

EPISODE 7: "GARY MAKES NEW FRIENDS"

Bob: Gary, what are you planning to do this weekend?

Gary: Hang out with friends.

Bob: Which friends?

Gary: Marcy.

Bob: It seems like you're always hanging out with her! It's always "Marcy this," "Marcy that"! I mean, I know you're next door neighbors and she *is* your future wife, but really, do you not know anyone else?

Gary: Well, she's my best friend *and* my girlfriend. So she's a "twofer," I mean we like each other a lot, so why not spend as much time together as we can?

Bob: I don't know it just seems a little co-dependent. I mean, do you two have no lives outside of each other? That's for *after* you get married.

Gary: Well, Marcy does several things that I don't. She does karate, soccer, bowling, she's got that lawn-mowing business, she's got that whole vinyl collection, she paints the house and she welds things -

Bob: Alright, alright I get the idea. She's a "jill of all trades." But what do you do that she doesn't? Besides use a urinal?

Gary: Watch YouTube. Doodle on the back of my homework. Netflix and chill. Sit around and listen to my stereo.

Bob: Hmm, it sounds like your future wife is much cooler than you. I'm not sure if I like this. Maybe you should find some new hobbies.

Gary: Well, I play tennis sometimes, and that's not something she does.

Bob: Gary, that's pretty much the lamest sport to play. When I picture a guy who plays tennis, I picture a guy who lives in a gated community, uses Dijon mustard, and probably goes to galas.

Penny: Hey, I like tennis too!

Caroline: And I used to play tennis!

Bob: I don't know why I feel like it's different when a woman plays it.

Caroline: Also you play golf. That's even more of a gated community sport.

Bob: Well you got me there, but anyway, we're going off topic. I'm trying to give Gary a man-to-man. So go back to baking cupcakes or whatever you were doing.

Penny: Actually Mom was helping me develop my new math game website.

Bob: Sure. Anyway, Gary, the point is, I'm rethinking my judgment on you being best friends with a girl. Your woman is supposed to be the old ball and chain, the one that keeps you in line. If you're both just hanging out all the time then where's the responsibility? You might become hoodlums.

Gary: I don't know what you're talking about. She likes pretty much everything about me and I with her. I want my girlfriend to be my *friend*, not someone I always have to impress, someone I have to change for.

Bob: First of all, you should have more guy friends.

Gary: Well, Marcy just does a lot of stuff I think is cool and interesting.

Penny: Plus, she's really nice! I love when she teaches me about DIY stuff. Since we became neighbors she's been one of my closest friends - most girls at school are airheads.

Bob: Well, you can hang out with Marcy until the cows come home for all I care. I'm just worried that spending so much time around a girl will cause Gary to become...soft.

Gary: Dad, I'm not going to become soft by hanging out with a girl who likes Van Halen and carries around a Swiss Army knife.

Bob: I guess you're right. As someone who's gone through jumbo chunks of my life without having *anyone* to hang out with, I should be happy you've got such a great compadre, even if she is a little...confused. So go run along and hang out with whoever makes you happy.

Gary: Thanks, Dad! You want to come too, Penny?

Penny: Nah, tonight I'm focused on designing the final boss of "Multiplication Wizard."

Gary: Sounds good!

(At Marcy's house)

Gary: So, Marcy, what do you want to do?

Marcy: Well, Gary, I'm glad Penny isn't here because tonight will be a very special milestone in our relationship.

Gary: Oh nice. Are we gonna kiss?

Marcy: Nope. I am going to show you...my rock.

Gary: I've seen all your rocks.

Marcy: You haven't seen my special rock. This one's my first rock. The OG.

Gary: Nice! So where is it?

Marcy: You know that closet behind my bed?

Gary: Oh yeah, the one you call The Vault, right?

Marcy: Yep. I finally grant you access to The Vault. Now let's go up there and check it out!

(They run upstairs to her room)

Marcy: Now time to open this bad boy for the first time in three years! I'm sure the rock will still be here. Nothing can happen to it when it's in seclusion. (Struggles really hard to open up the closet before she successfully opens it, loses her balance and falls backwards)

Gary: Marcy are you okay?

