

ROCK, PAPER, SCISSORS

Ep. 005 "Paper's Big Lie"

Written by

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ANIMATION NOTES

- Paper's Brain can resemble Paper (e.g., the same glasses and possibly the same squiggly tuft of hair).
- As an Easter Egg, Potato could be in the background of the Hipponoids' ship for one shot. (Bob -- we'll explain.)
- When we get into a rhythm of going into Paper's head, we may not need to ZOOM IN and OUT every time; we could just CUT in.

CASTING NOTES

- Paper's Brain might also be played by Tom Lennon.

SFX NOTE

- Per S&P, let's make sure the spaceship alarm does not resemble an EAS tone.

1 INT. ROCK, PAPER, SCISSORS' APARTMENT - DAY 1

PAPER sits on the couch, tinkering with a delicate invention, as ROCK and SCISSORS, dressed like street brawlers (denim vests, fingerless gloves, headbands), jump in front of him.

1 Jump, jump! ROCK Hup, hup! SCISSORS 1

They fall on their faces. Paper stops, then keeps working.

2 Hup, hup! ROCK (CONT'D) Jump, jump! SCISSORS (CONT'D) 2

They fall again. Paper jolts and his invention falls apart.

3 PAPER 3

What the heck are you doing?

4 SCISSORS 4

Trying to do a jump jump kick.

5 ROCK 5

You know, from video games? Where your second jump is in the air, then you do a cool kick?

6 Jump, jump! SCISSORS Hup, hup! ROCK (CONT'D) 6

They jump and fall on their faces again.

7 PAPER 7

Somehow, you two are dumber together.

8 SCISSORS 8

That no true!

9 ROCK 9

Got him.

They high-five and miss. Then: a KNOCK at the door. Paper gets up and opens it to see PENCIL.

10 PENCIL 10

Hi, I'm Pencil. I live down the hall. I, uh, accidentally got some of your mail. (HANDS IT OVER) You read *Big Brain Magazine*?

11 PAPER 11

Yes, I'm an inventor. A lotta smart stuff happening in this brain.

ZOOM INTO Paper's head where PAPER'S BRAIN is also trying to do the jump jump kick.

12 PAPER'S BRAIN 12
Jump, jump! (IT FACE-PLANTS) Aww.

ZOOM OUT to Paper and Pencil.

13 PENCIL 13
No way! I'm an inventor, too! I work at CyberTech.

Off Paper, we ZOOM INTO his head. Paper's brain perks up.

14 PAPER'S BRAIN 14
CyberTech? The most impressive technology company in the world?! That must mean...

ZOOM BACK OUT to Paper.

15 PAPER 15
(IN AWE) You're super smart.

From Paper's POV, DREAMY MUSIC plays, and we do a reverse-She's All That where, in SLOW MOTION, Pencil puts up her hair in a ponytail and puts on her smart glasses.

16 SINGER (V.O.) 16
Oh-ho, smaaaaart girl, smaaaaart girl. / Smart girl, she's so smart.

WE COME OUT OF THE FANTASY:

17 PAPER 17
I love you.

18 PENCIL 18
What?

19 PAPER 19
Uh-- I said I also work at a big tech company.

BACK IN Paper's head, his brain looks panicked.

20 PAPER'S BRAIN 20
What? No, you don't. You work at a junky store that sells technology.

BACK OUT:

21 PENCIL 21
Cool. I love seeing other tech
companies. Could I come visit?

BACK IN Paper's head:

22 PAPER'S BRAIN 22
Say no! She'll find out you're
lying! What're you gonna do, turn
your store into a tech company?

BACK OUT:

23 PAPER 23
Absolutely. You can come by, uh...
two years from now?

24 PENCIL 24
(LAUGHS) How 'bout today at noon?

25 PAPER 25
How 'bout today at 10?

BACK IN Paper's head:

26 PAPER'S BRAIN 26
What are you doing?!

BACK OUT:

27 PENCIL 27
Great. I'll see you then.

He watches her leave, smiling as he closes the door. A beat.

CUT TO:

2 EXT. STREET - MOMENTS LATER 2

Paper sprints in a panic.

