

OLD TOOTHCAP

Episode 5
"The Descent"

Written by

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EXT. TOOTHCAP FAMILY FARM - NIGHT (1955)

A lantern lit barn in the background. The mailbox reads, "Toothcap Family Farm."

INT. TOOTHCAP FAMILY BARN - NIGHT

OLD TOOTHCAP, a 13-year-old farm boy, sits behind a DESK made out of an OLD BOARD resting on two MILK CANS. He is surrounded by HAY and illuminated by LANTERNS.

Toothcap stares intently at a PIG, who is sitting on a CHAIR made out of APPLE CRATES. A CAN ON A STRING is positioned in front of the pig like a microphone.

The pig looks at Old Toothcap.

Old Toothcap keeps staring at the pig, unblinking.

After a moment, Old Toothcap smiles. He hits play on a reel-to-reel tape player. Music fills the air.

OLD TOOTHCAP

And we're back! I'm here with world famous movie star, Chester the Pig! Now tell me, Chester, what was it like to kiss Peaches the Pig on the big screen? She's a real beauty!

Old Toothcap holds up a photograph of a pig in lipstick. He hits a button on the recorder, triggering the sound of an audience hooting and hollering.

Chester oinks in response.

Old Toothcap hits another button. The crowd "oohs," scandalized.

OLD TOOTHCAP (CONT'D)

Chester, you devil!

GREGHAM TOOTHCAP (middle aged, overalls, glasses) walks into the barn. He is instantly furious.

GREGHAM

Old Toothcap, what the hell is all this?

Gregham unemotionally pulls out a revolver and, without hesitation, shoots Chester. The pig squeals and dies.

GREGHAM (CONT'D)
I've told you a thousand times,
pigs are food, not guests!

OLD TOOTHCAP
I'm sorry, Pa.

GREGHAM
Have you finished your homework?

OLD TOOTHCAP
Almost!

GREGHAM
Well, go finish it!

Old Toothcap stands up and walks to the door. He opens it, and freezes when he sees a giant FULL MOON in the sky. Gregham walks over and places his hand on Old Toothcap's shoulder.

GREGHAM (CONT'D)
It's disgusting, isn't it?

OLD TOOTHCAP
It's taunting us.

GREGHAM
It's alright. The moon is all the way up there. And we're down here! It can't hurt us. Now, go along to the house.

Toothcap starts to leave.

GREGHAM (CONT'D)
Old Toothcap?

He turns back.

OLD TOOTHCAP
Yeah?

GREGHAM
I'm sorry to be so harsh. It's just... it's hard with everything we've got going on around here.

OLD TOOTHCAP
I know.

GREGHAM

Now get a good night's sleep, son.
We all need to pitch in on your
brother's chores while he's getting
better.

Old Toothcap walks out of the barn.

Gregham looks over the makeshift talk show set and shakes his
head.

INT. TV STUDIO/DEB'S OFFICE - DAY (1985)

Charlie and Deb are having a meeting. Toothcap barges in.

OLD TOOTHCAP

Where's Bean Man?!

DEB

Bean Man is gone, but the important
thing to remember is that you're
making a lot more money.

OLD TOOTHCAP

I don't care about the money!
Where's my friend?

CHARLIE

Bean Man is dead, Toothcap. Same as
everyone else you love.

OLD TOOTHCAP

How'd he die?

CHARLIE

He joined the Army and got blown
up! He's a hero!

OLD TOOTHCAP

What war?

DEB

It's a secret war! You don't know
about it!

Beat.

OLD TOOTHCAP

Oh, you did this, you monsters! I
know you killed Bean Man the same
way you killed my family!

CHARLIE

You know we killed your family?

OLD TOOTHCAP

Holy shit, no. I had zero evidence.
Thank you. Woo! Closure, baby!

DEB

Charlie, you are fired. Please kill
yourself with that sword.

CHARLIE

Hoo boy, I'd better do it. I've
seen what happens when you don't do
it. See ya, Toothcap.

Charlie grabs a KATANA off the wall and messily commits
seppuku in the middle of the office.

DEB

Don't you have a show to do,
Toothcap?

OLD TOOTHCAP

Fuck the show! I don't care
anymore. Take my money. Leave me to
rot in my stupid house. I'm done.

DEB

Is that really what you want?

He almost loses his nerve, but then marches right up to her
desk.

OLD TOOTHCAP

I'm never doing another goddamn TV
show ever again.

CROSSFADE:

INT. OLD TOOTHCAP'S HOUSE/BATHROOM - PRESENT DAY

Old Toothcap sits in his wheelchair in front of the MIRROR.
Nik watches as Percy applies powder.

NIK

Can you make him look less gross?

PERCY

I really can't.

