

EPISODE 3: "MAKING A SCENE AT AN ITALIAN RESTAURANT"

Gary and Penny: Happy mothers day, Mom!

Caroline: Thank you!

Penny: Here's a card!

Caroline: (Reads from the card) "Roses are red, violets are blue, you're a great mom, and this kitten loves you."

Penny: It fulfilled the two criteria - cute and cheap.

Gary: And here's a chocolate box, too, Mom!

Caroline: Um, Gary, half of the chocolates are eaten.

Gary: You don't like coffee and caramel anyway, so I figured why not.

Caroline: (Turns to Bob) What did you get, honey?

Bob: It's Mother's Day? I thought it was just a run-of-the-mill Sunday!

Caroline: (sigh) You forgot about Mother's Day. So no present, let alone special plans.

Bob: 'Fraid so.

Caroline: You do realize that's really annoying, right? I mean, when have we forgotten about Fathers' Day?

Bob: A few times.

Caroline: Well, I guess you're right, but I have to do more for this family every day than you do. As soon as you get off work, you just sit around and watch football...clip compilations!

Bob: Alright, alright. Tell you what...tomorrow will be...Mothers' Day Part Two. Tomorrow I'll give you a present and we'll go to a restaurant. What type of restaurant do you want?

Caroline: I don't know, maybe Italian.

Bob: Got it! I'll get the best one in town and make a reservation tonight.

(Later, Bob is looking at the computer with Gary and Penny overseeing)

Bob: Gary, you get around, don't you? Got any recommendations?

Gary: Dad, what kind of teen hangs out at a sit-down Italian restaurant?

Bob: Good point. There's someone who does know the answer - Google! "Cheap Italian restaurants near me."

Penny: Dad, if you're going to choose a cheap mediocre restaurant it kind of defeats the point of the whole thing.

Bob: Alright, fine. I'll make an amendment. "GOOD but Cheap Italian restaurants near me." Aha! What's this? Superb Mario's? This looks good!

Gary: Dad, you just clicked on the first thing that came up.

Bob: You mean you don't trust the algorithm? Son, if there's one thing you should trust in, it's Google. Google knows what's best for everyone. That's why it's so successful.

Penny: I would rather use DuckDuckGo.

Gary: Penny, sometimes I think you're just different for the sake of being different.

Penny: Or maybe I'm just smart.

Bob: No more fooling around! We have to focus on our game plan! So, Superb Mario's looks good...it's in Vienna, so not far...

Gary: Dad, are you sure this is the only place you're going to look at? I mean, it's only got three stars! And I don't mean Michelin stars.

Bob: Yeah, but that's very good for a place where the fettucine alfredo is \$3.99.

Gary: I don't think a sit down restaurant with prices that would make Taco Bell blush is ever a good thing.

Penny: Dad, why don't you just look at some other restaurants, just to see what the options are? Then we can weigh the detractors and benefactors of each one and come to a logical conclusion.

Bob: Hey, I just want to make a decision! And that sounds time consuming, not to mention boring. I'm putting my foot down. Superb Mario's is where we're going. I'm sure Caroline will love it. Now we have to decide on a present. Do either of you remember what

Caroline's favorite song is? It's slipped my mind.

Penny: I think she told me it's "Carolina in My Mind" by James Taylor.

Bob: Oh, real surprise! Well, I think I know what I'm going to get her, a vinyl record of that! Hmm...Marcy has a pretty impressive record collection, right?

Penny: Yeah.

Gary: She probably has that song. Maybe we could find out where she got it from or something?

Bob: No, I was thinking more along the lines of asking if she would lend it to us.

Penny: Dad, why the heck would she want to do that?

Gary: I'll go over tomorrow and ask her, just so I can tell you she said no.

Bob: No. I'll come with you and ask her myself. I think I ought to get to know your future wife.

(The next day, Gary and Bob come over to the Smiths)

Melody: Come on in, guys!

Gary: Hello!

John: Hey Bob, you want to go paint the fence or something?

Bob: Nah, I'm here to ask your daughter a question about her record collection.

John: ...Okay?