28 PAPER 28
AHHHHHH! WHAT IS WRONG WITH ME?!

3 EXT. RADIO SHED - LATER 3

Paper sweats as he frantically hammers a handmade sign over
the "Radio Shed" sign reading, "Best Tech Company". (He also
wears a poorly-made T-shirt that reads "Best Tech Company".)

29	PAPER	29
	Relax, Paper. This is gonna work. Just practice your intro: Hey Pencil. (DEEP) Hi Pencil. (FRANTIC) Pencil, I lied about my workplace to impress you, I'm a fraud! (THEN) No, the first two were <u>way</u> better.	
	Pencil walks up.	
30	PENCIL	30
	(CONFUSED) You work at a place called "Best Tech Company"?	
31	PAPER	31
	And I run the whole thing.	
	PAPER'S BOSS leans out the door.	
32	PAPER'S BOSS	32
	Hey! I don't pay you to talk to girls; I pay you to untangle the big box of wires we keep in the back.	
33	PAPER	33
	(COVERING, TO PENCIL) Ha ha. That's tech talk. I have a very big brain.	
34	PENCIL	34
	Can I come inside?	
	Paper stops her.	
35	PAPER	35
	No! You can't. Uh, because... we're working on a top secret device that will... solve world hunger. Makes food. Unlimited... food. So...	
	A long beat as Pencil just stares at Paper.	
36	PENCIL	36
	(SKEPTICAL) So you work at a place called Best Tech Company? And I can't come inside because you're working on a secret device that makes "food... unlimited food"?	
37	PAPER	37
	It's <u>top</u> secret, but yes.	

38 PENCIL 38
Paper, it seems like you're lying.
I mean, there's no evidence to
support anything you just sai--

But then a government plane lands and out walks THE PRESIDENT
OF THE UNITED STATES. Pencil looks shocked. So does Paper.

39 PENCIL (CONT'D) 39
Is that the President of the United
States?

The President and two aides walk up to Paper.

40 THE PRESIDENT OF THE U.S. 40
Good, you're here -- because we
have an emergency. A race of
vicious aliens is threatening the
planet... and I need a brilliant
mind to solve this problem.

41 PAPER 41
So you came to me?

42 THE PRESIDENT OF THE U.S. 42
Of course. The smartest people work
at tech companies, so I searched
online for "Best Tech Company," and
your business was the first
result... which means you must be
the smartest person alive!

43 PENCIL 43
The sign is hammered on, right?

44 THE PRESIDENT OF THE U.S. 44
The fate of the world is in your
hands. Are you the man for the job?

ZOOM INTO Paper's frantic brain.

45 PAPER'S BRAIN 45
NO!

ZOOM BACK OUT to see Paper look at Pencil. Then:

46 PAPER 46
Absolutely.

4 INT. PRESIDENTIAL PLANE - LATER 4

A mobile situation room. The President is with Pencil and
Paper near a large screen. Her aides type on the computer.

47 THE PRESIDENT OF THE U.S. 47
Our peace talks with the aliens
have failed. So we'll connect you
now to the Hipponoid commander.

48 PAPER 48
Sorry... Hipponoid?

On screen, the HIPPONOID COMMANDER (a tough-looking space
hippo) looks at camera, broadcasting from a spaceship.

49 HIPPONOID COMMANDER 49
I am the Hipponoid Commander. Our
planet is low on food, so we demand
Earth's resources! And I suggest
you comply because we are the most
dangerous species in the galaxy.

In the b.g., a Hipponoid with a towel around his waist walks
in. He notices the camera, ducks, and makes a quick exit.

50 HIPPONOID COMMANDER (CONT'D) 50
Give us all of your planet's food
or we will have no choice but to
invade and take it ourselves.

The President gestures for Paper to do something.

51 PAPER 51
(FUMBLES) Uh... well, first of all,
I hear you. And I see you. So...

Pencil pops into frame.

52 PENCIL 52
Paper's working on a device that
can produce unlimited food. Maybe
he could give it to you!

53 PAPER 53
I could, but it's gone. And I can't
say why because, uh... top secret.

54 HIPPONOID COMMANDER 54
But you could build another one?

Paper looks at Pencil. She smiles at him, hopeful.

55 PAPER 55
(TO THE COMMANDER) Sure?

In Paper's head, his brain SCREAMS into a pillow. BACK OUT:

56 HIPPONOID COMMANDER 56
You have three hours to complete
it. Or the invasion begins.

He hangs up. Paper looks terrified. Then the screen flashes.

