doesn't know how to get home.

BRENDAN

You can't bring lost women to Old Toothcap's house!

SHEILA

Old Toothcap lives here? Like from TV?

BRENDAN

I know! Isn't it exciting?

NIK

Shut up, you loser! I'll give you medicine you're not supposed to have!

She smiles.

SHEILA

Old Toothcap! What a great day.

NIK

I don't get it. Is this guy somebody?

SHEILA

You don't remember Old Toothcap?

BRENDAN

He was on TV every night when we were kids.

NIK

He's famous?

SHEILA

He had a talk show!

Nik grips a syringe menacingly.

NIK

I'm going to fill you with other people's blood.

BRENDAN

It was a variety show! Lots of people miss it!

NIK
So you're saying if he had a show
again people would watch it?

SHEILA
Probably.

NIK
And maybe donate money?

BRENDAN
Um, yeah I guess so.

Brendan decides the conversation is over and slowly closes
the door between them.

BRENDAN (O.C.) (CONT'D)
(muffled)
Okay. Bye.

EXT. OLD TOOTHCAP'S HOUSE - DAY (THE NEXT MORNING)

BY THE POOL, NIK holds a cheap CAMCORDER up to his face.

NIK
Alright, guys. You're watching
Tooth Man's Big Day! Be sure to
like and subscribe!

He puts the camera on a TRIPOD. He walks behind OLD TOOTHCAP
and pushes his wheelchair into the pool.

Old Toothcap sinks to the bottom then floats back up, face
still submerged.

Nik watches him coldly. He sips a mug and turns to the
camera.

NIK (CONT'D)
What do you think? Is this a good
sketch? Be sure to donate!

MOMENTS LATER

Old Toothcap lies on the side of the pool unconscious. Nik
punches him hard in the stomach. Toothcap spits up water and
begins screaming.

INT. OLD TOOTHCAP'S HOUSE - NIGHT

NIK waits with OLD TOOTHCAP, who looks worse for wear.
BRENDAN walks in the door.

BRENDAN

Hi, Nik! How was day shift -- Ooh,
how'd you bruise your knuckles?

Nik shoves the CAMCORDER in Brendan's hands.

NIK

Watch this. Tell me if it's good.

BRENDAN

What is this?

NIK

It's that show you like!

Brendan looks through the viewfinder.

MONTAGE

-Nik flicks the lights on and off in a room. Old Toothcap screams every time it's dark and stops immediately when the light goes back on.

-Nik is wearing a dress from the 1970's.

NIK (CONT'D)

It's me! I'm your dead wife!

-Nik holds a photograph of the moon up.

NIK (CONT'D)

I don't know why you hate this!

BACK TO SCENE

Brendan is horrified.

BRENDAN

You can't do this! This goes
against one of The Five Rules of
Male Nursing!

CUT TO:

INT. CHIM'S MALE NURSING STORE - DAY [FLASHBACK]

The Doctor stands in front of a blackboard in a classroom that looks like it could be in prison. Flickery lighting, bare concrete walls. He slams his enormous fists on a rusty metal desk and screams.

THE DOCTOR
Rule number three! No shows!

BACK TO:

INT. OLD TOOTHCAP'S HOUSE - NIGHT

They stand and argue as before.

NIK
Oh yeah, did you forget rule number
five?

We see Brendan's BARE FEET.

CUT TO:

INT. CHIM'S MALE NURSING STORE - DAY [FLASHBACK]

The Doctor continues to scream from his desk.

THE DOCTOR
Rule number five, the most
important one, do not remove your
shoes in a patient's home! If I
find out you've done this, I will
perform dangerous, fatal surgery on
you, as is my right as a doctor. I
will take your skin away and tell
the cops you were sick and it was
good to do that.

BACK TO:

INT. OLD TOOTHCAP'S HOUSE - NIGHT

They continue to quarrel.

NIK
If you don't help me make this
show, I'm going to tell The Doctor,
our king, about your bare feet, and
you're going to die on the
operating table.

BRENDAN
I can't afford shoes! I've never
worn them before!

NIK
Brendan.

We see NIK's FEET are wrapped in BLOODY RAGS.

NIK (CONT'D)

No male nurse has ever worn shoes. That's no excuse for bare feet, and besides, do you want our sons to be male nurses like us? This is our chance to break the chain and make some real money. Think about it! Shoes! Eye contact! Being allowed to consume medicine-- legally!

