HAPPY PLACE

OH NO, COCO BRO!

written by

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We hear Bailey and Mr. Coltrane talking inside the building.

BAILEY (Bursting with energy) Alrighty-roo-rah-ray! I am ready, excited and pumped! In that order!

MR. COLTRANE Bailey, it's nine A.M. on a Saturday and we have to work today.

BAILEY I know! Isn't it great?!

INT. MR. COLTRANE'S OFFICE

BAILEY So what's the plan, big chief?

Mr. Coltrane turns to reveal a large poster; 'Meet Bailey! Free samples of Super Fruity Happy Crunch!'.

> MR. COLTRANE Ah yes, this afternoon you're scheduled to make a big promotional appearance at the mall.

BAILEY

(Blown away)
Woah! My very first meet-and-greet!
 (Stirring speech)
Mr. Coltrane, by the Great Mascot
Oath I do hereby promise I shall
both meet and greet each person in
attendance with the same level of
joy and happiness that can be found
in every single bowl of Super
Fruity Happy Crunch!

MR. COLTRANE [Slowly sips coffee] Mm, yes. That's good.

Fridge clumsily and nosily enters. He's holding a bowl of cereal, spilling some as he approaches.

FRIDGE Don't worry, I'm here! I'm here! We can start the morning meeting now.

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Fridge shovels the last bite of cereal into his mouth, takes a seat and sets the messy bowl down on top of some important looking papers on Mr. Coltrane's desk.

> FRIDGE (CONT'D) (Speaking with mouth full) Whose goofy idea was it to work on a Saturday anyway?

MR. COLTRANE

Don't worry, you're not working today. Because you don't work here at all.

FRIDGE Uh, pretty sure I'm a Junior Executive.

MR. COLTRANE

No you're not.

FRIDGE

Ooh! I'm getting a promotion?! 'Bout time I got some recognition around here.

BAILEY

Fridge! I'm doing a big Super Fruity Happy Crunch promo at the mall today. Wanna head over there early and do mall stuff?

FRIDGE

(Celebrates) Yes! Mall stuff! I'm gonna head to the food court and try one of those new hotdog stuffed pretzel crust burrito pizza taco bowls!

BAILEY

(Happily) Gross!

FRIDGE

(Happily) Probably!

BAILEY

And I'll go shopping for a new neckerchief! You can never have too many neckerchiefs.

Bailey stands to leave.

BAILEY Ok, see ya later Mr. Coltrane!

FRIDGE

Hold it...

Beat.

FRIDGE (CONT'D) Your name is 'Mr. Coltrane'? This whole time I've been saying 'Mystical train'...

Everyone stops and stares at Fridge, dumfounded.

3 EXT. MALL ENTRANCE / PARKING LOT (LATE MORNING)

Cars pulling in. Shoppers starting to arrive. Bailey and Fridge walk inside.

4 INT. MALL

BAILEY Eee! I love the mall!

FRIDGE

It's like a big air-conditioned wonderland with squeaky floors!

BAILEY Ok, my performance is in two hours, so 'til then -(Suddenly intense) Let's do mall stuff!

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INT. MALL. SHOPPING MONTAGE.

Country Western clothes store-front: Crash zoom inside, Bailey spins around posing happily in a cowgirl neckerchief. Fridge smiles and gives a thumbs up.

'Hot Topic' type clothes store-front: Crash zoom inside, Bailey spins around posing happily in a black neckerchief with skulls on it. Fridge smiles and gives a thumbs up. 3

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Beach-wear store-front: Crash zoom inside, Bailey spins around posing happily in her usual-looking teal neckerchief. Fridge thinks, then gives an enthusiastic double thumbs up.

Food Court Stall: Crash zoom in, Fridge spins around happily with a hotdog stuffed pretzel crust burrito taco bowl. Bailey gives a nervous thumbs up. Fridge takes a bite. His happy expression turns to horror. He turns to barf. Bailey winces, turns her hand to thumbs down.

6 INT. MALL. NEW AREA.

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Bailey and Fridge walking past various stores. Bailey is being silly, holding her new neckerchief up to her eyes, dancing and skidding her feet on the squeaky floor.

