

KIDS ON THE PORCH

EPISODE 1: ATTITUDE VS. GRATITUDE

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Ext. Late afternoon. There is a bustle of activity as kids pass up and down the sidewalk; some of them on bicycles; returning home from school. This quickly clears away revealing the whole gang seated on TRISH's porch. MIMI is pacing around with her cell phone, arguing with her stepmother. Click. MIMI exhales a series of grunts and sighs. She looks around periodically to see if anyone is paying attention.

AUSTIN

Alright. What is it?

MIMI

It's just that the new BCBG dress came out and my stepmonster Hillary refuses to buy it for me!

MICHAEL

And we care because...

MIMI

I just feel like Cinderella you know! Trapped in a tower by an evil witch. Someone please climb my hair!

TRISH

Uh hello! That's Rapunzel, and stop being a drama queen. You never lift a finger and you almost always get your way.

MIMI

Well "almost always" isn't good enough!

She storms off.

MICHAEL

What a head case!

TRISH

Spoiled brat is more like it. She gets designer everything and I get hand me downs.

MICHAEL

(sarcastically) I guess I hadn't noticed.

TRISH

The rents never buy me designer clothes.

AUSTIN

The rents?

TRISH

Parents. Duh! Why does Mimi always get her way? When's it gonna be my turn? Don't get me wrong. I love her to death. I'm just so sick of being in her shadow that nobody sees *me*.

AUSTIN

I see you Trish.

TRISH

(As if she hasn't really heard this) Thanks Austin you know what I mean Michael? It's like, she doesn't even know what it's like to live in the real world. Everything's handed to her on a silver platter!

Michael

Shut up! Ugh.

He storms off.

TRISH

(To MICHAEL) Hey! *(To AUSTIN)* What's his problem?

AUSTIN

Somethin's up. I'll see ya later.

AUSTIN chases after MICHAEL.

TRISH

Where are you going? Oh great! Just leave me here by myself.

Two girls pass by giggling and chatting with each other.

Oh hey! Mindy! Mandy! Come hang out with me.

They look at each other, share another giggle, and walk right past her.

Ugh. That was rude.

A boy passes by lugging several books.

Hey Josh!

JOSH

Hey Trish.

TRISH

Come hang out.

JOSH

Uh...you're my babysitter. That's just weird.

TRISH

(disappointed) Oh, okay. That was brutally honest.

A group of kids pass; one of them pushing a bicycle.

Hey!

No response. They keep passing. Trish realizes that their attention is plugged into various electronic devices (ipods, cell phones, blue tooths, game boys, etc.)

Hey guys! Come hang out. I just got a Wii!

She shouts in a lame attempt to be hip, but comes off sounding dorky and desperate.

Fine! That's alright! *(She calls after them.)* I'll have plenty of fun here by myself!

A boy stops and looks at Trish giving her a pang of excitement, but her spirits quickly fall when he makes an "L" symbol for loser and holds it up to his forehead. She sits for a moment. Silence. Crickets begin to chirp.

Just like I thought - invisible.

Fade out.

CUT TO: *Ext. Early Monday morning. MICHAEL is walking to school. AUSTIN chases after him.*

AUSTIN

Hey! Wait up!

MICHAEL stops reluctantly.

(out of breath) Hey. Where you been? I didn't see you all weekend.

They continue walking.

MICHAEL

Just wanted to be alone for a while.

AUSTIN

K...so what's up? You look like Mimi the time her credit card was taken away.

MICHAEL

Don't insult me. I can't stand their stupid conversations. I didn't get the dress. Boo hoo! The trip to Paris was cancelled and I had to go to Disneyland instead. C'mon!

AUSTIN

And. They've been like that since we were all playing in the sandbox together. All of a sudden it's getting to you?

CUT TO: YOUNG AUSTIN, MICHAEL, MIMI, AND TRISH playing at the park. Wearing a tiara, MIMI runs around holding her doll in the air.)

YOUNG MIMI

Look what I got! Daddy got me the new Barbie!

