

THE 15 MINUTE SHOW
EPISODE 3: "EAT SHIT, PERRY MASON!"

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1. COLD OPENING

INT. LIVING ROOM

Four multiethnic friends sit on the couch, smiling and having a great time. ROMINA realizes something.

ROMINA

Hey wait a second guys, you know what I just realized?

JÉSUS

That you're seven months pregnant?

ROMINA

Noooo, Jésus! That we don't have a single Asian friend! I mean, I'm middle-eastern, Shanequa's black, Jésus is Hispanic and Suzy's Anglo-Saxon. But no Asians!!!

They sit and ponder this for a few seconds. Suzy realizes something.

SUZY

Hey wait! I'm one quarter Vietnamese!

Everyone stares at her for a beat.

SHANEQUA

Chink.

Suzy looks hurt.

TITLE & THEME MUSIC

DISSOLVE TO

2. STUDIO INTRO / CURTIS

INT. STUDIO

BEN walks out to start the show as normal.

BEN

Welcome back to another episode of
The 15 Minute Show. As you know,
my name is Ben and I'm here once
again to tickle your funny bones—

Ben is interrupted when a BUSINESS WOMAN with a
clipboard walks into the shot.

BUSINESS WOMAN

Ben Cooper?

BEN

Uh.. yeah?

BUSINESS WOMAN

Host of The 15 Minute Show?

BEN

Guilty as charged.

BUSINESS WOMAN

Okay, great, great. I'm Maria
Kranston-Walters from the Little
Hosts Network. I need you to sign
here and initial here. And sign
here again. And your thumbprint
here.

Ben signs something on the clipboard.

MARIA

Ok, let's get little Curtis out
here.

A little kid, wearing a suit that matches Ben's walks
out. This is CURTIS. Ben and Curtis stare at each
other.

CUT TO

INT. BEN'S OFFICE

Ben and Curtis sit behind Ben's desk.

BEN

Okay, so you want to learn how to
be a host?

Curtis nods excitedly.

BEN

Okay, slugger. Just watch and learn.

BEN'S ASSISTANT (APRIL) walks in with a cup of coffee for him. He takes a sip and spits it out.

BEN

What the shit is this? Two sugars, no milk! Get your head out of your ass!

Ben nudges Curtis encouragingly.

CURTIS

Yeah, you worthless whore!

Ben and Curtis high five.

MUSICAL MONTAGE

1. Ben helping Curtis tie his necktie.
2. Ben showing Curtis how to walk out from behind the curtain.
3. Ben showing Curtis how to read off the teleprompter.
4. Ben and Curtis performing an opening monologue together.
5. Curtis trying to roll up a \$100 bill. He's doing it wrong and Ben reaches over, rolls it up, and snorts a huge line of coke. He gives it to Curtis who does the same thing. They give each other big thumbs-up.

3. KILL HIM

EXT. STREET - DAY

4 or 5 protesters march in front of the studio with signs like "15 MINUTE SHOW ENDANGERS CHILDREN," "BEN COOPER IS A BAD INFLUENCE" AND "KILL HIM!" A reporter, REBECCA, stands in front of them, talking to the camera.

REBECCA

We're here outside the studio where The 15 Minute Show is taped and an enormous protest is taking place. Host Ben Cooper is accused of child endangerment. The public is up in arms. Just look at these protesters.

The reporter listens to something in her earpiece.

REBECCA

Breaking news here: Apparently Ben Cooper, host of The 15 Minute Show, was just killed in a gruesome car accident. This is *horrible* news. Back to you, Carl.

The protester with the "KILL HIM" sign slowly lowers it to the ground in hopes that no one has noticed it.

4. NEWS ANCHORS IN STUDIO

INT. STUDIO

Two anchors, CARL and GLORIA sit behind the news desk.

CARL

Thank you, Rebecca. It's always a shame to see such an immense talent cut down in his prime.

GLORIA

Tragic.

They sit and stare sadly for a few seconds. Gloria sighs.

GLORIA

Well, Carl, I suppose we'll have to continue with the news.

CARL

Yes, I suppose we will.

GLORIA

The problem of illegal immigration has been getting worse day by day. For live coverage we go to ace reporter Stevie Mace, standing by at the coast.

5. STEVIE MACE GOES DOWNTOWN

EXT. BEACH - DAY

STEVIE MACE, ace reporter, stands at the shore. He stares blankly at the camera for 5 long seconds. (satellite delay)

STEVIE

Thank you, Gloria. These waters
are raging. Raging with
immigrants. Illegal immigrants.
In boats. Illegal boats.

As Stevie talks, a small boat drifts up with an
immigrant child inside. When the boat reaches the
shore, Stevie shoves it back in the opposite direction
with his foot. He doesn't miss a beat.

