

Kids on the Porch

Episode 4: Breaking News

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Adapted from "A Friend's Favor" and "The Challenge of
Change"

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Location TBD. Tiffany approaches.

TRISH

Tiffany, you turned your back on me. You made me out to be Public Enemy #1 when you had just as much to do with the cyber stalking incident as I did. In fact, it never would have worked if it weren't for you. We had everyone fooled.

TIFFANY

That's the power of the press Sweetie. Get with the program. Besides, you turned your back on Mimi, your best friend. As far as I see it, one wrong turn deserves another. Ta ta!

TIFFANY walks off gracefully.

CUT TO: Location TBD.

SASHA

Wow Mimi, I know I haven't known you for that long, but I don't think I've ever seen you without a devilish grin or a sadistic sparkle in your eye.

MIMI

Just leave me alone Sasha. I'm not in the mood.

SASHA

Anything I can do to help?

MIMI

Unless you can take back the last 48 hours I don't think so. Ever since the "incident," people are treating me like I'm fragile or something. I went from being feared to just plain felt sorry for. It's sickening. I have to reclaim my popularity status. The question is how.

SASHA

Well, as much as I'd like to stick around to hear Part One of whatever devious plan you're trying to scheme up, I have a rehearsal to go to.

MIMI

A rehearsal? For what?

SASHA

The Singing Sensations.

MIMI

What? Are you crazy? If the school finds out that my new BFF is involved with those screeching monkeys, I'm never gonna recover from this social blunder.

SASHA

Mimi, get on board. Ever since you hired that vocal coach to whip them into shape, they've actually gotten pretty good. Besides, I'm not committed just yet. I'm just exploring my options.

MIMI

Yeah well, I'd rather catch you with a blonde squad uniform than performing with the vocal stench. I don't care how good they've gotten.

SASHA

Well, would it change your mind if I told you that the lead singer has a huge crush on you, and he's really cute?

MIMI

Who?! I mean, whatever. He's obviously a loser, and I don't date losers.

SASHA

You don't even date. You're not allowed to.

MIMI

Don't ever utter those words. Mimi Masterson can do whatever she wants. That step-monster may have saved me once, but that doesn't give her the right to dictate my

life. You know what? Let's go together. I kinda wanna meet
this band geek.

CUT TO:

AUSTIN

Trish, what's up? I've been looking for you everywhere.
Where have you been?

TRISH

I really messed up this time Austin. Things are never gonna
be the same again. Mimi is never gonna look at me the same
again.

AUSTIN

Why'd you do it?

TRISH

I just wanted to teach her a lesson, but the whole thing
just got outta hand and the more people that got involved
the more... looks like the lesson was on me.

AUSTIN

Well, I don't approve of what you did, but everyone makes
mistakes, and don't take it so hard. You didn't do this by
yourself. Mimi just needs time. She'll come through.

TRISH

Austin, I don't know what to say. You are really gonna make
some girl really happy someday.

AUSTIN

Why some other girl? Why not you?

CUT TO:

MAC

Woo! Woo! The Mac is back.

MIMI

Oh brother, Mac! What are you doing here?

MAC

Same as you. I hear the Singing Sensations are looking for new talent. **I'm** that new talent.

MIMI

I don't think talking smack is considered talent.

MAC

Yeah well, I don't think plotting and scheming is talent either.

MIMI

Don't talk to me about talent. I've got more talent in my little finger than you and your little brother combined.

MAC

Now why you gonna bring Billy into this?

They carry on arguing.

JESSICA

Kids! Kids! Enough!

MIMI

Uh hello, teenagers!

JESSICA

No. I don't think so missy. Until you're a grown-up and can settle a dispute like a grown-up, in my book you're a kid. Now, remember who you're talking to, cause ALL of the final decisions go through me. Those of you who thought you were **in** better wake up cuz nobody's safe. You will ALL have to audition for a spot. I don't expect you to be the best. That's my job. To make you the best. If you were already

the **best** I wouldn't need to be here. What I do expect is for you to have potential. So don't waste my time!

