

Disney
**Stuck
IN THE
MIDDLE**

"Stuck With A Bandit"

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STUCK IN THE MIDDLE -

"STUCK WITH A BANDIT"

COLD OPEN

EXT. DRIVEWAY - (DAY 1 - EARLY MORNING)

THE KIDS ARE STANDING IN THE DRIVEWAY TO SAY GOODBYE TO THEIR MOM, SUZY. SUZY IS LEAVING FOR A GETAWAY WEEKEND WITH SOME FRIENDS.

SUZY AND TOM ARE WALKING OUT THE FRONT DOOR TOWARD THE KIDS.

SUZY

Please don't just feed the kids pizza
all weekend, okay?

TOM

Okay...

SUZY

You have my list and instructions?

TOM

Yep...

SUZY

Now, if you need anything, I'm just a
phone call away.

TOM

Are you sure you have to be gone for
forty-eight hours?

SUZY

Oh honey, you'll be fine.

HARLEY COMES OVER.

HARLEY

Mom, Beast and Lewie are...

SUZY STOPS HER.

SUZY

It's not my problem. As of sixty seconds ago, I'm on vacation. Tell your dad.

SUZY AND TOM CONTINUE ON THEIR WAY.

HARLEY LOOKS AT THE CAMERA.

HARLEY

Dad's not the only one nervous about mom going out of town. All of us are. The last time dad had all of us for an entire weekend, it didn't go over well.

CUT TO FLASHBACK:

INT. LIVING ROOM

SUZY WALKS THROUGH THE FRONT DOOR.

SUZY

I'm home every... What?

SUZY IS SHOCKED AT WHAT SHE SEES.

TOM

Hi honey!

DAPHNE HAS GOTTEN A HOLD OF TOM'S HAIR AND IT'S STICKING OUT EVERYWHERE. HE ALSO HAS MAKEUP ALL OVER HIS FACE. MEANWHILE ONE OF HARLEY'S INVENTIONS IS CAUSING A POWER SURGE, CAUSING THE ELECTRICITY TO GO ON AND OFF. RACHEL AND GEORGIE ARE OFF TO THE SIDE YELLING AT EACH OTHER. BEAST AND LEWIE ARE CHASING EACH OTHER WITH PILLOWS AND ETHAN IS GIVING MONEY TO A PIZZA DELIVERY GUY.

END FLASHBACK.

EXT. DRIVEWAY

SUZY GETS IN THE CAR.

SUZY

Okay, see you all in two days.

SUZY PULLS OUT AND DRIVES AWAY.

TOM AND THE KIDS ALL LOOK AT EACH OTHER HOPELESSLY.

TOM

Who wants pizza?

THE KIDS ALL LOOK AT TOM.

RACHEL

For breakfast?

END OPEN

ACT ONE

INT. KITCHEN (DAY 1 - MORNING)

TOM FINDS RACHEL WHO IS IN THE MIDDLE OF A CONVERSATION ON HER PHONE.

RACHEL

You're wearing your purple dress? I wanted to wear my purple dress. It will look so weird if we're both wearing purple.

TOM MOTIONS TO RACHEL THAT HE NEEDS TO TALK TO HER.

RACHEL (CONT'D)

Well, I don't want to come if I can't wear my purple dress.

TOM MOTIONS AGAIN FOR HER TO GET OFF THE PHONE.

RACHEL (CONT'D)

Jennifer, I have to go. I'll call you back.

RACHEL HANGS UP.

TOM

Rachel, I really need your help this weekend.

(MORE)

TOM (CONT'D)

I have lots of work I have to do and I need you to watch Daphne and the twins tomorrow night.

RACHEL

I can't dad! Jennifer is having a party at her house and I'm helping host. Unless...

TOM

What?

RACHEL

I do need a new phone...

TOM

I just bought you a phone.

RACHEL

That was eight months ago and my phone is way out dated.

TOM

All you want is a new phone?

RACHEL

Yep..

.

