

EPISODE 17: "IT'S YOUR MOVE"

Principal: Attention, students! Now, as you probably know it's a week until Valentine's Day. We were going to have a Valentine's Day Dance. However, since interest in traditional dancing among young people has vastly declined, we will instead be having a Valentine's Day Thing!

(Later)

Marcy: Wow, I'm glad they finally came to their senses. Dancing is stupid.

Penny: Yes, it doesn't make much sense when you get down to it.

Tomas: Yeah, back in Honduras I was signed up for salsa lessons before we moved. That's one of the reasons I'm glad we did.

Marcy: What about you, Gary? What's your opinion on dancing?

Gary: Eh, I don't know...never tried it.

Marcy: Take my word, it's not good.

Gary: Why do you hate dancing so much?

Marcy: My parents made me take ballet classes when I was in elementary school. They said it would help me to "find myself."

Gary: Oh, that adds up.

Penny: Hey, Tomas, do you want to play chess again?

Tomas: Sure.

Marcy: What? Not that again.

Gary: You have to admit, it's a little *boring*.

Marcy: Why don't you go over to a different table? We have important business to attend to.

Tomas: Alright.

Penny: (shrugs) If that's what you want.

(Tomas and Penny move)

Gary: So, what's our important business, Marcy?

Marcy: Getting Tomas out of the way. He's kind of a third wheel.

Gary: Isn't Penny a third wheel too?

Marcy: Yeah, but she's cool, and I've known her for longer. I just get kind of tired of Tomas now that I'm living with him.

Gary: I don't get tired of Penny.

Marcy: Well, Tomas can be hard to talk to sometimes because he's really sensitive. He doesn't like me to use my Swiss Army knife around him, for example.

Gary: Well, if he used to have to deal with gangs that adds up.

Marcy: Yep.

(Meanwhile)

Penny: Checkmate.

Tomas: Oh, cool. Sorry, I was distracted.

Penny: By what?

Tomas: Just...thinking about stuff. I'm glad about my new family, but at the same time it can be hard to live with them too. My new parents don't understand me half the time.

Penny: Don't you speak English?

Tomas: Yeah, I mean they don't understand my emotions. Also, Marcy is uh...quite a character.

Penny: She certainly is.

Tomas: The issue is she keeps triggering me and my parents always side with her because they don't understand why I feel the way I do.

Penny: What do you mean triggering you?

Tomas: Oh, I have PTSD.

Penny: I've heard of that. Post traumatic stress disorder, right?

Tomas: Yeah. I mean, it's hard to be around someone like Marcy when I had a fistfight with a 13-year old gang leader when I was seven.

Penny: Oh wow....so do you think of yourself as a "bad boy?"

Tomas: Oh absolutely not. I'm a good man, I defended my family.

Penny: Sounds right to me.

(Meanwhile)

Caroline: Where are you going, honey?

Bob: Oh, the office has a new rule where we have inperson meetups one day a week.

Caroline: Oh, alright. You sure you're up for it? You haven't been there in five years.

Bob: Well, I've got to try my best. Hopefully it'll pan out.

(Bob drives to work, listening to "It's Your Move" by Diana Ross)

Bob: Oh, this song is catchy. And I've never heard it before. Man, do I love this 80s Deep Cut Album Tracks station. Another winner for SiriusXM.

(Later, Bob is in his cubicle)

Bob: I think I'll head over to the water cooler. 1) because I'm parched, and 2) so I can hear the latest buzz about the office.

(Bob goes over to the water cooler. Some woman also happens to be getting water)

Bob: Kristy? What are you doing here?

Kristy: Oh, I got a new job as a data analyst.

Bob: Oh, that's funny. *I'm* a data analyst. You were working for Capital One before this, right?

Kristy: Yeah, but this pays more so I thought I'd switch it up. Also I've gotten a lot of experience with spreadsheets, since I've been making lots of them rating my favorite songs and movies.

Bob: Well, I bet this is kind of a step up for you, huh?

Kristy: Yep. Oh, by the way I got this for you.

Bob: A candy-gram? Thanks. And it's filled with...Jolly Ranchers! My favorite! Thanks!

Kristy: No problem. Your family's nice. What do you think of being a father?

Bob: Oh, it's just like the Mexican pizza at Taco Bell. Sometimes it's good, sometimes it's bad, but either way, when you start falling apart you just need to change the oil.

Kristy: Um, interesting analogy.

Bob: What do you think of being a recently divorced mother?

Kristy: Oh, it's alright. Thankfully my kids are prospering. Stuart's excelling in academics, and Kira's doing great in sports.

Bob: Nice! Penny's also excelling in academics, but Gary's making me proud with his enviable love life.