CHARLIE, the lead singer of the Singing Sensations, grins in MIMI's direction. MIMI smirks in discomfort. She and SASHA share an "overwhelmed" glance. MAC grins at MIMI with confidence. MIMI gives MAC a dirty look. MAC looks at SASHA. SASHA makes a silly face in disgust.

CUT TO: *Location TBD.*

TRISH

Look Austin, I like you. I do. But you don't wanna be with me. I'm crazy

AUSTIN

You're not crazy.

TRISH

I am. As part of my punishment, the principal is making me see the school psychologist.

AUSTIN

That doesn't make you crazy. Even the most well-adjusted individuals see a therapist.

TRISH

Yeah well, I just don't think I'm ready for this.

TRISH gets up and walks off.

CUT TO: *Montage of kids auditioning with various songs and several of them getting cut down by JESSICA. MIMI steps up to the mic.*

CUT TO: *Location TBD. SASHA and MIMI walking.*

MIMI

That was so humiliating. I've just sunk to a new low.

SASHA

Oh c'mon. It wasn't that bad.

MIMI

Don't patronize me.

CHARLIE approaches.

CHARLIE

Hey, Mimi. Can I talk to you for a second?

MIMI looks at SASHA. SASHA gives the "okay I'm outta here look."

MIMI

I'm sorry you had to witness that display.

CHARLIE

Oh c'mon. It wasn't that bad.

MIMI

Why does everyone keep saying that? Don't they know I'm well-educated in lying?

CHARLIE

Mac was right about you.

MIMI

Mac! What did he say!?

CHARLIE

Nothing. He just said that you're trouble, but I love trouble. Trouble is my middle name.

MIMI

(smirks) Well, I'm sorry to disappoint you, but I can't date.

CHARLIE

Who said anything about dating? I just wanted to offer you
some voice lessons.

MIMI is offended. She starts to storm off.

Wait! Wait! I like you Mimi.

MIMI stops dead in her tracks. Turns around.

I like you, and I'm willing to do anything to spend time
with you. You can teach me how to be popular and I'll teach
you how to sing.

MIMI

That all sounds great, Charlie, but there's only one
problem.

CHARLIE

What's that?

MIMI

I'm not popular anymore.

CHARLIE

Oh c'mon Mimi. If anyone knows how to turn things around,
it's you. At least, that's what people say.

MIMI

People are saying that? *(She sighs in relief.)* Things
aren't hopeless.

CHARLIE

So what do you say?

MIMI

I'm in. When do we start?

CHARLIE

How 'bout right now?

CUT TO: Location TBD.

TIFFANY

Oh, Sasha, I've been meaning to talk to you. How do you feel about being on the news?

SASHA

You can't bribe me into being your friend. I don't want anything to do with you. When I met you, you told me that Mimi was manipulative, but at least she owns up to it. I know she's not perfect, but at least she's trying. The only thing you care about is being the star. How many people will you take down to make that happen?

SASHA turns around and walks away.

CUT TO: *Int. MAC's house. He turns the doorknob.*

KATHERINE

Now wait just a minute young man.

MAC

What Ma? I gotta go to work.

KATHERINE

Work? I haven't seen not one paycheck. You found a job quick. Where are you working?

MAC

Down the street at Million's garage.

KATHERINE

With Millions? Millions has a garage.

MAC

He's Millions Ma.

KATHERINE

Okay, Fine. If I find out that you're lying to me, there's gonna be hell to pay. Understand me?

MAC

I understand.

MAC reaches for the doorknob.

KATHERINE

Mac, where's this garage at?

MAC

On the corner.

MAC turns and walks out the door. KATHERINE picks up the phone.

KATHERINE

Robert? It's Katherine. I need to talk.

CUT TO: Location TBD. CHARLIE is singing an original song to MIMI. He finishes.

MIMI

That was beautiful.

CHARLIE

You're beautiful.

MIMI

I better get going. My step-monster will throw a huge fit if I get home too late.

CHARLIE

I thought you don't do what your parents tell you to do.

MIMI

Tonight I do. Sorry Charlie.

MIMI leaves.

CUT TO: Location TBD. Int. Restaurant. KATHERINE and MICHAEL are talking over dinner.

