

Episode 5: "I'M LAUGHING SO HARD I'M CAMPING"

Bob: What are our plans for this weekend?

Caroline: I'm going to vacuum!

Penny: I'm going to do a jigsaw puzzle!

Gary: I'm going to throw coins in the wishing well!

Bob: Don't you dare! We need that money for my whiskey and wine! Anyway, all of that sounds boring. Why don't we do something real fun, something we don't normally do, to shake up the game of life?

Caroline: Well, do you have any specific ideas?

Bob: Not really. But I know where to look. When in doubt, look at the good deals! This looks like a good article. "How to have fun and spend less - for families." How about we see the local Carmen production? Kids go free!

Gary: What's that?

Caroline: An opera.

Penny: What's opera, Mom?

Caroline: It's like a musical but very very boring and most people don't like it.

Bob: Oh, check this out! The Muppet Museum's got a family deal!

Gary: Fozzie Bear gives me nightmares.

Penny: And Piggy's kind of stereotypical.

Bob: Fiddlesticks...let's see if there's anything else. Oh, this looks good. The Happy Camper has a "To Hook First Timers" 50% off deal this weekend! Anyone want to go camping?

Gary: Sure.

Penny: That sounds neat.

Bob: Well, I think I've found our winner!

Caroline: Hold the phone. Camping is a lot of work, Bob. You have to pack a ton of stuff and there's all kinds of nature stuff you don't like.

Bob: Not here. This campsite is beginner friendly. There's walls around it so the animals can't get in. And the whole area is practically pre-fumigated with bug spray.

Caroline: Alright. Well, if everyone else really wants to do it, I guess I'll give it a shot. But none of us have ever gone camping before, so if you end up not liking it I don't want you to make a fuss.

Gary: Don't worry, we won't.

Caroline: Well, today's Thursday, so if we're going over the weekend we should pack tonight.

Bob: Don't worry, I'll pack like a rocket!

Penny: I'll try not to obsess.

Gary: I don't think I need to bring a whole lot, so the rest of you can take care of it.

(Montage of packing; Bob packs food; donuts, potato chips and beer. Caroline packs a whole ton of clothes for everyone including both winter coats and warm weather swimsuits, and the sleeping bags and the tent. Penny packs toiletries and a first aid kit. Gary plays a computer game. When they've finished, they've stuffed it all in three giant bags.)

Bob: Ah, nothing puts hair on your chest like packing for camping.

Caroline: If you think that was intense, just wait till we actually go camping.

Gary: That was exhausting! I think I'm going to get some lemonade.

Penny: You didn't do anything!

Gary: Not true. I beat the infamous level 56!

Caroline: Now, just how far is this campsite?

Bob: Hmm, let me check...it's in Connecticut!

Caroline: Aye aye aye! That's an 8-hour drive. We'll have to leave straight after school tomorrow.

(The next day, at school)

Gary: Have you ever gone camping, Colin?

Colin: No. I don't see what the point is. Our society has evolved for a reason. Why should we go backwards?

Gary: Because it's fun?

Colin: Not for me. I don't think anything outdoors is truly fun.

Gary: What about you, Marcy?

Marcy: Oh, I've gone camping about...(mumbles counting) twenty times!
(Holds all of her fingers up and points up her toes)

Gary: Wow, you're experienced.

Marcy: Yeah. It's my family's favorite thing to do besides fixing cars and rock climbing.

Gary: Interesting. So, do you have any good tips for a new-timer?

Marcy: Twenty trips, twenty tips! One: use the amenities, two: read the rules, three: find a flat spot, four: learn how to find your way without cell service, five: check the weather, six: stay organized,

(Timeskip)

Sixteen: respect the other campers, seventeen: don't screw with the animals, eighteen: learn to do your business in the woods, nineteen: never eat beans, and twenty: clean up before you leave.

Colin: Wow! You know a lot of useless information!

Marcy: Shut up.

Gary: You sure know a lot. I'll be out all weekend so I can't hang out.

Marcy: Do you want me to house-sit while you're gone, for fifteen dollars?

Gary: I guess so.

Marcy: Alright!

(later, everyone is in the car)

Bob: Alright, let's get this show on the road!

Caroline: Bob, that's not the way to the highway!

