



A Pitch Trailer

By Frank Sasso - ASC 77.2435.9

Fleek Henderson, a neurotic, neat freak podcast producer, is thrown out by his wife, and moves in with his friend Bob Keaton, a slovenly home beer brewer and podcaster. Despite Bob's problems – careless spending, excessive gambling, a poorly kept house filled with spoiled food – he seems to enjoy life. Fleek, however, seems utterly incapable of enjoying anything and only finds purpose in pointing out his own and other people's mistakes and foibles.

Even when he tries to do so in a gentle and constructive way, his corrections and suggestions prove extremely annoying to those around him.

Bob, his closest friend, although not thrilled with the idea of Fleek moving in, allows it and even though Fleek irritates him to no end, he quickly realizes that Fleek has a positive effect on him.

The Pod Couple was inspired by the play "The Odd Couple" by Neil Simon 1965 ©

FADE IN FROM BLACK

SCENE I

TITLE CARD:

“THE DOOR”

THEN “JANUARY” FADES UP FROM BLACK

We SEE BOB KEATON in a messy apartment. He’s a bit of a slob, wearing a stained sweatshirt with holes at the collar, sitting on his couch smoking a cigar while typing on a laptop.

BOB

(reading his screen)

Dear Bobby, I’m a home brewer from Massachusetstts. Why did my beer come out flat?
From NoBubbles311.

Dear No Bubbles, you probably didn’t add enough priming sugar to the bottles after the
initial fermentation. My opinion? Stop. Making. Beer.

We HEAR the cell phone ring.

BOB

Hey Rick. I’m in the middle of answering listener emails. What do ya need? No, I can’t
do a live show, I have no idea what that would even involve. Sell tickets? And where do
we do this?

We HEAR the doorbell.

BOB

Rick, there’s someone at the door. Lemme call you back.

BOB hangs up and walks over to the door. Upon opening it, he sees an old friend.
FLEEK HENDERSON. FLEEK is quite the opposite of BOB. FLEEK is dressed in a
classy sports jacket, white shirt, handtied bow tie, khaki pants, and shiny black shoes.
He stands in BOB’S doorway with a long face and 2 suitcases.

BOB

Fleek Henderson!

FLEEK

Hello, Bob.



FADE IN FROM BLACK

SCENE II

TITLE CARD:

“THE TALK”

BOB and FLEEK sit on the couch each holding a drink. BOB, a beer and FLEEK, a glass of wine.

BOB

So, Jennifer threw you out, huh?

FLEEK

She asked me to gather my things and leave. She said she “*needed space*” .
I can’t imagine what caused this sudden change in her.

FLEEK looks at the wine glass and notices a smudge on it.

FLEEK

When was the last time you washed this glass?

BOB

(under his breath)

Yeah, can’t imagine why she kicked you out.

FLEEK

Would it be alright if I stayed here for a couple of nights?

I don’t want to be alone.

I know it’s a lot to ask, you won’t even know I’m here.

BOB

Well, Flee, I have a lot going on right now. I have to prepare for my show and, look, I know how you feel. I was a mess when Helen left but I got used to it. You’ll be alright.

FLEEK looks rejected.

BOB

I mean, I-I could offer you the back bedroom I guess, I’m just really busy, I don’t know how much company I’m going to be.



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FLEEK

What show?

BOB

Oh, it's a podcast. It's called "HOPPY DAZE".
It's for home brewers. I have guests on, I answer people's questions and it's on....

FLEEK interrupts.

FLEEK

A podcast?

BOB

Yeah, it-it's like talk radio in a way, It's...

FLEEK

I know what a podcast is! That's what I do! I produce them!

BOB

You "*produce*" them?

FLEEK

Yes, I do. I produce them! I have an award-winning studio and everything!

BOB

Wow...

FLEEK

Well, where can I find it?

BOB

Find what?

FLEEK

Your podcast! What directories are you on?

BOB

Well, I'm not really on any directories. I do it myself on a website.



FLEEK

(unapprovingly)

"Do it yourself on a website..."

Where do you record?

BOB

It's word of mouth. It does pretty good. I record it right here on my phone.

FLEEK

On your phone? Pretty Good? Let me hear it. C'mon.

FLEEK holds his phone.

FLEEK

How do people find it, how do they subscribe? What's the URL?

BOB looks puzzled.

FLEEK

You said you have it on a website. The website address. What is it?

BOB

It's, it's Hoppy Daze.com Daze is with a Z.

