

HILARY: QUEEN OF THE TAJ MAMALL

Episode 5

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INT CAR - DAY

HILARY is in the back of her parents car. In this guise, Hilary looks like every 10 year old girl. A little gangly, a little self-conscious, a bundle of constant motion. Hilary is concentrating hard to finish polishing her nails. With one last stroke she's done and takes a moment to admire her handy work.

MOTHER (O.C.)

Be careful back there. Don't get that on the seats.

Hilary lolls her head around, rolls her eyes way back into her head, blows on her fingers and drones sarcastically.

HILARY

I won't.

The moment the words are out of her mouth the nail polish begins to slide out of her hand. At the last minute she catches it with only one drop jumping out. Hilary mouths 'Noooooooo.' as she reaches down and catches the offending drop with the back of her newly painted nail on her pinky finger. She breathes a sigh of relief and turns her hand around to check the damage to the back of her finger and spills all of the nail polish all over her pants.

MOTHER (O.C.)

What's going on back there?

Hilary remains still because 1) mother's ESP freaked her out and 2) she knows if she moves one hair the nail polish will drip to the floor.

HILARY

Nothing.

Hilary moves slowly trying not to disturb one air molecule. She reaches into her bag and pulls out a piece of paper, homework of course, and blots up the nail polish to the best of ability while trying not to breath. She knows one mistake will not only mean no visit to the mall it would mean the end of existence as she knows it would be over. But that's only because the mall is her existence.

Although she's upset about the stain she knows if she breathes a word her cover will be shot. So, just as she had planned during that days lunch period, she goes ahead with putting her body glitter on. She reaches into her bag without moving her lower body and pulls out a tube of body glitter.

She unscrews the top and begins to slowly apply it to her left cheek. A light sheen adorns her cheek. She carefully changes hands and begins to apply the glitter and

SND FX screeching of tires

EXT THE TAJ MAMALL PARKING LOT - DAY

The Berta's run across the street laughing.

INT CAR - CONTINUOUS

Hilary jerks forward running the glitter up her cheek, across her eye coming to a stop way across her forehead.

MOTHER (O.C.)
These kids just running out in
front of cars. Are you all right,
Hil. . .

HILARY
(screams)
MOOOOOOOOOOOOMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMM!!!!
You made me get glitter all over my
face.

MOTHER (O.C.)
I'm sorry those kids just
(pause)
how did you get that nail polish on
your pants?

Hilary places her hands over the stain.

HILARY
I did it earlier. But look at my
face! You made me get glitter all
over my face.

MOTHER (O.C.)
Well, I guess we'll just have to
pass on the mall today.

HILARY
NO!

MOTHER (O.C.)
You've got nail polish on your
pants and glitter on your face,
obviously you're in no shape to go
to the mall.

HILARY
No, it's okay. Everything's okay.

Hilary undoes her seat belt, pushes the seat up and opens the door.

MOTHER (O.C.)
Hold on.

Hilary stops with one leg out the door.

MOTHER (CONT'D)
I'll let you go. . .

Hilary visibly relaxes.

MOTHER (CONT'D)
. . .but there had not be one drop
of nail polish in the back seat or
you'll never come here again.

Hilary wants to try to maintain her confidence but she tries to check out the entire back seat without drawing too much attention to herself. After a quick check she's confident.

HILARY
There won't be.

And with that, Hilary pulls the rest of her body out of the car and closes the door.

EXT FRONT OF THE TAJ MAMALL - CONTINUOUS

Hilary stands next to the car with the big stain on her pants and a huge glistening streak across her face with a look of consternation on her face. She knows this could be the last time she sees the inside of The Taj MaMall for a long, long time.

MOTHER (O.C.)
You better be sure.

The car pulls away and Hilary turns and gives the Taj MaMall a great big once over and a big smile beams across her face.

She's going to make sure she squeezes every last bit of fun the mall has to offer. With her goal solidified in her mind Hilary begins her transformation into the mall. Each step she takes forces the nail polish to turn into a shimmer on her pants. The glitter on her face floats off and leaves a smile on everyone it touches.

INT THE TAJ MAMALL - CONTINUOUS

Hilary steps into the mall and all of her troubles close like the doors behind her. People wave and compliment her on her stunning outfit. She accepts it all graciously. Theresa comes running over and she grabs Hilary and spins her around.

THERESA

Is this a new outfit? I thought I knew everything you had.