Bob: I thought you go down Oak Street and make a left.

Caroline: No, you go down Elm Street and make a right.

Gary: Can you put on some music?

Bob: Sure! (puts on "We Built This City" by Starship)

Gary: What the heck is this?

Bob: Camping music! It reminds me of nature!

Penny: Are we there yet?

Gary: Are we there yet?

Penny: Are we there yet?

Gary: Are we there yet?

Caroline: (giggles) Are we there yet?

Bob: Cut that out, everyone! It's not funny!

(Gary and Penny continue to say are we there yet)

Bob: Don't make me turn this car around!

(They stop)

Gary: Man, this ride would be so much funner if we had one of those fancy everything cars.

Penny: Yeah, with a movie player, and swirveling seats, and USB ports!

Caroline: Now, now, everyone, we should be thankful for what we have.

Penny: What if what we don't have is better?

Caroline: Sometimes you have to settle for less.

Bob: I disagree. You should do everything in your power to make a dream come true.

Gary: Then can we buy an everything car?

Bob: (shakes his head) Unless it involves money.

Penny: I already miss Pippi and Felix.

Bob: Well you get to see them every day, and this may be the only time you go camping!

Penny: Only time?

Bob: Yeah, if you don't like it.

Gary: What states are we going through?

Bob: Maryland, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, New Mexico, Michigan, California, Kansas -

Gary: What?

Bob: Sorry I lost track. I started naming all the states. Just the first four.

Penny: (sees the "Maryland Welcomes You" sign) First state! Only three more to go before we reach Connecticut!

Gary: When will we stop for food?

Caroline: Halfway through our drive, so another four hours.

Gary: Aw, fiddlesticks!

Caroline: Are you sure Marcy's doing a good job house-sitting?

Penny: She does have a pretty messy room.

Gary: It was a good deal! Who else would have done it for only fifteen bucks?

Penny: I bet our other neighbor Mr. Frontporch would've done it for free.

Bob: Yeah, but he's old. What if there's an emergency? He couldn't do jack! I think Gary's future wife getting accustomed to living in our house is a fine idea.

Caroline: Would you cut it out with the future wife stuff? I think you're living vicariously through Gary and I don't like it.

Bob: Sorry.

Gary: Anyway, I don't think anyone needs to worry because there's

nothing to worry about.

Penny: Want to do a Mad Lib, Gary?

Gary: Sure.

Penny: Place.

Gary: Bathroom.

Penny: Animal.

Gary: Elephant.

Penny: Person.

Gary: Chiropractor.

Penny: Adjective.

Gary: Creamy.

Penny: Adverb.

Gary: Suspiciously.

Penny: Verb.

Gary: Gallivant.

Penny: Another animal.

Gary: Rhinoceros.

Penny: Alright. Here it is. Once upon a time -

(Cut to the house)

Marcy: I've really been lucking out lately. I'm surprised Gary's still buying from me now that we're together, but hey, works for me. Time to lock in! (She flops on the couch and starts reading a comic book. Then she throws it across the room and reads another comic book. After a timeskip there are about twenty comics on the other side of the room)

Whew, I'm thirsty. Let's see what they got in here. (Opens the fridge) Nice! Dr. Pepper! (She opens it and spills a bit on the floor) Whoops! (Pippi comes and licks it up) Attagirl, Pippy! That saves me some work!

I'm sure Gary won't mind if I use his guitar. It's better than mine.
(She takes Gary's guitar off the stand and plugs it into his amp)
This must be broken. It's quiet as a mouse! (Turns it up all the way
and starts strumming the same chord over and over again looking
satisfied)

(Back with the Joneses)

Caroline: Why are you turning here, Bob?

Bob: I want to take the country route.

Caroline: But that'll add another hour to our trip!

Penny: Dad, don't do it!

Gary: Why are you doing it, Dad?

Bob: I don't want to go through the city. I believe it has high crime
rates. Gives me the heebiejeebies.

Caroline: Now we'll be driving till midnight!

Bob: If I get drowsy you take the wheel.

Caroline: No! This is your fault! If you get drowsy we'll go to a
motel!

(They start driving through a hick town)

Bob: Look, kids! This is the salt of the Earth!

Penny: Hey Gary, want to play hick town I-spy?

Gary: Sure!