FLEEK

With a "Z". That's your first problem. Think of the people not getting to your website because they're spelling "dayz" with an "S". You're spelling it wrong.

BOB

No, it's spelled right. A person is dazed from the hops in the beer. Hoppy Daze.

FLEEK

Oh, so, like Happy Days?

BOB

Right.

FLEEK

Days is spelled with an "S"



BOB is instantly annoyed. The website appears on FLEEK'S cell.

FLEEK

(puts on a pair of readers)

Ok, let's have a look here.

FLEEK starts scrolling through the site. As he reviews the site, his facial expressions go from pleasant and interested to confused and judgemental. Sitting on the edge of the couch, BOB looks on with predictive expectancy. FLEEK click the "PLAY" on one of the episodes.

We HEAR BOB introducing an episode of HOPPY DAZE.

BOB'S VOICE

Hey Homebrewers! On this episode of Hoppy Daze, we're going to be discussing why your beer Tastes Sour and why it can smell "Skunky". If this happens, it's a sign that your beer is infected - and there are a number of reasons why this could have happened.

1. When cleaning the fermenter after usage, be sure to only soak off the sediment on the bottom with hot water. And only use a soft cloth to clean the inside walls. Using a scouring pad or brush is a No-No. They can live scratches that harbour bacteria.
2. Don't delay in adding the yeast. Once you have your beer concentrate, water, and sugar mixed together, add the yeast right away. A common mistake is to...

FLEEK stops the podcast and sighs.

FLEEK

Oh, Bobby, Bobby, Bobby...

BOB

What? What? No good?

FLEEK

Where's the intro? The music. There's no build up to your content. No nuance. No subtlety.

BOB

"No nuance...?"



FLEEK

Let's do this. Come to my studio. Let me help you. I've got a great idea!
Let ME produce your show. Let me show you what I can do.
I'll bring the podcast to a whole other level.

BOB

No, no. Flee, I don't need the show at another level.
People like it the way it is. I shoulda seen this coming.
I had a feeling you would try and do this.
You were always doing this kind of thing. You go too far.
Maybe that's why Jennifer threw you out. I don't want the show touched.
You can stay here a few days, fine. But please, leave my show alone. People like it.

FLEEK is immediately discouraged and hangs his head.

FLEEK

You're right. You're right. I always do this.
Here I come barging into your life, disrupting everything.
Then, I go and insult your show and I gotta push myself in, and judge it, and upset you.
I'm sorry. I'll take my things and stay at the studio.

FLEEK gets up from the couch, puts on his jacket, and grabs his bag. As he heads to the door, BOB stops him.

BOB

All right. Ok. Wait.

FLEEK looks confused.

BOB

Let's go to your studio. Maybe you can actually help me.

FLEEK

(excited)

Really Bob?

BOB

Yeah, but the minute you start getting crazy about "*subtlety and nuance*", I'm gone.



BOB grabs his jacket as they head out the door. FLEEK mutters....

FLEEK

(under his breath)

It's nuance and subtlety.

BOB

What?

FLEEK

Nu-Nothing. Nothing.

BOB and FLEEK leave BOB'S apartment.

DISSOLVE TO:

SCENE III

TITLE CARD:

"THE PODCAST"

BOB is sitting in a chair with headphones on and a microphone hangs in front of him. A countdown clock is on the wall behind him and an inverted mirror sits in front of him. BOB is clearly uncomfortable. FLEEK is behind a piece of glass sitting at a mixing board.

FLEEK

Ok, Bob. Here's what we're going to do. First, let's get your positioning set. Place your thumb here and extend your pinkie like this.

FLEEK places his thumb on his chin and extends his pinkie finger. BOB hesitantly follows.

FLEEK

Good. Now, rotate your hand upwards toward the microphone, like this. Your pinkie should just barely touch the windscreen. Perfect. Now, let's set your audio level.

BOB

Testing, Testing, Is this thing on.



FLEEK

“Is this thing on”? I can assure you, it’s “on”. I want you to give me a countdown from 10 to 1, pausing between numbers at the level at which you’re going to be speaking.

BOB

(rapidly)

10, 9, 8, 7...

FLEEK

PAUSING BETWEEN NUMBERS, BOB, pausing,. 10, *(beat)* 9, *(beat)*...

BOB

Ok, ok. 10...9...8...7...6...5...

FLEEK

Ok Good.

BOB

I wasn’t finished. ...4...3...