Marcy: (getting up) I'm okay as long as the Vault's okay. (Reaches on the shelf in the vault, on which a lone rock is sitting, and shows it to Gary) This is my little man. His name is Gary Granite (laughs) named him before I met you. He's my second favorite Gary *and* my second favorite guy. It's a pretty close race, though.

Gary: (laughs) Nice to know my only competition is an inanimate object.

Marcy (laughs) Yep. Gary Granite's favorite color is indigo, his top three artists are Joan Jett, Led Zeppelin and Foreigner, his favorite book is The Hunger Games, his favorite animal is...scorpion -

Gary: Hey, you're just basing all of this off of you.

Marcy: Well we have a lot in common.

Gary: Don't you think it's a little...puerile to have an imaginary friend?

Marcy: Keep in mind I made this all up when I was ten.

Gary: Oh, alright. So how old is Gary Granite?

Marcy: Well I found him 6 years ago, so I like to say he's six. He's a young boy, full of snips and snails and puppy dog's tails! You want to hold him?

Gary: Sure.

(Marcy hands it over)

Gary: Hey, Gary Granite...what a handsome rock you are...(slips on a baseball on the floor) Whoa! (regains his balance but steps on a lego) Ow! (slips on a sock and finally falls to the ground. Gary Granite falls out of his hands and breaks into two)

Marcy: (Gasp) GARY!

Gary: I'm okay.

Marcy: No, the other one! (screams) He's been split!

Gary: Hey, there could be twins - Gary and...Cesar!

Marcy: Why would I name him that? And no, there can't be twins! There's only one Gary Granite, and he's come to an untimely demise.

Gary: Oh, alright. Hey, why don't we go play some Smash?

Marcy: I think you've played enough "smash" for today.

Gary: Well, is there anything I can do to cheer you up?

Marcy: The best thing you can do right now is leave my house.

Gary: Then that's what I'll do. Love you, Marcy!

Marcy: Not feeling it!

(Back at the Joneses, Gary lies on the couch with his socks still on)

Penny: Gary leaving his socks on? He must be feeling *really* bad. Hey, Gary? What's up? (Gasp) Did something happen with Marcy?

(Bob walks into the room, munching on popcorn)

Bob: Spill the tea!

Gary: I killed Gary Granite!

Penny: Who?

Gary: Her original rock! I dropped it on the ground, and it split in two!

Penny: That's awful, Gary! Lesson zero - never drop a rock collector's rock.

Gary: Hey it's because I slipped on her baseball - and her lego - and her sock!

Penny: Sounds like you're both at fault. Her for having a messy room, and you for being - less than prudent.

Bob: I feel her pain - I had a pet rock once. Actually I don't think I ever lost it. It should be around here somewhere. I'll go look for it. Maybe if I find it you can give it to Marcy as a peace offering.

Gary: Uh, Dad, she had that rock since she was ten. She's not going to feel the same about whatever your rock is.

(the next day at school, Gary wants to sit with Marcy at lunch)

Gary: Hey, (chuckles) is this seat taken?

Marcy: No, but I don't want to be around you right now.

Gary: Alright. I respect that. (wanders around the cafeteria) Dang, where am I going to sit now? (goes over to Colin's table)

Colin: Hey, Gary.

Gary: Hello, Colin. Can I sit with you?

Colin: Sure. I'll introduce you to my other friends. Meet Fred, Steven and Cohen. These guys are in my DND club *and* my robotics team!

Fred: Pleased to meet you.

Steven: Glad you could join us!

Cohen: Welcome to our table!

Gary: Um, thanks? So, what kind of stuff do you guys talk about?

Fred: Well, we were just having a friendly debate about black holes.

Steven: But we can talk about whatever you want to talk about.

Gary: Sure! You guys have any favorite rock bands?

Cohen: Oh, we don't know much about rock.

Colin: Most of us just listen to video game music.

Fred: I occasionally put on some Brahms.

Gary: How about...books? You guys read any good books lately?

Cohen: Indeed! I just read one about the future of crypto.

Steven: I'm almost finished with my Stephen King marathon.

(Colin, Fred and Cohen all laugh)

Colin: (to Gary) It's funny 'cause his name's Steven. We have kind of an inside joke about that.

Steven: Yeah, and I also like Stephen Hawking!

(Colin, Fred and Cohen laugh again, while Gary chuckles awkwardly)

Colin: So, guys, let's get down to business. I'm a little unclear about question 17 on the calculus test.

