

KIDS ON THE PORCH

EPISODE 5: War and Peace

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Adapted from "A Friend's Favor"
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Int. MIMI's room.

HILLARY

I said what is that young lady?

MIMI sputters to find an explanation.

Sasha, did you have anything to do with this?

SASHA

No ma'am

HILLARY

Mimi?

MIMI

Sasha didn't know anything about this.

HILLARY

Sasha, I think you better head home.

CUT TO: Ext. The next morning. SASHA and AUSTIN are sitting on the porch together looking bored.

SASHA

Okay, this is awkward.

AUSTIN

Where is everybody?

CUT TO: Int. School Psychologist's office.

MRS. PEREZ

Based on the evidence presented in your file and testimony from the faculty and your family, I'm going to refer you to a psychiatrist. It's only a recommendation, but I believe you would benefit from professional help that the school can't provide. While I cannot legally diagnose you, I believe that you may have Social Anxiety Disorder. It's not

uncommon for bottled-up anxiety to manifest itself in uncontrollable outbursts and fits of rage.

TRISH

So you're telling me that I'm crazy?

MRS. PEREZ

Trisha, I would never use that word. You'd be surprised how many kids your age are dealing with similar issues. Anxiety is commonplace, especially for girls your age. This girl, Mimi Masterson has had a tremendous impact on you. It's perfectly natural to be jealous and angry, but it's how we deal with those emotions that set us apart. In addition to my referral, I am going to require that you attend an anger management program, where they will teach you how to deal with anger head-on rather than allowing it to fester and eventually explode.

CUT TO: Int. MAC's living room. ROBERT, KATHERINE, GEORGE, HILLARY, MAC, AND MIMI are seated awkwardly in silence.

HILLARY

What are we going to do about this?

ROBERT

That's a good question. I can't keep bailing you out Mac.

MAC

No one's asking you to.

KATHERINE

Now that's enough of your lip young man! I'm placing you under house arrest. No phone. No TV. And no stepping outside this door! Now, I'm leaving this up to Robert to decide whether or not he wants to move forward "legally" on this.

GEORGE

Same for you young lady. Only you'll be under house arrest in Texas. And I hope you'll enjoy home school, because your stepmother Hillary is going to be your new teacher.

CUT TO:

TIFFANY

This just in. The results for Student Body President. And here to help me are my assistants, Shey and Sticks. Drum roll please.

STICKS does a light drum roll. *SHEY* is standing there spaced out with the envelope.

And the winner is... And the winner is! Shey! The winner.

SHEY

Huh? Oh.

SHEY opens the envelope and pulls out the results.

Austin Cane.

TIFFANY looks dumbfounded.

TIFFANY

(Unenthusiastically) Congratulations to Austin Cane. The first duty of the Student Body President is to coordinate and host our Annual Kiddie Carnival Fundraiser. Good luck.

She puts on a fake smile.

And that's all for today's news.

CUT TO: *Location TBD. AUSTIN, JAMES, and MILLIONS.*

AUSTIN

What's the Kiddie Carnival?

MILLIONS

Oh you don't know about the Kiddie Carnival?

MILLIONS burst out laughing.

MILLIONS

James, you wanna take this one?

JAMES

The kiddie carnival has happened every year since like 1977. Imagine having to babysit like 100s of kids. These parents just drop their kids off and leave it up to the teenagers to chaperone. It's the biggest money-making event of the year.

MILLIONS

I remember going to the Kiddie Carnival.

CUT TO: Flashback of YOUNG JAMES, YOUNG MAC, and YOUNG MILLIONS running around in a huge carnival setting. They stop before the Student Body President.

YOUNG JAMES

Yo!

The President ignores him.

Hey you!

STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT

What kid?

YOUNG JAMES

Take that!

YOUNG JAMES knees him in the groin. The president cringes in pain. YOUNG JAMES, YOUNG MAC, and YOUNG MILLIONS start laughing and take off.

CUT TO: Present day. Location TBD. AUSTIN, JAMES, and MILLIONS.

MILLIONS

Yep, those were the days.

