

HILARY: QUEEN OF THE TAJ MAMALL

Episode 2

Written by

Chris Zell

czell@comcast.net

EXT 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. In Hilary's hand is a moisture flecked cup of slushie. The straw has a glowing blue ember of residual slushie sticking to it. Hilary looks contemplative for a moment.

FATHER (O.C.)
Drink that before we get to the mall.

Hilary rolls her eyes.

HILARY
It's not JUST a mall, Dad. It's the Taj MaMall.

Hilary's eyes brighten at the mere mention.

FATHER (O.C.)
Whatever. Just don't spill that crap.

Hilary cannot believe the impudence of her father.

HILARY
It's not crap, Dad. It's the magic elixir of the Taj MaMall.

FATHER (O.C.)
Yeah? Just make sure that elixir ends up where it's supposed to. In you not on you. So, drink it up. We're almost there.

Hilary's Father is right. Off in the distance we see a halo of pulsating light. Hilary strains to see the light. Her eyes widen. Her motion quickens. The light beckons brighter.

FATHER (CONT'D)
So finish that drink!

Hilary startles back to reality and turns her gaze from the mall to her slushie. She moves her lips to the glistening straw. She takes a sip.

SND FX Slurping sound the kind heard near the end of the cup.

One small section of blue fluid shoot up the straw. It's barely enough to fill a thimble. The moment it passes her lips Hilary's eyes glow red and bug out. Her temples throb.

HILARY
Brain freeze.

She barely spews out.

FATHER (O.C.)
That's fine, honey, as long as you
don't get any on the seats.

Hilary grabs her pounding head as her eyes roll aimlessly.

FATHER (CONT'D)
Here we are.

Hilary sits there for a moment to let the brain freeze pass
before removing her seat belt.

FATHER (CONT'D)
I'll be back here in an hour.

Hilary release the latch on the bucket seat and slides out.
She leans too far forward and she tumbles into the front seat
spilling whatever is left of the slushie onto her shirt.

FATHER (CONT'D)
I told you to be careful back
there.

Hilary leans back to see a big, blue stain drip down and
through her shirt.

FATHER (CONT'D)
Did you get any on the seat?

Father hands back some napkins. Hilary accepts them and
begins patting down her shirt. It doesn't really help. The
blue is too atomic to be thwarted by a handful of napkins.

HILARY
No.

Hilary answers dejected.

FATHER (O.C.)
It doesn't look bad. No one will
notice it.

Hilary rolls her entire head at her obviously stunted father.

FATHER (CONT'D)
Just go in there and have fun.

Hilary climbs out of the car.

FATHER (CONT'D)
I'll be back in an hour and you
won't even remember this happened.

EXT FRONT OF THE TAJ MAMALL - CONTINUOUS

Hilary stands on the sidewalk of The Taj MaMall watching her Father drive away. She looks down at her shirt and gives it a few tugs. A few random blue dots float off and glisten in front of her as she turns toward the beautiful mall entrance.

INT THE TAJ MAMALL - CONTINUOUS

Hilary enters the mall and the moment she steps in we begin to see that her entire shirt is now the color of the atomic blue slushie. The color is radiant and leaves a glow on everyone she passes. After a few steps inside the mall Hilary stops. Concern crosses her face. She looks around the perimeter of the mall. In a moment what was once unknown to her becomes a full reality.

HILARY
A child is separated from his
mother.

Hilary says as she flashes through the mall. In her blur we see stores with names like, 'Glasses 'N Stuff', 'Sunglasses 'N Stuff', 'Bangles 'N Stuff', 'Flowers 'N Stuff', 'Mega 'N Stuff', 'Coffee 'N Stuff', 'Books 'N Stuff', 'Just Stuff 'N Stuff', etc. ('N Stuff').

After her frantic race through the mall she finds a little boy, MICKEY, on the verge of tears circling around looking for a familiar face in the gigantic mall. His face brightens slightly when he sees that it's Hilary leaning down to him. One lone tear slips down his face.

HILARY (CONT'D)
Hi, I'm Hilary.

Mickey looks up shyly.

MICKEY
I know. I'm Mickey. I think you're
nice.

Hilary's smile is blinding.

HILARY
Thank you, Mickey. Do you know
where your mother is?

Mickey shakes his head no and a few tears fly from his face.

HILARY (CONT'D)
Don't worry, Mickey.

Hilary stands up.

HILARY (CONT'D)
I do.

She takes Mickey's hand and they race through the mall. Mickey is exhilarated to not only be in the presence of Hilary but to be her focus. As they reach the other end of the mall Hilary stops in front of a store. After looking in for a minute Hilary blushes, turns around and makes certain that Mickey does the same.

Zoom out slightly to see that the store Mickey's mother is in is called 'Adult Stuff 'N Stuff'. A small crowd is forming to witness Hilary's latest great feat.

HILARY (CONT'D)
Hello. Is Mickey's mother in this store?

After a beat.

MICKEY'S MOTHER (O.C.)
Oh my. Mickey!

MICKEY'S MOTHER comes running out of the store and Hilary pulls Mickey close for a moment so that she can check out his mother's attire. She is clad in normal mother's wear so Hilary finds it acceptable for Mickey to view.

MICKEY'S MOTHER (CONT'D)
I thought you were waiting on the bench?

Mickey looks sheepish.

MICKEY
I saw a blue puppy.

Everyone smiles as Mickey's Mother pulls him closer. Mickey doesn't really want to let go of Hilary (who would?) but he's snatched up into his mother's arms. Mickey's Mother looks at Hilary and smiles.