Fred: Well, it's easy if you just multiply before you divide.

Colin: Ha! I'm so dumb. I know so much of the advanced stuff sometimes I forget good ol' PEMDAS!

(Fred, Stuart and Cohen laugh)

Colin: Oh, Gary, sorry for leaving you out of the joke. I should explain. That's another inside joke we have, about me being the "dumb one", because I spend so much time on my chemistry sometimes I forget to study for calculus.

Gary: Heh, that's pretty funny I guess.

Colin: Hey, guys, Gary and I go way back. I sometimes play video games with him and his girlfriend.

(Gary sighs)

Colin: I also play the synthesizer in his band. So, you guys cool if I invite him to the Discord server?

Fred: Yes.

Steven: Yep.

Cohen: Indubitably!

Gary: What?

Cohen: Just prepping for the vocab test.

Colin: Oh, also. You want to come to our Friday night hangout?

Gary: Uh...

(Marcy is looking at Gary wistfully. When Gary looks back at her, she turns to contempt)

Gary: I guess I don't have anything else to do, so sure.

Fred: Gonna be at your house, right, Steven?

Steven: Ye - wait, I forgot. My sister's having a party with her cheer team this Friday. (turns to Gary) Hey, you've got a cool place. Can we have it there?

Gary: This is all happening so fast, I mean I just met these guys, but s-sure, I don't see why not.

Colin: Great! We'll see you then. We can coordinate on the Discord server.

(Later, that night)

Penny: Marcy still mad at you?

Gary: Yep. For the first time since we started high school we didn't sit together at lunch.

Penny: Shoot, this is worse than I thought.

Gary: I'm surprised Bob isn't around saying "Oh no! What about the wedding?" or something like that.

Penny: I think he's too focused on his search for his rock right now.

(Bob is downstairs overturning all sorts of old papers, dusting off

bookshelves, looking under old furniture and behind seasonal decorations, etc.)

Caroline: Hey, did you wash the - BOB, WHAT IN THE WORLD????

Bob: Looking for my rock. No time to talk.

Caroline: Bob! That's no reason to be messing up our whole basement! Why is our wedding certificate on the floor?

Bob: Because I thought it might have been covering up my rock.

Caroline: Well, I don't want to have to clean up after you, so I might as well help you with your search. Now, are you sure it's down here?

Bob: I mean I think so. The basement's where we put all the stuff we don't use. Where else would it be?

Caroline: I don't know, but I think if in another half hour we haven't found it down here we ought to look somewhere else in the house.

Bob: Well you'll have to show me where to look, because I'm sorry, I just have no clue where else it could be. Hey! Here's my "Hotel California" record I was looking for the other day! I should give it a listen.

Caroline: Focus, honey!

Bob: Right. We're on a mission.

(Meanwhile)

Penny: Gary, you have your socks on again.

Gary: Yep. I'm grieving.

Penny: Why are you watching Sesame Street?

Gary: I don't know. It's feel good TV. It reminds me of my youth.
(teary) Before I met Marcy!

Penny: Anyway, maybe I should go over and see if I can do anything to help.

Gary: (teary) Thank you, Penny. Thank you.

(Penny goes over to Marcy's house)

Marcy: I told you I don't want to - oh, hey Penny. Want to hang out?

Penny: Sure...so you're not mad at me?

Marcy: Why would I be? You never did anything wrong. As a fellow collector, I'm sure you understand.

Penny: Sure do, Marcy. But do you think it's maybe a little silly to hold a grudge against Gary for a mistake?

Marcy: I don't know. After that happened I'm starting to rethink my relationship with him. It wouldn't be the first time he messed up something that belonged to me.

Penny: Haven't you messed up stuff that belonged to him, too? I mean, if you're always together, you're both bound to mess up sometimes.

Marcy: I guess. But I just don't really see any reason to hang out with him right now. I mean, if I don't feel like I like him as a boyfriend or as a friend, then why hang out?

Penny: Well...I guess that makes sense. So who are you hanging out with now?

Marcy: Well, right now I'm hanging out with you. We can talk more in my room.

(They go up to her room)

Marcy: So - (burps) Sorry, as you can see I've been drinking a lot of Dr. Pepper. (Laughs)

Penny: Uh...yeah.