BAILEY

(Rhyming) Sneak, sneak, take a peek, that's how we do the squeaky-squeak.

Bailey suddenly stops in her tracks as she notices two teenage girls leaning coolly against a wall, sipping iced coffees.

> BAILEY (CONT'D) [Gasp!] (Scream-whispers) Teenagers!

A teenage boy walks by.

TEENAGE GIRL

'Sup?

TEENAGE BOY

Hey.

BAILEY (Blown away) Woahh! They're. Just. So. Cool!

FRIDGE (Gestures to himself) Um, hello? *Fridge*. Being cool is kinda' my thing.

Fridge abruptly sneezes and burps at the same time.

FRIDGE (CONT'D) [Sneeze-burp!] (Composing himself) Ugh. (Dreamily) Maybe if I hug one of them their coolness will rub off on me. Teenagers like hugs right? Huuuuuug...

Bailey begins to slowly advance on the teenagers, looking like a creepy smiling zombie. Fridge's expression shows that he knows this is a terrible idea.

> FRIDGE Uh, no no, let's just get outta' here before they see us.

Fridge hastily leads Bailey away. She stares back longingly at the teenagers, with an arm extended to them.

BAILEY

(Dreamily) Someday.

Bailey and Fridge round a corner.

FRIDGE Ah. Embarrassment avoided.

Fridge spots something.

FRIDGE (CONT'D) [Huge, high-pitched terrified scream] Ahhhh!!

BAILEY

What is it?!

Fridge turns Bailey in the right direction and points to a vending machine standing at the far wall. We see her happily dispensing a snack to a customer.

FRIDGE

Melba! She's the most incredible and beautiful vending machine to have ever lived! She's smart, kind, funny - she's filled with all kinds of rare imported snacks - AND she... doesn't know I exist.

BAILEY Oh. Well what if we wave our hands wildly and shout-(Calls out loudly) Hi Melba!! FRIDGE

(Frantic and nervous) No!! Shh!! Wait, is she looking? Don't look! But yeah, look. Not with your *eyes*!

BAILEY Why don't you want to talk to her?

FRIDGE

I want to, but can't! Sure, I act all cool on the outside, but on the inside I'm a mess - remember that old blueberry yoghurt? That's still in there somewhere and has gotta' be bad news.

BAILEY

Well I think you're plenty bodacious, Fridge. Now go!

Using all of her might, Bailey tries to push Fridge in Melba's direction, but he's too heavy and doesn't budge. Baileys feet 'run' sliding on the ground. She soon stops, exhausted.

> BAILEY (CONT'D) (Exhausted) Gonna' need you to do some of the work here, pal.

FRIDGE (Scrambling) Um, wait, isn't it time for your big event now?!

Bailey stops pushing abruptly and forgets all about what she was doing.

BAILEY Oh yeah! Let's go!

FRIDGE (To himself) Phew!

INT. MALL, EVENTS STAGING AREA

Bailey and Fridge approach the staging area and are met by a stern looking security guard. Bailey is giddy with excitement.

BAILEY

Hello, good sir! I'm here ready and bouncy for my big appearance!

SECURITY GUY

And you are?...

BAILEY It's me, Bailey. You know... 'Super Fruity Happy Crunch'!!

The Security Guy checks his clipboard.

SECURITY GUY Hmm. Nup. Don't see you down here.

BAILEY What do you mean? I'm scheduled to go on today.

SECURITY GUY Oh yeah. Says here you were scheduled to go on.

BAILEY

Right!

SECURITY GUY But you're not anymore.

BAILEY

What? Why?

SECURITY GUY You got bumped. We found another breakfast cereal mascot we liked better and put him on instead.

BAILEY Oh. Seems like the polite thing to have done was let me know.

SECURITY GUY (Chuckles) Yeah... We didn't though.

FRIDGE Man, this is bologna!

Crash zooms out to reveal Fridge is holding a bologna sandwich. He throws it away and turns to the Security Guard.

FRIDGE (CONT'D) And you are just plain rude, my dude!

Fridge opens up his main compartment, we see that he is totally packed with fun-sized boxes of Super Fruity Happy Crunch cereal.

