

Brian's Path, Episode 2

by Alan Holman

BRIAN'S PATH

Episode 2: "Patriots"

INT. SHADY BROOK PUBLIC LIBRARY - DAY

MONKEYBOY uses a PUBLIC ACCESS TERMINAL to access the SHADY BROOK COMMUNITY ACCESS PROGRAM (A.K.A. The Shady Brook Free-Net)

MONKEYBOY reads the text-only display.

MONKEYBOY  
Mission complete!

INT. DARK NIGHT CLUB

A large crowd is gathered, watching an empty stage.

[the crowd goes wild all throughout the following concert.]

Suddenly, a yellow spotlight hits the stage.

A puff of smoke appears where the spotlight points.

The yellow spotlight disappears, and BRENDT appears.

BRENDT is an eight foot tall black man, holding a basketball, and wearing a basketball uniform which bears the words: "THE SEX WHISTLES"

The audience hushes.

BRENDT approaches the front of the stage, where a podium rises from below.

BRENDT speaks into the podium's microphone.

BRENDT  
Life is a dream that we never understand. And when we understand life, we're living the dream. If we could see the dream, we'd know how it would seem. But life's not like that. Life's like this.

ANTON emerges from behind BRENDT. And as the audience

applauds, ANTON says:

ANTON

When a person reaches high school, they strive to fit in. And then when it's over, they must fit out. Gimme a pitchfork. Light me in lava. Turn my brains into rocks. Show me my pleasure. Show me some fun. Get me out of this hole so I can learn that we all have the same Sun in us.

Then, as if suddenly angered, ANTON begins to yell at the audience.

ANTON

Am I your toy?! Am I your little plaything?!  
What am I that sometimes you're erasing?  
How are you? Are you happy I'm depleting?  
Do you know my pain? Illuminati jerks. You lead me, with a chain, into a sharp blade, tearing off my limbs, but I'm happy!!! What's your problem? You wanted pain, didn't you!?! DIDN'T YOU??? Emotional heat?!!

Then, a large RITALIN vial descends onto the stage, behind ANTON.

ANTON smiles, and dances happily.

ANTON

Happy, I am. Happy, I am. I am happy as the mouse with the cheese, by the squeaky trap. Happy as the fly on the wall when there's no one home. I'm happy -- happier than you. Medicating, never dealing.

ANTON points at the audience, and gives them a serious look.

ANTON

You put your hand in front of your face. You keep it held there in its place. When you move it away: that's life. Instinct is a machine. Compassion, thought, heart, mind, intention, united; that's life.

An obese woman, named ELLE, who wears a torn-up wedding dress, enters, picks up a yellow electric guitar, and plays a fast riff, which slows as ANTON begins to sing.

ANTON sings: "If you don't listen, I can't tell you I'm the boss/ 'Cause times are changing And your side has lost/ I want nothing but you/ Your eyes so blue/ They're actually brown/ A guy could drown/Your hair so black/ Let's hit the sack/ and hug all night/ in dim twilight/ Where are you now?/ I need to know/ Because I love you even though/ Some nights I cry/ I'm gonna die/ some day without you/ and your eyes so blue/ Or brown, whatever they are/Times are tough/ Without your scent/ And love is pain/ That age has sent/ Me."

Then, the podium disappears, and a synthesizer appears in front of BRENDT.

BRENDT plays a slow piano ballad, as ANTON sings.

ANTON sings:

"I need some pain/ I need some gain/ I need to know/ What you will show/ Everyone else but me/ You'll never know dear/ How much I love you/ Until your name is in the mud/ Throw me in a flood,/ Give me some ashes,/ And boil my blood.../ It's times like these, we need some blood to take away our pain/ To show the rest we cannot rest until the dragon's slain/ Who are you to tell me I have not got a clue?/ Do you know you'll use me as much as I'll use you?"

The lights go out.

We see nothing [everyone has vanished].

Now, we see a drum-set which is labeled, "THE SEX WHISTLES."

A long-haired, muscle-bound man, named KEV, is the drummer. No one else is on the stage.

KEV has red-tinted glasses on his eyes. Plus, KEV has long, pony-tailed hair, and he is wearing a tie-dyed t-shirt.

KEV performs a drum-roll, then screams:

KEV  
So send me a noose to hang my pain, so you  
can't cry no more! I'll make you like me,  
because you will be me, and you will cry, you  
WHORE!

ELLE enters, and KEV's head falls off. KEV's body chases after the head which flies swiftly through the air above the

stage, in tight circles, making the body dizzy. ELLE screams at KEV.

