

EPISODE 19: "MALLIN' WITH THE NEW OLD NEIGHBORS"

John: Thank you for coming to our new cookout, everyone!

Bob: Anytime, friend. Are these the new neighbors?

John: No, they're just the old neighbors we never knew about.
Joneses, meet the Johnsons! Johnsons, meet the Joneses!

Caroline: Hi.

Jasmine: Hello.

Gary: Yo.

Zak: Hey.

Penny: Welcome!

Trix: Thanks!

Bob: Howdy!

Mo: What are you, Texan?

Bob: Nope. I'm a Falls Church native.

Mo: Then why are you saying "howdy?"

Bob: I don't know, I thought it would be funny.

Mo: Uh, sure.

Caroline: So, where do you come from?

Jasmine: Just across the street. We've always been here. Just never really met your family before.

Caroline: How did you meet the Smiths?

Jasmine: Well, Marcy ran into Zak at the mall, liked his cartoons, and found out we were neighbors.

Marcy: I can verify that.

Bob: What are your names?

Jasmine: I'm Jasmine.

Mo: And I'm Mo.

Bob: Oh, nice, I had an uncle named Mo!

Mo: In my case, it's short for Mohammed.

Bob: Gotcha!

Penny: What's *your* name?

Trix: Beatrix...but don't call me that, I go by Trix for short.

Penny: Oh yeah, I'm Penelope, but don't call me that either. I go by Penny.

Bob: And my name is Robert, but you sure don't want to call me that. I'm a Bob at heart.

Gary: Sooo, Zak, right? What do you wanna do?

Zak: You want to hang out at the mall again?

Gary: Sure.

Penny: That sounds fun.

Trix: Yeah.

Zak: We'll have to get someone to drive us. I don't have a license.

Gary: Neither do I.

Marcy: I'm working on it.

Zak: Say, Dad, can you drive us to the mall?

Mo: Sure.

Bob: Oh boy, someone's going to the mall? Count me in!

Caroline: I'd better go too, so I can keep an eye on you.

Bob: Oh yeah, the kids will need some supervision.

Caroline: Actually, I was talking about you.

Bob: Fiddlesticks!

Jasmine: I'll come too. I always like to see what's new at the Barnes

and Noble.

John: And I need to buy a new suit.

Melody: (shrugs) I guess I'll join the party.

John: Dan, can you man the fort?

Dan: Roger!

Penny: By the way, where's Tomas?

Marcy: He metroed down to Crystal City to visit his younger siblings.

(Later, at the mall)

Gary: So, what do you like to do here?

Zak: Well, usually I hover around different areas and share my cartoons with people.

Gary: Do they like it?

Zak: Well...usually, no, but because of Marcy I've regained some confidence. Try and fail, but never fail to try!

Marcy: That's a good quote.

Trix: I often come with him just to see what happens.

Gary: Sounds entertaining.

Marcy: I can help you with your sales pitch.

Zak: Where should I try first?

Gary: Urban Outfitters, perhaps?

Zak: That'd certainly be interesting.

(They head over there)

(meanwhile)

Bob: I know that first thing I'm gonna hit the Starbucks. Do you guys like Starbucks?

Jasmine: Of course, who doesn't?

Mo: I mean, it's not my favorite, but their drinks usually match up to what they cost.

Bob: Snobby much?

Mo: I'm not a snob, I just have taste.

John: I don't drink coffee...if only Starbucks served *real* drinks.

Bob: Alcohol at Starbucks? That would be heaven! Beer frappucinos, red wine lattes...(sighs)

Caroline: Check it out! They're playing "Espresso!"

Bob: What?

Caroline: The Sabrina Carpenter song.

Melody: How appropriate!

Jasmine: Maybe they've got a psychic playlist.

(Everyone laughs except Bob)

Bob: I feel like I'm missing something.

(Meanwhile, at the Smiths' house. Tomas is dropped off from a bus. He comes up to the door and knocks)

Dan: Hey, Tomas.

Tomas: Dan! What-up?

Dan: Well, while you were visiting your younger siblings in Crystal City, everyone else decided to have a cookout and then they went to the mall.

Tomas: Maybe I can hang out with our new old neighbors the Johnsons instead.

Dan: Nah, they went too. We introduced them to the Joneses.

Tomas: Wow, did they take some kind of party bus?

Dan: Nah, just three cars.

Tomas: Why did they take the one day I was away to do such a fun thing?

Dan: I dunno. Don't feel bad, they leave *me* out of literally everything. I mean, we probably just assumed that you were having fun visiting your siblings.

Tomas: That's true, I did have fun...I played Roblox with them.

Dan: You think that's fun?

Tomas: Yeah.

Dan: (shrugs) To each their own. So, what do you wanna do?

Tomas: I want to give them a piece of my mind! (calls Marcy)

(At the mall)

Trix: Is there a bee around here?