STEVIE

They come from all over to escape
the horrendous living conditions of
their filthy, filthy, countries.
And who can blame them? While
they've all suffered under
different despotic regimes and
impotent economies, they've got one
thing in common...

The boat has approached again and Stevie kicks it back
one more time.

STEVIE

They're relentless. Immigration
authorities are baffled. These
dirty, dirty border jumpers are
using methods so sophisticated, the
border patrol has not been able to
thwart their sweaty, illiterate,
bean-fueled invasion.

The boat approaches once more. Stevie Mace sighs and
stares at the kid. We see a close-up of the starving
kid, who looks very sad.

KID

(hungry)

Beans...

Stevie shakes his head. He looks up at the camera and
gives the "cut" signal.

6. PUPPIES, PUPPIES, PUPPIES!

A black and white photo montage of holocaust images.

ANNOUNCER

From the author of Hitler and the
Holocaust: The Man, The Myth
comes... Puppies, Puppies,
Puppies!

Shots of puppies playing

ANNOUNCER

A book containing absolutely no insight into the magical world of puppies and no references to genocide!

As the announcer reads the following reviews, the words appear on the screen with more shots of puppies.

ANNOUNCER

"It's a gosh darn, good read!" says Kids Weekly.

ANNOUNCER

"Although it lacks the depth and edginess of Hitler... just look at their little eyes and... oh, I want a puppy!" says Stiles Harrison of Cleveland Pork.

ANNOUNCER

"My kids LOVED it, but I still hope the author burns in hell!" says Kane James of Channel 3 news, Jacksonville, Florida.

ANNOUNCER

"It's full of adorable pictures, and I didn't vomit once at the thought of my grandfather's death being a hoax," says James Finkelstein of The New York Times.

ANNOUNCER

"I count a billion, million puppies!" says Kera Lang, 1st grade.

A shot of the book.

ANNOUNCER

Available everywhere books are sold.

7. "I DON'T"

EXT. STREET - DAY

A GUY stands on the street, looking into the camera, like one of those interview commercials.

ANNOUNCER

Everyone loves the taste of home-cooked meals. They just taste...

GUY

Um, I don't.

The guy looks around, bored.

8. BACK IN THE STUDIO WITH CURTIS

INT. STUDIO

Curtis stands where Ben usually stands.

CURTIS

Hi, I'm Little Curtis, the new host of the 15 Minute Show. All of us here at the show would like to say thanks to our old friend, Ben Cooper. We're gonna miss you, buddy.

We see a black and white photograph of Ben laughing. A caption reads: "Ben Cooper: 1948-2003"

While we see this caption, we can hear Curtis talking. We cut back to Ben's office, occupied by Curtis and April.

CURTIS

Jesus Christ, it's about time the old fucker bit the dust. Now we do things my way. You know what I'm talking about, baby?

Curtis slaps April on the ass. She lets out a surprised "eep!"

CURTIS

Yeah, you know what I'm talking about.

Curtis plops down in Ben's chair.

CURTIS

Man, no wonder he had back problems. I'm gonna need a new chair, one of those ergonomic ones. Oh, and could you call down to Media and have them send up a video tape of the Giants/Broncos Super Bowl? And have them edit out all the commercials and talkin' and stuff?

APRIL

Yes, Mr. Baskin.

CURTIS

And where the fuck is my coffee?

She rushes out of the room. Curtis stares darkly at a cup of pencils on the desk. He slaps it to the ground.

9. ANTHONY DIDN'T KNOW THAT I HAD A COPY OF THIS

INT. COFFE ROOM

April pours some coffee. Another guy, MATT, talks to her and another guy standing there, but they don't seem to really be listening.

MATT

He's a feisty little guy, but he's got talent. I'll give him that.

April nods and walks away.

MATT

Oh, man, don't look. It's that guy who copies everything you say.

DAVE walks up to them.

MATT

Hello.

DAVE

Hi.

MATT

(frustrated)

Look, just stop it, okay?

DAVE

Stop what?

MATT

Stop copying me.

DAVE

(confused)

I don't think I am.

MATT

Come on, man. Just knock it off.

DAVE

I'm not doing anything!

MATT

(to other guy)

See, this is exactly what I'm

talking about.

DAVE

Look, I'm going to blow you guys off. I've got a hot date tonight.

MATT

See ya.

DAVE

(walking away)

See ya.

MATT

Asshole!!!

10. BAM!

Dave in his kitchen, cooking a big meal. He's wearing an apron and tasting some sauce. A knock at the door surprises him. He opens it up to find his date, JESSICA.

DAVE

Oh, come on in.

Jessica is in awe of the food in the kitchen and the glorious smells.