Kristy: Cool. You and your wife seem happy together. It's a shame things didn't work out with me and Demetrius.

Bob: Yeah, I agree. It's a shame.

Kristy: You think if we had stayed together we would've gotten sick of each other?

Bob: I don't know. The problem was you just weren't supporting me enough when I was in my alcohol phase.

Kristy: Yeah, I'm glad it looks like you've sobered up now.

Bob: Well, heh, I still drink, but I try to stick to 1 or 2 a day.

Kristy: Yeah, I don't really drink but I make the exception for red wine.

Bob: Yeah, red wine is good.

Kristy: And rum cake of course.

Bob: (laughs) Always a kidder.

Kristy: I thought you didn't like my jokes.

Bob: Well, it's been a while, and absence makes the heart grow fonder. Anyway, it was nice reconnecting.

Kristy: Yep, I'd better get back to work.

Bob: Aw, man! I was hoping we could keep hanging out, that way I

wouldn't have to do any more work!

Kristy: Well, you're a veteran. I'm new, and I've got to keep my job. See you later!

Bob: Alright. (goes back to his spreadsheet) Oh my gosh, I forgot to get water! (Goes back to the water cooler and then comes back)

(Back to the kids)

Tomas: Wow, hanging out with you has really made my day. Thanks for that.

Penny: Of course. Say, do you want to go with me at the Valentine's Day Thing?

Tomas: I don't know, I'll think about it.

Penny: Oh, one other question I was curious about - how did you learn English?

Tomas: I thank my heavenly father for Duolingo.

(Penny and Tomas laugh)

(Later on, they're home from school)

Gary: Hey, Dad, how did the day in the office go?

Bob: Oh, it went well. Apparently Kristy now works there.

Caroline: Oh, great.

Bob: Why does it matter? I've made it clear to her that I'm never getting together with her or anyone besides you, Caroline.

Caroline: Alright.

Bob: Wait...I just thought of something. What if that candy-gram was her trying to win me back? This is horrible! I'm going to have to have a talk with her about it.

Penny: Dad, I think you're overthinking it. Marcy's given me candy-grams before.

(Awkward pause)

Penny: And you know she's faithful to Gary.

Bob: The only issue is that Kristy's recently divorced. That's why I'm concerned.

Caroline: Just try to keep your discussions to business matters and I'm sure it'll be fine.

Penny: By the way. Mom, Dad, I'm in love.

Bob: With who?!

Penny: Tomas.

Bob: You're both fourteen, right?

Penny: Yes?

Bob: You're too young! He's full of sugar, spice and everything nice, and you're full of snips and snails and puppy dog's tails!

Gary: 14-year-olds aren't too young for romance.

Bob: (chuckles) You got any citations for your claim, Gary?

Gary: Disney channel sitcoms, The Babysitters' Club, junior romance novels, Disney channel sitcoms-

Bob: Well, I like Disney channel sitcoms, so I guess I can't complain.

Penny: Also Tomas is really mature. We play chess, do homework together and discuss philosophy.

Bob: Alright, you get the Bob Jones stamp of approval.

(The next day)

Penny: Tomas, you want to play chess again?

Tomas: I never don't.

(They play chess again)

Tomas: Checkmate.

Penny: Oops, didn't see the rook. That's the first game you've won in a while. Are you feeling any better?

Tomas: Nah, I guess I just got more practice.

Penny: It's cool that you got into some of my classes.

Tomas: Yep.

Penny: I knew you would ace Spanish. And you're doing okay in language arts?

Tomas: (chuckles) Yep. Just okay.

Penny: You want any help with your Secret Garden report?

Tomas: Hey, if I'm always getting help, then I won't learn for myself.

Penny: That's valid. How are things going with Marcy?

Tomas: A little better. My new mom is starting to understand a little more and we had a mediation. Basically, Marcy's going to try to be more respectful and I'm going to try to work on my baggage.

Penny: Sounds like a good plan. Have you thought any more about the Valentine's Day Thing?

Tomas: Still thinking about it. I'm consulting my inner wisdom.

Penny: Well you'd better consult quickly, it's only in three days.

(Meanwhile)

Bob: (to Caroline) So, Kristy and I were on a Teams Meeting together today. And after everyone else left, I told her that I didn't want to ever leave you and she said "What are you talking about?" and I said "I just wasn't sure about the meaning of the candy-gram," and she said "Bob, that's the dumbest thing I've ever heard."

Caroline: Um...glad everything turned out okay, I guess?

(Later, Marcy opens the door for Penny)

Penny: Where's Tomas?

Marcy: Oh, he and Gary are playing FIFA in his room. He finally bought it. Anyway, I guess this is life now. When you come over these days you only want to see Tomas.