57 THE PRESIDENT OF THE U.S. 57
Wait. We're getting another call.

The aide brings up the call to see Rock and Scissors at home.

58	ROCK	58
	Paper, look. We got better at the jump jump kick.	

They show him. They have not gotten better.

	ROCK (CONT'D)	SCISSORS	
59	Look. Paper. Paper, look.	Look it. Paper. Paper, you're not looking.	59

They keep telling him to look, but Paper looks overwhelmed.

5 INT. PRESIDENTIAL PLANE - SCIENCE LAB - LATER 5

Paper and Pencil work in a lab.

60 PENCIL 60

Okay. I need you to explain the mechanics of the world hunger device in very specific detail.

61 PAPER 61
(FUMBLING) Well, there are some
cords... and some screws... and the
food comes out of it.

62 PENCIL 62
 (PERKS UP) Ooh! I think I know
 where you're going!

63 PAPER 63
("SERIOUSLY?") Y-you do?

64 PENCIL 64
Yeah! But let's say it at the same
time to see if I'm right.

Paper tries to say what she says, but he fumbles throughout:

	PENCIL (CONT'D)	PAPER	
	Using principles of	...p-principal... lemistry...	
	biochemistry with an eye	construct... farcus...	
	toward cellular culture, we	germany... pow-wow source...	
	can focus on germination and	acorn... store-turkey colat-	
	replication in a power source	effective... arch. (THEN) And	
65	that takes into account	the food comes out of it.	65
	stoichiometric coefficients		
	to foment charge.		
66	PENCIL (CONT'D)		66
	Great! I got it! Just one question:		
	how'd you subvert the Law of		
	Conservation of Mass?		
67	PAPER		67
	I guess I think of that law as more		
	of a guideline.		
	Pencil SNORT-LAUGHS.		
68	PENCIL		68
	Good one, Paper.		
	Pencil starts working as we go into PAPER'S FANTASY again.		
	DREAMY MUSIC PLAYS as he watches her do "nerdy" things: work		
	with a Petri dish, use a protractor, write calculations while		
	biting her bottom lip unattractively, and wipe her armpits.		
69	SINGER (V.O.)		69
	<i>Oh-ho, smaaaaart girl, smaaaaart</i>		
	<i>girl. / Smart girl, she's so smart.</i>		
	<i>/ Smaaaaart girl, smaaaaart girl. /</i>		
	<i>Wipe those sweaty pits.</i>		
	WE COME OUT OF THE FANTASY.		
	Pencil is by the completed device (a cylinder with a hatch)		
	as lights on it flash. Then, a cornucopia of food pops out.		
70	PENCIL		70
	It works! Paper, do you have		
	anything you want to add?		
71	PAPER		71
	You're my everything.		
72	PENCIL		72
	What?		
73	PAPER		73
	Uh-- I said I <u>also</u> work at a big		
	tech company.		

She looks at him, confused. Then Paper just smiles awkwardly.

6 INT. PRESIDENTIAL PLANE - LATER 6

In the mobile situation room, Paper holds up the device to the Hipponoid Commander, who's on video.

74 PAPER 74
I built it! (THEN) With Pencil. She
mostly... (FINALLY) we built it!

75 HIPPONOID COMMANDER 75
Excellent. Show me how it works.

76 PAPER 76
Oh. Uh...

Paper turns to Pencil. She motions for Paper to go ahead.

77 PAPER (CONT'D) 77
Well, there's only one button, so
clearly you just--

Paper presses it, causing an incredibly complicated set-up to pop out with even more panels and buttons.

78 PAPER (CONT'D) 78
Dang it!

Paper presses a few buttons and the thing sparks and emits smoke. ZOOM INTO Paper's head. Paper's brain is on the phone.

79 PAPER'S BRAIN 79
I gotta go, Mom. He just broke the
machine.

ZOOM BACK OUT.

80 PAPER 80
I, uh--

81 PENCIL 81
Is everything okay?

82 HIPPONOID COMMANDER 82
Do I need to invade?

83 PAPER 83
No no no! It's just-- the device is
so complicated, maybe I better go
up to the Hipponoids' spaceship and
show them how to use it in person.

84 PENCIL 84
Do you want me to come?

She steps closer. Paper covers the broken device.