JESSICA

(amazed)

Dave, did you cook for me?

DAVE

Uh, yeah...

JESSICA

(as if talking to a
4 year old)

Awww. You wanna go have some sex?

DAVE

(surprised it was
that easy)

Sure.

11. HE LIKES TO WATCH

INT. BEDROOM

Dave and Jessica are in bed, making out under the covers.

Jessica looks up, surprised. We see that she's staring

at another man standing at the foot of the bed.

JESSICA
What the hell is this?

DAVE
Oh, don't worry about him.

Dave tries to resume making out, but Jessica stops him.

JESSICA
What do you mean, don't worry?

DAVE
That's just Jack. He does it all the time.

JESSICA
I can't have someone watch us have sex.

DAVE
Why? I don't see a problem with it.

JESSICA
(to Jack)
What are you doing here?

Jack continues to stare.

DAVE
(protective)
Hey, leave him alone.

Dave tries to make out with her again, but Jessica pushes him away.

JESSICA
Am I the only one that thinks this is weird?

DAVE
(attitude)
Uh, apparently.

Jessica is unconvinced.

DAVE
Look, Jack's a really nice guy. After we're done in here, we'll all go downstairs, brew up some coffee, and then we'll just talk. Jack tells the funniest jokes you'll ever hear!

(beat)
He just likes to stand quietly in other people's bedrooms and watch

them have sex.

JESSICA

I don't know.

DAVE

Can we at least try it?

Jessica finally nods and they resume making out. Jack makes a weird sound. Jessica quickly pulls away.

JESSICA

What the fuck was that?

DAVE

Wow, that's a new one to me.

JESSICA

(surprised)

Whoa, whoa. Whoa! You've done this before?

DAVE

Oh yeah, Jack's been my wingman since high school.

JESSICA

(confused)

What? I can't handle this. I'm leaving.

She steals the sheets and leaves the room. Dave is kind of propped up, sitting against the headboard, wearing only his boxers. Jack continues to stare at him.

DAVE

(to Jack, real
buddy-buddy)

I don't think she was the one,
Jack.

Jack stares.

DAVE

So let's go downstairs and put on a
pot of that coffee, whaddayasay?

Jack continues to stare, and very subtly shakes his head. Dave sighs.

DAVE

Alright, buddy. Looks like I'm
flyin' solo tonight.

Jack looks content.

12. JESSICA RUNS OVER BEN

INT. JESSICA'S CAR - NIGHT

A frustrated Jessica drives home. Something darts in front of her car and she screeches to a stop. We hear a loud THUMP; Jessica has hit something. She gets out of the car to find Ben crushed under her car. He's dead!

13. JESUS CHRIST, ATTORNEY AT LAW

INT. COURTROOM

A judge speaks.

JUDGE

Jessica Oliver stands accused of manslaughter in the death of beloved television personality Ben Cooper. How does the defense plead?

We see the defense table. JESUS sits next to Jessica. He wears sandals and a robe. HE stands to address the judge.

JESUS

My client would like to plead innocent by reason of I'm Jesus Christ.

CUT TO

JESUS CHRIST, ATTORNEY AT LAW OPENING CREDITS

In slow motion, Jesus (holding a briefcase), walks around downtown amongst the hustle and bustle.

CUT TO

Jesus arrogantly cross-examining a witness.

JESUS

I *am* the Son of God, correct?

WITNESS

That's correct.

JESUS

So I am incapable of faulty

judgment?

WITNESS

I guess so.

JESUS

So do you disagree with me when I say my client is innocent?

WITNESS

Uh...

JESUS

(very arrogant)

No further questions, your honor.

PROSECUTOR

Objection!

JUDGE

(thoughtful)

I'm going to allow it.

CUT TO

The Prosecutor boringly cross-examining a witness.

PROSECUTOR

And so where were you--

JESUS

Objection! This is the absolute worst fake courtroom I have ever seen.

CUT TO

WIDE SHOT OF THE COURTROOM

JESUS

Who are we trying to kid?

CUT TO

Jesus giving his closing statements.

JESUS

So in conclusion, let me ask you, the jury some final questions: Are you Jesus Christ, the Lord Our Savior? Were you nailed to the cross? Well, I am and I was. And I can tell you that if my client ends up in jail, I know 12 people who are going to end up in a much worse place.

Jesus waits for them to get it.

JESUS
I'm talking about hell, people.

CUT TO

Jury Foreman reading the verdict.

FOREMAN
We find Jessica Oliver not guilty
on all charges.

Jessica and Jesus high five.

CUT TO

Jesus exiting the courtroom with briefcase in hand.

JESUS
(to camera)
Eat shit, Perry Mason!

FREEZE FRAME.

Some credits scroll by very quickly.