FLEEK

I already have what I need. Please stop. Now, the clock behind you is what you’re going to use to keep track of your show’s timing.

BOB

Behind me? I can’t keep turning around Fleek, I...

FLEEK

You’re not going to turn around, Bob.

BOB

How am I supposed to see the time?

FLEEK

With the inverted mirror in front of you. Right there.

BOB

“Inverted mirror”? What the hell..?



FLEEK

As opposed to an upright mirror. When an object is placed very close to the concave mirror then it forms a virtual and magnified image. But when the distance between object and concave mirror is increased beyond focus towards the left, the image is real and inverted. So, only a concave mirror creates an inverted image.

BOB looks VERY confused.

FLEEK

(simply)

It means you can still see the clock behind you.

BOB reacts.

FLEEK

Ok, C'mon. Let's get started. I have something here that will go great for a little intro to start. Just something I thought of on the way over.

BOB is already against this idea.

FLEEK

It's nothing fancy, it just adds a little pop before you start talking. When I point to you, you begin. Ok? Here we go. Can you see the clock behind you?

BOB

Yeah. Fleek, I don't know...

FLEEK

Ok. Here we go. There's the countdown. 10, 9, 8 and I'm out on 5...

FLEEK pushes a button on the mixer and we HEAR a funky jazz riff with FLEEK's commands the microphone.

FLEEK

(Very high energy and excited)

Hello, Beer lovers! Get ready for the most inspirational, educational, thought-provoking podcast about home brewing you've ever heard. Bob Keaton will tickle your eardrums with fascinating facts about that sudsy little beverage you know as beer! You'd better listen in now because we're beer today and gone tomorrow,



It's time to get all hop-tomistic and happy about all things hoppy on Hoppy Daze!
Here's your host, Bob Keaton!

FLEEK cues BOB by pointing to him. BOB is in disbelief and tries to just start his show.
FLEEK points more frantically at BOB.

BOB

(trying to get used to the microphone)

Uh - Hi, hH-hello Brewers. B-Bob Keaton here.

FLEEK motions to BOB to be more "on". BOB waves him away as if to say, "Leave me alone".

BOB

(continues)

Oookkk, this week's topic is, you guessed it, YEAST and the importance of it being healthy and vigorous yeast! Yeast not only makes beer; it also does a great job in cleaning up aldehydes and scavenging detrimental transition metals (More! on that later). One easy way to improve yeast performance is by adding a yeast nutrient and oxygenating the wort - but only when cold!

FLEEK is very bored.

BOB

What, Fleek?

FLEEK

What? Nothing? Keep going. Go.

BOB

(hesitantly)

Ferment your beer at the recommended temperature and pitch enough fresh yeast.
You can do this by making a yeast starter. When using dry yeast...

BOB looks at FLEEK.

BOB

...rehydrate before pitching...



FLEEK is biting his lower lip trying not to say anything.

BOB

Alright that's it.

BOB takes the headphones off.

FLEEK

What? What are you doing?

BOB

I'm done. I'm going back home, I'm doing my show my way, not with all this, not with you, not being happy with all things hoppy, none of it!

FLEEK

I don't understand. I thought you showed promise.

BOB

(gets up and starts walking toward the door)

I showed "promise"? No, Fleek, no. I can let you stay at my place for a week but there's no way you are producing my show. My listeners like it the way it is. My listeners. MY listeners. I built the audience myself, without you. I have a lot of listeners!

FLEEK

Yes, but think about how many MORE listeners you can have with my help. Bob, Hoppy Daze can be the biggest brewing podcast ever. I have connections, I can really help it go further.

BOB looks at FLEEK.

BOB

I told you the minute you start getting crazy, I'm out. You couldn't help it, you had to start with the *(mimics FLEEK'S mannerisms)* and with the *(more mimicking)*...

I can't Fleek, I can't.

BOB starts calming down as FLEEK puts his arm around him and starts walking BOB back into the studio.



FLEEK

Ok, look. I'll tone it down. I'm sorry. You got me excited, I was excited.
You sounded good!

BOB

Really?

FLEEK

Yes, really! That stuff about the yeast was a homerun. It was gold!

BOB

It was "gold"?

FLEEK

Yes, Gold!

BOB

Do you know what yeast even is?

FLEEK

Not really, but it was nonetheless compelling!