WAITRESS

My name's Rhonda. I'll be your waitress this evening. Can I get you started with any drinks?

ROBERT

Bottle of Merlot, and some sparkling water.

KATHERINE

Robert, I-

ROBERT

Just relax. When you called me you sounded a little frantic. I figured it was time for you to get a night out. You deserve to enjoy yourself. Whatever it is. I'll help you figure it out.

CUT TO: Int. MIMI's house. MIMI enters. AUSTIN is sitting on her couch. Her dad is in his usual spot positioned over the newspaper.

MIMI

Austin, what are you doing here?

AUSTIN

I came to talk.

HILLARY enters.

HILLARY

You kids need anything?

MIMI shakes her head no.

AUSTIN

No thank you.

HILLARY

George, let's give them some privacy.

HILLARY leads GEORGE upstairs.

MIMI

So, spill. What's up?

AUSTIN

Who are you? After everything that has happened you still haven't learned anything. You turned your back on me as soon as you met Mac and Sasha. Trish is falling apart and you don't even care.

MIMI

After what she did to me why should I?

AUSTIN

I know she hurt you, but it wasn't just her. Tiffany was the mastermind behind all of this. All you care about is your precious reputation. Pretty soon people will see you for who you really are, and I hope you're happy with the decisions you've made.

MIMI

Trish turned her back on me. She went over to the darkside.
Not me!

AUSTIN

Don't blame this all on Trish. She just wanted to teach you a lesson. "To wake up and quit being selfish." To give you a taste of your own medicine. And Tiffany preyed on her innocence. She chewed her up and spit her out, and she'll

do the same to you. I hope you're happy with your new friends.

AUSTIN leaves. The phone rings. MIMI answers.

MIMI

Mac, what's up? I'll be right there.

CUT TO: Location TBD.

MIMI

Mac, I could get in big trouble for being here. What is it that's so important?

MAC hands her a paper sack.

MAC

I need you to hold this for me.

MIMI

You've got me mixed up with somebody else.

MAC

Mimi please. My mom is watching me like a hawk. I told her my stash was completely gone, that I'd get a real job, but I've looked everywhere. There are no jobs right now. I gotta sell this to buy time. I gotta find a job or I end up like Michael. I just need you to stash this somewhere, until the coast is clear. Then I'll come get it.

MIMI

Alright, fine. But if I get caught with this. I'll tell them where this came from.

MAC

Them?

MIMI

Teachers. Parents. The police. Whomever.

MAC

Just keep it in your locker. I'll get it by the end of tomorrow. And don't tell anyone.

CUT TO:

KATHERINE

I'm worried about Mac. I think he might still be dealing drugs.

ROBERT

Well, it's best not to jump to conclusions. What makes you think that?

KATHERINE

He's still very secretive. He claims to be leaving the house for his new job, but I don't believe it. I haven't seen a uniform. I haven't seen a paycheck-

ROBERT

You want me to keep an eye on him? Make sure that he's staying out of trouble?

KATHERINE

Yeah. Yes, Robert I would like that. If someone else had found him, I don't know that they would be as understanding as you.

CUT TO: ROBERT and KATHERINE leaving the restaurant laughing and holding hands.

CUT TO: Exterior MAC's House. ROBERT dropping off KATHERINE

CUT TO: Int. MIMI's house. MIMI enters.

HILLARY

Where were you young lady?

MIMI

School.

HILLARY

We need to talk.

MIMI

Not right now.

MIMI starts up the stairs.

HILLARY

I better see you downstairs in ten minutes!

MIMI

Fine!

CUT TO: SASHA sitting with the head cheerleader STEPHANIE at the lunch table along with THE SANDY SISTERS. STEPHANIE spits out her milk.

STEPHANIE

Rachel for president! Are you serious? That little witch. She probly cast a spell on the nominations.

SASHA

This was a mistake. The blonde squad uniform is not for me.

SASHA storms off.

SHEY

What's she mean by blonde squad?

CUT TO: MAC and MILLIONS enter the cafeteria making a ruckus. Passing by the various lunch tables MAC and MILLIONS introduce themselves and slap fives with students.

