

Recently, the topic for my monthly writer's group was Cartoons. I really enjoyed my submission so I figured I'd post it. Hope you like.

The Chase Revealed

In American society today, it seems that there are no secrets. At least not for celebrities. If you watch TMZ, it is appalling to see some of the things that are exposed. Yet the show gets good ratings. Why? I don't know, but I'm sure it is something similar to the reason why we can't help but stare when we pass a bad car accident. As a result, it seems that there are hardly any closets left in Hollywood that have real skeletons in them. There's only one real piece of Americana that remains off limits, even to today's media. A small underbelly of Hollywood known for its joy and laughter, but the conspiracy to keep its dark side under wraps ranks right up there with the JFK assassination. I'm speaking...of course...of Toon Town.

Only once, over two decades ago, did anyone ever really try to take a closer look at the drama that unfolds in Toon Town when the cameras aren't rolling. Do you remember the hard hitting documentary "Who Framed Roger Rabbit?" While the ending of that story was polished up for a happy movie going experience, the murder and mayhem that it showed got people to start asking about what really goes on in Toon Town. Think back to Roger and Jessica Rabbit, the stars who stole the show. Both seemed poised to launch huge careers after opening up the doors to Toon Town. Eerily, neither were ever heard from again. When Roger's brother, Sugar Rabbit, inquired about Roger's disappearance, he was led in circles. Finally, he went to the mayor of Toon Town to find out what kind of tricks the authorities were up to. All the mayor had to say was, "Silly Rabbit, Trix are for kids...now get out of my office."

Today however, the secrecy begins to come to an end. Recently, this office was able to finally turn a toon. Contractually, we can't get into the details, but let's just say there were lots of scented markers involved. From this point forward we'll call our agent Benedict. Benedict has agreed to wear a hidden camera and microphone into some of the untalked about areas of Toon Town. In our first episode, we take a look at the world of addiction.

Tonight a 12 Step Meeting is about to take place in the gymnasium of the Underdog School for Toon Superheroes. As Benedict makes his way in, a lectern sits at the front of the room facing about 30 chairs.

Benedict makes his way to the coffee pot and asks the toon in front of him wearing the big cowboy hat to make him a cup. The toon quickly wheels around and points a gun at Benedict.

"Get it yourself, ya' filthy varmint!"

"Yosemite Sam!!! We have asked you not to bring your weapons in here. Please take your seat!"

Benedict finally peels his eyes (and our camera) off the huge gun to realize that the toon that may have just saved his life is none other than the legendary Tom of Tom & Jerry fame. Sam grudgingly lowers the weapon and looks at Tom,

"60 years old before someone taught you to speak, now you won't shutup and stop telling people what to do."

Sam stalks away muttering something about varmints and takes a seat in the last row.

"Don't mind him, the judge recently put him on probation for shooting up a bar. He has to come here and to Spike's Anger Management classes and he doesn't want to be here. So you're new here, first meeting?"

"Yes."

"Well let me be the first to welcome you to Chasers Anonymous. As you probably know, I'm Tom and I'm a chase-aholic. I helped start this organization some 20 years ago with my friend Elmer."

Tom points to a picture on the front of the lectern of Elmer Fudd standing triumphantly on his shotgun. Under the picture it reads "ELMER - the glue that brings us together."

"Of course he did all the talking because, well, I didn't speak at the time."

As Benedict and Tom make their way to seats, Tom continues to chat,

"One thing I want to point out is the Anonymous part. If you look around the room you will see a lot of toons you recognize. If word of these meetings got out, it could kill a lot of careers. There's Wile E. Coyote, Sylvester the Cat...and over there is Ranger Smith...he comes every other week all the way from Jellystone Park. He'll be our keynote speaker tonight."

The meeting started shortly after. A few unknown toons made some announcements. Sideshow Bob received his one year pin. Lisa Simpson even showed up to support him. Then after a brief introduction, Ranger Snith took the lectern to address the nearly full room.

"Hi, I'm Ranger Smith and I'm a chase-aholic."

"Hi Ranger Smith."

"It's been 7 years since I last chased a toon. Most of you know my story. For most toons, life is all about being a big star, getting your own cartoon and entertaining people. But not me. All I ever wanted was to be one with toon nature. Life was perfect when I took the Park Ranger job at Jellystone. Then Yogi moved in and along came the camera crews and his pal Boo-Boo. I managed to ignore it all until he started stealing pic-a-nic baskets. Something awoke in me. I stayed up all night thinking of elaborate plans to catch him that somewhere deep inside I knew would never work. Eventually, my whole life became consumed with chasing Yogi Bear. I lost sight of the toon I wanted to be...the toon I was drawn to be. But our dear friend, Mr. Fudd found me and brought me to a meeting.

"That was 10 years ago. It took some time, but I eventually learned to live in harmony with other toons. A couple years ago I nearly slipped when I saw the Computer Generated Yogi Bear movie. Can you believe they found a human to play me? Watching that Ranger Smith chase after Yogi and basically make fun of me had me ready to go out and catch that darn bear. But I avoided the chase! And I'm a better toon for it! Through the power of CA meetings and by working the 12 Steps, I don't have to chase anymore...and neither do you! I can be a toon happy in his own drawings...and so can you!

"Take a look around you and you will see success story after success story. Look at how I've stayed clean and look at the triumph of our beloved founder, Mr. Fudd. Then there are other examples. We all remember how the Pac-Man cartoon had to be cancelled when the ghosts gave up chasing to join a Buddhist Monastery. Last I heard, the Buddhists and the ghosts lived in an enlightened dimension together.

"Ladies, gentlemen, cats, dogs, toons of all kinds...work the program and you too can overcome your need to chase. Thank you and keep coming."

So as you can see, the dark secrets of Toon Town continue to be covered up, but we are on the case to bring you the truth. Next time, we'll take a look at what happens to villains created to be the bad guy after a cartoon ends. The Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles are retired to a villa in the upper East Side of Toon Town. So Benedict will take us into

the heart of the underground crime syndicate known as the Foot, which now runs the entire gambling trade in Toon Town. He'll even attempt to get a sit-down with the Foot's evil leader - The Shredder.

until next time...