YOUNG TRISH

I wanna play with the new Barbie!

YOUNG MIMI

Well you can't. Daddy says this Barbie's only fit for a princess. Are you a princess? I don't think so!

YOUNG AUSTIN

(Looks up from his video game)

Oh brother!

YOUNG MICHAEL

(Pouring sand on her head)

Shuuuuut up!

CUT TO:

Brief moment of awkward silence.

AUSTIN

What's really wrong?

MICHAEL

None of your business!

AUSTIN

I'm just trying to help.

MICHAEL

You wanna help? Go find my dad. Cuz I'm tired of playing father here. Oh I know, how 'bout telling Trish and Mimi to take a

chill pill and stop complaining about how much their life sucks.
Cuz they don't even know the half of it!

AUSTIN

You know what! I'm sick and tired of your attitude. You complain about Trish and Mimi and you're acting just like them. If you spent half as much time thinking about the good things in your life as you do with all the bad-

MICHAEL

Good things! Good things? Like what? Like having to hear my mom cry at night cuz she can't get over the fact that he's not coming back! Or watching her work like a dog. And for what? What do we have to show for it? Hm?

AUSTIN

You have a mother that loves you, a brother that looks up to you, and friends that care! Like me! I came here to help you and you treat me like the enemy. You want Trish and Mimi to stop taking things for granted. Look at yourself first. Cause you're acting really ungrateful.

MICHAEL

Okay. You're right. Just don't tell anyone I said that. But seriously, I don't mean to be a jerk. It's just hard.

AUSTIN

I know. Just lead by example alright. They'll catch on. And if they don't, tell 'em. Set Trish and Mimi straight. Cool?

MICHAEL

Cool.

MICHAEL overhears MIMI as they approach TRISH's house. They stop

dead in their tracks.

MIMI

Isn't it de-vine?! I knew daddy would come through!

MICHAEL

Speak of the devil.

AUSTIN

(AUSTIN slaps MICHAEL on the arm and whispers.) Shh! Just chillax.

MICHAEL

Dude, you're weird.

TRISH

(Spotting them whispering) Secrets don't make friends!

MICHAEL

Yeah well who said we're friends?

TRISH

Someone's catty today.

MICHAEL

Naw but really. I actually do-

MIMI

Notice anything different about me? *(She swishes her dress from side to side.)*

AUSTIN & MICHAEL

NO.

MIMI

Nothing at all?

*She glances down at her dress. Then back up at AUSTIN and
MICHAEL. Down at her dress. Then back up.*

TRISH

(mockingly) Daddy bought princess the new dress she wanted.

MIMI

Trish! Show 'em what I got you.

TRISH

(She pulls it from her bag and holds it up against herself.)

Look, Mimi's hand me down dress.

MIMI

Trish!

TRISH

What?

AUSTIN

Well I think it's a nice dress Trish.

MIMI

What? That ol' thing! I mean, vintage is so classy.

AUSTIN

(Humoring her) Yeah, it's nice. Anywayz...weren't you gonna say something?

A little girl passes by. She is dressed raggedy.

MICHAEL

Well, it's just that-

LILLY

Wow! What a beautiful dress!

MIMI

Why thank you! I just got it.

LILLY

Your dress is nice too, but actually I was talkin' about hers.

MIMI

Oh. My bad.

(Trish giggles.)

AUSTIN & MICHAEL

(Pleased with LILLY's response, motion for her to sit down. MIMI darts a threatening glare in their direction.)

C'mon, sit down with us. Yeah, come sit. Hang out with us
(etc.)...

(LILLY sits reluctantly. She gets back up.)

LILLY

I can't. I really gotta-

MIMI

(pushing LILLY back down) No please, stay.

LILLY

Okay, maybe just a-

MIMI

What's your name?

LILLY

Um, Lilly. I can-

MIMI

Lilly, I'm Mimi. *(Pointing)* This is my best friend Trish. Austin and Mikey.

MICHAEL

Michael.

MIMI

What?

