

HILARY: QUEEN OF THE TAJ MAMALL

Episode 7

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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. But instead of her usual bundle of energy she's sitting totally still. Her expression is halfway between pensive and monster in the closet scared.

MOTHER (O.C.)

Did the new gel shoes come in at  
'Scuffz 'N Stuff'??

HILARY

Yes.

Hilary's parents are concerned that something might be up. Just a mention of the mall, much less a new shipment of gel shoes, can set her off on a tangent that lasts longer than most monarchies.

SND FX low level parental murmuring

FATHER (O.C.)

How about those belly button  
shirts? Did they come in too? I'm  
saying this and I don't even know  
what it is.

HILARY

Yes.

MOTHER (O.C.)

Do you have enough money for  
everything you want?

HILARY

Yes.

That's the kicker. They're certain something's up.

FATHER (O.C.)

How about that estimate at  
'Lobotomies 'N Stuff' I asked for?

HILARY

Yes.

MOTHER (O.C.)

Are you meeting someone at the  
mall.

Hilary's cheeks turn bright red and she begins to squirm in earnest.

HILARY

NO! Theresa. I'm meeting Theresa.  
That's all. I'm meeting Theresa. I  
mean, other people will be there  
but I'm only meeting Theresa.

SND FX The car changing gears and the wind whistling The  
ambient noise forces Hilary to squirm.

HILARY (CONT'D)

I AM!

FATHER (O.C.)

I know, Hilary, we trust you. You  
wouldn't try to hide anything from  
us.

If Hilary could liquefy herself and slide out of the exhaust  
pipe at this moment she would.

FATHER (O.C.) (CONT'D)

So, it's a good thing we're here  
now so you can meet Theresa.

The car stops and her Mother pulls up the seat and opens the  
passenger door. Hilary slowly, painfully, unbuckles her seat  
belt and with the same laborious effort she extricates  
herself from the car.

EXT FRONT OF THE TAJ MAMALL - CONTINUOUS

Hilary stands next to the car as it pulls away.

MOTHER (O.C.)

Tell Theresa we said hi.

Hilary shrinks as she watches the car pull away. She stands  
at the edge of the sidewalk for a moment trying to regroup  
herself. She takes a deep breath before turning to face the  
mall. In front of her is the sprawl that is The Taj MaMall.  
It seems larger than ever and further away than she  
remembers. Hilary exhales and begins her journey to the door.

Her step, which by is usually snapping to, is a little  
tentative. She's still begin to emit a glow but it's a more  
gradual process. By the time she hits the door she is Hilary,  
Queen Of The Taj MaMall. No nervousness, no trepidation. All  
Hilary.

INT THE TAJ MAMALL - CONTINUOUS

Hilary walks in looking fabulous and quickly scans the mall smiling back at everyone. She's looking for Theresa but hoping against hope that she doesn't see someone else first. That would be a disaster. Whew.

She spots THERESA and races towards her. When she reaches her she's hyperventilating. The excitement and nervousness is pulsating off her body. They exchange their normal greeting but at a much lower decibel and extremely subdued movements.

	HILARY	THERESA
Theresa.		Hilary.

They pull close and Hilary scans the perimeter.

HILARY  
Is he here?

The secret is out. Hilary didn't want her parents to know she's meeting a boy at The Taj MaMall.

THERESA  
Stop looking around. He can  
probably see you. He's in front of  
Jockz 'n Stuff.

Hilary's head spin so quickly in the opposite direction she is startled when she comes face to face with ROBERTA.

ROBERTA  
Watch it.

HILARY  
Sorry, I was just. . .

ROBERTA  
. . .annoying me with your  
presents?

Roberta nudges LOBERTA and BOBERTA and they join Roberta in a hearty laugh.

THERESA  
That's impossible. You've cornered  
the market on that.

Theresa takes Hilary's hand and pulls her from this situation. Hilary can't help but to look back.

HILARY  
Why is she like that?

THERESA  
Permanent wedgy Forget her. We've  
got to find. . .

