

EPISODE 4: "FATE-DEPENDENCE DAY"

Bob: Hot dog! There's nothing like going to an amusement park on the 4th of July!

John: Yup. And it's all thanks to Dan and his summer job as an animatronics engineer.

Bob: What? How many jobs does that dude get a year?

John: A lot, he's a floater. Once he graduates from community college he's going to be a full-time computer repairsman.

Marcy: Here's my plan - find the fastest freakiest rides, and then ride all of them till I vomit.

Gary (in his head) *I'm torn...I want to spend time with Marcy, but that's not what I want to do at all.*

Penny: Sounds like a good idea, Marce. Can I come with?

Marcy: Of course.

Penny: Will you be joining us, Gary?

Gary: Uh-Yes! Of course!

Marcy: Alright! It's a done deal!

Caroline: How about you, Bob? We can use this an opportunity for romance...at a breakneck speed!

Bob: (sighs) Caroline, I'd rather not. Breakneck speed's not my speed. Can't we just have youthful romance doing the kiddie rides?

Caroline: Well first we have to see what they've even got. I've never been to Adventure World before.

Melody: We have. They've got all the usual suspects - roller coasters, spinny things, a haunted house ride, a Ferris wheel, gravity defying rides, and of course a carousel for the little kids and the easily scared. Interestingly, the original location was in Wisconsin, so they've got frozen custard and cheese curds on the menu.

Bob: No funnel cake?

Melody: Don't worry Bob, there's still funnel cake.

Caroline: But how will we navigate the park?

Gary: Oh, I found a map.

Bob: Let's see..."You Are Here." How does it know where we are? Did they put trackers on us at the front entrance?

Penny: No, Dad, it knows where we are because it knows where we're standing in relation to the whole park.

Bob: Oh yeah, that makes more sense.

Marcy: So, looks like the Ferris Wheel's west, the roller coasters are north, the spinny things are south, and the gravity defiers are east.

Bob: Where's the snack bar?

Marcy: Also west. Anyway right now it looks like we're standing near the "Furry Friend Meet and Greet."

Penny: Aww, furry friends are so cute!

(They spot animatronics)

Gary: Uh Penny, those don't look like normal furry friends.

Marcy: Yeah, they look demonic.

An animatronic bear walks up to them.

Bear: Howdy, y'all! I'm Ted E. Bear! Do you want a bear hug?

Everyone: No.

Bear: Yeah? Great! I'll gladly offer one. Kids go first. I'll start with the little girl.

Penny: Does he mean me?

Marcy: Probably.

(The Bear starts chasing Caroline)

Caroline: No! Get away! Nobody wants a bear hug!

Bear: L-let's not be mean. I'm a respectful bear.

Caroline: If you're a respectful bear, then why are you trying to hug

us when we've said no?

Bear: Oh. You said no? I thought you said yes! I guess I'll just go back to my cave. (Goes away)

Gary: That was a close one.

An animatronic rat walks up to them.

Rat: Wazzup. I'm DJ Cheesy. I remix easy-peasy. Do you want a squeezy?

Everyone: No!

Rat: I respect that, broski. However, if you want I could cook up a fire beat to make you dance.

(No response)

Rat: Come on y'all, take a ch-ch-ch-chance.

(Dan walks by)

Dan: Are these animatronics giving you trouble?

John: "Trouble" would be an understatement.

Dan: Yeah, unfortunately I haven't yet fixed the programming that makes them understand the word "no." FOLLOW ME, YOU OVERBEARING OPERATORS!

(The robots follow Dan away)

Rat: The ants go marching one by one huzzah, huzzah.

Marcy: Well, glad that's been sorted out. Now let's hit the rides!

Bob: Wait, first we've gotta hit the snack bar.

Gary: Yeah, let's do that first.

(Everyone follows Bob to the snack bar)

Random Teenager: So, what do you all want?

Bob: Funnel cake, funnel cake!

Gary: I'll try the fried Oreos.

Penny: I guess cotton candy.

Caroline: I'll get an ice cream sundae with hot fudge.

John: I'll take a hot dog with mustard and onions, hold the ketchup.

Melody: Frozen custard and cheese curds, please.

Marcy: I think I'll have that too.

Random Teenager: And, what would you like to drink?

Bob: Whiskey.

Random Teenager: We don't sell whiskey.

Bob: Then just, regular beer.

John: Pina colada.

Caroline: Lemonade.

Melody: Coke.

Penny: Root beer.

Marcy: Dr. Pepper.

Gary: Fanta.

Random Teenager: Alright. I'll get the drinks now, your number is 32.

Bob: 31 orders before us? Gosh.

Penny: Dad, I think the numbers are arbitrary.