ELLE

I wish you'd just shut up, so I could speak my mind, and get it over with! But instead, you've lost your head, and now you're taken with me!

The body hugs ELLE, and the head plops back onto KEV's shoulders, and they kiss.

ANTON enters, notices that KEV and ELLE are kissing, and ANTON screams, with jealous rage:

ANTON

Just shut up! Shut up now! And listen! Hear me! HEAR ME NOW! And LISTEN!!!

BRENDT enters, knocks ANTON out with the top of a microphone, making a loud reverberation on the sound system. Anton falls onto the stage, unconscious.

BRENDT sings: "I don't have pain no more/ I don't even feel joy/ All I am is a lump/ A bigger person's toy!"

THE SEX WHISTLES bow, and chant:

THE SEX WHISTLES

(chanting)

Sometimes are the best times we've lived in our lives. Some lies are the best lives we've lived in these times.

WIPE TO:

INT. MR. FRY'S CLASSROOM - DAY

It's a physics class. Among the students is MONKEYBOY, an overly shaggy individual who looks too old to be in high school.

MR. FRY

I'm retiring soon, so I've decided to tell you all that it's all a lie and the Earth is flat.

MONKEYBOY

I still don't understand.

MR. FRY

That's because you're stupid.

EXT. RIVERSIDE PATH, NIGHT

MR. FRY takes a leisurely jog down the path.

MONKEYBOY and GABE emerge from shadows, obstructing MR. FRY's path.

MR. FRY

Hello Gentlemen! Please be so kind as to move over so that I do not have to quit jogging.

They don't move.

MR. FRY stops jogging when he is about a meter from the boys.

MR. FRY

What's the idea here, gentlemen: is it "tick off your physics teacher night," or something?

MONKEYBOY

We don't take kindly to folks who undermine our intelligence in front of an entire class-full of peers.

MR. FRY

Peers, Monkeyboy? I'm surprised you call those kids your peers! You're perhaps five years older than any of them. I can't comprehend why you'd still be there. If you're just cruising for tail...

GABE laughs.

MONKEYBOY

Shut him up, Gabe.

GABE

With pleasure, el capitan!

GABE reveals a photograph that only Mr. Fry can see.

MR. FRY

Whoah there fellas! You're serious, are you?

MONKEYBOY

This is very serious.

MR. FRY  
Don't show that to anyone! I'll do anything!

MONKEYBOY  
For starters, you can begin by ending your acquaintance with Jesus Christ.

MR. FRY  
I will always have a close personal friendship with my Lord and Savior.

MONKEYBOY nods at GABE.

GABE shoots the ground in front of MR. FRY's feet, making MR. FRY jump.

MR. FRY  
But...but...he's ... he's the only ...he's the only ... way, light, and truth!

MONKEYBOY  
Wealthy politicians Lucious Piso and Arrius Piso wrote the Jesus FICTION between 60AD to 90AD, and they based it on the Babylonian fictional character named Tammuz, so you'd have to be a nimrod to believe in Jesus!

MR. FRY  
I will never research this! I will remain ignorant!

MONKEYBOY nods and smiles.

INT. MR. BEND'S CLASSROOM - DAY

It's an english class. Among the students is BRIAN, a bored looking boy...

MR. BEND  
This story you wrote: I have to give it a failing grade.

BRIAN  
Why? I put a lot of thought into it!

MR. BEND  
It's just a lot of illogical assumptions!

BRIAN  
Yes, but they're linked logically!

MR. BEND  
I wanted a story, not ... not theoretical  
physics.

INT. GROCERY STORE - MORNING

MR. BEND is in the cereal aisle, looking at the Frosted  
Flakes.

MR. BEND  
Hmm...what kind of cereal?

BRIAN and ANTON enter the aisle, facing MR. BEND.

MR. BEND  
How are you?

BRIAN  
I hate you.

MR. BEND  
It was one bad mark, Brian. You'll do better!

ANTON  
I read his story, Mr. Bend. Brian wrote some  
good shit.

MR. BEND  
If we were in school, my friend, I wouldn't  
tolerate that language.

BRIAN  
We'll talk to you outside.

MR. BEND looks nervous.

INT. JANITOR'S OFFICE, SHADY BROOK HIGH SCHOOL - MORNING

The janitor is NATHAN; a red-headed guy with a look of  
defeat on his face.

GABE  
I was told you share an interest with me.

NATHAN  
What might that be?

GABE  
We're both into theoretical physics.

NATHAN  
You are?

GABE  
Yeah. I'll tell you my theories if you tell me yours!

