

THE FALL OF THE HOUSE OF SUNSHINE  
Episode 1: Open Wide and Say Die

Scene 1: On Stage at the Sunshine Smile Hour.

[BG: *Sounds of a TV studio. Children talking.*]

[*Timpani rolls*]

ANNOUNCER

And now PLR Public Television Presents America's 3<sup>rd</sup> most popular  
2<sup>nd</sup> longest running children's 1<sup>st</sup> Edutainment Dental Care Fun  
Show - THE SUNSHINE SMILE HOUR!

[*Children cheer*]

[*SONG: "Sunshine Theme"*]

CHILDREN'S CHORUS

Welcome! To the House of Sunshine!  
Scrub your troubles and brush your cares away!  
Welcome! To the House of Sunshine!  
The gang's all here, so won't you come and play?

Braceletta will sing us songs  
While Elsa barks along!

ELSA

Bark bark!

CHILDREN'S CHORUS

Flosso will tend the flock  
And lasso wild teeth!

[*Slide whistle, children laugh*]

But the hero of our show  
Is a man you all should know!

(Spoken.)

Brushee!! Yaaay!

[*Children cheer*]

BRUSHEE

(Spoken.)

Ain't that the tooth!

CHILDREN'S CHORUS

Welcome! To the House of Sunshine!  
Where it's always fun in such a sunny way!

*[Children cheer]*

BRUSHEE

What a sun-tabulous bicuspid of a day!

OTHERS

(chanting)

Teeth! Teeth! Teeth!

BRUSHEE

Enough now! Haha. Fun. We're having it! Let's see what a wonderful -

*[Odd whirring noises, tearing.]*

BRUSHEE

Willickers! It's a rip in the fabric of space-time! Stay back children. This isn't part of the show! Quickly I must craft a containment incantation - OHM ULLA GRU

*[Sound of bullets. BRUSHEE grunts as he is hit. Children Scream.]*

BRUSHEE (cont.)

Bullets! Someone is assassinating me via a wormhole! And so falls Brushee.

*[BRUSHEE collapses, dead. The wormhole closes. Pandemonium - screams, director calls for help...]*

FLOSSO

The wormhole it's closed up!

BRACLETTA

Who'd do this? Brushee! BRUSHEEEEEEEEEEEEE!

*[BRACLETTA's scream fades out, ambulance siren, distant.]*

*[TRANSITION]*

**Scene 2: Flosso's Dressing Room.**

**[BG: Hallway noise, muffled by door. Perhaps the creak of a chair.]**

DANKENT

And with that Brushee was scrubbed out. Dead. Murdered. And someone was responsible. Who'd want to kill the beloved hero of TV tooth cleanliness? Someone with a cavity where their heart would be. And plaque. Not the kind they give you for perfect attendance but the kind you get that's all gunk. It was up to me to solve this gunk riddle. Griddle. And who is this me? A palooka. A man. Barely. Maybe once. But not no more and never again. You got it pal? The name's Dankent. Detective Dankent. I was the poor pepper who caught this case like I caught my parents making pancakes. Pancakes is what they called S-E-X. I still can't look a flapjack in the hotcake without getting all -

FLOSSO

Why are you telling me this?

DANKENT

Just making small talk, Flossso. If that is your real name.

FLOSSO

What's in a name?

DANKENT

Mostly letters. Sometimes accent marks. Even those two dots if you're of a particular persuasion. Isn't that right Flossso or should I say - Brushee Birchard Sunshine.

**[ "Dun dun duuuun sound" ]**

FLOSSO

Sorry that's my ringtone.

**[ "Dun dun duuuun sound" ]**

FLOSSO

Let me silence that.

**[ "Dun dun duuuun sound" - cut off halfway through ]**

DANKENT

Don't change the fact that if you're Brushee then who's the stiff?

FLOSSO

My younger brother is Brushee. The real Brushee. True I was born with the name first but. I'm Flossso now. Forever. It was the way it *had* to be.

DANKENT

"Had" is hat best put on for bank holidays and ice cream socials.

FLOSSO

Sure. True, the role of Brushee should have been mine. From my great-grandfather the vaudeville tooth goof Brushee Lahroo Sunshine -

*[Sound of vaudeville nonsense: sped up tape of vaudeville show and laughter?]*

FLOSSO (cont.)

Then my grandfather radio personality of the McMenemin & Sunshine Brush Time Talking Radio Theatre -

*[Crackly radio nonsense: same, but now over radio?]*

FLOSSO (cont.)

Then of course my father Brushee Brushwell Sunshine who starred on this very show -

*[Early static-y TV nonsense: same but now clearer, followed by sound of tube TV turning off.]*

FLOSSO

And then my brother took over after my father's unfortunate and tragic death.