85 PAPER 85
No! You can't. Because then you'll
see... how dangerous they are.
Besides, I already have a team of
skilled engineers I want to bring.

7 INT. MID-AIR 7
Paper (holding the broken device) is with Rock and Scissors
as the Hipponoids' spaceship beams them up.

86 PAPER 86
I need you to jump jump whatever
these Hipponoids and knock them out
before they invade the planet.

87 SCISSORS 87
What? You gave us no context here.
We have no clue what's going on.

88 ROCK 88
No, I think I got it. I assume you
changed your company name to Best
Tech Company, the President saw it,
assumed you were smart, you didn't
disagree because you were trying to
impress Pencil, and now you find
yourself in a situation where,
having broken the food machine, you
could either come clean or have us
jump jump kick the Hipponoids so
you can pretend to save the day.

A shocked Paper and Scissors stare at Rock.

89 ROCK (CONT'D) 89
(SHAKES HEAD) Classic Paper.

8 INT. HIPPONOID SPACESHIP - MOMENTS LATER 8
Our trio beams up and the floor closes beneath them.

90 HIPPONOID COMMANDER 90
Oh, there you are. I was just
ripping up this piece of paper.

He rips up a (non-sentient) piece of paper.

91 PAPER 91
(SOTTO) That felt targeted.

92 HIPPONOID COMMANDER 92
Now, show me the device.

Paper looks worried. Scissors leans closer to Paper:

93 SCISSORS 93
Don't worry. We got this.

Rock and Scissors nod confidently, then let out a BATTLE CRY and run at the Hipponoid Commander.

94 ROCK 94
Jump, jump!

95 SCISSORS 95
Hup, hup!

They leap into the air in SLOW MOTION. It looks good! Then, still in SLOW MOTION, they just arc back down and face-plant.

96 ROCK / SCISSORS 96
Ah, so close. / So close!

97 HIPPONOID COMMANDER 97
So you came to betray us? Well if violence is what you want, violence is what you'll get. Hipponoids, prepare to invade Earth!

The Commander presses a button that sets off a spaceship ALARM. Paper looks around, scared, as soldiers emerge and gear up. Then the hatch on the spaceship opens for them.

98 PAPER 98
Wait! This was all a lie that got way out of hand. I'm not smart, I don't know how to invent anything, and I broke the food device. I'm sorry, I-- I was just trying to impress someone I like!

The Commander takes Paper aside and looks at him menacingly.

99 HIPPONOID COMMANDER 99
You listen to me and you listen good. I... (SOTTO) totally get it.

100 PAPER 100
What?

101 HIPPONOID COMMANDER 101

I'm in the same situation. Back on my planet, I was just a cubicle worker. But I lied that I was a fierce soldier to impress a crush. (POINTS) He's so cute, right? He's clearly the best-looking Hipponoid.

Reveal his crush looks exactly like the other Hipponoids. The crush smiles and waves.

102	PAPER	102
	Uh...	

103

103

HIPPONOID COMMANDER

Anyway, before I knew it, I was
Commander of the Hipponoids! I've
had to keep up this lie for over 50
years, and the stress is eating me
alive. I mean, look at me: I'm 371
years old, but I look like I'm 542.
Honestly, the last thing I wanna do
is invade Earth, because then my
crush will know I'm not a fierce
soldier and he'll never talk to me
again! I don't know what to do!

104 PAPER 104

Look at us. Lying and lying and
just digging ourselves into a
deeper hole. (LONG BEAT) But if you
dig deep enough, don't you come out
the other side?

105 HIPPONOID COMMANDER 105
That logic works for me.

106 PAPER 106

Then I have an idea. We'll fake a scene that will not only get us out of this situation but will also impress both our love interests.

107	HIPPONOID COMMANDER	107
	Okay, but it's gotta look real.	

CUT TO:

9 INT. HIPPONOID SPACESHIP - MOMENTS LATER 9

CAMERA POV: the screen turns on to show Rock and Scissors holding up a hand-drawn poster that reads, "The Fight Scene!"

108 ROCK / SCISSORS (O.S.) 108
 (LIKE KIDS) Paper and the Commander
 present... the fight scene!

109 PAPER (O.S.) 109
 Guys, we said no on the sign!

Paper pulls their sign away and runs back to his mark, facing
the Hipponoid Commander.

