

Episode 2 - "THE THUNDERBIRDS"

Bob: Nothing quite says the American dream like a cookout. I'll take one Chicago style!

John Smith (Marcy's Dad): Got it, extra mustard.

Bob: Nope! Nope! Nope! I mean with extra ketchup! And a dash of mayo!

John: What the heck are you talking about?

Bob: That's Falls Church style...I made it up.

John: How do you want your dogs, folks?

Caroline: Oh, no thanks. Me and the kids are vegetarian.

John: Say, you know what's good? Grilled mushrooms! In fact, I'll make some of those right now!

Penny: Portobello! Nice!

Gary: I want mine medium rare!

Melody Smith (Marcy's Mom): So, Caroline, I've been re-reading Lord of the Rings, Harry Potter and The Princess Bride. What have you been reading?

Caroline: Um...mostly self-help books.

Melody: You'll get there.

(Over with the kids)

Marcy: So, I've been practicing my fingerpicking.

Gary: I've been working on my barre chords.

Marcy: Learned any chords recently?

Gary: Yeah, E7.

Marcy: Learned any songs?

Gary: "Learning To Fly" by Tom Petty.

Marcy: Oh yeah, well I learned "Learning To Fly" by Pink Floyd.  
Penny, what's that creepy smile?

Penny: Well, I was just thinking about how you like to play music...and Gary likes to play music...and, well, I'll cut to the chase. Why don't you guys form a band?

Marcy: Don't have enough time.

Penny: But spring break is coming up.

Marcy: That's true...Gary, we should do it!

Gary: But we don't have a drummer.

Marcy: My brother plays the drums.

Dan: Yo! I can join!

Gary: We don't have a bassist either.

Marcy: I'll switch to bass. I always thought it was neat. I saw one at the store the other day. I think I'll get it with my lawn-mowing money.

Gary: Hmm...how about keyboards?

Penny: They're usually optional.

Marcy: I think keyboards might be too much. I want to keep it authentic.

Gary: Wait a minute. Colin plays the synthesizer! Can we include him?

Marcy: Uh, fine, as long as it's in the back of our sound.

Gary: Looks like we got a band!

Penny: Thank me for the idea!

Marcy: Thank you, Penny!

Gary: Hey I was thinking it before she said anything.

Marcy: I don't know if I buy that.

Penny: Yeah, you tend to say things as soon as you think of them.

(Back to the dads)

John: You know, I've been restoring a 1973 Thunderbird. It just needed some greasing and engine calibration.

Bob: I can't understand a word you're saying.

John: Basically I'm fixing a really cool antique hotrod. Wanna see it?

Bob: Sure. (He opens the garage)

John: Here it is!

Bob: Wow, it's nice! What gender is it?

John: We call it a "she."

Bob: It's a beautiful, beautiful woman.

John: Uh, yeah. I agree. It's cool.

Bob: Can I have it?

John: No way, man! Me and my son Dan spent 30 hours on this all-told!

Bob: What if I paid you a lot of money?

John: Still no! No amount of money is worth our project! We're keeping this T-Bird. You ever heard of sentimentality?

Bob: What kind of mentality?

John: Is there anything you care about, not because it's worth money, but because it holds cherished memories?

Bob: Oh yeah, loads of things. My kids' toys, my old newspapers and phone books, my book that's been ruined by apple juice...

John: Well, think about it this way. This car is to us what that apple juice book is to you.

Bob: OK, that makes sense.

(Back to the others)

Gary: So, Dan, just how old are you?

Dan: 19. I'm in community college.

Melody: Hey, Penny! Hey, Gary! Where did my girl go?

Gary: She went to pick up a bass.

Melody: Oh, okay. Why's she getting a bass?

Gary: We're forming a band.

Penny: It was my idea!

Melody: Nice! I was in a band once. We were called "The Sweaty Armpits." (Upon blank stares) uh, it was a punk band. I know. Nothing excuses that terrible name. Just try not to think about it. (she walks away awkwardly)

Marcy: (With a bass) Alright, I'm back!

Gary: That quick?

Marcy: What? You've seen me run.

Gary: With a bass? Uh, anyway, want to practice?

Penny: Whoa whoa whoa! First you gotta choose a name.

Gary: Ooh, I've got loads of names! Pink Elephant! Caesar Dressing! Electric Toothbrush!

Marcy: Gary those all suck. You want to hear a good name? How about "The Thunderbirds."

(Gary's jaw drops)

Penny: Wow I've never seen Gary's jaw drop before.

Gary: That's the greatest thing I've ever heard Marcy words cannot describe the sheer awesomeness of that name how'd you come up with it how?

Marcy: Well, that's the name of the car my dad and Dan have been restoring lately. Also, we can practice in my basement.

Gary: Sure.