MICHAEL

It's Michael. Not Mikey.

AUSTIN gives MICHAEL a look as if to say "keep it cool."

MIMI

(With a little attitude.) Michael. Sorry. You were saying?

LILLY

I can only stay for a bit. Then I gotta jet. I'm off to see my
mom

TRISH

Oh yeah? Where is she?

LILLY

In rehab.

MIMI

Wow! Okay... Where do you stay?

LILLY

With my grandmother. Until she gets back on her feet.

TRISH

Oh. Sorry.

LILLY

I'm cool with it. She's alive and happy. She's finally taking
care of herself.

MICHAEL

And your Dad?

LILLY

In heaven. Died when I was little. Mom took it real hard. She turned to alcohol and it was downhill from there.

MICHAEL

My dad left. I thought I had it bad.

LILLY

It's all good though. She's thriving again. I can see it in her face. The twinkle's back in her eyes. We're gonna be a family again soon. I couldn't ask for more.

MIMI

You have nothing and yet you're smiling like you got the new *Bebe* or something.

LILLY

Take my mom. She lost her job. Her friends. Everything. Gone overnight. Mom says, "People come and go, but nobody can take away your spirit. Appreciate everything."

TRISH

Wow, I never thought about it that way.

LILLY

I call it gifting gratitude. Helping someone to realize their blessings.

TRISH has a sudden realization.

TRISH

Here. I want you to have this.

LILLY

(pushes the dress away) Oh no, I couldn't.

TRISH

Really. I insist.

LILLY

No.

TRISH

Really. Take it. You gave me a great gift and I wanna return the favor. *(She hands the dress over to LILLY)*

LILLY

Thank you. Thank you so much.

MIMI

Gift? What gift? I didn't see anything.

MICHAEL

You been sleeping this whole time or what?

MIMI

Yeah I been sleeping. Cuz you're boring me to-

AUSTIN

She's talking about the gift of gratitude.

MIMI

What?

MICHAEL

You know, grat-i-tude.

AUSTIN

Gratitude is the quality or feeling of-

MIMI

I know what gratitude is, thank you. You gonna tell me that you're giving away my \$500 dress to a total stranger for a few words of wisdom!

TRISH

Yes, and it wasn't *your* dress to give. It was *my* dress.

MIMI

Yeah! Cuz I gave it To you. What dress are you gonna wear? You have no other dresses!

TRISH

I don't really *need* a dress.

MIMI

That's not what you said yesterday.

TRISH

Yeah well, things change.

MIMI

Well I'm sorry, but I can't allow it. It's a *Dolce* original. Hand stitched. Any girl would give their right arm for this dress. *(She swipes it away from LILLY)*

MICHAEL

(Swiping the dress away from MIMI) Oh come off it Mimi. You know you hate this dress. That's why you gave it to Trish in the first place.

MIMI

(Swiping it back) I did not! I gave it to Trish because she's my best friend and she needs a dress.

TRISH

(Swipes the dress away from MIMI) I know, and I'm most grateful for it. *(Handing the dress back to LILLY)* But Lilly is our new friend, and she deserves it more than we do.

LILLY

Really, it's no biggie. I don't need your dress. *(Handing it off to MIMI.)* I'd be happy either way.

TRISH

No wait! Lilly! Mimi, give her the dress.

MIMI

No! It's my dress!

TRISH

Stop being so selfish-

MICHAEL

Yeah Mimi!

MIMI glances over at AUSTIN.

AUSTIN

What are you looking at me for? I'm on their side.

MICHAEL

Let me see it.

MIMI

No.

MICHAEL

C'mon just let me see it. *(He grabs for it.)*

MIMI

I said no! *(MIMI yanks it back. MICHAEL grabs it and tosses it over MIMI's head to TRISH. A game of "Monkey in the Middle" ensues.)* Give-me-back-my-dress! *(She finally manages to catch it in the air. She looks around to see everyone, including LILLY and various passerby, staring at her. She is flustered, sweaty, and embarrassed.)*

LILLY

Are you okay? I'm so sorry Mimi. *(Addressing the rest of the group)* Really, guys, I don't need the dress.