> FRIDGE (CONT'D) (Yelling) What do you want us to do with all'a these free samples of Super Fruity Happy Crunch?! Huh?! I guess we could just eat them all ourselves and-(Abruptly lowers voice) -stop talking now, Fridge.

SECURITY GUY Ok, gonna' need you two to step aside. Show's about to start.

Lights dim, epic music builds.

ANNOUNCER Ladies and gentlemen boys and girls get ready to go wild for the next breakfast cereal sensation!...

BAILEY

(To herself) Huh?

ANNOUNCER

Bringing you the most cravable chocolatey crunch you've ever tasted, give it up for, Coco Bro!

Music blares. Smoke machines. Lasers. Coco Bro takes to the stage. The crowd erupts.

AUDIENCE (ALL) [Wild cheering]

FRIDGE Who's that?

Bailey shrugs, a little nervous.

COCO BRO Alright!! How's everybody doing? Great to be here in [hesitates] your town! AUDIENCE MEMBER #1 Hey, that's *our* town!

AUDIENCE MEMBER #2 He knows us!

AUDIENCE MEMBER #1 We love you, Coco Bro!

AUDIENCE (ALL) [Wild Screams]

Coco Bro laps up the applause with faux modesty before pointing back to the audience.

COCO BRO No, you! YOU guys rock!... And ok I guess I rock pretty hard too, right? Give it up for me! (Rallies the crowd to chant his name) Co-Co-Bro! Co-Co-Bro!

AUDIENCE (ALL) (Chanting) Co-Co-Bro! Co-Co-Bro!

COCO BRO

Only Coco Bro O's offer an extreme chocolatey experience while giving you the twelve essential bro-teins that'll make you grow up big and strong like me... well, $\alpha lmost$ as big and strong as me [laughs].

AUDIENCE (ALL)

[Laughs].

AUDIENCE MEMBER #1 Epic deltoids, bro!

Bailey looks around confused and a little worried.

COCO BRO Remember to always -'Go Loco for the Coco'!

FRIDGE Ooh, that's a good catchphrase. (To Bailey) Why don't *you* have a catchphrase? I do! Remember? (Recites proudly) Would you like a cereal that'll make you clappy? Then crunch the fruity that'll make you happy because being happy means being your true self with pride, determination and... (Loses all spirit) confidence.

Fridge winces.

BAILEY (CONT'D) It... it didn't catch on. Leel bit wordy.

Coco Bro wraps up his show.

COCO BRO Ok, bros! The time has come to wrap things up. Be sure to follow me, like me, love me, and most importantly, spend as much money as possible on my cereal and swag! I'm out!

AUDIENCE (ALL) [Cheering]

Music concludes. Lights Come up. Crowd settles.

BAILEY I... I don't get it. Mascots just don't act like that. I mean come on, "Chocolatey broteins"?! What does that even mean?! I'm worried, Fridge. Something's not right about all this!

Fridge gives Bailey a look.

BAILEY (CONT'D)

What?

FRIDGE Are you jel?

BAILEY

No!

FRIDGE 'Cause you seem kind of jel. BAILEY

No I don't!

FRIDGE Ring ring ring! Jel-ephone! ...It's for you.

BAILEY

I'm telling you, Fridge, something bad is about to happen! I'll prove it! If we can somehow get backstage I bet we'll catch Coco Bro up to some no-good shenanigans. Shenanigans, I say!

FRIDGE Sure. We can ride over there in the jel-ocopter. Hop in!

BAILEY

(Frustrated) Ughh! Just follow me.

INT. MALL, BACKSTAGE ENTRANCE

The security guard from earlier is now standing near a door marked 'Backstage'. Bailey tries to slip by and open the door behind him, but he catches them.

> SECURITY GUARD Hey, hey, hey! What did I tell you before? You got bumped. Now scram.

BAILEY No no, it's all good! I have a backstage pass.

SECUITY GUARD Oh yeah? Let me see it.

BAILEY

Sure.

Beat.

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BAILEY (CONT'D) Oh, you mean *now*?

SECURITY GUARD Get outta' here!

Fridge pulls Bailey to one side.

FRIDGE

(Whispers) Look Bailey, if you really want to get past that security guard, all you gotta do is put *these* on.

Fridge opens his face compartment and pulls out two high-vis jackets and lanyards.