(Colin arrives on his unicycle)

Marcy: Oh, hi, Colin.

Colin: I heard you're forming a band, and you want me to elevate your music with the sound of the future!

Marcy: Well, sort of. Not to hurt your feelings, but we just want you

to be sort of in the mix, okay?

Colin: I can live with that! Anything for another social opportunity.

Gary: Well we have our whole band now! Shall we head to the studio?

Marcy: Sure!

Penny: I'm bored. Can I squat there and watch you practice?

Marcy: Sure.

(Back to the parents)

Caroline: Well, it's getting late and I have some chores to do, so I guess we better get going.

Melody: Sounds like a plan! Well we loved to have you!

John: And about the T-Bird, Bob, don't take it personally. I wouldn't give it to anyone.

Bob: (melancholy) Oh, it's okay.

(At the Joneses' house)

Bob: Oh. OH. OH THE EMOTIONS!

Caroline: What are you feeling, honey?

Bob: I want John Smith's T-Bird so bad!

Caroline: Well, it's a cool car, but I can see why he'd want to keep it. They put a lot of work into it. Why don't you finish up that spreadsheet you were doing earlier?

(Bob sits at the computer. Discouraged, he presses his head against the keyboard)

Bob: GAH! I can't focus on anything! I want that car like I've never wanted anything else!

Caroline: All urges pass. I bet by tomorrow you'll have forgotten all about that silly car.

Bob: You may be right...I think I'm gonna hit the sack early. Good night!

Caroline: Good night! (After he goes upstairs) He never goes to bed

early...

(Meanwhile)

Gary: Alright, we've got everything set up.

Dan: Let's see how we sound.

(They start playing)

Colin: Someone's out of tune.

Marcy: It's not me!

Colin: Oh, nevermind. I was on a weird setting on my synthesizer.

Dan: Take two!

Marcy: Uh, Colin, you're still a little loud!

Colin: Oh come on! I only have it at half volume.

Gary: Just let him play, Marcy.

Marcy: (sigh) Fine.

Dan: Take three!

(They start playing)

Gary: Marcy, I'm not sure if you actually know how to play a bass.

Marcy: Shoot! I was playing it like a guitar. I guess I have a bit to learn.

(A little later)

Marcy: Okay, I watched a YouTube tutorial "The Basics of Bass." We should be good now.

Dan: Take four!

(They play a simple blues-rock jam and it sounds quite good)

Gary: I think we sound pretty good together.

Marcy: What do you think, Penny?

(Penny gives a thumbs up)

Marcy: Well, it's getting late. I think I'm going to head up for the night. We should practice every day this week.

Gary: Alright, see ya!

Colin: Farewell!

(Meanwhile, Bob is tossing and turning in the night)

Bob: T-Bird...thunderbird...car...wildest dreams...successful...popular...out on the road...ladies...roadside bars...gas station food... (wakes up) I NEED THAT CAR! I know, tomorrow I'll start to brush up on John! I'll hang out with him and talk about everything! Maybe we'll become best buds!

(The next day, Marcy plays an ear-splitting guitar chord that wakes everyone up. An annoyed Gary and Penny walk over to her house)

Bob: DANG! These aren't the garage band days. Why did I hear a guitar?

Gary: What the heck was that for, Marcy?

Penny: You woke our whole family up!

Marcy: Rise and shine, folks! I wanted to let you know it's TIME TO ROCK!

Gary: In the morning? No, I want breakfast! I'll be back in a couple hours.

Marcy: Oh, alright. See you then.

Gary: What's the matter?

Marcy: It's just, being in a band has helped me to let out a lot of pent-up energy! I really enjoy it, especially with you.

Gary: Yeah, anything with you is at least a little cool.

Penny: (cheekily) Ooh, love scene!

Gary: I still want to get breakfast. I'll be back!

(Gary and Penny walk back to their house)

(Meanwhile, back at the house)

Bob: Caroline, I have a game plan! I'm going to get buddy-buddy brown nose with John.

Caroline: Why? What's that going to do?

Bob: Maybe eventually he'll give me the T-bird.

Caroline: But honey, he told you that car's sentimental to him!

Bob: Well maybe someday I'll be sentimental to him as well! Hey, kids, when you go over to Marcy's later I think I'll drop by too.

Caroline: Oh, for crying out loud.

Gary: Guess so, as long as you stay out of our way.

Caroline: *Please* don't ruin relations with the Smiths. The kids are friends!

Bob: Caroline, this plan is the most important thing I've ever thunk!

Caroline: "Gary's future wife," remember?

Bob: Alright! To the best of my abilities, I solemnly swear in my pursuit for the T-Bird I will not mess up!

Gary: What's for breakfast?

Bob: Expired waffles!

Penny: Knew it.