FLEEK and BOB walk off screen as we **FADE TO BLACK.**

SCENE IV

TITLE CARD:

"THE CALL"

THEN "APRIL" FADES UP FROM BLACK

We SEE FLEEK behind a laptop with headphones on. He is still in BOB's house, which is remarkably neater than when we first saw it. A glass of wine sits on the table next to him. He is editing a podcast for a client. FLEEK stops editing. Looks at his cell phone on the desk. He picks it up and starts dialing.

JENNIFER

(through the phone)

Hello?



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FLEEK

Hello Jennifer? It's Fleek.

JENNIFER

(a little annoyed)

Hello, Fleek.

FLEEK

Jennifer, I just had a question. I was wondering if you were...

FLEEK stops talking.

JENNIFER

Fleek? Are you there?

FLEEK

Um, Yes. Um, sorry. I was um...

JENNIFER

You were asking me a question. You were wondering if I was what?

FLEEK

I was just wondering if you were uh, cooking right now?

JENNIFER

You called to ask if I were cooking?

FLEEK

Yes. Just because I need my cast iron pan. I'm making a blackened salmon filet and can't use an ordinary pan and if you were busy cooking and using it, then I would just need to change my plan so, I was just wondering before I went through all the time and trouble that I would just call you and ask if you were cooking and if so, well, that's it.

JENNIFER

No, Fleek. I'm not cooking. If you want it, I can send it over.

FLEEK

Oh, you don't have to do that. I'll just uh- make something else.
Maybe Bob and I can grab something quick.



JENNIFER

Fleek, you can't keep calling like this. It's not good for either of us. Fleek, are you ok?

FLEEK

(getting emotional - tries to hide it)

Me? Oh, yeah. Sure, I'm great. I'm just really great. And, and how are you doing?

JENNIFER

I'm good. Oh, Fleek, Listen, I'm kind of in the middle of something right now.
Is there anything else?

FLEEK

Anything else? No, no. I won't keep you. I'm very busy myself here. I have to take...

JENNIFER

Good bye, Fleek.

FLEEK

(Jennifer hangs up)

Bye Jen.

FLEEK hangs up and places the phone down. We SEE the CAMERA ZOOM IN on FLEEK very slowly while he thinks, and thinks, and thinks.

SCENE V

TITLE CARD:

"THE GAME"

THEN "JULY" FADES UP FROM BLACK

DISSOLVE TO:

We SEE BOB in the house. BOB stares at a TV screen. The camera zooms out to reveal 3 of his friends. 2 of which are holding a video game controller. AUSTIN, a 40-something black man. AUSTIN is married and he and his wife are expecting their first child. AUSTIN is a lawyer. TONY, another married 40-something white guy with HUGE glasses. TONY is a filmmaker. Lastly, FLETCHER. FLETCHER is a giant of a guy with a seriously unhealthy passion for video games. He communicates only through grunts and facial expressions. AUSTIN and FLETCHER are playing against each other. FLETCHER appears to be losing.



AUSTIN

(talking trash to FLETCHER)

C'mon Fletch. What's going on? I thought you were the man here, bro!

FLETCHER is getting angry and frustrated.

FLETCHER grunts.

AUSTIN

Here it comes! Here it comes... and BOOM! You are now D-E-A-D DEAD!

AUSTIN kills FLETCHER's character. FLETCHER is pissed. BOB temporarily comforts FLETCHER.

BOB

(to FLETCHER)

Ok, it's alright. Everything's gonna be ok.

BOB slowly takes the controller out of his hand.

BOB

Now, get out of my seat, you wooly mammoth.

FLEEK enters holding a tray of hors d'oeuvres on it.

FLEEK

Ok, guys! You must be hungry! I have some hors d'oeuvres and finger sandwiches!

AUSTIN

Hors d'oeuvres! Classy!

BOB

Yeah, all class. Austin, I'm about to smoke you like a cheap cigar!

AUSTIN

(gets up from the couch)

Smoke away. Finger sandwiches!

BOB

Oh, c'mon Austin! Fleek! We're in the middle of a game here!

FLEEK

It's just a little something in your stomach.
You guys have been here for hours now with nothing to eat.

TONY

That IS true.

FLEEK

Coasters guys, coasters. Your drinks leave rings on the table if you're not using them.
C'mon!

AUSTIN proudly shows FLEEK that his beer is on a coaster.

FLEEK

Follow Austin's lead, gentlemen!