HILARY

No, it's old. I spruced it up a little on the car over.

Hilary taps Theresa on the shoulder.

HILARY (CONT'D)

Hey, Theresa, I want to do something special today.

THERESA

Sure. What do you want to do?

Hilary extends her arms high into the air as we zoom out to show everyone and everything going on in the mall.

HILARY

EVERYTHING!

Hilary and Theresa run through the mall without a care in the world. They stop at 'Flowerz 'N Stuff' to smell the flowers when the CLERK hands them both a gold covered long stemmed chocolate rose.

As they thank the Clerk and skip off ROBERTA, LOBERTA and BOBERTA walk up to the Clerk keeping an eye on Hilary and Theresa. The Clerk takes one look at them and shakes his head rapidly.

CLERK

Get away from my store. Last time you were here you crushed my chrysanthemums.

The Clerk waves them off and heads back into his store. Roberta swipes at a basket of flowers before leading The Berta's on their mission.

ROBERTA

It was her fault we crushed his stupid flowers.

Roberta takes a long hard look at Hilary.

ROBERTA (CONT'D)
Everything's her fault.

From Roberta's glare we slowly zoom into to Hilary and Theresa at the drawing pen cart.

ROBERTA (CONT'D)
If we can't stop her today we'll
just do everything better than her.

The Man there is showing them the powers of the mighty 'Anyone Can Draw Like a Pro' pen. With a couple of strokes the Man draws a fairly decent rendering of a sun set.

MAN
Do you want to try?

He holds the pen out towards Hilary and Theresa. Theresa shakes her head no and points to Hilary to take the pen. Hilary takes the pen and thinks for a moment before attacking the paper. As Hilary is drawing we see The Berta's skulk past. Theresa sees them also and knows they're up to no good.

In that moment Hilary nudges Theresa who looks at Hilary's photorealistic beach sunset. The Man is amazed at what Hilary has drawn. She tears it off the pad and hands it to him. He looks at it for a moment.

MAN (CONT'D)
It's not done yet.

Hilary is slightly confused.

MAN (CONT'D)
You forgot to sign it.

Hilary laughs, signs her name with a flourish, grabs Theresa and they've off. The man studies the drawing for a moment before hanging it up. It immediately draws people to the cart who clamor to purchase not only the pen but the drawing.

Hilary and Theresa almost run past the 'Ballet' 'N Stuff' school but Hilary stops and pulls an off balance Theresa back. As we circle around Hilary and Theresa who are making ballet movements we see a few stores down, at 'Ballz 'N tuff', The Berta's are hatching a plan.

Roberta, standing in front of a large basket of balls, positions Loberta and Boberta behind two medium sized baskets of balls and pantomimes for them to push the baskets over when Hilary and Theresa run by. The both laugh and get in position. After a moment Hilary and Theresa turn and begin traipsing through the mall.

The Berta's get ready; Hilary and Theresa are only a store away both in the middle of spinning ballet moves; Roberta signals and the baskets are tipped. Balls rolls and bounce everywhere.

Hilary and Theresa, still spinning towards disaster, barely avert tragedy when at the last moment they leap over the still unseen balls to safety. The Berta's rush out from behind the buckets not believing they got away again when nature takes its course and all three of them begins to slip on the balls and fall backwards deep into the still upright large bucket of balls.

Pan away from the struggling to get out of the bucket Berta's and we see a saddened Hilary standing in front of an empty store with the grate pulled down and locked tight.

THERESA

What's the matter, Hilary?

HILARY

This store is closed.

Theresa looks at the store and, yes, it is.

THERESA

Yeah? It went out of business yesterday. Come on, it's not a store you ever went into anyway. Let's go get our picture taken in the photo booth.

Theresa pulls at Hilary who will not budge as we reveal the store to be 'False Teeth 'N Stuff.'

HILARY

You just don't understand. You're right, I never went into this store. But it was still part of The Taj MaMall family.

Hilary touches the grate and a set of giant false teeth shake loose and crash to the ground. The girls get wide eyed, look at each other and do what kids have done forever during times like this, run their butts out of there.

INT THE TAJ MAMALL - MOMENTS LATER

An out of breath and laughing Hilary and Theresa arrive at the marionette cart still looking behind them for giant clattering teeth. The PUPPETEER smiles at them and puts his marionette through its dangling paces. Hilary and Theresa smile politely and clap when the Puppeteer is done.

PUPPETEER
Would you like to try?

