

**OLD TOOTHCAP**

Episode 3  
"Deb"

Written by

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INT. OLD TOOTHCAP'S HOUSE/KITCHEN - DAY (1975)

BRYCE TOOTHCAP, a 10-year-old boy in a private school uniform, sits at the breakfast table smoking a CIGARETTE.

OLD TOOTHCAP sits across the table from him, reading the news. He looks up from his paper.

OLD TOOTHCAP  
Son, please quit cigarettes.

Bryce lights a SECOND CIGARETTE and sticks out his tongue. Old Toothcap puts down his paper.

OLD TOOTHCAP (CONT'D)  
I said knock it off!

BRYCE  
Ugh, fine.

Bryce stubs out the cigarettes and lights a CIGAR.

OLD TOOTHCAP  
That's better.

He pats his son on the head.

BRYCE  
My teacher says going to the moon  
is good.

OLD TOOTHCAP  
Do not do this. Not today.

SALLY TOOTHCAP, 8-years-old, pigtails, also in a school uniform, walks in the room.

SALLY  
Dad! Dad! Dad! Dad! Dad!

OLD TOOTHCAP  
Yes, sweetie?

SALLY  
My horse isn't alive anymore! Can  
you bury him for me?

OLD TOOTHCAP  
Oh my god. What did you do to your  
horse?

SALLY  
I sold his eyes.

OLD TOOTHCAP  
To who? What market is there!?

JANEY TOOTHCAP, a 32-year-old trophy wife, walks in with one breast (blurred) hanging out of her robe. She has too much make up on, and she's already drunk.

JANEY  
Honey, can you drive the kids to school?

OLD TOOTHCAP  
No, I have to go make the show. Why can't you do it?

JANEY  
My breast is out.

OLD TOOTHCAP  
Well, put it back in!

JANEY  
You think it's so easy.

She leaves. Old Toothcap looks over at the kids. Bryce has filled Sally's mouth with firecrackers and he's about to light them. They look up at him defiantly.

INT. TV STUDIO/SET - DAY

Old Toothcap and Bean Man wait in the wings to go on. Old Toothcap stares solemnly ahead with slumped shoulders.

BEAN MAN  
Something wrong?

OLD TOOTHCAP  
Oh, Bean Man. I'm a bad father. I'm a terrible husband.

Bean Man thinks a moment, then silently reaches out and touches his shoulder to comfort him.

CHARLIE (O.C.)  
Places, Bean Man!

Bean Man leaves. The band starts playing.

Charlie (30's, overweight, mustache) watches the show through a monitor. He wears a headset.

INSIDE MONITOR

The show's opening title is superimposed on the screen.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)  
 You're watching Old Toothcap's  
 Variety Hour... with your host, Old  
 Toothcap!

Old Toothcap walks out from behind the curtain.

OLD TOOTHCAP  
 Hello.

He stands for a moment, unable to speak, then bursts into tears. The BAND stops playing. People in the audience look at each other with uncertainty. Bean Man moves his podium aside, walks to Old Toothcap, and picks him up like a baby. Bean Man tenderly carries Toothcap off the set.

BACK TO CHARLIE

Charlie looks through a binder of tech notes.

CHARLIE  
 No, I don't see any of this.

He continues flipping through notes.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)  
 Hmm, something's wrong here.

INT. TV STUDIO/HALLWAY - NIGHT

DEB (20's, Italian-American, Jersey accent) makes a call from a phone by the craft services table.

DEB  
 (into phone)  
 Hi, Ma. How's it going?

INTERCUT BETWEEN DEB AND DEB'S MOM

INT. DEB'S PARENTS' HOUSE - NIGHT

A dingy New Jersey kitchen with out of place Asian design elements. Deb's Mom stirs a pot of red sauce on the stove in a kimono.

DEB'S MOM  
 (into phone)  
 Good, honey! Just making some ramen  
 with gravy for your father.

DEB

Mmm, I can almost taste it. How's Dad?

DEB'S DAD, a fat middle-aged Italian man, is practicing sword moves in the living room with a katana.

DEB'S MOM

Oh you know him, he's always got some project around the house. This morning he woke up and decided out of nowhere we need a koi pond.

DEB'S DAD

(yelling from other room)  
It'll bring balance and tranquility to our home! Ohhh!

DEB'S MOM

That temper of his. I'll believe it when I see it. Tranquility.

DEB

Tell me about it.

DEB'S MOM

So, how's work? You still getting people coffee?

DEB

I told you. I'm working my way up.

DEB'S MOM

I don't see why you needed to move all the way to the city to bring people coffee. There's a diner right down the street and I hear they're hiring!