DANKKENT

And then there's you. And maybe getting passed over as the star burned your bristles.

FLOSSO

Children never warmed to me like they did my brother. He'd smile and the world would smile. My smile would only make a shark fart and that's only interesting as an aquarium prank or -

*[Gargles with mouthwash, spits.]*

Sorry I needed that. When I'm sad I need a good gargle. Mouthwash. Wanna swig?

DANKENT

I got my own. It's called bourbon.

FLOSSO

Floss is a great role. I tend the floss flock and charm the wiggling white string with my flute of whitening. It's vital to a world of clean teeth. And there's nothing more important than clean teeth. That's rule one.

DANKENT

I always thought it was not to touch a hot stove.

FLOSSO

Stoves are impermanent coils but my brother was my idol, we were close to bringing about a great age of teeth cleanliness. It was no ortho-fantasy. A gleaming age. But it was cut short.

**[SONG: "Mouth Buddies"]**

We were Mouth Buddies  
Brothers in kind  
No he was no rival of mine,  
But a vital advisor, an ally for life.

Mouth Buddies,  
With our eyes on the prize  
It was only a matter of time -  
Our powers combined, we'd make every tooth shine

Cuz when you're Mouth Buddies  
You walk-y with a strut-y  
You know who got your back when push-y come to shove-y

We were Mouth Buddies  
Bringing faithful to the study  
Talking Tooth, takin' lip from nobody

When you're Mouth Buddies  
You're buddies for all time.  
When you're Mouth Buddies  
You never get left behind...

Then someone pulls you aside  
Tells you your best friend's died  
And something cracks deep inside  
Makes you lay down and cry.

Cuz when you're Mouth Buddies  
You're buddies for all time...

(Spoken.)

Besides I was right there when he was killed.

DANKENT

Through a worm hole.

FLOSSO

True. A rip in time-space so really anyone could be ... guilty.  
But not me. I didn't do it.

DANKENT

If not you then who?

FLOSSO

It's not my place to gossip. But Bracletta and Brushee's wedding  
was rescheduled and pushed back over ten times ... their endless  
engagement is like a shrimp left out too long on a toothpick.

DANKENT

An amuse bouche?

FLOSSO

Prolonged and fishy. Now leave me detective, I must practice my  
scream yoga. It's where I scream doing yoga.

DANKENT

Yeah well I still got questions so don't go far.

FLOSSO

Where have I to go?

*[DANKENT exits - door opens, hall sounds spike, door closes.  
FLOSSO lets out a sigh. He then goes rifles through a drawer.]*

FLOSSO (cont.)

Where is it? Ah here it is, sweet syringe, I could barely  
contain it. My medicine.

*[Sound of an injection: prick, plunger]*

FLOSSO (Cont.)

Aaah yes, so much better.

*[TRANSITION]*

**Scene 3: Braceletta's Dressing Room.**

[BG: *Hall sounds, panting of Elsa...*]

DANKENT

Flosso was slipperier than grease on an eel but Braceletta was another story. She had gams from here to there and cans you could call your mother on and tell her how you'll never be home again. She seemed poured into those leg braces and the ones on her teeth sparkled like unkept promises. But behind that beauty was a beast. There always was -

BRACLETTA

I'm right here.

DANKENT

Here, there, and everywhere. So what's your peach? Grabbing Brushee by the handle and giving him a tug? But you weren't digging what Brushee was selling. He got you them diamond studded braces, a ring so big it's got moons orbiting it. But when it comes to wedded bliss you wanna stay a miss and miss the ring-a-ding of wedding bells.

BRACLETTA

You got it all twisted - like my poor legs; I wanted to marry Brushee. Ever so much. Our fate was written in the stars. With a space pen. But you know how men are ... superstitious. Always playing fast and loose with a girl's pink moist ... heart.

(Beat.)

ELSA COME!

[*ELSA whines.*]

BRACLETTA (cont.)

Good Elsa.

DANKENT

You're petting her.

BRACLETTA

We're close.

[*ELSA growls.*]

DANKENT

She's a woman.

BRACLETTA

She's my personal assistant. She ... assists me ... in all things.  
Personal. Right Elsa?

*[ELSA barks.]*

BRACLETTA

Good Elsa. Have an Elsa treat.

DANKENT

That's a dog biscuit.

BRACLETTA

Isn't everything in its own way?

DANKENT

No.

(Beat.)

And where was she during the show? Maybe making a gravity field  
that would create an Einstein-Rosen bridge that takes Brushee on  
a one-way trip to bullet town?

BRACLETTA

During the show? She wasn't in this week's episode so she was  
here in her ... bed. Over there.

DANKENT

That's a cage.

BRACLETTA

Cage-mato, cage-mahtoh.

DANKENT

That so?

*[ELSA barks.]*

BRACLETTA

Here have this mint, your breath is ...