Marcy: No, that's just my phone. I have it set on buzz. (picks up) Oop, it's Tomas. Hey, bro, I thought you were still visiting your siblings, what's up?

Tomas: Eh, I left. I played Roblox with them for 5 hours and that was all I could handle. Anyway, why did you pick today of all days to go on a mall trip?

Marcy: Well, to be fair, it wasn't my idea.

Tomas: You could've said, "Hey! Wait everyone! I think Tomas might enjoy this too! Why don't we do it on a day when he's available?"

Marcy: I'm not gonna tell three whole families to wait for one guy!

Tomas: I guess that makes sense.

Marcy: Find something to do with Dan! You like him, dont'cha?

Tomas: Alright.

Marcy: See ya Tomas.

Tomas: Adios.

(Marcy hangs up)

Zak: Alright! We made it to Urban Outfitters!

Penny: How are you going to execute this?

Zak: Usually first thing I choose a home base.

Trix: Yeah...let's find a good one...

Gary: Why don't you hover about that nook by the entrance?

Zak: Perfect! Now, it's time for some exposure!

Marcy: If there's any doubt about the awesomeness of your cartoons, I can testify.

Zak: Thanks.

Gary: Hey, they're playing "Time Of The Season!"

Marcy: Oh yeah, that's pretty cool.

Zak: (sees his first target) Hey, what's your name?

Ashton: Ashton.

Zak: Would you like to see a cartoon for free?

Ashton: (shrugs) Why not?

Zak: Aight. Check it out!

Marcy: (grins and gives a thumbs-up) It's good!

Ashton: ...Alright, read it!

Zak: What do you-

Ashton: So, here's my feedback. The drawings are bursting with raw emotion, but you need to work on your line art. The characters are developed, but they can come off as a little ignorant. Overall, I'll give it a 7/10. Wait no - 7.5!

Zak: Thanks.

Ashton: No problem.

Zak: That was...(chuckles) awkward.

Trix: That guy was trying too hard.

Marcy: Yeah, well, that's the Urban Outfitters crowd for ya. Why did you choose this place, Gary?

Gary: I dunno. I just said the first place that came to my head.

(Meanwhile)

Starbucks Employee: And what can I get for you...*four, five...six* lovely customers today?

Jasmine: Caramel frappucino.

Mo: Chai latte.

John: Chocolate croissant.

Melody: Vanilla latte.

Caroline: Starfruit refresher.

Starbucks Employee: (finishes writing down a note) Got it...what about you?

Bob: Oh, I'm just gonna have a pumpkin spice latte.

Starbucks Employee: Sir, we stopped having the pumpkin spice latte 4 months ago.

Bob: Alright, how about the mint chocolate frappucino?

Starbucks Employee: That one ended 2 months ago.

Bob: What the heck is there left?

Starbucks Employee: Mocha, cookie, vanilla bean -

Bob: Anything unique?

Starbucks Employee: Well, we do have matcha.

Bob: Ooh, I've never tried matcha before! One of those, please.

(A little while later...)

Starbucks Employee: Alright, here you go!

(murmurs of various thanks)

Jasmine: Where should we sit?

Melody: How about by that neat overlook? It has a great view of the lower floors!

Mo: Nah, I have vertigo.

Bob: You're no fun. (sips matcha) Oh, this is bad. Next to literal dirt and...something I'm not going to talk about...this is the worst thing I've ever tasted! But I definitely don't want to waste it. Take it easy, Bob. Just pretend it's liquid medicine. (chugs it) Whew.

(Back with the kids)

(A girl walks by)

Zak: Look, a second potential patron! Hello!

Ashton (Girl): Hi.

Zak: Who do I have the pleasure of speaking with?

Ashton (Girl): Ashton.

Zak: ...Okay then. Would you like to see a cartoon for free?

Ashton: Sure!

Zak: Take a look!

Marcy: (gives a thumbs-up, even bigger grin) It's great!

Ashton: (chuckles) K, finished.

Zak: So-

Ashton: Here's my honest take - the drawings convey feeling pretty well but they could be a little more expressive. The storyline is innovative, but I'm not really sure what tone you're going for. Overall, I'll give it a B+.

Zak: Great! Thank you for your time.

Ashton: Of course.

(Zak gives a look to the other kids)

Trix: I think we ought to try somewhere else.

Gary: This place has good music, weird customers. How about we try the Lego store next?

Penny: But, why though?

Gary: People into Legos are creative.

Marcy: Good point.

(Meanwhile)

Dan: Hey, Tomas, I'm working on building a rocket. You want to help?

Tomas: STEM isn't really my thing.

Dan: No worries, I can teach you! (Opens the garage) It's right behind this 1973 T-Bird. So, here's what I've got so far.

Tomas: That's awesome, bro!

Dan: Eh, it's not great at the moment. But by the end, it'll be bien!

Tomas: You're not good at Spanglish.

(Back with the adults)

Bob: Hey, Mo, what kind of drinks do you like?

Mo: I don't drink.