(The entire room is filled with finished Dr. Pepper cans, laundry and even vinyl records)

Penny: MARCY! Your vinyl records are on the floor!

Marcy: Oh, yeah. I guess I forgot to pick them up.

Penny: Well why are they on the floor in the first place? I thought when you never take them off your rack except for when you play them!

Marcy: Well, I guess I just wasn't thinking about that rule. Hey, Penny, I went mall shopping earlier. I went to Sephora. You want to see my new makeup/fragrance kit?

Penny: What the heck is wrong with you, Marcy?

Marcy: I don't know, Penny, I don't know.

(Meanwhile, Gary is on the couch while Bob and Caroline are still downstairs. The doorbell rings)

Gary: (deadpan) Oh. That must be them. (opens the door) Hey, guys.

Colin: Yo!

Fred: This house is well-designed.

Gary: You think so?

Colin: Fred's always judging houses. He's into architecture.

Fred: Yeah, I got my start in Minecraft, and it all kind of went from there.

Gary: So, what do you guys want to do?

Colin: Oh, we were thinking of -

(Caroline and Bob come upstairs)

Bob: Hey, Gary. I'm a little disappointed we didn't find my rock, but hey, life goes on. Anyway, it looks like you made some new friends after all.

Caroline: Yeah, who are your new friends?

Gary: Oh, they're just people I met at school. You know Colin, and here's Fred, Steven and Cohen.

Fred: Hey.

Steven: What's up.

Cohen: 'Ello!

Bob: Hey, guys! Feel free to do whatever, and if you need anything, just let me know.

Caroline: We'll just be in the other room doing taxes.

Gary: Sounds like a plan! (turns to Colin) So what were you saying?

Colin: Oh, right! Well, we brought our DND books and we were going to have a session of our ongoing campaign. You can sit in if you'd like.

Gary: Alright.

Colin: Also, we brought some robots we've been working on and we were wondering if we could have them fight each other in your backyard. Is that cool with you?

Gary: Sure, that sounds n-neat.

Colin: Alright.

Steven: You have snacks, by any chance?

Gary: Oh, yeah! We've got Fritos, Doritos, Cheetohs -

Fred: Hmm, we don't usually eat that stuff.

Cohen: Yeah, our moms don't let us. Do you have, like Sunchips, or Boom Chika Pop?

Gary: Nope, sorry.

Fred: That's too bad. I don't think I've gotten enough calories today.

Colin: Hey, don't worry, I brought Cliff bars!

Cohen: Sustenance!

Steven: Colin saves the day, as usual.

(The group laughs)

Colin: Alright, we'll start with the DND.

(They have it all set up on the table)

Colin: Warning - I forgot some of my minifigures.

Fred: No problem. We can just use our imagination.

Steven: At least we all have our character sheets!

(The group laughs)

Colin: By the way, I'm the dungeon master, Gary.

Gary: What's that mean?

Colin: I run the campaign.

Gary: (shakes his head with disbelief, thinking these people are in their own world) I don't know what you're talking about, but heh, guess I'll learn.

Colin: So, the tavern is quiet when Ogarth, brooding in the corner, says to you -

Cohen: Wait, what about recap?

Colin: Oh yeah, my bad - hang on, we took a break last week when Fred went on that NASA Headquarters tour, so it's been a little while. Does anyone have the notes from last session?

Fred: Hmm, I had them on my Chromebook, but I left it at home, sorry.

Steven: You only live like a block away, right? You want to go get it?

Fred: Nope, don't want to overexert myself. What can I say, that's the joy of having asthma.

(Group laughs)

(Meanwhile, Bob and Caroline at the computer)

Caroline: Bob, focus! We only have a week left to finish this!

Bob: Right, right, right. Sorry. I was just eavesdropping on Gary's new friends. I'm worried he's gotten in with the wrong crowd.

Caroline: What do you mean? I don't hear them saying anything inappropriate.

Bob: Yeah, I know, but they sound like nerds.

Caroline: You'll never be happy. First you criticize Gary for hanging out with Marcy, now you don't like that he's hanging out with "nerds." Get a grip.

(Back with Gary and the gang)

Colin: Well, so much for the DND I guess. Let's just move on to the battlebots!