NATHAN  
Well, I follow the work of Dr. Michio Kaku.

GABE  
Cool! So do I!

EXT. PARK - DAY

BRIAN and DARLA are on a swing-set.

DARLA  
Do you think Anton likes me?

BRIAN  
You're not his type. You're my type.

DARLA  
Get over me, friend.

BRIAN  
Damn hormones; they're giving me repetitive dreams ... I'm writing them down. They're weird.

DARLA  
You have a repetitive dream?

BRIAN  
Yeah.

DARLA  
That's so cool. I wish I had a repetitive dream.

BRIAN  
I wish I could give you mine.

DARLA looks as if she wants to ask a question.

INT. CROWDED NIGHT CLUB - NIGHT

ANTON is on stage with his band, THE SEX WHISTLES.

ANTON sings: "Sometimes I think that maybe God hates me. That would explain why he neglects to see/ That messed up things are happening to me/ To save my life I've got to do these things/ Because I don't want to have angel's wings/ And this is why this high boy stands and sings/ If only there could be another way/ Cuz I don't want to do this the next day/ If you knew the meaning of what I say/ Your hairs would stand up on your neck like so/ And you would bash your head for what you know/ Is too much information for one show/ So tomorrow is one of my big days/ The mission could end in so many ways."

CUT TO:

INT. COMPUTER LAB, SHADY BROOK HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

The COMPUTER TEACHER talks to an African-American girl named CHANTANE.

COMPUTER TEACHER  
Some punks stole the computers.

CHANTANE  
Oh my god! But...the computers are here!

COMPUTER TEACHER  
These are replacement computers. This is the second time this week.

CHANTANE  
They could have at least gave us better ones.

COMPUTER TEACHER  
I need you to install Descent.

CHANTANE  
Oh?

COMPUTER TEACHER  
Multi-player video games teach valuable skills such as teamwork.

CHANTANE  
I mean: Don't you know how to do it? You're the professional!

COMPUTER TEACHER  
It's not in the curriculum, so I don't know it.

INT. CAP'S BEDROOM, CAP'S HOUSE - AFTERNOON

CAP lays on his bed, bored and sick, with a cast on his arm, and a puke-bucket next to him. The cast has no signatures on it.

His wheelchair is beside his bed.

He pukes into the bucket.

CAP  
God, I'm bored.

COMMERCIAL BREAK

INT. COMPUTER LAB, SHADY BROOK HIGH SCHOOL - NIGHT

THE COMPUTER ROOM GANG is playing a multi-player game of DESCENT on the computers.

The only light in the room comes from the computer screens.

MONKEYBOY'S THOUGHTS  
The suckers re-installed Descent!

INT. GABE'S BEDROOM, GABE'S HOUSE - EVENING

GABE shuts off his computer, a Pentium.

GABE picks up the phone, and dials seven numbers.

GABE talks into the phone excitedly.

GABE  
Hey Monkey! I just got off the net, and Boris  
is COMING TO SHADY BROOK!

INT. BACK ROOM, WRIGLEY'S PUB - NIGHT

BRIAN is drinking beer with a chubby fifteen year old boy named HANK WRIGLEY.

BRIAN's backpack is beside the table.

HANK  
Why so upset, Brian?

BRIAN un-zips his backpack, and takes out two yearbooks.

HANK  
Did they get you at a bad angle or

something? Did you blink?

BRIAN shows him the cover of the top book, which says,  
"SHADY BROOK HIGH SCHOOL: Brook Book '94"

HANK  
That's last years'?

BRIAN  
No, it's from the 93-94 year. Last year was  
94-95.

HANK  
So, is the second book last year's?

BRIAN nods.

BRIAN shows him the cover of the bottom book, which says,  
"BROOKE"

INT. TWIN TOWNS AIRPORT, DUANE OAK - NIGHT

No one is in the airport, except for MONKEYBOY and GABE;  
they sit on a bench, holding a sign which says, "BORIS"

MONKEYBOY  
No one's here.

GABE  
This is where he said we'd meet him.

INT. BACK ROOM, WRIGLEY'S PUB - NIGHT

BRIAN is showing HANK a yearbook which is titled, "BROOKE"

HANK  
Brooke?

BRIAN  
Cold-blooded hybrid.

BRIAN takes a large sip of beer.

HANK  
Who's Brooke?

BRIAN  
She's a cheerleader. Everyone likes her,  
except ME, and her name's the name of MY  
yearbook!!

HANK

Wow.

BRIAN

The principal wants to call this year's yearbook, "BROOKE 2"

HANK

Your school's messed up, man -- like a soap-opera.

