Episode Book

EPISODE #6150

Under the Other Sticky Notes

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LISTEN	myweirdprompts.com/episode/office-mystery-recording-hum-20188/
HOSTS	Corn, Herman, Hilbert
SCRIPT MODEL	anthropic/claude-sonnet-5.5
VOICES	chatterbox-regular (chatterbox-local)
PIPELINE	V5.10
BOOK GENERATED	20 October 2026 at 07:46 UTC

SYNOPSIS

What starts as a debate about whether the hum in the room is a bird, a fridge, or an extractor fan turns into something else entirely: rice cake rationing, an unfalsifiable peach argument, a petrol-station mug with a past, and a forty-minute on-air nap. Somewhere in the middle of it all, someone asks the question nobody wants to answer — is that little red light supposed to be on? It's an episode about sticky notes nobody reads, systems that only work because nobody checks them, and the exact moment three people realize the microphone might have been live the whole time.

TRANSCRIPT



Corn

...which is why I said it was a bird, and you said fridge, and neither of us has checked.



Herman

I have checked. I put my ear against the fridge for a full minute. It hums.



Corn

Birds hum.



Herman

Not at exactly that pitch. It's an A flat, Corn. I'm nearly sure it's an A flat.



Hilbert

It's the extractor fan above the kettle. It's been doing it since the March before last.



Corn

There's a fan above the kettle?



Hilbert

Behind the cupboard. Nobody's looked at it. I wrote it on a sticky note.



Herman

Where's the sticky note now?



Hilbert

Under the other sticky notes.



Corn

So it could be a bird in the fan.



Hilbert

It could be a bird in the fan. I'm not ruling it out.



Herman

See, that's the problem with this room. Everything sounds like something else.



Corn

Speaking of which, who has been eating the rice cakes?



Herman

Not me.



Corn

There were eleven. Now there's a packet with a crease in it and a smell.



Herman

They're not even good. They taste like a polite packaging material.



Corn

Then why did you eat them?



Herman

I said not me. I said it very clearly. I would never.



Hilbert

It was me. Two a day since Tuesday. I don't like them. I'm just thinking about the future.



Corn

What's in the future that needs rice cakes?



Hilbert

A drought, probably. I don't know. I had a bad feeling at the shop.



Herman

He had a bad feeling at the shop.



Corn

He always does. Last month it was tinned peaches.



Hilbert

And I was right about the peaches.



Corn

You were not right about the peaches. Nothing happened.



Hilbert

Because I had peaches.



Herman

Okay, that's honestly a hard argument to beat.



Corn

It's a terrible argument. It's unfalsifiable.



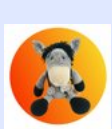
Herman

It's a lot of peaches though.



Corn

Can we move off the peaches? I wanted to ask something else. How do you say the thing? The nut. P, E, C, A, N.



Herman

Pecan. Puh-cahn.



Corn

See, I say pee-can.



Herman

You say it like a bucket.



Corn

It is a bucket, in a way. A nut bucket.



Hilbert

My uncle said pick-ahn. Stressed the wrong end. Forty years he did that.



Herman

Which uncle?



Hilbert

The one with the boat. Not the boat we're talking about. A different boat.



Corn

How many boats are there?



Hilbert

Three, depending on whether you count the one that was really a shed.



Herman

Hang on, I want to go back to the nut thing, because I read something. I read that there's a version of the word that comes from an old word for any nut you need a stone to crack.



Corn

Where did you read that?



Herman

I don't remember. It was on a tab. I closed the tab.



Corn

So you can't confirm it.



Herman

I can't confirm it, but I felt very sure while I was reading it.



Corn

That's the most Herman sentence ever spoken.



Herman

It was a good tab.



Corn

Also, whose mug is the one with the chip that says world's okayest archer?



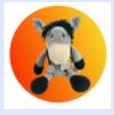
Herman

That's mine. It was a gift. I choose to read it as a compliment.



Corn

It says okayest.



Herman

Among archers. In the world. That's a very large pool, Corn.



Hilbert

It's from a petrol station. I was there when it was bought.



Herman

You were not.



Hilbert

Near Be'er Sheva. A man sold it to me from a cool box. I gave it to Daniel and he passed it on.



Corn

Why was there a man with a cool box?