The other guys groan in protest about not using a coaster and tease AUSTIN for using one. FLETCHER approaches FLEEK, inspects the food on the tray and very gently picks up an Heirloom Tomato Caprese Frico lined sitting in a cupcake wrapper and a toothpick stands high in the middle of it holding a cherry tomato.

FLEEK

(to FLETCHER)
Looks good, huh?

FLETCHER grunts.

FLEEK

(to FLETCHER)
Now, before you eat it, take the...

FLETCHER growls at FLEEK. FLEEK is taken aback and FLETCHER puts the entire thing in his mouth and starts chewing. FLEEK stares at him in disbelief..

FLEEK

Bob, may I?



BOB

(throws the controller down)
Go ahead, Fleek. Go ahead.

FLEEK

Guys, I'd like to say something. Just for one minute. I - I just want to say thank you to all of you. 2 months ago I had nowhere to go and Bob here took me in. What started out as a few days has turned into a whole new life for me. I mean, Bob and I are roommates now, I produce his podcast - which is really starting to track after only 8 new episodes - I get to hang with the guys every Thursday, and it's just...

FLEEK starts to get emotional.

FLEEK

...It's just, *(sighs)* Well, it makes me feel like I have some value.

AUSTIN

Fleek, us guys stick together. It's all good.

TONY

That's right. We *(holds up left fist)* stick *(holds up his right fist)* together
(slams his fists together).

FLEEK

Well, in honor of game night, I have a contribution to make.
I picked up a game today on the way home from the studio.

BOB

YOU bought a game? What is it? What is it?

TONY

(prays with eyes closed)

Please be Diablo IV, Please be Diablo IV, Please be Diablo IV, Please be Diablo IV...

FLEEK

(Excited)

I'll go get it. You're gonna love it.



FLEEK leaves to retrieve the game he brought for game night.

FLETCHER takes the controller.

TONY

C'mon Fletch. You and me.

FLETCH grunts.

BOB inspects the hors d'oeuvres tray.

BOB

Allright, what do we have here...?

We HEAR FLEEK from the other room.

FLEEK

Ok, here we go!

The guys all look toward the door. FLEEK appears holding the game box not unlike Vanna White displays a cherished vowel. The name of the game is printed on the side.

FLEEK

(proudly)

Who's reading for "TREKKING THE NATIONAL PARKS"!??

ALL THE GUYS

TREKKING THE NATIONAL PARKS?

FLETCH gives a 7 syllable grunt as if to say "TREKKING THE NATIONAL PARKS".

AUSTIN

Is that a board game?

FLEEK

Of course. It's game night.

AUSTIN

Love it. What is it all about?



AUSTIN approaches FLEEK and admires the box.

FLEEK

Oh, it's a wonderful story. A couple named John and Terry Binkele were nearing retirement and decided it was time for an adventure, the one they'd dreamt of most: they would visit every major U.S. national park...

TONY and FLETCHER come over to check out the board game leaving BOB on the couch.

FLEEK

...On the trip, John took thousands of beautiful photos, and it gave him an idea. He asked his son Charlie, a game designer and artist, What if we made a game about visiting the national parks?...

FLETCHER looks at the box while TONY looks at the board itself. FLEEK sets up the game. AUSTIN is all ears, nodding as FLEEK finishes explaining.

FLEEK

Charlie loved the idea, the family went to work, and Trekking the National Parks was born. The game is now in its second edition, which has sold more than 100,000 copies in less than two years.

All the guys are IN. FLEEK finishes setting up the game. The guys are excited to play as BOB sits on the couch shaking his head.

BOB

Trekking the National Parks.

BOB eats one of the hors D'oeuvres and starts choking. FLEEK continues explaining the game while no one notices BOB choking. FLEEK and the GUYS are completely oblivious to BOB manic gestures. BOB starts banging a beer bottle on the table and finally spits up the hors d'oeuver. FLEEK and the GUYS turn around as FLEEK notices the BOB slumped over with the beer bottle next to him on the table.

FLEEK

BOB!



BOB looks up from the couch, face red from choking.

FLEEK

Coaster!

BOB looks at FLEEK with hatred as he buries his face in a pillow.

FLEEK shakes his head as we **CUT TO BLACK**.

SCENE VI

TITLE CARD:

“THE QUESTION”

THEN “OCTOBER” FADES UP FROM BLACK

Once again, FLEEK is at his laptop editing a podcast for a client with headphones on. BOB enters.

BOB

Hey buddy.

FLEEK is unaware of BOB's presence. BOB walks behind him and lifts up one of the headphones on FLEEK's head.