AUSTIN

You guys gotta help me on this.

MILLIONS

Wait a minute. Wait a minute. We said we'd help you
campaign. Not run a Kiddie Carnival.

AUSTIN

I thought you liked the Kiddie Carnival.

MILLIONS

Yeah when I was a kid. Did you not hear what he just said?
Hundreds of brats just running around causing sheer terror.

AUSTIN

I'll owe you. Both of you.

MILLIONS

What are we talkin'?

JAMES

Yeah, what are we talkin'?

CUT TO: *TRISH in the middle of her anger management group.*

BOB

Hi, my name is Bob and I'm your anger management counselor.
I assure you that everything that is said in this room
stays in this room. This is a space of love and trust. With
that said, let's go around the room, introduce ourselves,
and talk a little bit about why we're here. Let's start
with you.

BOB motions to MARIA. TRISH is shocked to see another student from her school.

MARIA

My sister is driving me crazy! She stepped on my Blackberry and now I'm forced to actually speak. Now everyone must know that I am from a foreign country.

LINDA

You're from Mexico. It's not like you're from another planet. Wait, I take that back, you are from another planet.

MARIA

Oh yeah! And you were adopted!

LINDA

You were adopted you little brat.

They start arguing over each other in Spanish.

BOB

Girls. Girls. Please. Calm down. Now, what started this feud between you?

MARIA

Grandma Lupe lost her job since the family she was working for had to move to Texas. So now we have to a smaller apt. and share a room.

LINDA

Yeah well I'm not too thrilled either.

STICKS starts beating her drumsticks on the floor and screaming. Everyone turns to look at her. Again, Trish is surprised to see another kid from school. She looks around the room and realizes that everyone in the group is from her school.

BOB

Wow, that was interesting. And you are?

STICKS

Shauna, but everyone calls me sticks on account of my drumsticks.

BOB

Tell us Sticks, why are you here?

STICKS

I kind of pulled a Catholic School nun on one of the other Sensations. Needless to say, Jessica was not too happy about it.

BOB

And we'll get to physical violence, but let's finish our introductions. What about you?

DOUG

I'm Doug. Um, ever since my parents told me that I am adopted, I haven't spoken a word to them ever since. They know that I am angry and they feel that I am bottling that anger up inside and if I continue to hold it all in I may have another panic attack.

BOB

And how long has it been since you've spoken to your parents?

DOUG

Two years.

This sends the room into a rumble of disbelief.

BOB

Two years. Wow. We'll get to proper emotional release soon enough. Next please.

ROLAN

I'm Rolan Ramirez. People know me as the school bully. Principal McKinnley finally decided that she wasn't going to put up with it anymore. So here I am.

BOB

And we're glad that you are. (*Motions to TRISH*) Go ahead.

TRISH

I'm Trish, and I'm responsible for a school-wide attack on my ex-best friend Mimi.

BOB

Well Trish, that must have taken a lot of courage to say. I am aware of all of your individual cases and I can assure you that you are not fully responsible, but it shows greater character that you are willing to take responsibility for your actions.

MAC enters and plops down in a chair.

And you are?

MAC

Mac.

BOB

Tell us why you're here Mac.

MAC

My mom says I need an attitude adjustment, and since this is the only way she'll let me leave the house, I agreed with her.

CUT TO: Location TBD. AUSTIN lugging JAMES and MILLIONS' book bags. JAMES and MILLIONS are leading the way.

AUSTIN

How many books in here do you have? It feels like a ton of bricks.

JAMES

Exactly.

AUSTIN unzips one of the bags and pulls out a brick. JAMES and MILLIONS start cracking up.

AUSTIN

Oh that's it, you're gonna get it now.

AUSTIN tries to run after them but he is weighed down. JAMES and MILLIONS advance far ahead of him.

TEACHER

Hey! No running.

CUT TO: School News Segment.

TIFFANY

Welcome to daily update. I'm your anchor Tiffany Tindleton. The day is finally here for the Annual Kiddie Carnival. Our Student Body President Austin Cane claims to have it all under control. I'll be there to cover the truth.