MIMI

Let's talk. *(Pulls LILLY aside)* Take the dress. Consider it a parting gift. I don't wanna see you in this neighborhood again,

and if you know what's good for you, you may wanna consider changing schools.

LILLY

I'm homeschooled.

MIMI

Good. Cuz you have no idea what I'm capable of. And if I so much as hear about you stepping foot in these parts again, I'll make sure that your mother stays in rehab.

LILLY

You don't scare me. I may wear rose-colored glasses, but I can still spot ugly, and honey, you take the cake. Don't worry. I'll be back. When you least expect it. And I'm gonna knock that pedestal you've built yourself up on right out from under you.

MIMI

I'd like to see you try.

They stare each other down. LILLY walks away.

LILLY

Oh, by the way, thanks for the dress.

MIMI returns to the group.

MIMI

Okay...I took care of it.

TRISH

What do you mean you took care of it?

MIMI

I mean I took care of it. I gave her the dress. What more do you want from me? Next thing you know you'll be asking me to give up my Gucci bag or something. Don't even think about it.

TRISH

I'm proud of you Mimi.

MIMI

Me too.

MICHAEL

I give up.

AUSTIN

Some things never change.

The boys walk off. MIMI and TRISH sit down on the step.

MIMI

Look, I am really sorry. But don't tell the boys. I don't want them to see me cave.

TRISH

It's not caving to admit when your wrong or being a little bit selfish. I realized today that I was being selfish too. I should have just appreciated the hand me downs. It's not like you keep anything for longer than a week anyway. It's like getting free fashion. I love it.

MIMI

You know, I've never thought about it that way. I should start

charging.

TRISH

Well lets not get carried away.

All of a sudden, there is a loud screech off in the distance, coming from down the street. MIMI and TRISH get up to investigate the noise.

CUT TO: MIMI and TRISH standing in front of an open garage. A band of kids are banging away at instruments and singing off key.

CHARLIE

Thank you. We're the Singing Sensations.

MIMI

More like screeching sensations. That was the worst performance I've ever seen, ever.

CHARLIE

Well, it was more of a rehearsal really.

MIMI

Well you stink.

TRISH

Mimi, remember what we talked about earlier.

MIMI

And this is relevant to that how?

TRISH

Just be nice okay.

MIMI

Fine. So, we were talking earlier about gratitude gifts.

TRISH

Gifting gratitude.

MIMI

Whatever. So **I'm** fortunate and I'm gonna help you guys out.
Cause you really look like you could use a hand.

TRISH clears her throat as a cue to MIMI to be nice.

And I mean that, lovingly.

MIMI does her best fake smile, which is pretty tragic.

Here.

She pulls a piece of paper and pen from her bag and writes a name and number.

Call her. She is the best in the business.

CHRISTY

What does she do?

MIMI

Everything. She'll take you guys from trip to hip.

SHEY

Uh huh, did you come up with that or was that her?

MIMI

It was her. Just call her, and tell her Mimi's got it covered.

CHARLIE

Thanks. Mimi...?

MIMI

Masterson. As if you didn't know.

MIMI turns and walks off down the sidewalk. TRISH follows.

SHEY

Att-i-tude

CHARLIE

Just be grateful. She may have just given us what we need to live up to our reputation.

SHEY

We don't have a reputation.

CHRISTY

Yeah, nobody knows us.

CHARLIE

Yeah well, thanks to Mimi Masterson. Maybe that's all about to change.

CUT TO: The Singing Sensations are assembled in camouflage.
JESSICA enters dressed like a Drill Sgt.

JESSICA

Much better! Now this is the proper attire for "HELL WEEK"
The Sensations whisper among themselves in confusion, "Hell Week? What is Hell Week?"

CHARLIE

Hell week? *(He asks timidly?)*

JESSICA

Listen, Charlie, you called me because you wanna be the best.
Now sometimes to be the best you need to fight the war before
you can win the battle.