MAC

Hey whats up? I'm Mac.

MILLIONS

And Millions.

MAC

Mac.

MILLIONS

And Millions.

SASHA passes.

SASHA

Oh brother.

MAC calls out to her back.

MAC

You're gonna love me soon!

SASHA

(She keeps walking) In your dreams!

MILLIONS starts cracking up.

MAC

Shut up!

CUT TO: Int. Mimi's house.

HILLARY

We're moving.

MIMI

What? When?

HILLARY

Next week.

CUT TO: Int. MIMI's room. MIMI's on the phone with AUSTIN.

MIMI

I wanted you to be the first to know that you don't have to deal with me anymore. I'm moving.

AUSTIN

If this is because the popularity thing-

MIMI

It's not about the popularity thing. My dad got a transfer, to Texas.

AUSTIN

Texas, wow.

MIMI

Look Austin, I'm sorry that I excluded you, I really am. I was so caught up in trying to get my popularity back, I forgot who my real friends were. You didn't deserve that.

AUSTIN

I don't know what I'm gonna do. Michael moved. Now you. Trish is on the verge of a nervous breakdown, and Rolan's off the hook and on the rampage. I'm toast.

MIMI

You're not toast Austin. Look, I'll tell you exactly what to do. I remember when we were kids, we could never get you to stop singing.

CUT TO: *YOUNG AUSTIN and YOUNG MIMI in the sandbox as kids. AUSTIN singing his heart out. MIMI is giggling. YOUNG ROLAN comes up and knocks YOUNG AUSTIN over into the sandbox.*

CUT TO: *Int. MIMI's house. MIMI on the phone with AUSTIN.*

Until you got your first Nintendo game anyway. Join the Singing Sensations. You wanna be a part of something again? Join them, and help them come up with a better name please.
What is this the 50s?

AUSTIN laughs.

AUSTIN

Okay, I'll listen to you just this once. You wouldn't steer me wrong?

MIMI

I wouldn't steer you wrong. Oh by the way, check the nominations for student president.

AUSTIN

You didn't.

MIMI giggles.

CUT TO: TIFFANY's School News Segment.

TIFFANY

This just in. Your newest candidate for Student Body President, Austin Cane.

The sound of a record ripping.

I know, that's what I said. Who is Austin Cane? On to other news...

CUT TO: *Int. School Hallway or Courtyard. AUSTIN is walking with his backpack on, looking distraught.*

MAC

Hey Austin!

AUSTIN turns around.

You got my vote.

MILLIONS pops up out of nowhere.

MILLIONS

And mine. In fact, let us run your whole campaign.

AUSTIN

Really?

MAC

Really. Get ready to rule the school, Austin Cane.

A student passes by. MILLIONS flags him down.

MILLIONS

Yo! Have you met my boy Austin Cane? Austin is about to throw a huge party to kick off his campaign. Fliers will be out later this week.

STUDENT #1

Alright. I'm there.

MILLIONS

Alright. Laterz man, and hey! Vote Austin Cane for Student Body President.

CUT TO: Int. Cafeteria. RACHEL sitting with her friends at the lunch table. They are all gothed out copy-cat versions of Rachel.

RACHEL

I'm not goin' down without a fight. Tiffany rigged this whole thing for a reason. To keep that lame cheerleader Stephanie from winning the race, and I don't intend to let some bookworm win it either. James, what do we have on him?

JAMES

Well, all his friends are moving away, except Trish who's a nutcase, he's got Mac and Millions on the campaign trail, and he plans to audition for the Singing Sensations.

RACHEL

Okay, no problem. Crystal, you play up the fact that Austin's a loser with no friends. James, you take out Mac and Millions.

JAMES

Take out?

RACHEL

Just take care of it. Find out whatever dirt you can and take down their campaign. Meanwhile, I'll be warming up my singing voice cause I'm about to shine.

CUT TO: *TIFFANY'S SCHOOL NEWS SEGMENT*

TIFFANY

This just in. Mimi Masterson and the tagalong that played her are moving down south, and with rebellious Michael out of the picture, who will Austin Cane turn to back his campaign? Max and Millions? Who are Max and Millions really?