*[DANKENT eats the mint:]*

DANKENT

It's horribly refreshing. It feels like I played tongue tag with  
a glacier made of peppered mint.

BRACLETTA

As brutal as that mint was I am not. My dear detective you see  
I'd never kill Brushee, it was the Sunshine family that fixed  
me. They saved me. For you see -

**[Song: "Crooked"]**

Usta be my world was all at angles - crooked.  
Instead of dancing I could only stoop.  
My legs were twisted, almost mangled - crooked.  
My teeth at angles all obtuse.

Cried inside every night  
I could only go out on Halloween  
Then they came into my life  
Smiling from the TV screen  
With teeth straight, warm and clean

Right then my only choice was blatant - discernible!  
Runaway as fast as I could limp - physical incompetence!  
Could I find this magic TV station? - rhetorical!  
Beg them to make me more like them - no self confidence!

I would serve, I would learn,  
And they made me whole, they straightened me!  
Gave me all that I yearned -  
They braced my legs they braced my teeth  
With the greatest brace indeed - the brace of hope.

*(Spoken)*

Check em out! Brace solo!

And so it was  
I found my perfect home  
And in short time  
A love to make me whole!  
Brushee proposed!  
Perfect love with perfect smile.  
Wedding bells will clang  
As I clank down the aisle!

But plans can shatter in an instant  
And leave you crooked once again...

*(Spoken.)*

Though Brushee was killed via a rip in space-time so *anyone*  
could have done it.

DANKENT

Listen sob sister. Don't load me down with tissues cause I hurt my back and I can't carry the weight. Damn pog. Anyway, your whites might be pearly but -

*[ELSA growls, bites DANKENT.]*

DANKENT (cont.)

Ouch, she bit me.

BRACLETTA

She doesn't like men ... or detectives.

DANKENT

Listen girlie. No biting. No bite-ing. No -

*[ELSA grabs DANKENTS notebook and runs off.]*

DANKENT (cont.)

She grabbed my notebook and skiddattled!

BRACLETTA

She is a real scamp.

DANKENT

I need that! It's got my brain scribbles. Even some dreams. PRIVATE DREAMS! I gotta yoink back that pad!

*[DANKENT rushes off.]* A beat.

BRACLETTA

You can come out now.

*[Sound of a creaky door opening.]*

FLOSSO

You play the mourning widow well, Bracletta.

BRACLETTA

You play the grieving brother well, Flosso.

FLOSSO

My grief is as real and rooted as the Ur-tooth.

BRACLETTA

You think I haven't suffered?

FLOSSO

YOU WERE NOTHING BEFORE HIM!

BRACLETTA

After all he's done. All we've done.

FLOSSO

He's at rest now. Maybe they'll let it go ...

BRACLETTA

Sure and maybe they'll find the lost talisman of Gingiva.

FLOSSO

This is different!

BRACLETTA

How? You'll take up the mantle of Brushee?

FLOSSO

No! Not. That. Never. I'm not. But, there's still time -

BRACLETTA

The Enamel Council will -

FLOSSO

They don't have a say in this show. The Sunshine Smile Hour was created for one purpose.

BRACLETTA

Your father was always ... kind to me. And to you in a way. He let you be on the show. Even with your -

FLOSSO

Don't say it. Don't you dare say it!

BRACLETTA

You think Brushee didn't tell me everything? When he was inside me I -

FLOSSO

I will not let you -

*[Sound of footsteps.]*

FLOSSO (cont.)

Someone's coming. I must away, back through the secret passage to my dressing room.

*[Door creaks FLOSSO is gone. Clomping someone enters the room.]*

BRACLETTA

You? But how?

*[TRANSITION]*

**Scene 4: Dark Back Hallway.**

*[BG: Dripping sounds, quiet, slight echo.]*

DANKENT

Girlie? Doggie-girlie? I got a squeaky bone for you

(Squeaky noise)

Why do I got this? Right. It was the only toy my father gave me. He was a bum. He called Christmas - Shut-up-mas and he'd shut me up in a closet and then take out his belt collection and threaten the neighbors. He -

*[Wet mop sounds, and creak/squeak of roll-y bucket.]*

DANKENT (cont.)

What was that?

*[More squishing: a mop is pulled out of water.]*

DANKENT (cont.)

Whatever that is you better -

*[Sound of DANKENT getting hit. Hard.]*

DANKENT (cont.)

Ow! I've been bonked on my brain box. Everything ... going ... dark.

*[Song: Outro Theme Music]*

ANNOUNCER

What's whacked Dankent? Who's behind Brushee's murder? What secrets and terrible truths await in The Fall of the House of Sunshine Episode 2 - Down In Dank Darkness Darts Dankent.

END OF EPISODE 1