NIK

Alright, lean into it then.

Percy begins darkening Toothcap's eye-bags.

NIK (CONT'D)
Where's Brendan?

PERCY
He'll be back. He said he was going to church or something.

NIK
That's weird. Male Nurses aren't allowed to have religion.

INT. CHURCH BASEMENT - DAY

BRENDAN stands at a podium in front of an AA MEETING.

BRENDAN
When I got my fifth DUI, I knew I only had a couple DUI's left before I was done for. So, I decided to make a change. That very night when they released me from jail, I got liquored up and hit the road with one goal in mind: get two DUI's at the same time to get it all out of my system. It was really hard. I had to drive two cars, but I knew at the end of that road, in a twisted pile of metal and gore, lay my salvation. I thank God every day for guiding me through that wolf sanctuary, and for cushioning my impact with that pile of mushed up wolves.

Everyone stares blankly.

BRENDAN (CONT'D)
Thank you for listening. I just love getting DUI's so much.

Nik kicks in the door.

NIK
Brendan, we have a show to do you degenerate loser!

BRENDAN
I'm in the middle of my share!

NIK
Forget this bullshit. We're Gods
now.

Nik drags Brendan by the collar out of the room.

INT. PERCY'S CAR - DAY

Percy drives Nik and Brendan back to Old Toothcap's house.

NIK
What were you doing, sharing your
feelings like that?

BRENDAN
I'm sorry, it's just I'm really
stressed out with this talk show
militia cult thing. It's really
taking a lot out of me.

NIK
I can't believe you really think
you're addicted to alcohol. That's
impossible. You're just afraid of
being drunk.

BRENDAN
That's not true! I have a chemical
dependency.

NIK
Listen. I've been putting a full
mojito into your coffee and cereal
every morning for weeks now.
Nothing has happened. You're not
addicted. It's all in your head.

BRENDAN
Are you serious, dude? I could go
back to jail!

NIK
Television executives don't go to
jail, and besides, there's no way
the cops would take you alive.

BRENDAN
I can't believe I've been drinking.

NIK

Face it, you loser. You wish you were an alcoholic because then there'd be something interesting about you. You're nobody. You live a life of zero consequence and you'll be forgotten the minute they dump you into a mass grave with everyone else in your Nursing Store graduating class.

BRENDAN

So, you think I could have one drink and not go off the deep end?

NIK

Brendan, I think you're powerless to change your life at all, for better or worse.

Brendan puts his head in his hands.

BRENDAN

Who am I? I have no idea what's going on in my life anymore. One day I'm a Male Nurse, the next, we're ruling over a mansion of zealots, all using the same dirty needle to prove their loyalty, and begging to die for our cause! I'm shit. All my life I've thought I've had a darkness. I'm not complicated. I'm no poet. I'm just a moron who's too stupid to turn his brain off for a couple hours and bond with his fellow man. Pull the car over.

Percy pulls over.

EXT. MEALS FOOD AND DRINK BUILDING - DAY

A concrete, Soviet looking building. A sign in plain black Helvetica reads, "Meals Food & Drink Building." Brendan gets out of the car and goes inside the restaurant.

PERCY

Is that true? Have you really been giving him alcohol?

NIK

No, of course not. He would taste it.

Brendan runs back out of the restaurant at full speed. He slides over the hood and climbs back in the car. He's already shirtless, teeth stained red. He has an enormous JUG OF WINE.

BRENDAN

They won't serve nurses but I stole this! Drive!

They peel off.

INT. OLD TOOTHCAP'S HOUSE/WRITER'S ROOM - DAY

Nik and Brendan sit at opposite heads of the table. MALE NURSES fill the other seats. Everyone has laptops and notebooks. Brendan is still drinking wine and he is HAMMERED.

NIK

People like when Jimmy Fallon makes people eat gross food.

BRENDAN

We should make Toothcap eat an old car battery.

Nik is skeptical of this idea.

NIK

Okay...

MALE NURSE #1

What about like a funny animal thing?

BRENDAN

Let's take out his blood and replace it with bugs.

Nik puzzles that over.

NIK

I'm not sure how that would work but I'll write it down I guess?

MALE NURSE #2

People like when James Corden tells stories.

BRENDAN

We should trap him in a book, like "The Pagemaster!"

NIK
 Brendan, can I talk to you for a
 second, in private?

All the Male Nurses put BLACK HOODS over their heads and
 cover their ears.

NIK (CONT'D)
 Listen dude, I lied about dosing
 you with booze. You're totally an
 alcoholic. I was bored, and this is
 really funny, but we go live in an
 hour.

Brendan spits wine back into the bottle.

BRENDAN
 Oh my god! My life!

