

OLD TOOTHCAP

Episode 4
"Bean Man"

Written by

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INT. TV STUDIO/SET - DAY (1985)

The show is underway as usual. OLD TOOTHCAP stands behind the curtain looking at a PHOTO of his family's graves.

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

Old Toothcap walks out from behind the curtain. The audience claps adoringly.

OLD TOOTHCAP
Thank you. Thank you so much,
ladies and gentleman. I'm Old
Toothcap, and as always, we have a
spectacular show planned for you
this evening. But first, let's
check in with our good pal Bean
Man. Bean Man, how was your
evening?

BEAN MAN
(voice pitched down)
Chilly. Ice cold.

Big laugh. Applause.

OLD TOOTHCAP
There's always something!

Bean Man smiles big. Everyone loves it.

OLD TOOTHCAP (CONT'D)
Now, Bean Man, I don't suppose
you've heard the news...

The audience laughs. They know Bean Man doesn't hear news.

OLD TOOTHCAP (CONT'D)
President Reagan met with Gorbachev
to discuss nuclear arms control.
What do you think of that?

BEAN MAN
Aw, shucks. Don't ask me.

Laughter and applause.

OLD TOOTHCAP
Bean Man, you are just something
else.

(MORE)

OLD TOOTHCAP (CONT'D)
 Folks, we've got a hilarious new
 comedy skit for you about a man who
 is Chinese, but first, a special
 guest, Mr. Robert De Niro!

Audience goes wild.

INT. TV STUDIO/CHARLIE'S OFFICE - DAY

OLD TOOTHCAP walks in the room and throws his contract at
 CHARLIE.

OLD TOOTHCAP
 You really fucked me this time,
 Charlie!

CHARLIE
 Great show Toothcap!

OLD TOOTHCAP
 I was just on the phone with my
 lawyer. And he said that you own
 the rights to my soul?

CHARLIE
 It's not a literal soul. It's
 boilerplate legal language.

OLD TOOTHCAP
 Charlie! I want to go to Heaven!

CHARLIE
 Don't worry about Heaven! Just
 worry about the show.

OLD TOOTHCAP
 Forget the show. I'm walking.

Charlie places a document on the desk. Old Toothcap picks it
 up and reads it.

OLD TOOTHCAP (CONT'D)
 You're going to pay me this much?

CHARLIE
 We had a good year.

OLD TOOTHCAP
 This is as much as Bean Man's
 entire salary, and you're going to
 pay me this on top of what I make
 now?

CHARLIE
We'll make it work.

Old Toothcap thinks for moment, sighs, then signs the paper.
He knows they've got him on the hook.

OLD TOOTHCAP
Go fuck yourself, Charlie.

INT. TV STUDIO/DEB'S OFFICE - NIGHT

This is a much nicer office than Charlie's. BEAN MAN stands in front of the desk next to an empty chair, which he looks at longingly. CHARLIE nervously smokes a cigar in a chair next to him. DEB sits behind the desk looking powerful. She has chopsticks in her hair.

Deb glares at Bean Man. He takes a half step away from the empty chair.

CHARLIE
Great show tonight, Bean Man.

DEB
Excellent job.

CHARLIE
The people love you, Bean Man, and as long as you stay on the right path, they'll continue to love you for as long as we say.

BEAN MAN
Thanks.

DEB
How's the new house, Bean Man?

BEAN MAN
Big. Kinda empty.

CHARLIE
What do you mean, Bean Man? You got a problem with the house we gave you?

BEAN MAN
No, it's just-

CHARLIE

This is how it starts! We gave you a house that anybody would be proud to live in, and all you can think of is filling it with things.

DEB

Don't you know there's more to life than things, Bean Man?

CHARLIE

Who do you think you are? Next you'll want more lines on the show. Look at him, Deb! He thinks he's bigger than Toothcap!

BEAN MAN

Oh no.

DEB

No?

BEAN MAN

I like things how they are.

Deb and Charlie share a glance.