Bob: What? That's impossible!

John: Hey, to each their own.

Caroline: So, Jasmine, what kind of parenting do you do?

Jasmine: Well, I try to put my kids' physical and mental health first. Number one - every day between 5 and 8 is family time. Number two - phones are only for calling and texting. Number three - if they want desserts, they always have to pay with their own allowance. How about you?

Melody: If one of my kids is mean to another, he/she has to do their chores for them.

Caroline: I just make sure they're not getting into inappropriate stuff. That's about it.

Jasmine: Wow, you're very hands-off.

Bob: Well, what do you all want to do next? I finished.

Caroline: Bob, the rest of us are still working on our drinks.

Mo: I've only taken three sips of mine so far. (off Bob's look) What? I'm savoring it!

(Back with the kids)

Trix: Well, let's test our luck here.

Zak: I have a good feeling about this.

Gary: Huh, they're playing "Sweet Dreams Are Made Of These."

Penny: Guess that's what people who like Legos are into.

Marcy: I never liked that song - it's got weird lyrics and not enough guitar.

Zak: Heyyy, what's your name?

Damian: Damian.

Zak: Would you like to see a cartoon for free?

Damian: Okay.

Zak: Feast your eyes on this!

Marcy: (emphatic thumbs up and giant grin) It's top-notch!

(Damian looks at it)

Damian: (sighs) Well...I can see that it's *trying* to be funny, but ultimately I'm not really sure what the point of it is. I think you need to work on your jokes. Watch a video or something.

Zak: Um...thanks for the feedback?

Damian: Sure.

(Damian leaves)

Marcy: Well, that was disheartening.

Zak: Let's give it one more shot. It's a group! Hiya, guys!

(It's Colin's clique)

Colin: Salutations! (Gasps) Look, it's Gary and Marcy! Fancy seeing you guys here!

Gary: Alrighty then! Let's pack it up.

Trix: Who are these guys?

Marcy: You don't wanna know.

Zak: Then where do we go now?

Gary: Why don't we try Sephora?

Penny: Why would Sephora be a good place to share cartoons?

Gary: Well, it sure gets a lot of traffic.

Marcy: Yeah, but probably not the right kind of traffic. (They go over there)

(Meanwhile, with Dan and Tomas)

Dan: Hey, Tomas, can I show you something?

Tomas: Alright.

Dan: This is my blueprint - what it'll look like when it's finished.

Tomas: Nice! How the heck do you get from that to this?

Dan: Soda!

Tomas: You mean, baking soda, like baking soda and vinegar?

Dan: No, can soda! We're gonna break into Marcy's Dr. Pepper stash - don't tell her.

(With the adults)

Bob: You guys want to see what movies they're promoting?

John: Sure!

Caroline: Sounds good.

Mo: I don't like modern movies, but whatever.

Bob: (exasperated) Man...

Melody: So, looks like the big movies right now are *Avengers Ultimatum*, *Starving Artist: The Yoko Ono Story*, and *House Hunters: The Movie*.

Mo: See, this is why I don't watch them.

(Back with the kids)

Marcy: Let me give you guys a warning about Sephora - the people that go here are like *Mean Girls* but in real life.

Penny: (points to Marcy) This.

Zak: At this point I'll try anything.

Trix: (laughs) At your own risk.

Zak: Hi! What's your name?

Karen: Karen.

Zak: Want to see a cartoon?

Karen: Why are you just randomly asking me questions? Security!

Security Guy: What's the issue?

Karen: This drifter cartoonist is making me mildly uncomfortable!

Security Guy: Well, we can't have that. Kid, I'm afraid you and your cohorts have to leave this part of the mall.

Zak: Eh, I'm giving up for today.

Penny: Want to just go back to our parents?

Trix: Yeah.

Gary: Yep.

Marcy: Sounds like a plan.

(They go back to the parents)

Bob: How about next we go to Five Guys?

Jasmine: But we just went to Starbucks.

Bob: Yeah, but Starbucks doesn't have milkshakes!

(The kids come back)

Caroline: Welcome back, kids!

Melody: Whew. Saved.

Zak: Can we go home now?

Jasmine: Yes - we've certainly been here long enough.

(Once everyone is home)

Marcy: I wonder what Dan and Tomas have been up to.

Gary: I can't wait to see!

Tomas: Hey, everyone! Check out what Dan and I have been doing!

(murmurs of excitement)

Tomas: Ready, Dan?

Dan: Here goes!

(They test out the soda rocket.)

Dan: It's a success!

Tomas: Look at it go.

(Everyone is amazed)

Marcy: What soda did you use?

Tomas: Uh...Orange Crush!

Marcy: It's a brown hue.

Tomas: Root beer!

Marcy: We don't have any root beer. You - you used my Dr. Pepper, didn't you?

Tomas: (nods sheepishly)

Marcy: CURSE YOU TWO! Thank no one for brothers. (storms off)

THE END