HILARY  
. . .don't say his name.

Hilary bobs her head looking for possible spies.

HILARY (CONT'D)  
You never know who's listening.

Theresa rolls her eyes.

THERESA  
Great. I can see the wedding day,  
do you Hilary take MmmMMMmmm to be  
your lawfully wedded humHUMhumhmu?

Hilary laughs and pushes Theresa as they walk through the  
mall. In the post they just exited The Berta's walk in.

ROBERTA  
She's up to something I can smell  
it.

Loberta takes a big whiff of the air.

LOBERTA  
I just smell gum balls.

Loberta points to a cart filled to overflowing with gum  
balls. Roberta sometimes wonder why she bothers and it shows  
on her face. She ponders for a moment intently watching  
Hilary and Theresa's movements.

ROBERTA  
We've got to find out what they're  
doing.

BOBERTA  
Why?

Roberta looks at Boberta like she's lost her mind.

ROBERTA  
To stop her, that's why.

Roberta shoves Boberta left and Loberta right.

ROBERTA (CONT'D)  
You each go separate ways and  
report back if you see anything.

LOBERTA  
Anything like what?

Roberta is just about at the end of her rope with these two.

ROBERTA  
Anything like anything.

Loberta and Boberta nod pretending to understand but behind her back they exchange expression of doubt about Roberta.

ROBERTA (CONT'D)  
If you see anything you come right  
to me. I'll be waiting on this  
bench.

Loberta and Boberta split up and Roberta looks around for a moment before scanning the gum ball cart. She walks over and points to the biggest, greenest gum ball in the cart.

ROBERTA (CONT'D)  
I'll take that.

GUY  
Are you sure? That's a mighty  
potent gum ball for a young lady.

Roberta strikes her best intimidating pose.

ROBERTA  
And I'm a mighty potent young lady  
so just hand it over.

The Guy smiles and pulls the gum ball from the cart and holds the gum ball out. A self-satisfied smile comes over Roberta's face as she reaches for it. The Guy pulls it back.

GUY  
Before I give this to you I need  
you to read the sign.

The guy points to the sign and Roberta angrily reads it:

Rules for the Super Green Gum Ball

- 1) We are not responsible for getting gum out of your hair or the hair of others. Nor are we responsible for any haircuts.
- 2) We are not responsible for any cleaning bills
- 3) Now, if you agree to these rules, pay for the gum ball - \$1.00

Roberta turns to the guy who is holding the gum ball in one hand and his palm upturned in the other. Roberta looks at him and defiantly reaches into her pocket for her money.

INT THE TAJ MAMALL - MOMENTS LATER

Hilary and Theresa are standing in front of 'DoDadz 'N Stuff' not actually looking but never taking their eyes from - sorry, you're not authorized for this information at this time - who is standing with his friend, NIGEL, in front of 'Songz 'N Stuff'.

THERESA

It's getting late, are you going to talk to him?

HILARY

You just want me to go over there so you can talk to Nigel.

Theresa blushes but quickly regains her composure.

THERESA

Do not. You're afraid to talk to...

Just before the name become public domain Hilary puts her hand over Theresa's mouth.

HILARY

Okay, okay. I'll go over and talk to him.

Hilary begins to regain her composure and slowly, methodically make her move. She moves past 'Slipperz 'N Stuff' and 'Penz 'N Stuff' and 'Glow 'N Stuff' before coming face to face with. . .JOANN

JOANN

Hilary, hi, I just wanted to say hi. We don't get a chance to talk much in school because, well, you go to a different school but I was wondering if you'd like to, you know, go to 'Ringz 'N Stuff' and get some chocolate covered onion rings?

Hilary stands there smiling but barely breathing. Right behind the all encompassing Joann is the only boy in the world Hilary will ever want to talk to.

HILARY

Yeah, Joann, that would be nice but I've got to talk to. . .

Hilary pauses not only to catch her breath but savor the moment.

HILARY (CONT'D)

. . .Bobby right now about some,  
ah, homework.