DEB

Now Bean Man, your contract is up for renewal on Monday, so I highly suggest you go home and think about exactly how much you're worth to this network.

CHARLIE

If you play ball, we can keep things exactly... how they are.

BEAN MAN

Yessir. Ma'am. I would like that very much.

DEB

Enjoy your weekend, Bean Man.

Bean Man leaves the room.

INT. LIMOUSINE - NIGHT

Bean Man sits uncomfortably in the back seat with two BODYGUARDS on either side of him. He looks up at the full moon through the sunroof.

INT. BEAN MAN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

The bodyguards open the front door. Bean Man walks inside. The place is completely empty and very dark. He sits down on the hardwood floor.

BODYGUARD

Have a good weekend, Mr. Bean Man.

The bodyguard slams the front door shut. Bean Man flinches. He tries to find a comfortable position on the floor.

INT. DENTIST'S OFFICE - DAY

Bean Man stands while the DENTIST cleans his teeth from a step stool. The DENTIST'S CHAIR is covered in bags of garbage.

BEAN MAN

(mouth full of tools)

I've been thinking about getting a chair.

DENTIST

What?

He takes his tools out of Bean Man's mouth.

DENTIST (CONT'D)

Say that again.

BEAN MAN

I want to buy a chair.

Dentist sighs.

DENTIST

Bean Man, I just don't see how that's going to work.

BEAN MAN

I can use the money from the show.

DENTIST

I wish it were that simple.

He walks away and sits behind a DESK. He opens a LEDGER, and begins crunching numbers on an ADDING MACHINE.

DENTIST (CONT'D)

See, we have a lot of your income tied up in non-liquid investments, stocks, real estate, things like that. We can't just buy a chair.

BEAN MAN

What if I had a smaller house?

DENTIST

No, no, no. You've earned the house! You're a big star. We can't get rid of the house.

BEAN MAN

It's empty.

DENTIST

Big, empty house like that, there's gotta be some comfy spots on the floor! Have you tried all the rooms?

BEAN MAN

No.

DENTIST

See, why don't you go home and try! I'm sure you'll find a spot you like.

He closes the ledger.

DENTIST (CONT'D)

Let's finish those teeth.

Dentist resumes cleaning Bean Man's teeth. He stops.

DENTIST (CONT'D)

Bean Man?

BEAN MAN

Yes?

DENTIST

I don't ever want to hear you talking like this again. You hear me?

BEAN MAN

Why?

DENTIST

Your life is a house of cards, Bean Man. You come into my office talking about chairs one more time, we're gonna have a real problem.

Bean Man nods.

INT. CHAIR WORLD - DAY

Bean Man walks uncertainly into a giant furniture showroom. In the center is one unvarnished chair and nothing else. A SALESMAN stands ten feet or so from the chair talking on the phone.

SALESMAN

Don't worry. Yeah, I'll make sure. Okay.

Bean Man approaches.

BEAN MAN

Hello, I'd like to buy a chair.

Salesman gestures at the chair.

SALESMAN

That's the one we got.

Bean Man pulls out his wallet and hands the salesman a CREDIT CARD. The salesman inspects the card, pockets it, and walks away. He leaves the store, turning out the lights and locking the front door behind him.

Pitch black. Footsteps. Bean Man jiggles the knob on the front door.

EXT. CHAIR WORLD - DAY

Bean Man kicks through the window and climbs out of the store with his new chair.

EXT. HOLLYWOOD STREETS - DAY

Bean Man walks with his new chair. He sees a MAN turn a corner. Bean Man instinctively hides behind a dumpster with his chair. The man stops and looks curiously in Bean Man's direction. After a moment, he continues on his way. Bean Man emerges and heads home.

INT. BEAN MAN'S HOUSE - DAY

Bean Man walks into the house with his new chair. He leaves the front door open to allow light into the room.

He places the chair in the center of the room and looks at it for awhile. He smiles big.

Bean Man sits down and immediately falls through the chair. He lays for a moment in the pile of splinters.

INT. TV STUDIO/HALLWAY - DAY

Bean Man walks through the hallway. He stops at the craft services table to get coffee. Deb yells at him from the elevator.