110 HIPPONOID COMMANDER 110
 (BAD ACTING) So it has come to
 this: a battle between the smartest
 person, you, and the toughest, me.

111 PAPER 111
 (BAD ACTING) I will not let you
 invade Earth. Prepare to feel the
 wrath of my high-tech science gun!

Paper holds up a plunger with a wrench taped to it.

112 PAPER (CONT'D) 112
 ("SHOOTING") Pew, pew! Invisible
 lasers! Smart stuff, smart stuff!

The Hipponoid Commander puffs out his chest.

113 HIPPONOID COMMANDER 113
 Sorry, Paper. My huge muscles
 blocked your lasers 'cause I'm so
 tough! (WINDS UP) Tough guy punch!

The Hipponoid Commander pretends to punch Paper. The punch is
nowhere near him, but Paper "falls" on Pencil's food device.

114 PAPER 114
 Oh no! We broke the food device
 that was working perfectly up until
 this point in the battle. (THEN)
 And again, you are so tough and I
 am so... (CHECKS SCRIPT) smart.

10 INT. PRESIDENTIAL PLANE - SAME TIME 10

Pencil and The President stare at the live feed. Pencil looks
skeptical, then looks to the President. After a beat:

115 THE PRESIDENT OF THE U.S. 115
 (IMPRESSED) Now that's a scientist.

11 INT. HIPPONOID SPACESHIP - BACK TO SCENE 11

116 HIPPONOID COMMANDER 116
Enough of this fighting.

As the Commander continues, we see Paper mouth the lines.

117 HIPPONOID COMMANDER (CONT'D) 117
I refuse to risk the lives of my
crew against your massively big
brain, so I will make the tough
choice to look for food elsewhere.

The Commander looks over at his crush, who looks smitten.

118 HIPPONOID COMMANDER (CONT'D) 118
(WHISPERS TO PAPER) Anything else
that needs wrapping up?

ANGLE ON Rock by the food machine. It looks brand new.

119 ROCK 119
Paper, I fixed the food device! I'm
sure I did the same thing you and
Pencil did, but just to make sure,
wanna say it at the same time?

120 PAPER 120
(BEAT, TO COMMANDER) Get me off
this ship.

12 EXT. RADIO SHED - LATER 12

Our trio gets beamed back down to Earth. The President and
her aides APPLAUD. Paper waves, then approaches Pencil.

121 PAPER 121
So, were you impressed by how I
saved the planet with my intellect?

122 PENCIL 122
Honestly, Paper, this whole day has
felt like one big lie. Did you
really defeat the Hipponoids?

Paper hesitates. ZOOM INTO Paper's head.

123 PAPER'S BRAIN 123
Listen to me: if you don't come
clean now, you'll have to keep up
this lie forever and probably end
up as anxious as that Hipponoid
Commander.
(MORE)

PAPER'S BRAIN (CONT'D)

You'll dig yourself so deep you'll never be able to have a real relationship with Pencil. And one day, the truth will come out, and she'll never forgive you. But you can avoid that nightmare by just telling her the truth now. For once, Paper, listen to your brain!

ZOOM BACK OUT to Paper, who takes a beat.

124	PAPER	124
	Pencil, I'll be honest... I did SO much more.	

He quickly turns and walks away. He anxiously tells himself:

125	PAPER (CONT'D)	125
	Don't look at her face, Paper. Just maintain the cool moment.	

Then, Rock and Scissors fly into frame--

	ROCK	SCISSORS	
126	Jump, jump... kick!	Hup, hup... kick!	126

--and actually do jump jump kick Paper, knocking him over.

127	ROCK / SCISSORS	127
	(GASP, THEN) We did it!	

They jump into the air and we FREEZE FRAME as they go for a high-five and, once again, miss.

128	SINGER (V.O.)	128
	They did the jump jump kick!	

END OF EPISODE

OVER END CREDITS: we have Karate Kid-esque silhouettes of Rock and Scissors doing their jump jump kick. A SONG plays:

129	SINGER (V.O.)	129
	<i>Do the jump jump kick. / Give it all you got. / The future's in your hands. / You gotta take your shot. / First you double jump. / Then you do the kick. / Love is the answer. / Study hard in school!</i>	