Brendan sighs.

BRENDAN

Alright, I'll help you with the show, but if we're gonna do this, we have to do it right. You need to promise me we're going to make Old Toothcap a star again.

Nik puts out his hand. Brendan shakes.

INT. OLD TOOTHCAP'S HOUSE/GARAGE - NIGHT

BRENDAN, NIK, and OLD TOOTHCAP stand in the center of a micro-budget talk show set being filmed by CHEAP WEBCAMS. PERCY (20's) an overweight male nurse, controls the feed from a laptop on a card table. Three HOMELESS MEN sit drinking tallboys in folding chairs watching the show.

Brendan wears a HOT DOG SUIT. Nik has a COP'S HAT on and a FAKE MUSTACHE. Old Toothcap has a CLOWN NOSE and WIG. He has no idea what's going on.

BRENDAN

Boy, that was a fun sketch, huh Old Toothcap?

Old Toothcap looks into the camera.

OLD TOOTHCAP

Help...

Nik shoots Brendan a look. Brendan reluctantly grabs Old Toothcap's head with both hands and forces his mouth open. Nik reaches into his pocket and starts forcing tabs of acid on Toothcap's tongue. He resists.

BRENDAN

Are you sure we have to do this?

Nik ignores Brendan.

NIK
You want more?

Old Toothcap shakes his head no.

NIK (CONT'D)
You gonna play ball?

Old Toothcap nods his head yes. Percy hits play on some music.

NIK (CONT'D)
Looks like it's time to bring out
our first guest. It's me.

They quickly take off their costumes as Nik sits down on a COUCH. Brendan wheels Old Toothcap behind a DESK and reads off note cards for him.

BRENDAN
Now Nik, I understand you're a live-
in nurse, is that correct?

NIK
That's right! My job is to help
people like Old Toothcap who have
gotten too old and stupid to manage
simple tasks around the home.

BRENDAN
That's very noble of you. Now, how
does a washed up has-been like Old
Toothcap afford to hire live-in
help?

NIK
Through the generosity of his fans,
of course! Old Toothcap has fans
who don't want to see him starve to
death alone in his shitty house.

Brendan is taken aback.

BRENDAN
You think he'd die without you?

NIK
Definitely. If I stopped showing up
to work, even briefly, Old Toothcap
would be dead in days, if not
hours.

BRENDAN

Wow. And how do these fans support Old Toothcap?

NIK

They can subscribe to the show on our web page, where they gain access to every episode after it streams, select clips from the original television run of Old Toothcap, bonus content, and even nudes.

BRENDAN

Who are the nudes of?

NIK

They're nudes, Brendan. I had them on my phone.

BRENDAN

Are they your nudes?

NIK

Some of them! No one owns nudes. It's like the ocean. For five dollars a month, you get basic access. Twenty dollars, we'll give you a shout out on the show. And for a hundred dollars, you can come over to Old Toothcap's house whenever you want and be alone in a room with him, no questions asked.

BRENDAN

Jesus Christ.

Beat.

NIK

Say the line.

BRENDAN

Sorry, I mean, that's a pretty good value. Almost as good as the spaghetti dinner down at Jim's Spaghetti House.

Mariachi music plays. The old men perk up and start cheering.

NIK

Hold on, do you want to see some stupid spaghetti sketch or do you really wanna see some shit?

Nik gets up and steps on the cord to Toothcap's oxygen tank.
Brendan gasps.

A LIVE CHAT IS SUPERIMPOSED ON SCREEN

Old Toothcap starts suffocating.

"OMG" "STOP!" "WTF"

Old Toothcap gasps and begins to turn blue.

DONATIONS TRICKLE IN ACCOMPANIED BY CASH REGISTER SOUNDS.
"PLEASE STOP DOING THIS!"

Old Toothcap passes out and falls out of his wheelchair.

BRENDAN

Get your foot off it!

NIK

Not yet.

SOMEONE DONATES \$1000. VICTORIOUS FANFARE.

Nik lifts his foot.

LIVE CHAT DISAPPEARS

Brendan is shaken.

BRENDAN

Uh... wow. How about Old Toothcap
does one of his classic characters
from the original show? And we
don't hurt him anymore? How's that
sound?