CUT TO: *MAC and AUSTIN watching TIFFANY's news segment.*

MAC

The name is Mac! Don't worry Austin. I'm gonna take this news reporter down.

CUT TO: *MAC enters the principal's office with AUSTIN.*

MAC

Mrs. McKinnley, I have your newest reporter, Austin Cane.

MRS. MCKINNLEY

And who are you, his agent?

MAC

No, his campaign manager.

MRS. MCKINNLEY

Look, your running for Student Body President. If I allow you to air on the news, I have to allow all of the other candidates to air.

MAC

And what's so wrong with that?

MRS. MCKINNLEY

You know Mac, for being the new kid in school, you sure are pushing your way around here. Go ahead and do it, but just know that you are opening Pandora's box.

MAC looks at AUSTIN.

MAC

Alright.

CUT TO: MIMI approaches CHARLIE.

CHARLIE

So, I hear you're leaving.

MIMI

Yeah, I was going to tell you, but Tiffany beat me to it.

CHARLIE

We didn't even get that first date.

MIMI

You know I can't date. Besides, I see the way Sasha looks at you. I'm just sayin'.

CHARLIE

Mimi, you are too much. I heard what you did for Austin. Setting him up with Mac and Millions.

MIMI

Who told you?

CHARLIE

(laughs) Mac and Millions.

MIMI

They can't keep their mouths shut.

Awkward Silence.

CHARLIE

Write me from Texas?

MIMI

Try e-mail. It's faster.

CHARLIE

Okay. But spare me from having to hear any ridiculous status updates. I don't really wanna hear about you kicking around in the hay.

MIMI

Ha ha.

CUT TO: *Montage of campaign news segments.*

Segment #1:

STEPHANIE

Everyone that votes for me gets an invitation to the biggest event of the year. My annual fashion show, and after-party.

MRS. MCKINNLEY clears her throat.

Completely chaperoned of course.

CUT TO: *AUSTIN, MAC, and MILLIONS talking behind the scenes of the news segment. SHEY is getting prepared.*

AUSTIN

How did Shey end up in the running for Student Body President?

MAC and MILLIONS start laughing.

You did this?

AUSTIN shakes his head.

MRS. MCKINNLEY

And you're on.

SHEY is sitting in the chair in front of the camera playing with her hair. She finally looks up at the camera.

SHEY

Oh, are we on?

CUT TO:

Segment #3

RACHEL

Let's just face it. If you wanna go to Stephanie's bourgeois party and listen to a bunch of stuck up people complain about their maids. Vote for her. As for Shey. No comment. And Austin Cane. Austin who?

CUT TO: *AUSTIN, MAC, and MILLIONS talking behind the scenes. They are preparing AUSTIN as though he is about to go in the boxing ring.*

MAC

You got this.

MILLIONS

Yeah. Don't let her get to you.

AUSTIN

I got this.

MAC

You got this!

AUSTIN walks over confidently to the chair.

MRS. MCKINNLEY

And you're on.

All of a sudden, AUSTIN comes to life with a totally new persona of confidence and laidback coolness.

AUSTIN

Austin Cane here. I'm not gonna talk trash about my fellow candidates. I don't care who you vote for. Either way, you're invited to my celebration at Million's Garage. Fliers will be posted all over the school.

MRS. MCKINNLEY

(off camera)

I didn't approve that!

CUT TO: *A montage of students walking down the hall passing around the flier for AUSTIN's celebration.*

CUT TO: *Int. MIMI's bedroom. SASHA and MIMI are packing MIMI's things.*

SASHA

I know we didn't know each other long, but I'm really gonna miss you.

MIMI

You're just saying that so I'll give you my Frankie Bs.

SASHA

Give me a break.

MIMI

I'm just kidding. I'm gonna miss you too. Looks like you're gonna have to be the new queen of the school.

SASHA

And be in the running with the rest of those Barbies? I don't think so.

MIMI

You're right. Pave your own way.

They go back to rummaging through MIMI's things. SASHA picks up MAC's stash. She holds it up in shock. HILLARY enters.

HILLARY

What is that?