Marcy: Oh, hey Gary! I'm doing a project for chemistry class right now. You want to hang out tonight, maybe play some Smash?

Gary: Sorry, can't. We're going to a Mothers' Day dinner.

Marcy: What?

Gary: Yeah, so, my dad forgot it was yesterday so we're celebrating today. Mother's Day part two, he calls it.

Marcy: What restaurant are you going to, may I ask?

Gary: Superb Mario's.

Marcy: Oh, so funny story about that. We went there last night for "Mother's Day part one," and then we all spent the whole rest of the night in the bathroom. Except, we only have two bathrooms, so two of us had to drive to the woods. So yeah, would not recommend.

Gary: Okay wow, that's rough. I'll ask my dad if we can do something different. Speaking of my dad, he has a, uh, question to ask you.

Bob: (steps awkwardly into the room) Hello, Marcy. I have a question to ask you about your record collection.

Marcy: Yes?

Bob: Do you have "Carolina In My Mind?"

Marcy: Yep.

Bob: Can I...borrow it?

Marcy: For how long?

Bob: Uh...I don't know.

Marcy: How about a week.

Bob: Sounds good!

Marcy: Okay. I'll go get it for you. (gives Bob the record) Here you go! Now, I'm creating acid rain with sulfur water to hopefully save my grade, so you probably want to get out of here. I hope Mrs. Jones has a good Mothers' Day part two!

Gary: See ya!

Marcy: See ya!

(After they get back)

Bob: Where's Caroline?

Penny: She went to the spa. She said she's "treating herself for Mothers' Day part two" in a passive-aggressive voice.

Bob: Oh, okay.

Gary: So, Marcy said that she went to Superb Mario's last night and it gave her whole family food poisoning.

Penny: Oh my gosh, that's terrible! Dad, we really should choose a different restaurant.

Bob: Sorry, kids, the reservation's already set. They were probably just unlucky. Maybe the cooks were stressed out by the Mother's Day rush. I mean, every restaurant has their good days and their bad days I'm sure. I'm going to duck out and buy a card real quick.

(A few minutes later)

Bob: Back! What do you guys think of my card?

Penny: (reads the card) "Roses are red, violets are blue, you're a great wife, and this hamster loves you...?"

Bob: What, you think it's too similar to yours? Oh, it's a quarter to 5. I made the reservation for 5:30. I hope she gets back real soon.

Caroline: Home, everyone! Oh wow, I was there for quite a bit of time. When's the reservation, Bob?

Bob: 5:30.

Caroline: Oh, no! I need to get myself ready! Oh, I forgot, it's Mothers' Day part two. I don't need to do anything, because I don't need to please anyone but me.

(Everyone is in the car)

Caroline: So, honey, where are we going exactly?

Bob: Superb Mario's in Vienna.

Caroline: Oh, I think I've heard of that place. I hope they're good.

Gary: Well - (stops himself)

(When they get to the restaurant)

Waitress: You've come for the 5:30 reservation? I'll get you seated immediately. The name's Fiona and I'll be serving you today. Now, would you like anything to drink?

Bob: Hey, you're not Italian, you're British!

(The family look at Bob with intense embarrassment)

Waitress: (chuckles) Well, I'm afraid I am, but it's nothing to make a fuss about.

Bob: This is dumb! I like it when a restaurant is authentic! I want to see some Italian people!

Waitress: I'm cross with you. You've spoken rubbish of me and you've made a git of yourself, haven't you? I reckon you're a bit of a naughty father, but I must serve you regardless 'cos I'm but a waitress. Now, what would you like to drink?

Caroline: I'd like a Sprite.

Penny: I'll also take a Sprite.

Gary: Make that three Sprites.

Waitress: Got it! (to Bob) What'll it be for you?

Bob: I'll take a red wine.

Waitress: What type of red wine, we have twenty varieties.

Bob: I'll take whatever's the cheapest one.

Waitress: Got it. I'll serve you the Welch's grape juice that's been out too long, as that's our cheapest variety. (smirks at Bob) Also, do you all know what you'd like to order for main course yet?

Caroline: I think so. I'll take spaghetti, please hold the meatballs.