DEB

Mom!

DEB'S MOM

I know. I know. Little Debbie's gonna be a big TV executive someday. Love you sweetie. Bring great honor on our house.

DEB

Love you too, Ma. Arigato.

INT. TV STUDIO/CHARLIE'S OFFICE - NIGHT

CHARLIE sits at his desk talking on the phone.

CHARLIE  
Well, who let him have a family?

DEB walks through the doorway with a STEAMING MUG.

DEB  
Sir, your coffee?

Charlie takes the coffee and gives Deb a dirty look. He takes a sip and grimaces.

CHARLIE  
This is ice cold!

He grabs her hand and pours the mug on her arm. It is scalding hot. She screams.

DEB  
WHY!?

CHARLIE  
Go get me coffee that's hot.

She leaves.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)  
(into phone)  
Sorry about that, I had to burn one of the interns.

He leans back in his chair.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)  
What if we moved their house to the studio? Like a jail!

Deb walks back in with a POT OF COFFEE.

DEB  
I brought you a fresh pot!

Charlie fills his mouth with coffee. Steam is everywhere. It dribbles down his shirt. He spits it on Deb, burning her again.

DEB (CONT'D)  
What is wrong with you!?

CHARLIE

Ah! You gave me a brain freeze, you stupid girl.

She leaves again.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

(into phone)

What if we got him some better kids? Kids he doesn't need to think about as much!

Deb returns with a giant STOCK POT OF COFFEE. It is boiling hot.

DEB

Fresh coffee, boiling hot!

Charlie dips his hands into the boiling hot coffee and drinks. He frowns.

CHARLIE

Deb, I want you to dunk your head into this ice cold diarrhea you've brought me. I want you to understand the gravity of this mistake you have made.

DEB

Please, no!

CHARLIE

Do it!

(back to phone)

I know, we'll break up his family! He can't get distracted if he has no one who loves him.

Deb is about to lower her head into the pot.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Wait. Hold on a second. Look at me.

Deb looks at him.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

You'll do.

INT. TV STUDIO/BEAN MAN'S OFFICE - NIGHT

A completely empty writer's office. IMPRINTS are on the carpet where there used to be furniture.

A very fancy sign adorns the entrance reading, "Bean Man."  
 OLD TOOTHCAP sits on the floor with a blanket over him. BEAN  
 MAN stands.

OLD TOOTHCAP

I give this show all I have, and  
 everything that's actually  
 important to me is falling apart.  
 You know my son smokes? He's better  
 at it than I am.

BEAN MAN

Sounds cool.

OLD TOOTHCAP

It is so cool, but it has to stop!

BEAN MAN

Why do we do the show? We already  
 have enough money.

Old Toothcap thinks about it.

OLD TOOTHCAP

I don't know. I don't even remember  
 what my life was like before it.

INT. TV STUDIO/ANOTHER OFFICE - NIGHT

DEB is in a spare, cluttered office that has two sets of  
 furniture in it. She looks down at the desk. There is a fancy  
 box from a department store with a bow on it. A note reads,  
 "FOUR SEASONS HOTEL, 8:00. Please bathe."

She opens the box. It is a very expensive looking COCKTAIL  
 DRESS. She feels the luxurious fabric.

She stands in front of the mirror and drapes the dress over  
 her. She smiles. Her eyes catch a COFFEE POT behind her in  
 the mirror. Her smile fades.

INT. JAPANESE RESTAURANT - NIGHT

ANDREA (20's, Italian-American) sits at a HIBACHI TABLE  
 playing poker with three other GANGSTERS after hours. They  
 are all dressed like Yakuza (white suits, shiny black  
 shirts). One of them eats meatballs with chopsticks. He  
 immediately drops one, getting sauce all over himself. The  
 phone is ringing. A GOON answers it in the background.

ANDREA

Full house, boys!

Andrea throws down her winning hand. The cards instantly set on fire on the grill.

ANDREA (CONT'D)

Ah fuck.

The goon holds the phone to his chest and calls to the table.

GOON

Andrea, it's your cousin.

Andrea turns from the game.

ANDREA

Ay, give it here.

She takes the phone.

ANDREA (CONT'D)

Oh, Debra-chan. Konichiwa!

INT. TV STUDIO/HALLWAY - NIGHT

DEB is standing at the phone from before.

DEB

Andrea. I need your help.

INT. LIMOUSINE - NIGHT

OLD TOOTHCAP and CHARLIE are enjoying drinks in the back of the limo.

OLD TOOTHCAP

Charlie, how long is this going to take? If I don't get home soon, my wife is going to be so drunk.