A WHILE LATER

Bob: I like pina coladas, and getting caught in the rain...I'm not much into health food, I am into champagne...

John: Bob, do you have to sing that song the entire time I'm drinking this?

Bob: Well, it is the pina colada theme song. Wait, I just realized, that was kind of a dumb idea.

Gary: Yeah, riding rides on a full stomach isn't ideal.

Caroline: I think we ought to take a break before we hit the attractions.

Melody: Yep.

John: Agreed.

Marcy: Dang, how long are we going to put it off?

Bob: Don't worry, we won't put it off anymore after this.

Gary: We just need to find something to do for like a half hour.

Penny: Hey, how about the photo booth?

Everyone: Yeah!

Bob: Alright, so first it'll be me and Caroline, then John and Melody, then me and Gary, then Melody and Marcy, then Caroline and Penny, then Gary and Penny, then (singsong) Gary and Marcy!

John: Well, that'll definitely take us a half hour.

Melody: Or more.

Documentary style text that says "2 hours later..."

Bob: Man, that took a while.

Caroline: That's because you insisted on having a black-and-white photo, vignette style photo, mood lighting photo and MOST WANTED photo of each combination!

Bob: What? It was for posterity!

Marcy: Now can we *finally* do some rides?

Gary: Yeah, at this point we only have 3 hours before the fireworks!

(Sequence of them doing different rides. First, Caroline and Bob on the carousel)

Bob: I don't even know if I can handle *this* ride. The horse is heightened, and I'm a bit frightened!

Caroline: Grow up.

(Then the kids)

Marcy: Let's do the haunted house ride.

Gary: Nah.

Penny: I'll pass.

Marcy: Don't be chicken...

Penny: Hey, chickens are smart.

Gary: Yeah, they can play video games.

Marcy: Fine. Let's do the Rising Phoenix.

Gary: What's that?

Marcy: Oh, just the tallest longest roller coaster in the whole park.

Penny: Yeah!

Gary: Ummmm...okay?

(They go over to the ride)

Ride Operator: Alright, looks like you're all tall enough...

(Gary crouches)

Ride Operator: Oh wait, the guy isn't tall enough.

Marcy: Yes he is.

Penny: He's crouching.

Ride Operator: Oh, alright. All of you just get in there. I'm going to start the ride in like 2 minutes.

(Meanwhile)

Melody: What do you want to do, John?

John: How about the Gravitron Plus?

Melody: In all our years that's the only one we've never tried. Let's do it.

(They get on the Gravitron plus which leads to a surreal sequence)

Melody: Free, free fallin'...

John: Running down a dream...

(Back to Caroline and Bob)

Caroline: Alright, we've ridden the carousel three times now. Is there *anything* else you're willing to do?

Bob: Hmm, do they have a swimming pool?

Caroline: They have the Whirlpool Ultimate.

Bob: Do they have a slide?

Caroline: They've got the Hyperslide Deluxe.

Bob: Do they have a swingset?

Caroline: No.

Bob: Why do amusement parks always have to be so over-the-top?

Caroline: Hey, if you want risk-free fun just go to a playground.

Bob: I can't, that would look weird.

Caroline: Good point.

Bob: Alright, let's just do whatever you want to do. I could use some exposure therapy.

(Meanwhile, back with the kids)

Marcy: Whew, good job, everyone! We succeeded in vomiting *over the edge*!

Gary: Yep. It wasn't easy, but we managed alright.

Penny: Now what do you want to do?

Marcy: How about the Ferris wheel?

Gary: Eh...

Penny: I'm not doing the Ferris wheel. Haven't you seen the movies? They always get stuck when you're at the top.

Gary: (Realizing he could have time alone with Marcy) Sure.

(They get on)

Penny: I'll watch to see if it gets stuck.

Marcy: So Gary, have you ever done one of these before?

Gary: Nope. In our time together you've convinced me to try so many things I never would've dreamed of on my own.

Marcy: That's cool.

Gary: There's a nice view. I can see Dan from up here.

Marcy: Yeah, it looks like he's mutilating DJ Cheesy.

Gary: That rat is getting his just desserts, that's for sure.

Marcy: You want to talk about anything?

Gary: I don't know.

Marcy: Woo! We're at the top!

(The ride gets stuck)

Penny (yells to the top): I warned you guys!

(Back to the ride)

Gary: Oh come on! How often does this kind of thing happen in real life?

Marcy: It's like we're in some kind of TV show.

(Penny rushes to tell the parents, who have all regrouped)

Penny: Mom! Dad! Marcy's dad! Marcy's mom! Gary and Marcy are stuck at the top of the Ferris wheel!

Bob: Penny, is this one of your pranks? Because it's not *that* funny.

Penny: No, it's true. Just look at it. See?