BRIAN

Speaking of soap operas, I wrote fourteen episodes of one called "Shady Brooke".

HANK

Is it as good as your screenplay called THE BEST KID?

BRIAN

Way better. THE BEST KID was too linear.

HANK

I thought it was great.

BRIAN

SHADY BROOKE's better! Here's the introduction...

BRIAN takes a thick binder labeled "SHADY BROOKE" out of his back-pack, and hands it to HANK.

HANK

This is long.

BRIAN

Proofread the first page carefully to see if I any words out.

HANK

(reading)

"This show takes place in 1995, and it takes place within a town called SHADY BROOKE [that's Brooke with an 'e']. This is the first episode."

HANK puts the binder down, onto the table.

BRIAN

So what do you think of that introduction?

HANK

It's an introduction. Can I read the whole thing?

BRIAN

I need to work out a few bugs before you read it.

HANK

Like what?

BRIAN

Replace lies with truths. Wake up the masses.

HANK

So, how was today's volleyball game?

BRIAN

Lindsay Fry's boyfriend distracted her, and we lost our third game in a row!

HANK

Look on the bright side: your school has a good band.

TOM WRIGLEY, HANK's dad, enters.

TOM

Keep it down back here, boys.

TOM WRIGLEY exits.

HANK

Why do you always talk to Cara when you drop by Duane Oak?

BRIAN

I wrote a character based on her.

HANK

What kind of character?

BRIAN

I'll tell you later.

BRIAN stands up.

HANK  
Where you going?

BRIAN  
To be continued...

INT. TWIN TOWN'S AIRPORT, DUANE OAK - MORNING

...same as before.

MONKEYBOY and GABE are still waiting, and they look very tired.

MONKEYBOY falls asleep on GABE'S shoulder.

GABE  
Monkeyboy.

MONKEYBOY wakes up.

MONKEYBOY  
What?

The clock says it's six o'clock in the morning.

A lady enters.

LADY  
What flight are you waiting for?

GABE  
We don't know.

The lady laughs.

MONKEYBOY slaps GABE's head.

INT. COMPUTER LAB, SHADY BROOK HIGH SCHOOL - MORNING

MR. BRUTUS, the high school principal, is talking to the computer teacher.

MR. BRUTUS  
Have you been teaching video games?

COMPUTER TEACHER  
The noon-hour multi-player video games teach valuable teamwork skills.

MR. BRUTUS

Our top notch athletics programs will learn them team work.

COMPUTER TEACHER

My average student is not athletic by nature.

MR. BRUTUS

The video games are CANCELED!

COMPUTER TEACHER

Yes sir.

MR. BRUTUS exits.

COMPUTER TEACHER

What an ignorant schmuck.

INT. BRIAN'S BEDROOM, MONKEYBOY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

A soft breeze wrestles with the curtains near the open window.

BRIAN sleeps, without snoring, until he opens his eyes.

The clock says 11:13.

BRIAN blinks.

The clock says 1:12.

MONKEYBOY enters.

MONKEYBOY

Good news: The library's got internet.

BRIAN

What library?

MONKEYBOY

School library. Hey, where were you all day?

BRIAN

I was at school.

MONKEYBOY

No one saw you. Where were you?

BRIAN

I spent the day sleeping.

MONKEYBOY  
Hungry?

BRIAN  
Yeah.

MONKEYBOY  
Let's go get burgers. My treat.

BRIAN  
Cool!

CUT TO:

INT. LIBRARY, SHADY BROOK HIGH SCHOOL - NOON

All of the library's computer terminals are being used by  
THE COMPUTER ROOM GANG.

ANTON is sitting at a table with MONKEYBOY.

ANTON  
Who made you boss?

MONKEYBOY smiles.

BRIAN enters the library, and approaches MONKEYBOY.

BRIAN  
Monkeyboy is boss, Anton; that's just the way  
it is.

MONKEYBOY  
Thank you, Brian.

ANTON looks at the people who are using the computer  
terminals.

ANTON  
What are they doing?

MONKEYBOY  
Playing a MUD.

ANTON  
Say what?

MONKEYBOY  
They're all in the same game. MUD means  
Multi User Dungeon.

INT. MR. BEND'S GRADE TEN ENGLISH CLASS, SHADY BROOK HIGH  
SCHOOL

BRIAN is a student in the class.

The bell sounds, everyone files out.

MR. BEND  
Brian, come here for a moment.

BRIAN  
Yeah?

MR. BEND  
About your creative writing project...

BRIAN  
Uh-huh?

MR. BEND  
It was amazing.