Group: Yeah!

Gary: Um, are you sure this won't make a mess?

Colin: Well, one of the rules of the universe is you can't be

entirely sure of anything.

Gary: Hey, cut the philosophy and tell me if this is gonna get me in trouble with my parents!

Colin: Whoa, chill, bro.

Cohen: We're all friends here, united by our love of STEM!

Gary: Well if it's what you all want to do, I guess that's what we'll do.

(They are outside with the bots)

Colin: So, first round - Fred's Decimator 6 vs Cohen's Hyperbeast! They're both drones, so it'll be an air battle. I'll referee.

Steven: And I'll record the match on my flip-phone!

Cohen: (scoffs) This isn't even a match. Your Decimator 6 will be decimated in 6 seconds.

Fred: And why is that, may I ask?

Cohen: Because I've got a few tricks up my sleeve. Don't worry, they don't violate the rulebook!

(Gary looks on bleakly)

Colin: And a one, two -

(Meanwhile, with Penny)

Penny: Marcy, I really think you should try making up with Gary.

Marcy: Yeah, but why though? I don't need him.

Penny: Well the way you've been acting lately I'd beg to differ. If you can put your records back, clean up all this laundry and control your Dr. Pepper intake, then you can unfriend Gary all you want. But the way things are going with you and with him, it doesn't seem like this is working out for any of us.

Marcy: Yeah, maybe you're right. I'll sleep on it. And you're right, with or without him I should get my act together. I think I'm gonna do some cleaning now. It was fun hanging out with you.

Penny: Yep. See you later!

Marcy: See ya!

(Back with Gary and the gang)

Fred: Hey, Cohen, I thought you said you would "decimate" me, but look who's getting crushed to pieces now!

Cohen: Yeah, well, you haven't seen nothing yet! I still haven't released my secret artillery!

Colin: Isn't this exciting, Gary?

Gary: Eh. Not a big robot guy.

Colin: What? I thought you were one of us!

Gary: Nope, sorry, I'm not. I have barely anything in common with this group. I just wanted people to hang out with is all.

Steven: So you're a poser.

Gary: Well -

Fred: Looks like your bot is beaten, Cohen!

Cohen: I wouldn't speak too soon. Because you are about to witness my final attack! (presses a button on his remote) DEPLOY WATER GUNS!

Fred, Colin and Steven: WATER GUNS?

Gary: (flinches) Oh no.

(The Hyperbeast squirts water at the Decimator 6, causing it to explode)

Fred: Cohen you freaking moron! My drone couldn't handle that!

Cohen: I thought you said it was water proof!

Fred: I said the Beta would be water-proof! This is the ALPHA!

Cohen: Well my condolences!

Gary: (fed up) Alright, guys! Time out! You exploded a robot in my backyard, and now there's all kinds of nuts and bolts and battery acid and you guys better pick it all up!

Colin: Oh, of course we will.

Steven: Hey, guys, it's nine o'clock.

Colin: Oh, sorry. Nine's our curfew.

Fred: My mom came to pick us all up.

Gary: I'm tired of this. You know what? You guys are not allowed in my house ever again.

Steven: Well isn't that ironic because I'm tired of you, you poser!

Colin: You can forget about joining the DND game.

Fred: I'll tell my mom about you!

(They all leave)

(Back to Marcy in her room. She now has everything cleaned up)

Marcy: Wow, Penny was right. Taking back control of my life was an awesome feeling. You know what? I think I'm going to go over to Gary's and make up with him right now.

(Marcy goes to Gary's house. She knocks on the door. Penny answers)

Marcy: I came to make amends with a certain guy.

Penny: (smiles) You won't regret it. He's in the backyard right now. He was just yelling about something.

Marcy: Oh, okay.

(She goes out to the backyard)

Marcy: Hey, Gary!

Gary: Marcy!

Marcy: Just thought I'd see what's up - by the way, we're friends again.

Gary: Nice! Am I glad to see you. My "new friends" just exploded a robot in my backyard. So I've got a lot of cleaning up to do.

Marcy: Oh, can I help?

Gary: Much obliged, Marcy, much obliged!

(They clean up the robot residue together)

Bob: It feels like...something good happened tonight.

Caroline: Well, we finished our taxes. Isn't that good?