Bob: The wheel's not wheeling.

Penny: Exactly!

Caroline: What are we going to do? Should we call the fire department?

Melody: Someone probably already has.

John: If Dan's anywhere around here he should be on it.

(Meanwhile)

Marcy: Marcy?

Gary: Yeah?

Marcy: Isn't it crazy how wherever I go, I always seem to run into you? I mean, first you were in my science, history *and* Spanish classes, then you became my neighbor, then we made a band together...I could go on with lots of other things...and now there's this.

Gary: It's just fate, you know?

Marcy: I've never really thought about fate.

Gary: I feel like life's just a series of coincidences.

Marcy: Wow, you got deep. I mean, I go deep too sometimes...life's just a blur to me. Every day seems like an adventure.

Gary: (burps) Sorry, that's the fried Oreos.

Marcy: (laughs) Oh, look, there's Penny and everyone else. Looks like my dad's talking to Dan.

John: Dan, do you think you can take a break from the animatronics to fix this?

Dan: Sure, I just need to turn the off switch on Ted E. Bear.

Bear: Honey bear, honey bear, what are you doing in your under-

(Dan switches the animatronics off)

Dan: I'll go talk to the operator.

(He walks over there and then comes back to the group)

Dan: Alright, apparently he spilled cotton candy on it. He admits he's probably going to get fired for this blunder. Anyway, I can try to fix it, but it'll take a little while.

Melody: How long's a "little while?"

Dan: Probably a couple hours.

Penny: The fireworks are in half an hour...guess they'll get an up-close view.

Bob: Hopefully they don't do anything bedraggled up there.

Caroline: Also hopefully they're far enough that the sparks won't hit them.

(Back to Gary and Marcy)

Marcy: Looks like Dan's fixing it now.

Gary: Good. I'm starting to get dizzy up here. But there's a part of me who hopes this never ends.

Marcy: There's a part of me too...

Gary: But I'd miss everyone else.

Marcy: Yep. For sure.

Gary: Wants conflict with other wants.

Marcy: And feelings conflict with other feelings.

Gary and Marcy: Liiiiiiiiife's weiiiiiiiiird.

Gary: Hey, look there are the fireworks!

Marcy: Niiiiiiice!

(Everyone looks at the fireworks)

Bob: Ah, fireworks! What good, safe fun!

Penny: They're so nice, it almost makes up for this whole anticlimactic amusement park trip.

John: Eh, I can make my own fireworks almost as good as these.

Melody: I mean, your fireworks are impressive, but I wouldn't say they're like these.

John: I said "almost" as good.

Caroline: It looks like they're just distant enough from where Gary and Marcy are.

Marcy: They're beautiful up close.

Gary: But they are very very very bright.

Marcy: Yeah, good thing we don't have epilepsy.

Gary: It's a good thing Colin isn't here.

Marcy: Yep. Anything's better without Colin.

Gary: No, I meant because he has epilepsy.

Marcy: Oh, right. Wow!

Gary: The big ones!

(Everyone across the park cheers.)

Penny: These fireworks are truly majestic!

Bob: Yeah, even more so than a Double Baconator!

(The fireworks finally finish)

Marcy: That was...whoa.

Gary: Indeed.

(Back on the ground)

Dan: Alright, just a little more elbow grease...boom! The Ferris wheel is fixed! Or at least it should be. Turn it on, Steve!

Steve: Roger!

Dan: I thought your name was Steve.

Steve: No, I meant I turned the Ferris wheel on.

Dan: Looks like it's working.

Caroline: It's a miracle!

Dan: It's not a miracle, it's just Dan. (Cool theme plays)

Marcy: Yesss! We're saved!

Gary: Yeah, now we and all the other trapped people can get down!

Marcy: Oh yeah, I forgot about the other stuck people!

(Shots of other people getting down from the Ferris wheel, before Gary and Marcy finally get down)

Gary: I can't decide if that experience was good or bad, but it was certainly interesting.

Marcy: Yep. That's a good word for it.

Penny: I'm so jealous! You guys had such a great view!

Marcy: Well, we did have a good view, but it went along with extreme dizziness and slight eye pain.

Penny: I still consider it worth it.

Marcy: Oh you know, I got a shot on my Polaroid. You can have it if you want.

Penny: Thanks!

Caroline: Well, I think we should get going.

Melody: Yep, us too.

(The two families walk back to the parking lot)

Bob: This was an overall good trip, but the highlights were, without a doubt, the snacking and photo booth. What did happen to the photos?

John: I thought you were carrying them.

Bob: I thought Dan was carrying them!

Dan: I wasn't even around when you took them!

Gary: Guess we lost them.

Bob: NOOOOOO! That's it! Tomorrow, we do this trip all over again!

THE END