(A little later, Bob, Gary and Penny are at the Smiths' door)

Melody: Can you get the door, Marcy?

Marcy: Sure! (Opens the door.) Hi, Gary! Hi, Penny! Why did you come, Mr. Jones?

Bob: I have some business to attend to with your father.

Marcy: He's out in the garage again giving the car a paint touch-up.

Bob: Heeheehee! (Goes out to the garage)

Marcy: Dan's already downstairs, he got us set up, you ready to come down?

Gary: Wait! What about Colin?



Marcy: Oh yeah.

Penny: There he is!

(Marcy opens the door)

Colin: Present!

Dan: Alright, I took my drum kit to the next level. So, let's see how we sound today.

Colin: How about we take turns doing solos?

Gary: Sure!

Marcy: I mean, I just got started on the bass, but I'll try.

Dan: And a one, two, three...

(Dan kicks it off with some drumming. Gary plays a light guitar solo, Colin plays some synthesizer which causes Marcy to roll her eyes)

Gary: Take it, Marcy!

Marcy: Um...(starts slapping the bass) Hey, there we go! Yeah!

Gary: Way to go, Marcy!

Colin: Rock on, sister!

Marcy: Never call me that - (she finishes her solo) Woo, that was fun.

Penny: Fun to listen to, too.

Melody: Awesome job, kids!

Marcy: Mom! Where did you come from?

Melody: Upstairs. I could hear you practicing and I liked what I heard. You're much better than the Sweaty Armpits were. Keep at it.

Marcy: Well, we're working on it. But thanks!

(Meanwhile)

Bob: So, how's the waxing?

John: It's alright, but I'm doing the whole car by myself. It's a lot of work.

Bob: You want me to help?

John: Well have you ever waxed before?

Bob: I waxed my back.

John: Oh, you're such a kidder! Alright, you're hired! (chuckles)

(Together the dads paint the car)

Bob: Well, I think we've done a fine job.

John: I agree. This is perfect! You're a good guy, Bob. We should hang out more. Sorry I got mad yesterday. I'm just jumpy about people asking for the car.

Bob: Eh, bygones are bygones. So, you want to go to IHOP?

John: Nah, I want to hear the kids' band. Your kids are in it too, right? Come with me!

Bob: Alright.

(They go down to the basement)

Both Marcy and Gary: Dad! What are you doing here?

John: We want to hear you play!

Gary: Sure.

Dan: And a one, two, three...

(They play the same piece as before. It goes really well, especially Marcy's bass slapping)

John: Great job!

Bob: Bravissimo! Encore! Encore!

John: For only practicing two days, you guys are really, really good! It's like a real rock show! Why, that's better than some concerts I've heard! I wish the world could hear how good you are!

Marcy: Thank you so much, Dad!

(The dads go upstairs)

Gary: Let's keep practicing!

Everyone: Yeah!

Bob: I think I'll head out, John!

John: Yeah, it was great hanging out with you!

Bob: See ya later!

(Bob leaves)

(Back at the house)

Caroline: So, how'd your little "plan" go?

Bob: Oh, wonderful! First we painted the car.

Caroline: Riveting.

Bob: And then we watched the kids' band!

Caroline: Oh nice! Are they good?

Bob: Yeah. Marcy really knows how to slap that bass!

Caroline: Well, I'm glad that's working out. I assume John liked it too?

Bob: Oh yes he did! In fact, he liked it so much he said it was like a real concert!

Caroline: I'll have to see how it's going soon too! Oop, the dishwasher calls!

Bob: Hmm...if he wants the world to hear them, I know what'll make him happy! (he goes on his phone) Bookaconcert.com...book a concert...here we go! Concert booked!

Caroline: I'm sorry, what?!

Bob: I booked the kids a concert. That'll make everyone happy!

Caroline: What?

Bob: I went on Bookaconcert.com and booked the kids a concert!

Caroline: You can just do that?

Bob: Yeah, it's at the Lucky Moon Cafe!

Caroline: I mean, I'm sure Gary can handle it, he always likes to put himself out there. But I'm not so sure John really wants that for Marcy. He might have been exaggerating.

Bob: I think it'll be fine.

(The next day.)

Gary: Well, I'm off to band practice!

Penny: Can I tag along again?

Gary: Yep.

Bob: I'm gonna hang out with John again.

Gary: Hey, you do you.

(At Marcy's house)

John: Hey Bob! Want to sit on the back deck and drink some cold beers?

Bob: Sounds good! But first I need to make an announcement.

Marcy: Another day, another jam!

Dan: And a one, two, three...

Bob: Kids? I BOOKED YOU A CONCERT!

(Gary's jaw drops again)

Penny: Dad, what did you just say?

Bob: I booked you a concert.

Marcy: What. The. Heck.