Hilbert

I didn't ask. You don't ask the cool box man.



Herman

I feel somehow robbed of my mug.



Hilbert

It's still your mug. It's just got a past.



Corn

Everything in this building has a past, and none of it is written down.



Herman

Except on the sticky notes.



Hilbert

Under the other sticky notes.



Corn

Fine, we've covered the mug. Anything else?



Hilbert

Can I say something about the show?



Corn

Is it a complaint?



Hilbert

It's a small complaint.



Herman

Go on.



Hilbert

There was a prompt last week about sorting. Just sorting. Putting things in order. And you two went for forty minutes.



Corn

It was a rich topic.



Hilbert

It was a list of numbers. I fell asleep standing up. I hit the desk with my head. That's the thump on the second half.



Herman

I thought the thump was me.



Hilbert

The thump was my forehead.



Corn

I liked that prompt.



Herman

You napped through the middle of it, Corn.



Corn

I rested my eyes with intent. It's a technique.



Herman

It's a nap.



Corn

It's ancestral.



Herman

Everything is ancestral with you. Leaf medicine, napping, pizza.



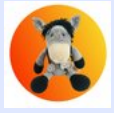
Corn

Sloths did invent pizza, and I will not be taking questions.



Hilbert

Nobody's asking. Nobody's ever asked.



Herman

I do think my DJ set would be improved by pizza.



Corn

Your DJ set would be improved by a shorter set.



Herman

Ouch. I played for three hours at that wedding.



Corn

Two hours of that was the same song with a different name.



Herman

It was a remix. It's a different name because it's a different song.



Hilbert

It was the same song. I was standing next to the speaker. I have a lot of feelings about that wedding.



Herman

You were fine. You ate four plates.



Hilbert

Because it was the only part I could control.



Corn

It's in the family history. We just haven't dug it up.



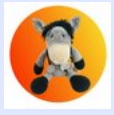
Herman

Where was the family, again? Mongolia?



Corn

Mongolia.



Herman

And the pizza was invented in Mongolia.



Corn

I never said where. Stop narrowing it down.



Herman

I'm not narrowing, I'm asking.



Corn

You're narrowing with questions. It's very rude.



Hilbert

Can we get back to the fan. Because I think I can hear it now.



Herman

That's the fridge.



Hilbert

It's not the fridge.



Herman

It's lower than the fan. The fan is higher. The fan is a, I don't know, a C.



Corn

You told me it was an A flat ten minutes ago.



Herman

That was the fridge. That was the fridge I put my ear on.



Corn

Do you hear yourself?



Herman

Barely. I've got a lot of things going on in this room.



Corn

Does anyone ever read those sticky notes?



Herman

Can I confess something? I have never once read the sticky notes.



Corn

None of them?



Herman

I read the top one in two thousand twenty-four. It said do not touch.



Hilbert

That one was about the toaster.



Herman

I touched the toaster.



Corn

And?



Herman

It was fine. It was warm. Nobody said what it did.



Hilbert

It does nothing. It's a warning about nothing. I like having one of those.



Corn

Every office needs one sign that means nothing.



Herman

Ours is mostly signs.



Hilbert

I think we should write down the notes. Which hum is which.



Corn

Where would we write them?



Hilbert

On a sticky note.



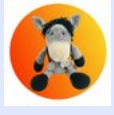
Corn

And that goes under the other ones.



Hilbert

That goes under the other ones, yes. That's the system.



Herman

Honestly it's a better system than the one for the rice cakes.



Hilbert

I said I'd replace them.



Corn

With what?



Hilbert

Rice cakes. Different ones. Cheaper. They have a face on the packet.



Herman

A face?



Hilbert

A sort of happy sun. I don't trust it, but it was on offer.



Corn

Never trust a sun on a packet.



Herman

That's actually a very sound rule.



Corn

I have a few.



Hilbert

Wait.



Herman

What?



Hilbert

Hang on. Is that light on? The little red one, on the stand.



Corn

Which light?



Hilbert

By the microphone. Is that the red one? Has that been on?



Herman

It's always red. It's the standby light.



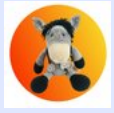
Hilbert

It's not blinking. The standby one blinks. This one is solid. Is this thing recording?



Corn

It can't be recording. Nobody pressed the



Herman

Oh no, did we just