Hilary smiles and looks at Theresa who backs away.

HILARY
I've never done this before but
I'll give it a try.

Hilary takes the marionette and puts it through some serious dance steps. Without losing a step, she reaches into the cart to grab another one and she puts them through dance steps that would put the greatest dancers to shame. She finishes her routine with the requisite marionette bow before handing them back to the astonished Puppeteer. The crowd that has gathered breaks into sustained applause as Hilary smiles, grabs Theresa and exits.

HILARY (CONT'D)
Thank you, that was fun.

Everyone crowds the booth to purchase every last one of the marionettes.

In the crowd are The Berta's who try to do simple moves only to get every puppet in their vicinity tangled in their web.

As the customers and Puppeteer try to sort this mess out we zoom over to Hilary and Theresa standing in front of the photo booth at a strip of pictures comes out. It's of a teenaged boy and girl and they're smiling broadly, then the boy makes a goofy face while the girl looks at him like he's zany, then the boy looks at her like he's in love while the last picture of them is a kiss.

Hilary and Theresa watch the pictures come out laughing and smiling as the COUPLE comes out, stops for a moment not sure if they should be embarrassed or not before seeing Hilary and they all smile and laugh. The Couple takes the pictures, which have the photo booth quality, nods good-bye to Hilary and Theresa and exits.

THERESA
Let's get our pictures done.

Hilary loves that idea so they jump inside the photo booth and we see their legs wiggle and waver and try to get into position.

White screen flash

Quick cut of Hilary and Theresa making goofy faces.

White screen flash

SND FX: Camera clicking

Quick cut of Hilary and Theresa striking super model poses.

White screen flash

SND FX: Camera clicking

Quick cut of Hilary and Theresa smiling into the camera.

White screen flash

SND FX: Camera clicking

Quick cut of Hilary and Theresa with arms akimbo.

INT THE TAJ MAMALL - CONTINUOUS

The pictures are coming out of the photo booth as Hilary and Theresa burst from behind the curtain laughing. The pictures are professional studio quality. Every color is rich and detailed. They both look wonderful. They look at the picture and laugh as they move on to their next wonderful adventure.

Right on their heel's are The Berta's. They caught a glimpse of the photos and want some of their own to show everyone. The three of them jam themselves into the booth and WHITE SCREEN FLASH

SND FX: Camera clicking

Quick cut of parts of The Berta's, Loberta's ear to the left, Boberta's eye to the right with Roberta in the middle with her hand obscuring her face as she tries to stop the picture from being taken.

INT THE TAJ MAMALL - CONTINUOUS

Close-up of Hilary and Theresa's face from the photographs.

Zoom out to reveal Hilary and Theresa carefully watching a WOMAN write on a piece of rice under a large, lighted jewelers magnifier. The Woman leans back and Hilary takes a closer look at her name on the rice.

INT THE TAJ MAMALL - CONTINUOUS

Hilary's name under the magnifier on the rice.

INT THE TAJ MAMALL - CONTINUOUS

Hilary leans back and smiles so Theresa can take a look.

WOMAN

Would you like to try, Hilary?

Hilary looks up at the lady confused for a moment before smiling.

WOMAN (CONT'D)

Everyone knows you, Hilary!

The woman smiles and hands Hilary the pen and a piece of rice. Hilary positions herself over the magnifier and begins to write as people, including the now testy Berta's, begin to gather. Hilary seems to be writing quite a bit on a single piece of rice. People continue to lean in to try to peek. Suddenly, Hilary leans back causing the crowd to do the same.

HILARY

Take a look, Theresa.

Hesitantly, Theresa leans in as does the crowd. Theresa reads it and turns to Hilary with an enormous smile on her face. People continue to lean in as we see

A magnified piece of rice that reads: Theresa, My best friend now and my best friend 4 eva. Love, Hilary.

Theresa and Hilary hugging as the crowd, except for a glowering Roberta, does the special moment sigh. The Woman places the rice in a necklace and gives it to Hilary to put around Theresa's neck. Arm in arm they walk away from the cart as The Berta's shove themselves to the front of the line which causes the entire cart to upend sending rice flying.

As we continue zooming out security is racing toward the cart as The Berta's stumble and fall on top of each other. Through all of this disarray Hilary and Theresa walk through the mall the same way they began: Without a care in the world.

HILARY (CONT'D)
This has been the best day at The
TajMaMall ever.

FADE TO BLACK.