Brendan picks up Old Toothcap from the floor. The audience
claps a little bit.

Nik puts a rice paddy hat on Toothcap.

BRENDAN (CONT'D)

Come on. Do it.

Brendan softly pokes him.

BRENDAN (CONT'D)

Do the voice.

NIK

I think we gave him too much acid.

BRENDAN

Shit.

Brendan shakes Old Toothcap.

BRENDAN (CONT'D)

Come on. Be Chinese.

NIK

He's not doing it.

BRENDAN

That's a bummer. Should we just
play the sketch we taped earlier?
Let's go to the sketch.

ON PERCY'S SCREEN

The mouse flies around on a completely cluttered desktop. You can barely see a bikini anime girl as the wallpaper.

NIK

Is it playing?

PERCY

Hold on.

Percy opens the wrong file: "Old Toothcap - 7/17/1969.mov"

INT. TV STUDIO/SET - NIGHT (1969)

Old Toothcap walks out on the beautifully lit stage as a young man in a well-tailored suit. A full studio audience is going nuts. A full band is rocking out. His sidekick, BEAN MAN (black, tall, strong, also in a suit) stands behind a podium. The music stops.

OLD TOOTHCAP

Thank you. Thank you. Good evening,
friends. I'm Old Toothcap, and
you're watching my variety hour. We
have a wonderful show planned for
you this evening, and I'm so happy
you could all join me. As always,
we have my cohort, Bean Man, with
me. How was your night, Bean Man?

BEAN MAN

(voice pitched down)
Dark. Pitch black.

OLD TOOTHCAP

That's how we like it.

Big laugh.

OLD TOOTHCAP (CONT'D)
Well Bean Man, it's safe to say you missed the big news while you were... away. A man walked on the moon!

Applause. Bean Man begins to grunt and slam the podium up and down.

OLD TOOTHCAP (CONT'D)
Bean Man, no! They were allowed to do it!

BEAN MAN
Oh.

Big smile.

OLD TOOTHCAP
Folks, you know Bean Man. He thinks he's responsible for the moon.

BEAN MAN
Put it up high. Safe.

OLD TOOTHCAP
We've got a new skit for you. It's called Jim's Spaghetti House, and I think you're really going to go wild for it. But, before we get to that, we have a very special guest who's going to come talk with us. Give a warm welcome, to Mr. Robert Redford!

The audience loses their minds. Old Toothcap smiles. This is as good as it gets.

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. TV STUDIO - NIGHT

We linger on Old Toothcap's vacant, horrified expression.

Images from his past flash briefly across his face.

OLD TOOTHCAP (V.O.)
"A man walked on the moon!" (...)
"Bean Man, no! They were allowed to do it!" (...)
We put a man on the fucking moon? No, Charlie.
(MORE)

OLD TOOTHCAP (V.O.) (CONT'D)

It's not funny. I'm not telling jokes about it. Because the world is out of balance! Are you listening to me? We're the architects of hell and we've walled ourselves inside. When I was young, there were limits. The moon was out of bounds! This is a new era of darkness: men journeying into the sky to impregnate the moon with the seed of conquest.

He chuckles.

OLD TOOTHCAP (V.O.)

And I sit here with a smile on my face, selling the virtues of the apocalypse to the American family every night at 9pm with a ten piece band behind me. I pray to God this town and my legacy sink back into the muck. Nothing is worth this price. My coffin is a six car garage, and my headstone is a star on Hollywood Boulevard.

A knocking sound.

DEB (V.O.)

Mr. Toothcap, we have your new contract.

OLD TOOTHCAP (V.O.)

Let me see that.

A beat.

OLD TOOTHCAP (V.O.)

A kingdom for the price of my blood.

Nik and Brendan are staring at Toothcap.

NIK

Hey!

BRENDAN

Wake up Mr. Toothcap.

NIK

I didn't want to do this.

Nik grabs an urn labeled "Bean Man" off of a shelf.

NIK (CONT'D)
You gonna dance for us now?

BRENDAN
No!

Nik smashes Bean Man's urn on the floor in slow-motion. Old Toothcap watches powerlessly. A moment passes.

OLD TOOTHCAP (V.O.)
Please don't.

Cut to black.

BEAN MAN (V.O.)
"Dark. Pitch black."

Credits roll over footage of the moon landing.

END OF EPISODE