Penny: I'll have fettucine alfredo.

Gary: And I'd like an individual pizza.

Waitress: I've marked all that down. (to Bob) How about you?

Bob: Once again, I'll take whatever's cheapest.

Waitress: Got it. Kids' macaroni and cheese it is for you. (smirks)

Caroline: One more thing. Can we get breadsticks?

Bob: (mouths "Caroline" in frustration)

Waitress: Absolutes! That'll be a dollar a stick. How many would you like?

Caroline: Hmm...seven.

Waitress: Then seven you'll get!

Bob: Aw, come on! I wish this was Olive Garden!

Waitress: Once again, you've made me cross. You're making a mockery of this establishment. You ought to be taken away. But I don't make the calls round here. I'll get the drinks. Your food will be ready in twenty to thirty minutes. (walks off and comes back) Here's your drinks!

Caroline: Thank you!

(Caroline laughs and starts blowing bubbles in her drink with her straw. Gary and Penny follow suit)

Bob: Oh come on! That's annoying!

Caroline: Mothers' day part two, remember? It's all about me!

Bob: I'm feeling very henpecked today. First it was that British lady who kept being "cross with me", whatever that means, and now it's you.

Caroline: Did you remember to get me something?

Bob: Oh yes. I have a card and a present. Why don't you open the card first?

Caroline: (Opens the card) "Roses are red, violets are blue, you're a great wife, and this hamster loves you?" This is just a very slight variation of the one Penny gave me yesterday!

Bob: They had a whole bunch of cards like that. There was a monkey one, a rhinoceros one, a dragon one - it was a sale.

Caroline: Alright. What's the present?

Bob: Oh, (reaches out of a bag) Here it is!

Caroline: "Carolina In My Mind," James Taylor? My favorite record! Oh, thank you, honey! I can't wait to spin it when I get home.

Bob: There's something you should know -

Penny: (whispers to Bob) Why don't you let her enjoy it for now?

Gary: (whispers to Bob) Don't spoil the moment.

Waitress: Here's the breadsticks.

Bob: Alright! (Starts to dive in)

Caroline: Uh-uh-uh, not so fast. Since it's Mother's Day part two, I'll divy them up. I get three, Penny gets two, Gary gets one and you get one.

Penny: Yes!

Gary: Aw.

Bob: You know what? I've decided it's not Mothers' Day part two. It's just a regular Monday in May.

Caroline: Then you didn't do anything for Mothers' Day at all and you're a horrible husband.

Bob: Alright fine, it's still Mothers' Day part two.

Penny: Mom! Why did you double dip in the olive oil?

Caroline: (snarkily) Because it's Mother's Day part two and I can do whatever I want!

Bob: I think you're letting the power go to your head.

Caroline: Sorry, I'm just annoyed at how this night has been turning out. Well, aside from that gift you gave me.(sighs) I'm sorry. I suppose I can't stay mad at you as long as I have that great gift. The thoughtfulness you showed to think of my favorite song and then buy a vinyl record of it shows you really do care.

Bob: But - (Stops himself)

Waitress: Here's your food!

Bob: Aw, come on! I would call this a mouse portion, but that's an insult to mice!

Waitress: Maybe next time don't think of food as dollar bills and you might be more pleased with your order. (walks off)

(Bob sulkily eats his mac and cheese in three spoonfuls)

Gary: Dad, you can have a slice of my pizza.

Bob: Thanks!

(Later, everyone is at home)

Bob: Anyone feel queasy?

Penny: Nope.

Gary: I'm good.

Caroline: No?

Bob: Whew, I'm glad we managed to evade the food poisoning.

Caroline: What are you talking about? Alright, time to play "Carolina In My Mind!"

Bob: Yeah, try to enjoy it as much as you can this week.

Caroline: Why just this week?

Bob: Because then Marcy wants it back.

Caroline: WHAT?

Penny: I think you'd better tell the truth, Dad.

Gary: Yeah, it's time for the culprit to come clean.

Bob: Alright. (sigh) Caroline, let me explain what went on in the preparation of this Mothers' Day Part Two.

THE END