BAILEY A high-vis jacket and a lanyard?

Fridge puts his on.

FRIDGE

Trust me. Put these on and we'll be practically invisible to that guy.

Bailey turns to look back at the Security Guard.

BAILEY You mean if I put these on I can just... walk right past him?

FRIDGE

Absolutely.

Bailey puts on her high-vis jacket and lanyard too.

BAILEY

But... this lanyard is blank. And you know he can still hear us right? Everything we're saying, even right now, all of this. (To Security Guard) Right?

SECUITY GUARD That's right.

FRIDGE (To Bailey) Doesn't even matter. (Calls loudly to the Security Guard) It doesn't even matter! (Back to Bailey) Watch.

With their chests out proudly boasting their blank lanyards, Fridge and Bailey walk right past the Security Guard, open the door behind him, and enter the backstage area. The Security Guard doesn't budge.

9

Beat.

9

SECURITY GUY Huh? Someone there?... ...Oh well I guess it's nothing.

INT. BACKSTAGE AREA

Fridge and Bailey enter the backstage area undetected. They toss their jackets and lanyards back inside Fridge.

FRIDGE MAN I'm smart someone -uh- times.

Bailey spots Coco Bro's dressing room.

BAILEY (Whispers) Over here!

Bailey and Fridge open the door a crack and peer inside. Coco Bro is with his manager; a big snake in sunglasses who's leaning in through the window (reminiscent of Mr. Coltrane). Coco Bro is flicking through his phone.

> MANAGER Nice job, Bro! You really know how to work a crowd.

COCO BRO (Barely paying attention) Yeah. It's pretty easy when you're this amazing. (Getting an alert) Hey, I got three thousand new followers!

MANAGER

That's great, Bro!

COCO BRO

Not great enough! I don't feel any different! What's the point in being so buff, handsome and amazing if I don't have at least, uh, three million new followers?!

MANAGER

Uh, don't worry, Bro. You're gonna be super famous super soon! I'm getting Coco Bro's cereal into stores as quickly as possible. (MORE) MANAGER (CONT'D) No delays, no quality control checks, just straight to the fame, followers - and fortune!

BAILEY (Whispers) Huh? None of that sounds right.

FRIDGE (Whispers) Look down there!

Fridge points at a full-sized box of Coco Bro O's on the floor, just a few feet inside the doorway. Bailey gives Fridge a nod then carefully and quietly leans inside the room, reaching for the box.

> COCO BRO Fortune, huh? Yeahhh. First thing I'm gonna' buy is a big gold statue of me, highfiving an even bigger diamond statue of me.

The Manager gives Coco Bro a look.

COCO BRO (CONT'D) It's symbolic.

MANAGER (Confused) Oh. I get it. Exquisite stuff, Bro!

Bailey reaches the box.

BAILEY (Whispers to herslef) Gotcha! (Examining the box) Let's take a look at this thing. Goodness gummybears it's worse than I could have possibly imagined!

Coco Bro turns and spots them.

COCO BRO Hey. What are you doing in here?!

BAILEY [Short startled scream] Whatdowedo? I say we move our legs really fast one after the other, thus propelling the rest of our bodies away from this awkward and scary situation.

BAILEY

You mean run?

FRIDGE (Clicks his fingers) THAT'S the word!

Their eyes dart back to Coco Bro, now approaching them.

BAILEY FRIDGE (CONT'D)

Ahh!

Bailey and Fridge turn and hurry out of the backstage area, Coco Bro chases after them.

Ahh!

10 INT. MALL, EVENTS STAGING AREA / STAGE

We see the audience is still gathered from before. Dozens of people are in line to buy Coco Bro O's, t-shirts and toys from the merch table. Bailey and Fridge burst out from backstage. Bailey climbs up onto the stage.

> BAILEY (Calling) Um, excuse me everyone. I have to something to tell you.

The audience turns to look at her.

BAILEY (CONT'D) Please! Don't eat Coco Bro O's!

AUDIENCE MEMBER #1 Hey. Isn't that the koala from that other cereal that I used to love but have now totally forgotten?

AUDIENCE MEMBER #2 What's she talking about?