SHEY

That doesn't even make any sense.

JESSICA

The point is, I'm gonna teach you how to sing, dance, and rock
those instruments like you've never rocked them before. In order
to be the best, you need to be a triple threat. In order to be a
triple threat, you kids need to build up some stamina. Now, you
can either shape up or ship out, **OR** you can hire someone else.

CHARLIE

Guys, are we ready to do this?

CHRISTY

Let's do it.

SHEY

Yeah, let's jam like we've never jammed before.

CHARLIE

(Shouts) Alright let's do it!

The Whole Group Chimes in Cheering.

CUT TO: *A montage of the Singing Sensations doing push-ups, running, jumping rope, doing a dance routine, singing as a group, playing their instruments, breaking down, etc.*

CUT TO: *MIMI and TRISH hanging out in Trish's room, completely relaxed.*

MIMI

(Combing her hair.)

I'm bored already and summer has just barely started.

TRISH

So what are you gonna do this summer? Are you gonna be okay without me?

MIMI

I'll survive. But I'm gonna miss you.

MIMI holds her arms out in preparation for a hug. TRISH hugs her. MIMI reaches up and puts her in a headlock.

TRISH

Ow! You brat, can't you just have a pillow fight like a normal

person?

MIMI giggles as TRISH continues to struggle to get out of the headlock.

CUT TO: The Singing Sensations assembled before JESSICA in fancy attire.

JESSICA

Boys and girls, I know we've only been training for a week, but it's been some hardcore training so I at least expect some improvement from the train wreck you were before.

The Singing Sensations perform a song and dance routine with instruments. They are already showing remarkable progress.

JESSICA

Much better. But not! The best. We still have a lot of work to do. Now hit the showers!

The Sensations disperse.

CHARLIE

(Under his breath smiling)

Thank you Mimi Masterson.

CUT TO: MIMI and TRISH fall back on the bed after a long struggle; exhausted.

MIMI

In all seriousness, what am I gonna do without you this summer?
After Disneyland?

TRISH

Hey, I love Disneyland. Besides, you'll have Michael here to keep you company and Austin will be back and forth from computer camp.

MIMI

Sounds like a real treat.

TRISH

You're gonna get through it. I'll call you from Georgia everyday and you can fill me in on your exciting summer in LA. Meanwhile, I'll be stuck with a bunch of old fogies at a house in the middle of nowhere, but, at least I have a family to go to.

MIMI

I can't believe we start high school next year. I still remember when we used to play dress up?

TRISH

Who says we can't play now?

CUT TO: *MIMI is in the closet. TRISH is sitting on the bed already dolled up.*

TRISH

C'mon Mimi! Hurry up!

MIMI

(Calls out from the closet)

I feel ridiculous.

TRISH

Just hurry up and come out already. I dressed up now you have to. Don't leave me hanging out here!

The closet door swings open and MIMI steps out all dolled up.

Wow. Mimi, you look beautiful.

MIMI

Thank you. You too. *(She swishes her dress)* I feel like a princess.

TRISH

Wait, your missing one thing.

She runs and grabs the tiara off of the dresser.

There. Much better.

CUT TO: *Montage of YOUNG TRISH and YOUNG MIMI, wearing the tiara, and playing dress up. Fade out.*

CUT TO:

Teachable Moment.

MIMI

Some people seem to think I should be more giving. Hello! Every year at the white party my family donates to a worthy cause. Isn't that enough? Now I have to give the clothes off my back? Whatever.

MICHAEL

Yeah, what princess doesn't understand is the concept of gratitude. Instead of dwelling on the bad things in your life, think about what you are grateful for. Don't be a punk be a-ppreciative.

TRISH

Good one. True happiness comes from within, and no amount of money or material goods can make one truly happy.

AUSTIN

Bottom line, life is what you make it. So keep your chin up and live the life you love to live. Until next time, we leave you with another-

KIDS

Teachable moment!