BOB

(into FLEEK's ear)

Hey buddy.

BOB lets go of the headphone as it snaps back onto FLEEK's head.

FLEEK

Ow!

BOB

Hey, we're going out tonight. You've been cooped up here now for months and you need some excitement in your life. So, again we're going out.



FLEEK

Hmmm. *(closes the laptop)*

Ok. I'll finish up here and we could go to dinner and maybe see that new French film at the plaza - Jeanne du Barry!

BOB

No, Fleek. I got us a double date with the Kuzemka sisters that just moved in up the block. I saw the one sister, Veena, at the supermarket this morning. We started talking, and it turns out she's a listener of my show! She brews beer, Fleek! Her and her sister are looking for someone to show them around town.

FLEEK

A double date?

BOB

Yeah, a double date, what?

FLEEK

Oh, Bobby, Bobby, Bobby, I can't go on any dates. Are you kidding?

BOB

Wha-Bobby, Bobby, Bobby? It's time you get out there again, me too, for that matter!

FLEEK

No, no, no, I'm sorry. I'm a married man...

BOB

Jennifer threw you out, remember?

FLEEK

Yes but, that was just a - that's going to blow over.

BOB

Fleek, it's been 7 months. You talked to her, what, 4 times since then?

FLEEK

No, I've called every day since she asked me to leave.

BOB

. Threw you out. And yeah, you may call everyday, but you've spoken to her 4 times since. Why do you that is, Fleek? You're bothering her. She doesn't want to talk to you. She wanted some space and she has it. You don't think she's dating?

FLEEK

I should hope not!

FLEEK takes out his phone. He starts to call JENNIFER.

BOB

What're doing?

FLEEK

Calling Jennifer...

BOB

Fleek, I wouldn't do that. Don't do that, Fleek...

JENNIFER answers the phone.

JENNIFER

(through the phone)

Hello?

FLEEK

Hello Jennifer? It's Fleek.

JENNIFER

(a little annoyed)

Hello, Fleek.

FLEEK

Jennifer, I just had a question. Are you dating?

BOB motions to FLEEK to hang up.

BOB

What if she says yes? Now what?



FLEEK stops talking.

JENNIFER

Am I dating?

FLEEK

Um, Yes. Um, sorry. I was um...

JENNIFER

Fleek, why do you insist on doing this to me?

BOB gives another look to FLEEK to just hang up.

JENNIFER

I am not having this conversation with you.

FLEEK

Oh, you don't have to do that. I'll just uh- no problem. I'm sorry..

JENNIFER

Good bye, Fleek.

FLEEK

(Jennifer hangs up)

Bye Jen.

JUMP CUT TO:

FULL SHOT:

FLEEK stands still holding his cell.

FLEEK

Ok, Bob. I'm in.

CUT TO BLACK



SCENE VII

TITLE CARD:

“THE DATE”

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. - THE BLOOMING GROVE INN

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. - THE BLOOMING GROVE INN

FLEEK, BOB, VEENA, and her sister SASHA are sitting at a table ordering drinks.

SASHA

I'll have a dirty Kettle One martini with 3 olives.

WAITRESS

We stuff our olives with blue cheese. Is that ok?

SASHA

Perfect!

VEENA

I'll have the Left Hand Nitro Milk Stout.

BOB

Make that 2!

WAITRESS

(to FLEEK)

And for you, sir?

FLEEK

I'm torn between your 2 choices of Pinot Noir. The Pinot Noir in Burgundy, France is usually very herbaceous and light - except for pristine vintages. The earthy aromas that dominate smells similar to a brown paper bag full of mushrooms or wet leaves. It also has faint floral smells of roses, violet and a smell of fruit that leans towards raw, freshly picked cherries, whereas the German Pinot is produced just next to the border of France in a wine region called Ahr.



They tend to offer more raspberry and sweet cherry aromas along with a healthy portion of earthiness.

(to the waitress)

Which do you prefer?

WAITRESS

I - uh - don't drink wine.

FLEEK is immediately appalled. BOB steps in.

BOB

(apologetically)

He'll have the French one.

FLEEK

But!

BOB

(through clenched teeth, looking at FLEEK)

HE'LL. HAVE. THE. FRENCH. ONE!

The waitress leaves.

BOB

(trying to salvage the moment)

So, Veena, how long have you been listening to the show?

VEENA

Oh, for about 6 months now. It's soooo good! You make home brewing so simple for me and I just love when you answer listener emails! Some of them are so crazy!