BAILEY The thing is, Coco Bro is kinda' a little, not that super duper awesome maybe.

AUDIENCE MEMBER #3 No way! Coco Bro is awesome, bro!

AUDIENCE MEMBER #2 Ring, ring, Jel-ephone!

AUDIENCE MEMBER #1 It's for you!

Bailey begins to panic.

BAILEY

No, wait! I have a box right here! First of all, just look at this puzzle on the back. It says the correct answer is route B, but to get to the dumbbells you actually have to take route C!

Coco Bro coolly takes the stage and approaches Bailey.

COCO BRO Check again, little lady.

Bailey frowns at Coco Bro then whips around the box to check the puzzle again.

BAILEY Oh yeah, it *is* route B.

COCO BRO [Mocking Laughter]

AUDIENCE (ALL) [Mocking Laughter]

We see the two teenage girls from earlier, plus the teenage boy now with his arm around girl #1.

> TEENAGE GIRL #2 Seriously not cool.

TEENAGE BOY Pff! I know, right?

Bailey swallows a gulp. She sweats, struggling to think of a plan. Fridge looks on nervously, trying to look supportive.

COCO BRO (Whispers menacingly) Fun's over. Now beat it, fuzzball.

BAILEY Uhh... Umm...

COCO BRO

(Addressing the crowd) Sorry about the commotion, folks! But to assure you everything is BRO-dacious, who would like to try a free taste of my incredi-BRO new cereal?!

AUDIENCE (ALL) [Cheering excitedly]

BAILEY Wait! Please, stop! There's more!

COCO BRO (To Bailey, scowling) You don't get it, do you? You're finished. This is my time. Everyone will follow and love ME.

BAILEY

(Nervous) W-what are you talking about?

COCO BRO (To Audience, chuckling) Ok! Eat up every body!

Everyone in the audience starts gorging on the cereal.

AUDIENCE (ALL) [Happy eating noises]

AUDIENCE MEMBER #1 It's so chocolately!

AUDIENCE MEMBER #2 I can feel the bro-teins working already, Bro!

BAILEY

(To Coco Bro) Please Coco Bro, get them to stop eating this! It isn't safe, look at-

COCO BRO (Interrupting) Enough already! I'm on my way to the top and no fun-sized little girl is going to stop me from-

Coco Bro is interrupted.

AUDIENCE MEMBER #1 [Loud, pained noise]

COCO BRO (To audience, hesitant) Uhh, what's BRO-ing on, guys? Heh.

More and more members of the audience stop eating and clutch their stomachs. Loud rumbles.

AUDIENCE MEMBER #2 (Pained) My insides!

AUDIENCE MEMBER #3 (Panicking) What is happening?!

COCO BRO

Bros! I assure you! That's just the twelve essential Bro-teins kicking in. Soon you'll feel-

BAILEY Not so fast buster bro! (To audience) Everyone! Coco Bro O's doesn't contain any "beneficial BRO-teins" that's not even a thing!

AUDIENCE MEMBER #1 It's not? COCO BRO

Who cares?! I'm on the front of the box, aren't I?! (Yelling at audience) Keep eating!

BAILEY

(Checking the cereal box) It does however contain an alarming amount of artificial sweetener C73B which will most certainly have... a laxative effect.

Beat.

AUDIENCE MEMBER #2 (Scared, but not sure why) Huh? FRIDGE

That means you're all about to uncontrollably poop your pants!

Beat.

AUDIENCE (ALL) [Panic-stricken screams]

Fridge now has his high-vis jacket back on.

FRIDGE

The nearest bathrooms are that'a way! Quickly now! Do not stop for a hotdog stuffed pretzel crust burrito pizza taco bowls, it'll only make things worse!

The audience stampedes towards the rest rooms. Shoving past one another, they all barge in and we hear horrible sounds coming from inside. A terrified custodian comes running out screaming.

> CUSTODIAN [Running, scared screams] So much poop! So much poop!

AUDIENCE MEMBER #3 I didn't make it! I DIDN'T MAKE IT!!

On stage, Coco Bro checks his phone. We see his follower count start to plummet.

COCO BRO

No! Nooo!!

Coco Bro spins to Bailey, glaring at her, seething with anger. Bailey is too busy feeling vindicated to be aware of any danger.

