

EPISODE 15: "LADDER TO HEAVEN"

Penny: Ah, there's nothing better than the calendar. It knows all.

Gary: Except for off-the-cuff stuff.

Penny: Ooh! Looks like you've got a dentist appointment.

Gary: That can't be! This is next month! Next week! Next year! T-tomorrow!

Penny: Nope. It's this month, this week, this year, this day.

Gary: Mom, do I really have a dentist appointment today?

Caroline: Yep. It's at 4:45.

Penny: Cheer up, the dentist isn't that bad. You get to choose what flavor of toothpaste you get, you get to choose the fluoride, and if you're lucky, you might get a goodie bag with a new toothbrush!

Gary: That doesn't convince me of anything.

Bob: What's all the hubbub?

Penny: Gary has a dentist appointment, and he's being a chicken about it!

Caroline: But he should go. His teeth must be kept clean.

Bob: I'm afraid I have to disagree with you there. The dentist is a boundary invader!

Caroline: Well what about doctors? Aren't their checkups an invasion of boundaries?

Bob: No, because they're doctors.

Caroline: Well a dentist is a teeth doctor.

Bob: Still, I don't like them. Why can't we just brush our teeth at home?

Gary: Yeah! I would brush an hour straight to avoid the dentist.

Caroline: But the dentist uses an *electric* toothbrush! Also the dentist can check for cavities and teeth that need to be removed.

Gary: Okay that's it. I absolutely refuse to go to the dentist.

Penny: If you don't, Mom and I will physically drag you there.

Bob: I think he doesn't have to go to the dentist if he doesn't want to.

Caroline: Well, if he doesn't go, we'll get a big no-show bill.

Bob: Alright, Gary, I'm afraid you just have to go. I mean, I still think it's kind of dumb. I bet my friends on Facebook don't have to go to the dentist! Just look at their nice shiny smiles! But, if there's money at stake, you have to do it.

Gary: Shoot!

(Later at school)

Gary: Marcy, have you ever tried to get out of doing something you didn't want to?

Marcy: Yeah. Two years ago I was the understudy in Romeo and Juliet for a theater credit. But then the leading lady got sick and I didn't actually want to be Juliet. So I hid in the attic until it was over.

Gary: Did it work?

Marcy: Well I guess so. But there wasn't much air and it smelled, not to mention cobwebs and mold. Also it ruined the play so when everyone found out I got detention. Overall it sucked for me.

Gary: That's too bad. I don't have an attic anyway...our house goes straight from the second floor to the roof...that's it! The roof!

Marcy: What?

Gary: I'll evade the dentist appointment with the help of my lovely roof!

Marcy: That sounds pretty good. You've got fresh air and a great view. So you're not afraid of heights?

Gary: Nope. But I'm not sure how I'll get up there.

Marcy: In my garage there's a giant ladder we use for Christmas lights. Do you want to rent it for five dollars?

Gary: Sure. Um...can I also borrow your trampoline, to cushion if I fall?

Marcy: (rolls her eyes) Sure! But that'll be another fiver. Are you sure this won't have consequences like it did for me?

Gary: Nope. There's no play at stake, just a no-show bill, which I have no reason to care about.

Marcy: Alright, I'll have it over there later.

(Meanwhile once the kids have gotten home)

Bob: Gary, I found something that might help you with your dentist dilemma. It's a book my dad got for me when I was afraid of eating kale. It's called, "Idiot's Guide To Facing Your Fears." Uh oh, the book is all wet and ruined, and it smells like apple juice! Heh, I forgot about that incident.

Penny: Gary, have you considered sending your anxiety to a higher power?

Gary: Hmm, maybe, I'm not sure.

Caroline: Gary, why don't you try to finish your homework before the dentist?

Gary: Wait, first I have to do some yardwork. (goes out the front door)

Caroline: Yardwork?

Bob: Oh yeah, I did ask him to trim the hedge a few days ago. But I thought he said he would avoid it at all costs.

(Gary has put up the giant ladder with the trampoline right behind him)

Gary: Alright. I have to admit I'm a little scared, but anything's better than the dentist. (He hums "Don't Fear The Reaper" as he tentatively climbs the ladder. He eventually reaches the top) WOOHOO! I MADE IT! I AM ON THE ROOF! Wow, this is gorgeous! I can see Colin's house. I can see the comic store. I can see the capital! And the sky, I feel like I can touch it! (He tries to touch a cloud) Nope, I still can't touch it. But still, I'm on top of the world, in both senses!

Caroline: It's 4:15. Where do you suppose is Gary?

Bob: I don't know. Probably still in the yard. That hedge did need a lot of trimming.

Caroline: Well I guess he can be out there for a little longer. I've still got a lot of chores to do before we leave.

Bob: I could take him if that would help.

Caroline: No you can't, you've got to read Pete the Cat to first graders at 5, remember?

Bob: Oh shoot, I only signed up for that because I didn't want the librarian to think I was some kind of child-hater. I've got to do anything possible to avoid that. Oh, that's just what Gary was talking about earlier with the dentist thing. I'll go out and see if he has any ideas. (Goes out front) Gary! Are you out here!

(A scared Gary remains quiet)

Bob: Yoo-hoo! Gary! (walks by the ladder) What's this? Some sort of giant ladder? To climb or not to climb? I have to admit I'm a little scared, but anything's better than Pete the Cat. (He slowly climbs up and reaches the top) YEAH! ROCK ON BABY! ROCKIN' ON THE ROOF! And there's Gary! What's up? Where'd this ladder come from?