DEB

Bean Man! Put that down. Don't drink that.

Bean Man looks up.

DEB (CONT'D)

I have your new contract.

INT. TV STUDIO/DEB'S OFFICE - DAY

Deb sits in her chair. Bean Man stands. Charlie sits in front of the desk next to Bean Man looking over some documents.

CHARLIE

Yes, everything looks to be in order here.

He looks up at Bean Man, notices something, and frowns.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Bean Man, you didn't buy a chair did you?

BEAN MAN

What? No.

He looks at Deb, then back at Bean Man.

CHARLIE

I swear to God, if you're lying to me...

BEAN MAN

My dentist said I could!

Charlie stands up and slams his fist on the desk.

CHARLIE

Your dentist would never tell you
to buy a chair!

Bean Man recoils.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Bean Man, do I have to call this
dentist to find out you're full of
shit, or are you going to tell me
the truth?

BEAN MAN

He told me not to.

CHARLIE

That's what I thought.

Deb looks over the contract.

DEB

Now, Bean Man, in light of this
chair business, we're going to have
to drastically cut your pay this
season.

BEAN MAN

How much was I making?

DEB

Let's not worry about that.

BEAN MAN

How much do I get now?

DEB

Well, you're certainly not going to
be able to afford any chairs,
that's for sure.

CHARLIE

We're doing this for your own good,
you know that, don't you, Bean Man?

BEAN MAN

How?

CHARLIE

Young kid like you sits in a chair,
who knows what happens! Maybe you
decide you need two chairs. A
stool!

Charlie leans in gravely.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
 (hushed tone)
 A bed. Where does it all end?

Deb puts her hand on Bean Man's shoulder.

DEB
 We care about you, Bean Man. We're
 just trying to do what's best.

EXT. BEAN MAN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

The limo drops Bean Man off like usual. He walks up to the front door, which is lit up. Music and laughter can be heard inside. Bean Man tries his key. It doesn't work. He knocks.

The salesman from earlier answers.

SALESMAN
 Hello?

BEAN MAN
 This is my house.

SALESMAN
 Where's the pizza?

BEAN MAN
 What?

SALESMAN
 I'm not paying you if you don't
 have my food. What do you think
 this is, a charity?

BEAN MAN
 This is my-

He closes the door.

EXT. HOLLYWOOD STREETS - NIGHT

Bean Man walks dejectedly through the night. He looks into a house. A picturesque FAMILY sits in a line of CHAIRS, smiling. They laugh merrily, taking turns trying out the different chairs. Bean Man clenches his fists and keeps walking.

EXT. CHIM'S CHAIR HOUSE - NIGHT

Bean Man comes across a beautiful chair store, lit up with neon. In the window sits a BEAUTIFUL, LUXURIOUS CHAIR. He presses his nose against the glass, savoring it. He walks out of frame.

After a moment, Bean Man sprints back into frame and shatters the window with a BIG ROCK.

Across the street, TWO COPS sit in their car staking out the scene.

INT. COP CAR - NIGHT

COP #1
(into a radio)
Got the son of a bitch. Move in.

HELICOPTER SOUNDS. We see a SPOTLIGHT shine on Bean Man from the sky through the windshield.

COP #2
(through a bullhorn)
Bean Man! Stay where you are.
You're going to Hell.

INT. MAXIMUM SECURITY PRISON/HALLWAY - DAY

BEAN MAN is led through the hall in shackles, GUARDS on either side of him. He looks at the ground, broken.

They turn the corner and he looks ahead into an EXECUTION ROOM. In the middle, an ELECTRIC CHAIR.

Bean Man's eyes light up.

They lead him into the room. He looks between the chair and the guards, questioningly. They nod.

Bean Man sits down. He has never done this before. It is the greatest feeling in the world.

BEAN MAN
Ooooooh.

Bean Man is in the throes of ecstasy. The music swells as they strap his hands and lower the helmet.

CUT TO BLACK.

END OF EPISODE