BOB

(laughing)

Oh, yes, listener emails. There can be some crazy people out there.

EVERYONE laughs, FLEEK politely smiles.

BOB

(to SASHA)

Hey Sasha, you know Fleek here is my producer.

SASHA

Really? Wow!

FLEEK

Oh, it's no big deal.

BOB

Don't listen to him. Fleek is an award-winning podcast producer with a state-of-the-art podcast studio and everything!

VEENA

Fleek, what other podcasts do you produce? Maybe I've heard of some.

FLEEK

(unenthusiastically)

I produce The Tom Candle Experience.

VEENA & SASHA

TOM CANDLE!?!

VEENA

I listen to Tom Candle all the time! Oh my God, His show literally kills me!

SASHA

Exactly!

FLEEK looks a bit irritated.

FLEEK

The show literally kills you?

VEENA

Absolutely. I never know what he's going to say next! His opinions just bemuses me to another level - he's hilarious!



FLEEK

The show literally KILLS you and leaves you BEMUSED?

BOB

(under his breath)

-- FLEEK --

FLEEK

Veena, *(chuckling)* those words don't mean what you think they mean.

VEENA looks confused. BOB hangs his head in embarrassment.

FLEEK

See, literally means actually, or unequivocally. It does not also mean figuratively. It doesn't have its own antonym. Same with bemused. I'm sure you meant Amused. His opinions AMuse you not Bemused. Amused means you entertained. Bemused means your puzzled, confused, bewildered.

BOB is mortified.

BOB

Veena, I'm sorry, this morning Fleek got hit in the head with a large office machine.

VEENA

(totally soaking in every word from FLEEK)

So, I should have said, "Tom Candle figuratively kills me and leaves me amused"?

FLEEK

Now, you've got it.

SASHA

I didn't know you knew such infamous people like Tom Candle!

FLEEK

No dear, he's famous, he's not infamous. Infamous are famous people that are famous for all the wrong reasons.

SASHA

Wow. You're like - if Google were a person!



BOB

Listen, I'm going to check on our drinks.

BOB leaves the table.

SASHA

Fleek, you know, I've always wanted to do a podcast but I once heard my voice on a recording and I was screaming, Shut it off, Shut it off! I hated the sound of it.

FLEEK

Well, we are usually our own worst judges. I think you have a very nice voice. It's all in how you take care of it.

VEENA

Well, how do we do that, Fleek?

SASHA

I want to be a podcaster. Please help me Fleek.

FLEEK

Well, there are 2 ways. The first: drink a half a glass of lemon water at room temperature twice a day. Lemon has a high source of vitamin C to help fight infection and contains calcium, iron, magnesium and potassium. Lemons have citric acid which helps to break down the mucus in your throat.

VEENA

(recording Fleek on her cell phone like it;s a microphone)

And what's the second way?

FLEEK

(leans forward as if telling them a secret)

Did you know that lack of sleep can affect your voice in a number of ways. If you are exhausted, you won't have the energy to breathe properly while using your voice without straining it, which can cause vocal fatigue. Also, you won't have the energy to think about how you're using your voice or take care of it during the day. Finally, tired people tend to drink more caffeine, which can dehydrate you and cause mucus buildup on the vocal folds. If you speak while your voice is tired, you can develop hoarseness which can easily cause nodules, polyps, and cysts to develop on the vocal cords.



SASHA

(looks at her watch)

Oh my. It's 8:30.

FLEEK

Are you serious about being a podcaster and want my help?

SASHA

Yes, Fleek.

FLEEK

(hands SASHA his card)

Then I would get myself home right now, have a glass of lemon water, get to sleep and be in my studio at this address at 9:00 tomorrow morning to start your new life as a podcaster.

SASHA

(takes out her cell)

Veena, will you be my co-host?

VEENA

YES!

SASHA

(looks at her cell)

There's a ride share 1 minute away! Let's grab it!

The girls collect their bags.

SASHA

Thank you so much, Fleek!

SASHA hugs FLEEK.

VEENA

Thank you Fleek, see you tomorrow!

VEENA holds FLEEK'S card and hugs him as the girls leave.



FLEEK sits at the table alone. Content.

FLEEK

Hmm. Nice girls.

BOB returns with the drinks on a tray.

BOB

That poor waitress. She's getting slammed.

FLEEK

Oh, the drinks.

BOB

Fleek, please tell me the girls are in the restroom.