Gary: Marcy. She gave it to me so I could avoid my dentist appointment.

Bob: Now I should be mad, but what's a little trouble with the local library compared to having to read to first graders? I'm gonna stay up here with you. We'll be the Super Roofio Brothers!

Caroline: Now it's 4:30. Where's Gary? We have to leave for the dentist. And where's Bob? He's going to be late to the courthouse.

Penny: I think they're both outside. You want me to go check?

Caroline: Yep.

(Penny goes outside)

Penny: Gary! Dad! Gary! Dad! Where's Gary? Where's Dad?

(A scared Gary and Bob remain quiet)

Penny: Huh, a ladder? This looks like Marcy's ladder from when I helped her with Christmas lights. What's it doing here? Oh no. I bet

they're both hiding on the roof to get away from their things. I guess I should check. (she climbs up the ladder and reaches the top) There you are, rascals! Caught in the act!

Gary: Please don't tell mom! I'll be in big trouble and I won't get dessert tonight!

Bob: Please don't tell your mom! I'll be in big trouble and she won't hug me tonight!

Penny: I don't know. What you guys want is important, but so is ethics.

Gary: I'll give you everything I borrowed from you and never returned!

Bob: You can choose the next game on family game night!

Gary: I'll let you give me math lessons!

Bob: I'll take you mall shopping!

Penny: Alright, fine, I won't tell. But when are we coming down?

Gary: I don't know.

Bob: Let's stay here forever!

Gary and Penny: Yeah!

Bob: Let's have a roof party!

Caroline: Why didn't Penny come back in? Now everyone's late for everything! This whole day is a disaster! I need to go out there and tell them - holy guacamole, I'm freaking out! (faints)

(Meanwhile, back on the roof, a pizza delivery guy shouts from below)

Pizza Delivery Guy: Pizza?

Bob: TOSS IT UP HERE!

Pizza Delivery Guy: Alright! (Throws the pizza up. Gary catches one, Penny catches one and the one Bob is trying to catch falls on the ground)

Bob: Uh, I'll eat that one.

Paul: Hello, ladies and lads!

Ringo: We're here for the gig.

John: We've got a set of rockers tonight!

George: Something in British!

Gary: Oh my gosh, it's the Beatles!

Penny: Where'd they come from?

Bob: I hired them to play for our party!

Penny: I didn't know all four of you were still alive!

Bob: Yeah, aren't two of you supposed to be dead?

John: No, I've been cryogenically frozen!

George: And I was in jello.

Gary: Awesome!

Paul: Shall we get the show on, lads?

(They start performing their first song)

What Paul sings (to the tune of Get Back):

All around the school we've got ways of storing supplies

From the lockers to the desks.

But when the bullies come, the safest place to keep our

Things is a nylon backpack.

Backpack!

Backpack!

Backpack is where we keep our stuff!

Backpack!

Backpack!

Backpack is where we keep our stuff!

(Everyone jams to the song. Though they can't hear her come up with the music playing, Marcy has now come up)

Marcy: Gary! I'm glad it worked out for you, and uh, glad to know Penny and your dad are using it too, but I need the ladder and trampoline back. It's almost night, and I kind of never told my parents about the whole deal, so they'll be expecting that stuff back. Can you all come down?

Gary: And interrupt this marvelous party? No way! Also, you gotta admit the Beatles know how to rock as good as anyone.

Marcy: (blushing) I guess you're right.

(Caroline comes to from the loud music)

Caroline: Were we supposed to do something today? I can't remember why I fainted. Anyway, what's all that racket? It sounds like it's coming from our own roof. (she goes out the front) The Beatles on our roof? Oh no. I'm not going to faint again. I'm stronger than that. But this is surreal! And why is there a giant ladder? (climbs up to the top) What are all you doing up here?

Gary: I was trying to escape the dentist!

Bob: I was trying to escape Pete the Cat!

Penny: I just got wrapped up in the shenanigans!

Bob: And now we're just having a good ol' time!

Caroline: This isn't safe! Somebody might fall off! And this music! We might get a noise disturbance report!

Bob: Hmm. You do bring up some good points. But I'm having too much fun to care!

Caroline: (sees Marcy) Why are you here, sweetie?

Marcy: Well, currently I'm kicking it to the killer music. But I came here because I want my ladder back. So now I'm not sure what to do.

Caroline: Oh, we'll get your ladder back. I'm going to end all this nonsense right now. Beatles, I'm afraid I'm going to ask you to leave.

Paul: But we haven't finished our setlist!

George: Will we still get paid?

Caroline: Yes. In fact I'll pay you extra if you leave. Right now.

John: Alright!

(The Beatles leave)

Caroline: (who's gone down) Now, I know being on the roof is cool, but we need to carry on with our evening! Can the rest of you please come down?

Penny: Wait, there's a problem.

Gary: I don't think any of us know how to go *down* a ladder.

Caroline: For crying out loud!

Marcy: (who's gone down too) JUST DO IT! I BELIEVE IN YOU!

Bob: Hang on! (types on his phone) How to climb down a ladder...kids, look! I found an article! (reads from his phone) To climb down a ladder, you move the same way you would up a ladder, except backwards. Genius!

(Everyone climbs down)

Marcy: (Happily leaving with the stuff and her ten dollars) See ya!

Caroline: Now. No one will be punished, but I want to choose what we watch on TV tonight.

(Later)

Bob: A British documentary on the history of Hallmark movies?

Gary: Nooo!

Penny: Anything but that!

Caroline: Sorry, but it's my choice.

TV: And the males in the films are typically portrayed as sentimental and harmless.

THE END