The ever effervescent Joann is excited that Hilary, Queen Of The Taj MaMall has consented to join her for a snack.

JOANN

Okay, then, you do that and I'll  
meet you there. Okay? You'll be  
there in a little while, okay.  
Okay? I'll see you then.

We follow Joann as she walks past a impatient Theresa. Joann looks at Theresa and smiles.

JOANN (CONT'D)

Hi, Theresa. Did you hear? After  
Hilary talks to Bobby about  
homework she's going to come and  
have a snack with me. Isn't that  
great?

THERESA

Just great, Joann.

JOANN

The thing that's weird is Bobby  
goes to my school. So how could...

THERESA

. . .Joann, why don't you go save a  
seat at the food court?

JOANN

Good idea. I'll see you there.

Joann exits and Theresa gives Hilary a little push towards the boy now known as Bobby. After a couple of staged stutter steps Hilary is face to face Bobby. His bravado is pierced but he's trying to hang on. His friend says something under his breath and Bobby turns around and swings at him. They both laugh.

HILARY

Bobby, hi, hi. It's me. Hilary.

BOBBY

Hi.

A pause that could be construed as painful goes here. They both work hard not to make eye contact but make sure the other knows they're looking. Off to the side we see Loberta watching Hilary and Bobby with eyes wide open.



After a moment we see her decide that Hilary could be having fun with this so she turns and runs through the mall.

HILARY

Well, I just wanted to say hi.

BOBBY

Yeah.

HILARY

Ummmm, okay, well, bye.

BOBBY

Okay.

HILARY

Bye.

Hilary turns slowly her eyes the last thing to leave Bobby.

BOBBY

Ummmm, Hilary?

Hilary stops, takes a lung full of air but just turns her head so her hair flips in the time honored pretty girl flip. Bobby nearly passes out.

HILARY

Yes?

BOBBY

Are you going to be here tomorrow?

HILARY

I think so.

BOBBY

Oh, cool. I'll see you then.

Hilary turns her head back.

HILARY

Okay, I'll see you then.

Hilary tries to walk normally but Theresa can see that her legs are shaking. Theresa takes Hilary's arm and they walk quickly away from the assignation.

HILARY (CONT'D)

Did you hear that?

THERESA

Yes.

HILARY  
He wants a second date.

THERESA  
That's so cool.

They hug and race away from the scene.

INT THE TAJ MAMALL - CONTINUOUS

We see a green shading on the screen with the distorted face of Roberta in the middle of the large bubble.

LOBERTA (O.C.)  
Roberta, you said to come back  
if...

ZOOM OUT TO INCLUDE LOBERTA IN THE SHOT.

LOBERTA  
. . .wow, what a great bubble.

GUY (O.C.)  
Don't get too close to that.

Loberta turns and looks at the off camera Guy and then back to Roberta and her gigantic bubble. Suddenly Boberta comes skidding into the scene.

BOBERTA  
I didn't see anything but I got  
bored so I. . .whoa, that's the  
biggest bubble I've ever seen.

GUY (O.C.)  
I'm warning you guys not to get too  
close.

They ignore the Guy and Loberta can't wait to give Robert her news.

LOBERTA  
You didn't see anything, Boberta?

BOBERTA  
No. I just saw her and Theresa  
standing around.

Loberta now feels very superior to everyone. She takes in the three of them, Boberta, Roberta and the bubble.

LOBERTA

Well, I saw something amazing.

Loberta looks at Roberta through the middle of the bubble.

LOBERTA (CONT'D)

I saw Hilary talking to your  
brother, Bobby.

INT THE TAJ MAMALL FOOD COURT - CONTINUOUS

SND FX A loud pop followed by a very loud

ROBERTA (O.C.)

Noooooooooo!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

GUY (O.C.)

I told you two not to get too  
close. Remember, we're not paying  
for this.

Hilary, Theresa and Joann along with everyone else in the  
food court turns their head in the general direction of the  
noise. They all just shrug their shoulders and go back to  
their chocolate covered onion rings and their good  
conversation.

FADE TO BLACK.