

General Facts

Manic! from the Crisco is the hottest band on the planet. “**Manic!**,” as their fans affectionately call them, is composed of four brothers, aged 16, 15, and two 13 year-old twins. Each brother is talented in his own right, but it is commonly agreed that the lead singer/songwriter, the eldest brother, is the “heart and soul” of the band’s creative force. “**Climb-in Man,**” as his stage-name has branded him, writes all of the lyrics and composes the songs on his acoustic guitar by himself. He then performs the bare-bones version of a new song for his three younger brothers, at which point they add drum, bass, and keyboard parts to the mix.

Climb-in-Man has grown cocky from his new-found fame, but not without some semblance of reason. After all, not just every rock star dates the hottest actress this side of Hollywood: Crimson Bohanson. Climb-in-Man lives the dream: He parties hard, sleeps light, and is the catalyst for more tabloid sales than any divorced, senile, custody-losing pop star in the world. His creativity drives his fame, and his fame drives his creativity.

Manic! rose to fame due in no small part to Climb-in-Man’s hauntingly realistic portrayal of teenage angst and relationship woes throughout the lyrics of the band’s independent debut smash: *A Cork Tree You Can’t Sweat Out*. Millions of weepy-eyed teenagers play the album every time they fight with their parents, friends, and lovers.

Manic! released their debut album under a three-record contract with record label **Digital Leash**. Digital Leash knows that they have a winning formula on their roster: As long as Climb-in-Man keeps inking Away Message-ready one-liners and infuses irresistibly catchy hooks into each song, Manic! will be able to churn out more multi-platinum records.

But, as one of Climb-in-Man’s irresistibly cheesy lyrics goes, “Things are never as simple as they seem/when your life becomes a nightmare/and you can’t wake from the dream.”

Manic!, all being underage, are managed exclusively by their father, **Joe Pimpson**. Joe has become rather controlling of his boys ever since their mother died in a freak liposuction accident last year. Joe defends his suffocating personality by reasoning that the Pimpson boys are all he has left to remember his beloved wife. Joe has set up trust funds into which each of his sons’ profits are deposited. He has refused his boys any access to these funds until they turn 18, because Joe comes from the “old school” belief that children must remain humble and resistant to material wealth and excessive luxury.

A war of words between Joe and Digital Leash has escalated into a full-scale battle over the future of the most valuable band on the planet. Manic! owes Digital Leash two more records under their contract, each of which, the record label plans to explode into a global phenomenon thanks to a marketing scheme including band-branded diaries, an all-black clothing line, “Guy-Liner,” and breakfast cereal. Joe, however, is refusing his boys access to the recording studio until Digital Leash recognizes that Manic! is duly underpaid and deserve a royalty hike from the industry standard 10% to a record-setting 25%. Digital Leash scoffs at the idea, assuring Manic! that most of its fame is because of the extremely extensive exposure that the record label so “generously” offered the band.

It is obvious that Joe and Digital Leash aren’t going to resolve their differences without some expert negotiation. But things are messier, still. Digital Leash knows that, with the exception of Climb-in Man, the other three Pimpson boys are too young to be dissuaded from their father’s influence. Digital Leash fears that the “window of opportunity” will pass if the boys can’t get back into the studio quickly. Luckily, Climb-in man has revealed to Digital Leash that he wants to emancipate from his father. Climb-in Man has a court appointed guardian to discuss pursuing a legal emancipation from his father, which would effectively divorce Joe from any rights to control the 16 year-old’s finances or decisions. The Court has also granted the guardian the right to negotiate a settlement agreement.

The Pimpson boys are caught in the middle of what could be the most unfortunate waste of opportunity in the history of the entertainment business. Manic! is locked into a contract with Digital Leash for two more albums; there is no possibility that the band can sign with another label. The boys are also locked under Joe’s authority more securely than a teary-eyed teenager in a bedroom full of black-lights. It is on you to make things right in the world—millions of teen hearts can’t wait to beat faster and faster under the spell of Manic Mania!

Note: If Climb-in Man emancipates from Joe Pimpson, Digital Leash must negotiate a record contract with Climb-In Man and must work out the problems in current contract with Manic!.

In order to get emancipated you must file a petition pursuant to Rule 5.605. The judge will grant the petition if these factors are met: 1) you are at least 14 years old, 2) you don't want to live with your parents, 3) you can handle your own money, 4) you have a legal way to make money, and 5) emancipation would be in your best interest.

Private Facts for Digital Leash

Digital Leash has been doing some heavy-duty thinking about the Pimpson boys. Of particular note is the not-so-secret fragileness of Climb-in Man, who has been adorning every tabloid magazine under headlines touting a “drug-induced downward spiral.”

Digital Leash knows that pop bands have a relatively short shelf life, and the company needs to ensure a maximum profit on the two remaining records due under its contract with Manic! The company doesn't plan on allowing Manic! to take too many risks regarding the artistic direction of their future albums, instead preferring that Climb-in Man recreate the type of sugar-pop songs that made the band so marketable in the first place.

Digital Leash is hopeful that Climb-in Man, in an emotionally weakened state, will quickly emancipate himself from Joe Pimpson so that he can get back in the studio under a new manager. Digital Leash knows that Climb-in Man is more interested in fame than money, and that their existing contract for 10% royalties will probably suffice.

But that Climb-in Man sure is a bit of a risk at this point, isn't he?

Of particular promise, however, is the fact that 15 year-old keyboardist/back-up singer Pete Pimpson is quickly upping his musical game thanks to playing with his older brother. In fact, Pete's voice is *almost* as good as Climb-in Man's, and he's just as good-looking as well. Pete also seems to have a bit more of a level head, despite going through a semi-publicized breakup with his girlfriend since 7th grade. Digital Leash wisely wonders whether Pete Pimpson might grab a pen and begin pouring the thoughts of his battered heart onto paper in the form of lyrics for Manic!'s second album...

Digital Leash also recognizes that the rest of the Manic! brothers are useless to the label so long as Joe Pimpson refuses them access to the recording studio until a more lucrative contract agreement is reached. While Digital Leash is certain that it would be victorious in court against Joe, this simply is not an option: By the time the matter was resolved, so much time would have passed that the whole world would have forgotten about Manic!...the remaining two albums would be worthless. Also, Digital Leash would have to find a suitable guitar player to replace Climb-in Man, which would ruin the “cute factor” of the band being comprised solely of brothers.

Digital Leash knows that even pursuing the option of replacing Climb-in Man would mean giving into Joe Pimpson and increasing the band's royalties. This is a risk, however; as it

is uncertain whether the band would ever be able to duplicate its stardom while fronted by Climb-in Man. Even so, if this proves to be the best option upon deep consideration, Digital Leash is only prepared to offer Joe Pimpson a royalty raise from 10% to 15%.