

## 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 Joe Pimpson

Joe knows he's a tough cookie, but is convinced that he is justified in looking out for "what's best" for his sons. The boys' mother never trusted the music business, and made Joe promise her that he would keep their sons away from the temptations and turmoil that ruin so many young celebrities. Joe's incessant monitoring of all things Manic! is rooted in his deep belief that he is best serving his wife's memory by "overprotecting the boys rather than under protecting them."

Oh yeah, about that 25% royalties demand. Joe knows it's a bit steep, but he figures if any band has the leverage to demand such a high figure, it's Manic! from the Crisco. Although he is a sharp manager, Joe has never found a niche for *himself* in the world: The Pimpson family lived a lower-middle class lifestyle before Climb-in Man led his brothers to musical stardom. Joe is also aware of the fickle nature of pop music, and he thinks that his sons won't have the staying power to create successful records beyond the couple more remaining under their contract with Digital Leash. So, as Joe says in your confidence, "If there's ever any time to demand a bunch o' money, now's the *only chance we got!*" As long as Joe is depositing his sons' funds into trust accounts and restricting all access until the boys turn eighteen, he knows that his sons have no idea exactly how much money they've made. This way, Joe can ensure himself a generous cut so that he can live comfortably after his sons come of age and possibly cease to be successful superstars.

But Joe does possess a bit of moral fortitude as well; he knows that Climb-in Man is sneaking out and succumbing to the Hollywood party scene. Joe *hates* drugs, and can't believe that his son's brain has become so clouded as to consider a legal emancipation. Joe knows that this would damage his relationship with his other sons forever, and certainly could be the end of Manic!'s opportunity to make money. Even if his sons haven't been allowed to yet, Joe has grown accustomed to the sweet life, and doesn't think his sons have made enough money for him to continue his luxurious lifestyle indefinitely. Also, Joe knows that his wife would be heartbroken in Heaven to learn that her eldest son has divorced his father.

Joe needs his sons to make more records, but is willing to maintain the hard-nosed approach to negotiating with Digital Leash until he is satisfied with the royalty increase. Joe would be "extremely happy" with a raise from 10% to 20%, and hopes that Climb-in Man will drop the emancipation angle and see the error in his ways. Joe has been happy thus far with the

current marketing ploys for Manic! (band-branded diaries, an all-black clothing line, “Guy-Liner,” and breakfast cereal) but sees product placement deals as a lucrative future. The brothers are teen-idols and Joe knows that whatever they hold or wear will become a hit trend in the teen world. He would be willing to settle on a slightly lower percentage of the royalty *if* he had complete control to create and profit from product placement deals with corporate companies like pepsi, rockstar energy drinks, and rock and republic jeans.