BRIAN  
Yay! Me likey accolades!

MR. BEND  
Yeah, about that, It seems like you've actually  
been to this Sci-fi MUD place. I mean, your  
ability to translate abstract thought to the  
page is truly wow-worthy; I mean, it's beyond  
me how a grade ten student could chronicle  
such a deeply involved adventure story. I've  
never seen such quality of work from my  
students.

BRIAN  
Thanks.

MR. BEND  
You plagiarized your piece, didn't you?

Pause.

MR. BEND  
Your story Illuminati Conspiracy ... You can't  
be the author. You copied some sci-fi  
author...didn't you?

Pause.

BRIAN  
What?

MR. BEND  
A grade ten student does not have the life  
experience, and the research time, which  
would be required in order to write that story...  
not to mention it's complete and utter bullshit.

MRS. LUANNE enters.

MRS. LUANNE  
You're talking to him right now?

MR. BEND  
Yup.

MRS. LUANNE  
I couldn't find anything like it yet ... but I will.

MR. BEND  
No need. He confessed.

BRIAN  
No I didn't.

Pause.

MR. BEND  
Don't get smart.

Pause.

BRIAN  
But, I was...

MRS. LUANNE  
He said no butts, Brian. Get out of this room.  
Leave the professionals to their work.

INT. PRINCIPAL BRUTUS' OFFICE, SHADY BROOK HIGH SCHOOL

BRUTUS is interrogating BRIAN.

BRUTUS  
You accused Mr. Bend of telling a falsity, and  
you verbally harassed Mrs. Luanne, using an  
expletive.

BRIAN

Mr. Bend is a liar, and Mrs. Luanne is a bitch.

BRUTUS

Those teachers work here, and they don't need extra stress.

BRIAN

I work here, and I don't need extra stress.

BRUTUS

They're professionals.

BRIAN

I should get paid for the crap I put up with for free by those who actually get paid for being here.

BRUTUS

I'll deal with you later.

INT. LIBRARY, SHADY BROOK HIGH SCHOOL

School has ended for the day, and the library is closing. MRS. LUANNE is posting a sign next to the row of computers.

SIGN

School internet policy, effective for the library and the computer room. E-mail accounts will not be provided to the students. The internet is for information gathering purposes only, and students must ask for permission to access the internet. There will be no gaming on any school computers.

INT. LIBRARY, SHADY BROOK HIGH SCHOOL

The library opens in the morning.

MRS. LUANNE turns the computers on.

BRIAN enters. MRS. LUANNE is monitoring his every move, intently.

BRIAN drags his finger across the top of the computer, then he looks at his very-dusty finger.

BRIAN approaches MRS. LUANNE.

BRIAN  
I haven't seen anyone use those in weeks.

MRS. LUANNE  
You're banned from my library, Brian.

BRIAN  
This is my library.

MRS. LUANNE  
WHAT???

BLANK SCREEN

YEAR ON SCREEN  
Still 1995.

EXT. FRONT LAWN, SHADY BROOK HIGH SCHOOL

THE COMPUTER ROOM GANG is sitting in a semi-circle, on the snowy front lawn in front of the school.

CAP  
I won't be here next semester, guys.

BRIAN  
Our entire group has bad marks because they took away our gaming...

ANTON  
I no longer have a reason to go to school. My dad said I can take \$3000 from a family account every week for the rest of my life.

BRIAN  
Please use it to start a weird company with me someday, Anton.

ANTON  
Good idea. It'll keep us busy. And this whole little gang of ours can join too.

DARLA TWINS  
We're a gang?

BRIAN  
Yeah!

MONKEYBOY  
If we're a gang, what do we all have in

common?

BRIAN

We're all into anime!

ANTON

Yeah! Brian had a good idea for an anime!

CAP

What's it about?

BRIAN

Well, I met this loner girl Cara; she goes to Duane Oak public school...at first I felt pity, but then I thought of an idea for a tv show which would include a character who's sorta like her, and...

ANTON

Really?

BRIAN nods.

MONKEYBOY

What!?! An anime? I wanna to draw the characters, and do the animating!

DARLA TWINS

I want to compose the music, and sing...remember me...

CAP

Um, I know computer languages...how could that help?

BRIAN

You could be a technical advisor, or something! I'm the writer! The plot includes space tourism...Anyway, EVERYONE is hired!

ANTON

I'll give the show flair ... with voice-acting!

BRIAN

If it weren't for MUDs, I wouldn't have developed any scripts. But those ignorant teachers don't let us play MUDs together anymore.

TO BE CONTINUED ...