CUT TO: AUSTIN stressing out at the carnival grounds. MAC and MILLIONS are blowing up balloons.

AUSTIN

The kids are gonna be here any minute and I'm freaking out. We still don't have all the booths set up. The decorations are not finished.

MILLIONS

Austin, relax. We got this taken care of. Guys!

Several students come out of nowhere to help, including SASHA.

SASHA

How can we help?

CUT TO: *Int. MIMI's Living room. ROBERT is seated before GEORGE and HILLARY.*

ROBERT

I want you to know that I have disposed of the evidence. I know that your daughter was doing Mac a favor. A favor that she should have never considered in the first place, but I think she's learned her lesson, and I leave it to you to dole out whatever disciplinary action you see fit.

GEORGE

Thank you officer.

ROBERT

(Gets up) Good luck with your move. Take care.

HILLARY

Oh officer, and Mac?

CUT TO:

TIFFANY

Tiffany Tindleton reporting from the Annual Kiddie Carnival Fundraiser. Are we ready to launch this or what? What do you think kids?

The camera pans to a huge group of kids, including BILLY, TRISTEN, and TANNER.

KIDS

Yeah!

TIFFANY

Alright let's go!

All of the kids start running toward the carnival and TIFFANY almost knocking her down.

TRISTEN

Hey, let's go pin the tail on the donkey.

TANNER

No let's go to the water slide!

BILLY

Water slide! Yeah!

BILLY takes off running to the slide.

CUT TO: A montage of AUSTIN running the ticket booth looking frantic and running from booth to booth frazzled.

CUT TO: AUSTIN looking exhausted. SASHA approaches.

SASHA

Austin, you need to calm down. Everything's going great.
The kids love it.

AUSTIN

Yeah, but the band I booked isn't here, and pretty soon the kids are gonna run out of things to keep them occupied.

SASHA

Don't worry. The Singing Sensations have been preparing for this occasion.

CUT TO: The Singing Sensations in a giant sing-along with the kids singing various songs (Old MacDonald, If You're Happy and You Know It, etc.)

CUT TO: STEPHANIE, CRYSTAL, and the SANDY SISTERS.

STEPHANIE

Okay girls, it's time to crash this carnival. Austin Cane is going down.

SANDY SISTER #1

I smell popcorn.

SANDY SISTER #2

I'm hungry.

STEPHANIE

Can it! You're both starting to act like Shey. You girls do something about the sound system. Crystal, come with me.

CRYSTAL

Do we really have to crash the carnival? It's going so well.

STEPHANIE

Crystal, I'm not asking you. Now move!

CUT TO: *Ext. TRISH's house. MIMI knocks at the door. TRISH opens.*

TRISH

Mimi, I wasn't expecting to see you here.

MIMI

Yeah well, I guess I couldn't stay away. I came to say goodbye.

TRISH

Mimi, I'm s-

MIMI

Just stop. You had every right to be angry with me, and I'm sorry. Can we declare peace? I need someone to be my pen pal.

TRISH

(Laughing) Of course.

They hug.

CUT TO: *Int. MAC's house. Kitchen. ROBERT is pouring a cup of coffee. MAC enters.*

MAC

What are you living here now?

ROBERT

I came to talk to you.

MAC

Yeah well, I don't wanna talk.

ROBERT

It's either that or go to an alternative school. Your choice.

MAC

Let's talk.

CUT TO: *The Singing Sensations are still performing the Sing-Along. All of a sudden the music cuts out. There is a murmur of groans from the crowd. AUSTIN runs to the stage.*

AUSTIN

Everyone just stay calm! *(To the Singing Sensations)* What do we do?

SHEY

We could order pizza.

AUSTIN

Anyone else?

STRINGS

C'mon, most of our instruments are acoustic anyway.

CHARLIE

Yeah, and who needs a mic to sing when you can project
right?

STRINGS

Right!

ERIC

Yeah, that's the attitude.

CHARLIE

Eric, you got rid of your headgear.