FLEEK

Oh no. They left.

BOB

They left? Why did they leave?

FLEEK

They just took a ride share home.

BOB slowly puts the drinks down on the table.

FLEEK

See, they were asking me about voice maintenance. So, I shared with them that if they drink lemon water at room temperature twice a day it would be extremely advantageous for their voices.

BOB

That doesn't answer my question, Fleek.

WHY DID THEY LEAVE?

WHAT DID YOU SAY TO THEM?

FLEEK

Well, I also shared that another enemy to the vocal chords, other than not drinking enough lemon water, was lack of sleep. That if they didn't get enough of it, it could do irreparable harm to their voice.

BOB is livid.

FLEEK

Well, THEY brought it up! Sasha said she wanted to be a podcaster and Veena wanted to join her. They asked me for help. What a fine person I would have been to refuse to help someone in need!

BOB

(hopelessly sits down)

Thanks for ruining what could've been a great night.

FLEEK

Oh, Bobby. Don't be mad at me. C'mon.

FLEEK looks at his phone.

FLEEK

Oh, Look! Good news!

BOB

What? The girls?!

FLEEK

No, no. We can still make the 9:15 showing of Jeanne du Barry!
I'll get the ride share, you pay for the drinks.

FLEEK runs off. BOB picks up his beer and chugs it, then he chugs VEENA's beer, then he chugs SASHA's martini. He picks up FLEEK's wine, smells it, and takes a sip.

BOB

Yuck! I don't know how he drinks this crap.

FLEEK enters.



FLEEK

Bob, c'mon, the ride share is here.

FLEEK exits as BOB look in FLEEK's direction and says in French:

BOB

Je te déteste.

LOWER THIRD SUBTITLE APPEARS: I hate you. BOB chugs the wine anyway. He instantly regrets doing that and exits as we:

CUT TO BLACK

SCENE VIII

TITLE CARD:

"THE YEAR"

THEN "JANUARY" FADES UP FROM BLACK

FLEEK is in the studio on the phone.

FLEEK

No, I'm sorry, Mr. Keaton is not interested in doing any live shows...

...I have a few ideas as to what that would involve...

...Sell tickets? And what price point are you thinking?...

Sorry Rick, get back to the drawing board and call me when you've figured out the logistics.

BOB opens the door and enters.

BOB

Hey.

FLEEK

Hey. Good news. I just checked your stats.

BOB

And?

FLEEK

You've hit 2 million listeners!



BOB

Wow. A year ago you said I could have the biggest brewing podcast ever. You said you had connections and that you could really help it go further and you did it. You're a man of your word, Fleek!

FLEEK

Well, you did the work too, Bob!

FLEEK puts his arm around BOB.

FLEEK

We make a pretty good team you and me, huh?.

FLEEK's cell phone rings. FLEEK answers.

FLEEK

Hello...? ...Oh, Hi Jen... ...Yes, sure... ...That's sounds terrific... ...Ok... ...I will see you at 6... ...Wonderful... ...Oh, Jennifer, Listen, I'm kind of in the middle of something right now. Is there anything else?... ...Great... ...Ok, see you later... ...Bye-bye.

BOB

(points to the phone)

Jennifer?

FLEEK

Yeah, That was Jen. Seeing her tonight at 6 for dinner at Fence & Post.

BOB

Fence & Post? Isn't that where you proposed to her? Fleek?

FLEEK

I know what you're going to say and you don't have to. It was her idea.

BOB

Really?

FLEEK

Really.



BOB

You ok?

FLEEK

Bob, you told me a year ago that when Helen left you, you were a mess. But that after a while you got used to it and you told be it would be alright. Well, Bob, you're a man of YOUR word. I'm alright. I'm better than alright, I'm great.
We'll take it slow and see what happens.

BOB

You're a good man, Fleek.

FLEEK

And you're a great friend, Bob.
If you want to answer some listener emails, go right ahead. I have a session.

FLEEK exits to the studio section of his office.

BOB

Ok, Fleek.

FLEEK enters the studio. SASHA and VEENA sit at the podcast table, each stationed behind a microphone, wearing headphones. FLEEK sits behind the board with his own microphone and puts on headphones.

FLEEK

OoookkkK Ladies. Your countdown will now begin. Sasha, watch the mirror, and...10, 9, 8, and remember, I'm out on 5.

We HEAR SASHA and VEENA's podcast intro start as we:

FADE TO BLACK
END CREDITS