Penny: No, I actually came here to see you. You're the boy sage.

Marcy: Boy sage?

Penny: Your relationship with Gary is idyllic.

Marcy: Well, I can't argue with that. But I think that has more to do with him liking me than me being a particularly good girlfriend.

Penny: Anyway, you also know Tomas well. You've spent 168 hours with him.

Marcy: What? That seems like a lot.

Penny: Well, you've lived with him for a week.

Marcy: Hmm...I would need a calculator to figure that out, but I'll trust your instincts. So anyway, what's up?

Penny: Well, I keep asking Tomas if he wants to go to the Valentine's Day Thing, and he keeps saying "I'll think about it."

Marcy: Hmm, I think that's his way of saying no.

Penny: Aw.

Marcy: But I'll go talk to him to see if I can get him to be more direct with you.

Penny: Awwwww.

Marcy: Don't worry, Penny. There are plenty of fish in the sea.

Penny: If Gary broke up with you, what if somebody told you "there are plenty of fish in the sea?"

Marcy: Ah, that'll never happen. Anyway, I'll go talk to him.

Penny: Right now?

Marcy: Yep.

(Marcy goes into Tomas' room)

Gary: Oh yeah! Another win for the Garitrator!

Tomas: You're really getting the hang of this game.

Marcy: Alright, Gary, ya freeloader! I need to have a word with Tomas, so shoo!

Gary: Aw, man. (leaves)

Marcy: Tomas, it's time for your daily adaption lesson.



Tomas: Why can't we do the music history lesson instead? That's so much more fun!

Marcy: Well, I can't argue with that, but you're already excelling in that. I've taught you the entire Black Sabbath catalog. But I feel like sometimes we gotta focus on things that'll be more important in the long run.

Tomas: But I don't like the daily adaption lesson!

Marcy: Well, you may not like it, but it helps you adapt. Trust me.

Tomas: I have never used any of the tips you've given me.

Marcy: Not even the firm handshake?

Tomas: Nope. People don't really shake hands anymore.

Marcy: That's true. We watch too much *Leave It to Beaver* in this house. Anyway, are you ready for my tip of the day?

Tomas: ...Okay.

Marcy: Decisiveness.

Tomas: What?

Marcy: Decisiveness.

Tomas: Bro, I have never heard that word before.

Marcy: Okay, basically it's the ancient art of decision-making.

Tomas: Oh, okay.

Marcy: So, decisions can be tough, but you have to make them. Kind of like scones. Scones are tough, but you have to make them. Because...because they taste really good. Get it?

Tomas: They didn't have scones in Honduras.

Marcy: What-what did they have?

Tomas: Churros.

Marcy: Uh, anything else?

Tomas: Fried ice cream.

Marcy: Oh, that actually sounds really good.

Tomas: Yeah, it is. Or it was. Do they have that in America?

Marcy: Maybe in some carnival in the South. Personally, I've never heard of it before now. But now I want to try it. Do you know where you can get it?

Tomas: You should check in the global section of your local supermarket.

(Dan cutaway)

Dan: Not a paid advertisement.

(Cut back)

Marcy: Anyway, we're getting sidetracked. The point is, that when you make a decision, you need to be firm about it and tell the other person what your decision is.

Tomas: Well, I try to. When have I not done that? Give one example.

Marcy: Well, the uh, the word is that Penny keeps asking you if you want to go to the Valentine's Day thing with her, and you keep saying "I'll think about it, I'll think about it, I'll think about it." This is not good. If you don't want to, you should just tell her no.

Tomas: What? I do want to!

Marcy: What?

Tomas: When I told Penny I would think about it, I was actually trying to think about it! And I decided I do want to go with her after all.

Marcy: Oh, okay.

Tomas: I think that you are just trying to cause friction because you don't like the new dynamics.

Marcy: Sure, maybe I am.

Tomas: Well you know, in Honduras we have a very Spanish concept called "karma."

Marcy: I thought that's an Indian thing.

Tomas: I know, I was making a joke, *get it?*

(The next day)

Penny: Curses! Foiled again!

Tomas: I only won because you forgot to castle.

Penny: Ha. Anyway, about the Valentine's Day Thing -

Tomas: I will go with you.

Penny: Oh, that's great!

(Meanwhile)

Gary: Oh man, my stomach. Dad, why'd you make me eat that year-old queso?

Bob: Well, we had to use it at some point.

Gary: I'd better call Marcy and tell her I won't be able to make it.

(At the Valentine's Day event, Penny and Tomas do fun stuff while Marcy stands around awkwardly)

Marcy: (sighs) Karma real. Jealousy bad.

THE END