> BAILEY OHHH! Did someone's cereal make everybody poop their paaaants?

Extremely wary of Coco Bro, Fridge carefully approaches and tries to usher Bailey away.

FRIDGE Uh, Bailey...

BAILEY Boy, that's gotta' be embarrassing! FRIDGE

Bailey.

BAIULEY I guess Coco Bro O's doesn't just turn the *milk* brown if you know what I'm say-

COCO BRO [Big angry yell]

BAILEY (Realising the danger) Oop. Went too far.

FRIDGE Bailey, we gotta go NOW!

Fridge picks up Bailey and tosses her on top of his head, she holds on tight as Fridge takes off running. Coco Bro gives chase, charging at them antlers-first.

> FRIDGE (CONT'D) You just had to poke fun of the big scary Reindeer jerk didnt'cha?!

> BAILEY Ha! You see! He is a jerk! I wasn't jealous-phone!

Suddenly in his peripheral, Fridge spots Melba again. He continues running, but we see him start to think of a plan. Fridge, Bailey and Coco Bro burst out of the exit doors and onto the street.

11 EXT. MALL ENTRANCE / PARKING LOT (DAY)

11

BAILEY Keep running Fridge! He's gaining on us!

Fridge does a u-turn, as does Coco Bro, and they race back toward the mall.

BAILEY (CONT'D) What? Where are you going?! Flee that way!

COCO BRO [Angry yell]

12 INT. MALL.

Fridge Races deeper into the mall, Coco Bro in pursuit.

FRIDGE (Running/panting) You were right, Bailey. And it was really cool seeing you step up back there.

Melba hears the commotion and turns to see Coco Bro chasing after Bailey and Fridge.

MELBA

Huh?

Terrified, Fridge runs past Melba, screen left to right, then right to left, repeating. All the while Coco Bro is chasing him, getting closer and closer, Fridge yells out to Melba in small hurried bursts as he runs by each time.

> FRIDGE (Running, Terrified) Hey Melba, I'm Fridge!... I think you're the coolest!... And your imported snacks are the best!... Ahhh!!... I like snacks too!... Aaaanyway!... Just wanted to say hi!...

MELBA (A little confused) Hi. Fridge.

Fridge runs by again. Coco Bro is just about to catch them.

FRIDGE (Yelling very quickly) Maybe we can hang out sometime if this guy doesn't obliterate us!

MELBA

Hmm.

Melba dispenses a bottle of iced tea, unscrews the lid, and dumps the contents into a huge puddle on the floor. It causes Coco Bro to slip and stagger, allowing Fridge and Bailey to gain some distance away from him.

> COCO BRO [Furious yelling]

FRIDGE Yes!! Thanks Melba!!

MELBA (Calling) Run for it, guys! (To herself) Wow...

BAILEY (Singing) Ooh! Fridge has got a girlfriend!

FRIDGE (Running, Scared) Not now, Bailey!!

We see Bailey is now eating from one of her 'Super Fruity Happy Crunch' free sample boxes.

BAILEY

(Eating) Huh? Oh right! The big scary guy chasing us. Yeah you should keep moving your legs really fast one after the other to propel our bodies forward.

FRIDGE [Scared screams] COCO BRO [Furious yelling]

13 EXT. SUPER FRUITY HAPPY CRUNCH FACTORY (DAY)

We see Fridge still carrying Bailey, now completely exhausted, struggling with each step as they finally make it back home.

> FRIDGE [Exhausted panting] We made it... Is he... still... chasing us?

BAILEY No, he gave up a while back. Not before swearing his undying revenge, though.

FRIDGE (Exhausted, Delirious) Uh-huh...

Bailey hops down. Fridge collapses face first on the ground.

BAILEY Boo-yah, Fridge! Everything worked out great - Poo poo cereal crisis averted! Fresh teal neckerchief! And-

FRIDGE (Muffled) Melba knows my name!

Fridge gets back to his feet.

FRIDGE (CONT'D) It's Fridge.

BAILEY Ring ring ring! Happy phone.

The custodian from the mall, still terrified, runs by screaming.

CUSTODIAN [Terrified Screams] So much poop! SO MUCH POOP!

End.