Penny: I spy a silo!

Gary: I spy a saloon!

Penny: I spy a Quonset hut!

Gary: I spy a general store!

Penny: I spy a bluegrass festival in town square!

Bob: Oh, shoot. I think I made a wrong turn, and there's no service
here.

(Caroline facepalms)

Bob: (rolls down the window and talks to a couple walking down the street) Hey! Can I have some help with directions?

Daisy: Look, Levi, there's some city folk asking for directions!

Levi: Daisy honey, I couldn't hear him because of his city accent!

Bob: So, uh, how do you get back on the highway?

Levi: Just make a turn over the hill and go down yonder!

Bob: Thanks! (rolls up the window) I have no idea what that dude said. Let me put it into Google Translate. (looks at his phone) Oh! So it just means turn left, go straight and then turn right! Why couldn't he have just said that?

(Timeskip)

Caroline: Alright, kids, I think we can finally start looking at where to stop for dinner.

Penny: YESSS!

Gary: Feels like I've waited all my life for this moment. Can we go to Burger King?

Penny: How about Dairy Queen?

Bob: I want Wendy's!

Caroline: We can get that stuff anywhere! I say we support a local business and get some rustic restaurant food. How about the One-Eyed Rabbit Bar and Grill?

Bob: Hmm...is it a family restaurant?

Caroline: Doesn't appear to be. But their prices are low.

Bob: Let's do it!

(Timeskip)

Gary: Yuck! I'm never having scrapple again!

Penny: That limburger sandwich was horrible!

Bob: Well, kids, I guess you're not true salt of the Earth.

(Timeskip)

Bob: We're finally here!

(Gary, Penny and Caroline are all asleep)

Bob: WAKE UP! I know what'll get 'em. (Plays an explosion sound on his phone)

Caroline: Are we here?

Bob: Yes sirree Bob!

Penny: Finally!

Gary: At last!

Bob: Other campers may be sleeping! We need to pitch our tents quietly!

Caroline: Shhhh!

(Caroline and Penny pitch their tent well. Gary and Penny's falls down immediately)

Bob: How can this be? If men are better than women at just one thing, it should be camping.

(Penny and Caroline are already asleep when Gary and Bob have finally pitched their tent)

Bob: Perfect! And it only took twenty tries.

(They go in)

(Back at the house)

Marcy: (who is still strumming the chord) I'd better stop. I don't want to get a noise disturbance. Oh no, what's this? The vibrations made the Joneses' Christmas portrait fall off the mantelpiece!

(She mostly fixes the portrait) Whew, glad all those craft classes finally paid off. Oh no, Gary's face is still messed up! I can fix this. (draws a "suave" anime face on Gary where it's messed up) Perfect.

What's that smell? (Sees the dog pooped on the pile of comics) Shoot,

I forgot to walk the dog! And it's discolored too. Guess the Dr. Pepper didn't go well. (She cleans it up and sprays it. Then she picks up her comics) I'll sell these online. They'll probably still pass as "fair" condition. I'd better get home. (She leaves)

(Back at the campsite, the next day. Everyone's getting out of their tents)

Bob: It's our first day of camping! Just smell that fresh air! I can tell I'm going to enjoy this. (sees a bee) Holy kamoley, what the heck is that?

Caroline: It's a bee.

Penny: By the looks of it, it may be a hornet.

Bob: (BLEEP)! That's it! I'm putting my foot down we're leaving NOW!

Gary: Aw, but we just got here!

Caroline: Don't you want to get your money's worth?

Bob: Who cares about money when our lives are at stake? There's a bee!

Gary: Be glad it isn't a bear.

Bob: Oh, NO NO NO!

(Bob grabs their tents and all their stuff and runs to the car. Everyone else runs after him. He gets in the car and turns the engine on lickety split)

Bob: WE'RE. GOING. HOME!

(Caroline shakes her head in disbelief)

Penny: (sigh) Another 8-hour drive.

(Timeskip of 8 hours later, they get home)

Bob: Home sweet home, the land of freedom from bees!

(They walk in)

Penny: Well, I guess Marcy did a good job after all. Everything's just as we left it.

Gary: (walks by the mantelpiece and does a double take on the

portrait) Huh, I didn't know I was this handsome.

THE END