ERIC

Yeah Jessica made me chunk it. She said it was getting in
the way of my singing.

CHARLIE

Welcome to the real world cyber geek.

They roughhouse a little bit.

SHEY

Let's order a pizza.

STRINGS

No Shey, we're gonna play now. Pick up your guitar.

CHRISTY

What a nimrod!

CHARLIE

Okay cool it guys. Let's do this.

AUSTIN

Great!

The Singing Sensations start to perform again.

CUT TO: *Int. MAC's house. Kitchen. ROBERT and MAC are sitting at the kitchen table.*

ROBERT

Look, I'm not here to punish you. And I'm not here to replace your father.

MAC

Oh c'mon, can you cool it with the clichés?

ROBERT

Look, I'm here because your mother thinks that I can talk some sense into you. Bottom line, you need to straighten up. Think about your mother and everything she's going through. Do you want her to be unhappy?

MAC

No.

ROBERT

Then for her sake, make a change for the better.

CUT TO: *AUSTIN walking. He realizes that all of the kids are now carrying water guns. STEPHANIE and CRYSTAL emerge from the crowd with water guns.*

STEPHANIE

There's your target kids! Get 'im!

All the kids run after AUSTIN squirting water at him.

CUT TO: *AUSTIN approaches SASHA drenched. JAMES and MILLIONS are in the background swiping water guns from kids and throwing them into a box.*

AUSTIN

Stephanie is set on destroying this carnival.

SASHA

So you're wet. Big deal. Stephanie hasn't succeeded in anything. The kids are having fun.

AUSTIN

You know what? You're right. Let's all join in. Let's grab a water gun. This is war! Hey James, give 'em the guns back.

CUT TO: *MAC, MILLIONS, SASHA, AUSTIN, the SINGING SENSATIONS, and hundreds of kids waged in a water gun war. STEPHANIE, CRYSTAL, and the SANDY SISTERS end up getting the worst of it.*

AUSTIN

Charge!

SASHA

Hey Stephanie!

SASHA squirts her with the water gun. STEPHANIE screams and runs away.

Victory is sweet.

JAMES and MILLIONS form a Charlie's Angels position.

JAMES

You cover me and I'll cover you. These kids are goin' down.

CUT TO: *Flashback of YOUNG JAMES and YOUNG MILLIONS running around with water guns squirting each other.*

YOUNG JAMES

You're going down son.

YOUNG MILLIONS

I'd like to see you try. See if you can catch me first.

YOUNG MILLIONS starts towards one direction but runs in the other.

YOUNG JAMES

You can run but you can't hide!

YOUNG JAMES tackles him down. He gets up and pins YOUNG MILLIONS down with one foot.

YOUNG JAMES

Ha ha! Gotcha!

He takes his foot off and does a victory dance.

FADE INTO: Present Day. Int. MILLIONS garage. AUSTIN's Celebration Bash. JAMES is jumping up and down in a victory dance. There is a whole crowd of students dancing. MILLIONS gets up on the mic.

MILLIONS

Thank you all for coming out to celebrate my pal Austin's victory in becoming Student Body President and putting on the best Kiddie Carnival ever!

Everyone in the crowd cheers.

Austin get up here. Let's hear it for our new Student Body President, Austin Cane!

The crowd cheers again as AUSTIN makes his way to the stage.

CUT TO: MAC running towards MIMI's van as it pulls off. He stops and holds up a sign in front of him that reads, "I'm Sorry."

CUT TO: *AUSTIN's celebration bash. He gets on the mike.*

AUSTIN

Thank you. I couldn't have done any of this without my new pals, Mac, Millions, and James. Mimi Masterson, whom I'm surprised to say I will miss a great deal.

AUSTIN spots TRISH in the crowd.

And my best friend Trish, who doesn't deserve to be treated like a leper for making a mistake. There's one thing I have left to do. Audition. So please bear with me. If I'm terrible let's just pretend this never happened.

AUSTIN performs a solo to TRISH about friendship. When it is finished there is complete silence. Then the crowd begins an uproar of applause and cheers.