Dan: Bro, we've only been practicing for 2 days.

Colin: I'm up for it!

Gary: Dad, what were you thinking?

Marcy: (heated) Where is this concert?!

Bob: Oh, it's at the Lucky Moon Cafe!

John: Bob! Why would you do that? That's too much pressure on my girl!

Bob: I thought it would make you happy. You said "it was like a real concert" and you "wanted the world to hear them."

John: Ever hear of hyperbole?!

Bob: Stop using words I don't know!

John: That's it. I'm canceling it! (tries to grab Bob's phone)

Bob: No! It'll be a good life lesson!

(John makes a fist at Bob)

Melody: Honey! While I too think that was super impulsive on Bob's part and I can't believe he would do that without talking to the kids, if it's booked, why don't you let them give it a try? They're certainly good enough. When I was in the Sweaty Armpits we played a show, and it was a disaster, but we learned a lot from it.

Marcy: Yeah, now that I think about it, it could be fine!

Gary: We just need to practice a bit more.

John: Alright, fine.

Dan: Let's take it from the top!

Bob: (sulking) I bet you want me to go home.

John: Nah. If the wife likes it and the kids like it, it's fine by me. Let's go grab the beer.

Bob: (brightens up) Certainly!

Dan: And a one, two, three!

(The band starts jamming again)

Penny: Wait, if you're going to need a concert, don't you need a real song to play?

Marcy: Hmm, good point. How about "Black Dog"?

Gary: Nah, I think it would be cool to do an original.

Marcy: Well does anyone have an original?

Colin: I've got one!

Gary: I've got one too! (annoyed) Alright, voting time! Who wants to do Colin's?

(Colin raises his hand)

Gary: And who wants to do mine?

(He, Penny, Marcy and Dan all raise their hands)

Gary: I think we have a winner!

Colin: Aw, fiddlesticks!

Gary: I'll go over to my house and grab it.

(Gary walks in)

Caroline: How's it going, Gary?

Gary: Oh, it's going great!

Caroline: What happened to Bob's concert idea?

Gary: Well, at first, nobody liked it, but then Marcy's mom liked it, and then everyone liked it!

Caroline: Alright. Do you think you're all up for it?

Gary: If we keep practicing I think so. (grabs the paper with his song on it and leaves)

(Back at Marcy's house)

Gary: Alright, here's the song!

Marcy: "How Would You Feel"? This is great!

Penny: Oh, I remember when you wrote that. (teasingly) Marcy, it's for you!

Marcy: Is it? (blushes) Thanks, Gary!

Dan: Song looks good. We've got three days to practice it!

Colin: I have a neat synthesizer riff idea in my head!

Gary: Don't make it too loud, Colin!

(Meanwhile with the dads on the backdeck)

Bob: The beer's good. (Takes a sip)

John: Yep. (Takes a sip)

(Three days later)

Gary: Well, I think it's as good as it's gonna get! What do you guys think?

Marcy: I think so!

Dan: Yep!

Colin: It's simply wonderful!

Bob: Alright, kids, it's time!

(Everyone gets up and walks out)

Gary: I can't believe we're going to play a real concert!

Marcy: I can, because we are!

Colin: My fifteen minutes of fame have finally cometh!

Bob: I've rented a tour van for you to put all your instruments!

(Gary's jaw drops again)

Penny: Wow, the third time in a week!

Marcy: Thank you so much! (hugs Bob)

Bob: Hey, you aren't my kid. People will say I'm a creep.

Marcy: You're right. It is creepy. Bleh. Disgusting.

(Later at the concert. Penny, Caroline, Melody and John are in the audience, as well as a bunch of "latte-sipping" hipsters and The Beatles)

Gary: We'd like to do a rocking little number called "How Would You

Feel!"

Gary:

How would you feel  
If I said I loved you  
And I said I wanted  
To spend every day with you

If I said I loved you more than  
anyone else can  
If I said I thought of me as just  
your biggest fan  
I can't help but wonder what you'd think

How would you feel  
If I said I liked you  
And I said I wanted to  
Spend every day with you

I can't help but wonder what you'd think

Marcy: And you can't help but wonder what I'd think, how would you  
feel about me?

(Marcy plays a short bass solo. Then Colin plays a synthesizer solo  
which makes Marcy cringe. Dan finishes it off with a drum fill.  
Everyone claps)

Gary: Thank you, thank you!

Marcy: I hope we passed the audition!

Paul McCartney: You certainly did! How'd you like to record a song  
for us?

Gary: Eh, I think I've had enough of the limelight.

Dan: Me too.

Marcy: Agreed.

Colin: Ask someone else.

John Lennon: Fiddlesticks!

Bob: (to John) So, can I have the T-Bird?

John: No.



THE END