NIK
 Yeah? Well, I saw you holding court
 in that church basement and I knew
 you needed to come down a peg if
 we're gonna keep things in order
 around here.

Brendan starts crying.

BRENDAN
 I need to call my sponsor.

NIK
 Sorry, buddy. I made him drink too.
 The only way you're getting
 yourself out of this one is by
 pushing through to the other side.

Brendan looks at the jug solemnly. He starts chugging.

INT. OLD TOOTHCAP'S HOUSE/GARAGE - NIGHT

A STUDIO AUDIENCE of male nurses is jumping up and down in
 excitement. A display hangs in the back showing the amount of
 viewers and donations. The numbers are good.

A Male Nurse WARM UP COMIC is working the crowd.

WARM UP COMIC
 Who here likes fucking?

The Male Nurses boo and spit. They throw garbage. One throws
 a chair. One simply stands and cries, betrayed.

WARM UP COMIC (CONT'D)
 Alright, now for our show.

A FULL BAND of male nurses plays. Percy talks into a mic.

PERCY
 You're watching Old Toothcap's
 Variety Hour! With your host, Old
 Toothcap!

Brendan wheels Old Toothcap out way too quickly. He careens sideways, loses control, and accidentally shoves Old Toothcap off the stage into the audience.

Nik follows at a relaxed pace.

NIK
 Come on, Brendan. Pick him up.

Brendan gets him back in the chair. He cradles Old Toothcap's bleeding head.

BRENDAN
 You used to mean so much to me, and
 now nothing means anything to me.

Nik yells off camera.

NIK
 Can we cut his mic?

BRENDAN
 I'm good. I'm good.

NIK
 Two strikes.

Nik turns to the audience.

NIK (CONT'D)
 How about some jokes? The other day
 I opened a closet, and there were
 ten male nurses in there. I said,
 fellas, what are you practicing for
 your grave?

Big laugh.

NIK (CONT'D)
 This past week, a doctor was sued
 for malpractice after killing a
 male nurse. Just kidding! The
 police were never involved.

He is KILLING.

BRENDAN

When I was young my mom used to hold my face in the dirt, she'd hold my face down in the dirt, for hours, until I learned something.

Joke bombs.

NIK

Brendan, stick to the cards.

BRENDAN

I wanna riff!

NIK

Do not riff. I swear to God.

BRENDAN

I went on a date the other day with a cop, you know, women? And we went back to her place, and she surgically filled me with glass. I'm kidding, of course. I've never been on a date. I do have glass in my guts though.

The audience is baffled.

NIK

Okay, that's your last strike. I'm doing the show without you. Get out.

BRENDAN

You can't kick me out! You wouldn't even know who Old Toothcap was without me! You'd just be torturing an old man for no money at all.

NIK

Oh, you think I need you to do this? You're my pawn. A yellow belly. I manifested all of this. I am the sower of seeds. The conjurer of my own will. God showed me all this in a dream, the show, the Male Nurse Army, you lying dead in a pile of your own guts, me, somewhere else, presumably fine, everything. I'm just putting what's foretold into place. Now get off my stage.

BRENDAN

I'm not getting off this stage
until I play my song.

NIK

The only song meant for you is a
funeral dirge and only if I command
it.

Brendan grabs the jug of wine and finishes it, then shatters
it on the ground. He yells at Percy.

BRENDAN

Do the applause sign thing.
Everybody likes what I just did. It
was good. Clap. I am big.

The audience confusedly claps. Brendan nods.

BRENDAN (CONT'D)

Alright, time for my song.

NIK

Do not play a song!

Brendan sits down at a PIANO and begins to play a song. The
lights change. Everybody gets really into it. Nik is
initially angry, but softens as he realizes it's going well.

BRENDAN

*Happy birthday, mazel tov / Pull up
a chair and tie one off / At Jim's
Spaghetti House / Welcome home /
Try the pasta, try the wine /
The air is cool and the music's
nice / At Jim's Spaghetti House /
You're not alone /*

(chorus)

*Go to the place that's not on the
map / Where the folks are as warm
as the sauce fresh on tap / Put a
napkin on your lap / And have a
seat next to me*

CUT TO:

INT. POLICE STATION/OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Office Quinn and Officer O'Malley sit at a desk watching
Brendan sing his song on the stream.

OFFICER QUINN

That song is copyrighted, isn't it?

OFFICER O'MALLEY

We got these motherfuckers dead to rights.

OFFICER

Let's go crack some skulls.

BACK TO:

INT. OLD TOOTHCAP'S HOUSE/GARAGE - CONTINUOUS

BRENDAN

*Enjoy an evening of paradise / You
won't think about your wife who
died / At Jim's Spaghetti House /
Jim's Spaghetti House*

FADE OUT.

END OF EPISODE