MICKEY'S MOTHER
Thank you, Hilary. I don't know what this mall would do without you.

HILARY

My pleasure. I hope this teaches you something.

MICKEY'S MOTHER

It does. I'll never let him out of my sight again. How can I ever repay you?

HILARY

No need. I'm just glad I could help.

MICKEY'S MOTHER

No, I won't hear of it. You must be rewarded.

As Hilary stands there waving Mickey's Mother off she has brainstorm and reaches into her pocket.

MICKEY'S MOTHER (CONT'D)

I have this 'Anything For Free' gift certificate that I'd love you to have.

Hilary shakes her head and waves Mickey's Mother off. But she won't take no for an answer.

MICKEY'S MOTHER (CONT'D)

No, Hilary. You deserve it.

Hilary smiles for a moment before her eyes widen and a big smile explodes onto her face.

HILARY

I will take it under one condition.

MICKEY'S MOTHER

Of course.

Mickey's Mother hands Hilary the gift certificate and Hilary turns to race off.

HILARY

I'll be right back.

In a flash, Hilary is gone. The crowd begins to murmur contemplating Hilary's latest adventure.

Across the strip we see ROBERTA, BOBERTA and LOBERTA, all glaring with each wearing multi-colored flowered suspenders - their colors, lingering next to a sign that reads: 'Get Rid Of PESTS' in front of 'Exterminate 'N Stuff.'

*Note - the sign is centered and set-up thusly: Get Rid Of Pests

ROBERTA
(Whiny affectation)
I will take it under one condition.
(Back to her normal voice)
Sure, so she can get some other
horrible outfit.

Roberta and Loberta chuckle at their leaders attempt at humor.

ROBERTA (CONT'D)
This should show them. She's just
going to run off and get herself
something so everyone can make a
big deal about it. I don't know why
people don't see that.

THERESA walks past The Berta's. They sneer at her.

ROBERTA (CONT'D)
Hi Theresa. Here to fetch a slushie
for your queen?

Theresa stops and smiles at them. She looks over the store
and smiles.

THERESA
You should really check out this
store. I'm sure they'll have
something in your size.

Theresa exits as The Berta's look confused. Following
Roberta's lead they look up at the name. Roberta begins to
glow red as she looks at her friends. All she can do is growl
as she begins to stomp away. But she's stopped in her tracks
(which causes the remaining Berta's to bump into her) when
Hilary rushes up to Mickey and his Mother. Without being
winded at all, Hilary holds a bag out for Mickey's Mother.

MICKEY'S MOTHER
Hilary? What's this? You were
supposed to get something for
yourself?

HILARY
This is for me. I would want Mickey
to get lost again.

Hilary reaches down to give Mickey's hair a tousle while his
Mother reaches into the bag and pulls out two connected
harnesses.

A small one for Mickey and a larger one for her with the tether at Mickey's Mother's waist to make it easy to carry bags and such.

MICKEY'S MOTHER

Oh, Hilary, you shouldn't have!

Mickey's Mother says while trying the harness for the first time.

MICKEY'S MOTHER (CONT'D)

Where did you get this? This is wonderful!

HILARY

At a store that just opened today, Harnesses 'N Stuff. Over at the pest store The Berta's are beside themselves.

ROBERTA

(snide tone)

I wouldn't want Mickey to get lost again.

(back to normal)

I don't know how much more of this I can take.

Roberta looks around and sees a collection of stuffed and plastic rodents and insects in the window of 'Exterminate 'N Stuff' and a bright idea crosses her face.

ROBERTA (CONT'D)

Come here. We'll show everyone she's not the together girl everyone thinks she is.

Roberta and Boberta gather around Roberta as she points to the pests in the window and hatches her plan. After quick huddle they step inside the store, grab some pests and hide behind the sign awaiting their moment to show Hilary up. From her vantage point, Theresa smiles and shakes her head. She begins to saunter to The Berta's general direction.

MICKEY'S MOTHER

I can't believe my good luck today, Hilary. You are definitely one of a kind.

HILARY

Thank you. But, everyone is one of a kind. That's why it's so important to watch out for little rascals like Mickey.

The crowd laughs and begins clapping. While the Berta's are waiting for their perfect moment Theresa ducks down out of sight and attaches their suspenders to the sign. When she's completed her task she stands up and walks back over toward Hilary. The moment Hilary sees Theresa they do into their patented greeting.

Theresa! HILARY Hilary! THERESA

As they hug Roberta sees this as an even better opportunity.

ROBERTA
They're both together. We can get
them now. We've got to throw them
now.

The Berta's step out from behind the sign and as their suspenders stretch they begin to feel a tug.

Huh? ROBERTA (CONT'D)

With their pests in the ready position they all begin to something is going horribly awry.

Oh oh. BOBERTA Oh oh. LOBERTA

With their arms akimbo they are pulled toward the sign.

SND FX Crash and tear

Everyone turns to see The Berta's have been pulled through the sign with Boberta and Loberta through the words 'Get' and 'Rid' while Roberta's head protrudes from the word 'Of' and they all hang there just above the word 'PESTS'). Everyone laughs as the manager of 'Exterminate 'N Stuff' comes running out of his store waving a stuffed June bug.

This doesn't have much effect on Hilary who waves good-bye to Mickey and his Mother while she and Theresa barely glance over as they pass The Berta's trying to extricate themselves from the sign while the stores manager gestures wildly.

THERESA
So, what's been happening here
today?

HILARY
Not much. Pretty normal so far.

Hilary and Theresa walk deeper into the mall.

HILARY (CONT'D)
Want to get a slushie? I could
drink a dozen right now.

FADE OUT.