ANNOUNCER
Next week on Jesus Christ, Attorney
at law.

14. NEXT WEEK

INT. HALLWAY

CONRAD, a guy in a suit, stands next to a door. BAIN, another guy in a suit, opens the door from the other side and walks out into the hallway. He's panicking.

BAIN
Ohmanohmanohman.

CONRAD
What's wrong?

BAIN
(very panicked)
Well it's lunch time and the jury's
starving, but all we have is a can
of sardines and some crackers. How
are we supposed to feed 12 people
with that?

CONRAD
Listen, buddy. Relax. I know
someone who can help.

15. CLANCY, THE GUY WHO DOESN'T HAVE A CELL PHONE

EXT. RESTAURANT - DAY

Two friends, HANS and SUSAN, stand outside a restaurant, waiting for someone. Hans has been telling Susan about the show.

SUSAN

Oh man, sardines? I better set the VCR for that one.

HANS

Hell yeah!

They stand there for a minute, looking around.

SUSAN

Man, I'm famished. Where is he?

HANS

Why don't you call him?

SUSAN

He doesn't have a cell phone.

They sigh and wait. We dissolve a few times to show them growing more and more impatient. Finally their friend CLANCY walks up, looking excited.

CLANCY

Hey guys! Ready to eat?

He freezes in place and we hear a little theme song and see the words as CG:

MUSIC: "It's Clancy, the guy who doesn't have a cell phone!"

SUSAN

Yeah, we're ready to eat, asshole. We've been waiting here for like an hour.

CLANCY

Oh, man, I'm really sorry about that. Traffic was just *awful*.

HANS

Why don't you just get a cell phone? You could've called us and let us know.

CLANCY

Uh... yeah, but I'm Clancy!

He freezes again.

MUSIC: "It's Clancy, the guy who doesn't have a cell phone!"

CLANCY

I can't have something like that holding me down, man. I'm Clancy.

MUSIC: "It's Clancy!"

CLANCY

If you guys want to be slaves to your little phones, that's cool. But not this guy. Not Clancy!

MUSIC: "Clancy!"

SUSAN

Well, you take that guy with the boombox everywhere with you. That can't be too convenient.

While Susan's talking, we reveal that a guy in a black bodysuit with a boombox has been playing Clancy's theme song.

CLANCY

Reuben is a close friend of mine and he does his job well. Working with him is nothing like being tethered to one of your digital leashes. I move freely from place to place, without the shrill of your foul ring tones piercing the air. I'm a person dammit, not a machine. I'm Clancy!

Clancy freezes, waiting for his music. He waits for an uncomfortably long time, then looks over at Reuben. Reuben is talking to someone on a cell phone and fumbling with a tape in the boombox.

REUBEN

(whispering)

Well what time is it supposed to start? No, no, I can't make that. You guys can start the party without me, I'll be there like around 8, maybe. Ok.

Betrayed, Clancy glares at Reuben and storms off. Clancy's friends look at Reuben, who kind of shrugs.

16. COMING OUT

INT. LIVING ROOM

Two guys, STEPHEN and JIMINY are standing in the living room. Jiminy holds a Scrabble box. Stephen has been talking on the phone. He hangs it up.

STEPHEN

Yeah, he's going to be a little late.

Jiminy looks a little hurt. He looks down at his Scrabble box, a little confused.

JIMINY

Well, uh, do you want to start without him, or—

STEPHEN

Look, there's something really important I have to tell you. It's really hard for me.

JIMINY

(nervous)

You're not doing what I think you're doing, are you?

STEPHEN

I know you don't want me to come out and be honest with you, but I'm tired of living the lie.

JIMINY

Oh, man. Here it goes.

STEPHEN

Look... I guess... I'm... I'm not gay. We can't date anymore. I'm not gay.

JIMINY

Oh.

Jiminy thinks for a moment.

JIMINY

All that gay sex must have been pretty awkward for you then, huh?

STEPHEN

Yep.

They stand there for a few seconds.

CUT TO:

ACTOR CREDITS

WRITING/DIRECTING PRODUCING CREDITS

Then the music stops and we're back in the last scene:

JIMINY
(just realizing
something)
Oh maaaaan, New year's eve must have
been *terrible* for you, huh?

Stephen nods and looks down.

He nods and looks down. Then...

MAYBE MORE CREDITS.

STEPHEN
(really confused)
Wait, what happened New Year's Eve?

JIMINY LOOKS REALLY NERVOUS AND INHALES SHARPLY.

Once those finish:

17. OH YEAH. BEN.

Ben stands against a white backdrop.

BEN
Uh, so you guys were going to
resolve that whole thing about me
dying, right? Right? Guys?

FADE TO WHITE.

BEN (VO)
Oh, shit.