CHARLIE

Trust me, Toothcap. After tonight, your wife will be drunker than ever.

Toothcap thinks.

OLD TOOTHCAP

I think you misunderstand me.

Charlie looks out the window at the full moon.

CHARLIE

The moon is beautiful tonight!

OLD TOOTHCAP  
I don't think you know me at all.

EXT. FOUR SEASONS HOTEL - NIGHT

The limo pulls up in front of the hotel.

CHARLIE  
We're here!

OLD TOOTHCAP  
A hotel? But Charlie, I have a home. And I'm not on vacation!

INT. FOUR SEASONS HOTEL/LOBBY - NIGHT

CHARLIE  
Just go up to the room number from The Shining and there will be a surprise for you.

He hands Toothcap a room key.

OLD TOOTHCAP  
Ooh, I hope it's a man with a gun.

INT. OLD TOOTHCAP'S HOUSE/KITCHEN - NIGHT

Janey Toothcap opens a cabinet and looks through the BOTTLES OF PILLS. She selects one, takes it down, fills it with liquor, puts the cap back on, shakes it up for awhile, then does it like a shot.

JANEY  
Bryce Gregham Toothcap, you bring me one of your cigarettes right now!

A KATANA pierces through her stomach. ANDREA is suddenly behind her.

INT. FOUR SEASONS HOTEL/ROOM - NIGHT

TOOTHCAP stands at the doorway of the room. DEB is waiting for him. She is wearing the dress.

OLD TOOTHCAP  
Aren't you that coffee girl who's always screaming?

DEB  
No, I'm a pretty lady.

OLD TOOTHCAP  
Well I don't know about that. Are you here to kill me?

DEB  
No.

OLD TOOTHCAP  
Oh, you're going to fire me then! Go ahead. I've been waiting for this.

DEB  
You idiot! We're going to have sex!

OLD TOOTHCAP  
Oh! Certainly not! Gross!

DEB  
You don't want to sleep with me?

OLD TOOTHCAP  
I don't do that.

DEB  
But you had -- I mean have kids.

OLD TOOTHCAP  
I think they might be Bean Man's. He's got good stock.

DEB  
Ugh. Just get in the bed.

OLD TOOTHCAP  
Fine. I will get in the bed but I will not fuck.

Toothcap climbs into the bed and throws the blanket over his head in a huff, arms crossed. The telephone rings. Deb answers.

EXT. PAY PHONE - NIGHT

Andrea is covered in blood. A GUY taps his watch outside impatiently.

ANDREA  
 (into phone)  
 Ay, it's done over here. I got the  
 wife.

INTERCUT BETWEEN DEB AND ANDREA

DEB  
 (into phone)  
 What about the children?

ANDREA  
 Oh, they were dead when I got  
 there. Dead for hours. This guy was  
 a horrible father.

DEB  
 Jesus Christ.

Deb hangs up the phone and looks at Toothcap. She smiles and begins to climb up on the bed.

INT. TV STUDIO/CHARLIE'S OFFICE - THE NEXT MORNING

Charlie is on the phone. He looks at a stack of black and white PHOTOGRAPHS that appear to have been taken from a building across the street from the hotel. They are mostly of OLD TOOTHCAP CRYING.

CHARLIE  
 No, no this isn't sex.

He flips through some more photos. Old Toothcap pounds the walls in anguish.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)  
 I know what sex is. And this isn't  
 it at all!

Deb enters the office with a cup of coffee and a rolled up newspaper.

DEB  
 Morning, Charlie.

She sets his coffee down. Charlie picks up the mug and immediately throws it on her.

DEB (CONT'D)  
 Goddammit! Stop doing that!

CHARLIE

Deb, these pictures, much like my  
coffee, are lukewarm.

Deb sets the paper down on the desk. The headline reads,  
"TOOTHS CAPPED, POLICE SUSPECT WHITE YAKUZA."

DEB

I guess the family's broken up now,  
huh? Just like you wanted?

Charlie looks at her for a moment, then back at the paper,  
then back at her. He furrows his brow. She goes to leave.

CHARLIE

Hold on a second.

She turns back.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

You don't have to get the coffee  
tomorrow.

Deb smiles.

DEB

Arigato.

She leaves. Charlie is terrified.

INT. TV STUDIO/BEAN MAN'S OFFICE - DAY

OLD TOOTHCAP sits against the wall, unshaven. BEAN MAN stands  
next to him.

BEAN MAN

Do you wanna to talk about it?

OLD TOOTHCAP

No time. We've got a show to do.

END OF EPISODE