TOM

Deal!

TOM EXITS AS RACHEL, EXCITED TO BE GETTING A NEW PHONE, CALLS JENNIFER BACK.

(CONT'D)

RACHEL

Jennifer, I'm not coming now. You Can
wear your purple dress. Okay, bye.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM

HARLEY, GEORGIE, DAPHNE AND ETHAN SIT ON THE COUCH WATCHING THE NEWS ON TV. DAPHNE IS BRUSHING ONE OF HER DOLL'S HAIR.

NEWS REPORTER (V.O.)

In other news, it looks like the
"Marshport Bandit" has struck again.
Several homes have been robbed the
last couple of nights and police
expect that the bandit lives here in
the community. Last night, police
released a sketch of what one
eyewitness says the bandit looks like.

THE SKETCH IS SHOWN ON THE TV.

ETHAN

Wow... that kind of looks like dad!

HARLEY

That's so weird.

NEWS REPORTER (V.O.)

If you have any info, you're asked to
call the police.

DAPHNE HOLDS UP HER DOLL.

DAPHNE

Look!

GEORGIE

Hey, Daphne, your doll looks great!
Did you really style her hair?

DAPHNE

Yep! Can I do yours?

GEORGIE

Oh no! Remember when you did Rachel's?

CUT TO FLASHBACK:

INT. BATHROOM

RACHEL SCREAMS AT THE TOP OF HER LUNGS.

RACHEL

Daphne! My hair is green and purple!

RACHEL IS LOOKING IN THE MIRROR AND IS ON THE VERGE OF TEARS.

END FLASHBACK.

INT. LIVING ROOM

DAPHNE

Please? I have gotten so much better since then.

GEORGIE

I know I'm going to regret this. I'll let you style my hair but NO COLOR. Deal?

DAPHNE

Deal!

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN (DAY 1 - AFTERNOON)

TOM IS ON THE PHONE.

TOM

Yes, I know! I'm really starting to
feel the heat.

HARLEY AND ETHAN WALK BY BUT STOP WHEN THEY HEAR THEIR DAD ON
THE PHONE. THEY HIDE BEHIND SOME FURNITURE SO THEY CAN HEAR
THEIR DAD'S CONVERSATION.

TOM (CONT'D)

I have the stash in the garage. I'll
bring it tonight.

HARLEY

(whispers) Stash?

ETHAN SHRUGS HIS SHOULDERS.

TOM

Okay, I'll see you tonight.

TOM HANGS UP THE PHONE AND EXITS.

HARLEY AND ETHAN COME OUT OF THEIR HIDING PLACE.

HARLEY

Did you hear that? Do you think dad
could be the "Marshport Bandit"?

ETHAN

There's got to be a simple
explanation.

HARLEY

There's one way to find out.

HARLEY LOOKS AT THE CAMERA.

HARLEY (CONT'D)

We have to see what's in the garage!

CUT TO:

INT. DAPHNE'S BEDROOM (DAY 1 - AFTERNOON)

GEORGIE SITS IN A CHAIR WHILE DAPHNE BRUSHES HER HAIR.

GEORGIE

Ouch! You're brushing too hard.

DAPHNE

Sorry! You just have too many knots in your hair. I need to get my styling gel.

GEORGIE

There's no color in it, right?

DAPHNE

Would you just relax! I'm not going to put color in your hair.

DAPHNE GRABS A BOTTLE OF NAIR, NOT KNOWING WHAT IT IS, SHE DUMPS SOME OF IT IN GEORGIE'S HAIR.

GEORGIE

Do you really need to put gel my hair?

DAPHNE

I know what I'm doing.

DAPHNE RUNS HER HANDS THROUGH GEORGIE'S HAIR. WHEN SHE LIFTS HER HANDS A LUMP OF HAIR FALLS OUT.

DAPHNE (CONT'D)

Uh oh!

GEORGIE

Uh oh? What do you mean "uh oh"?!

DAPHNE

Um... Let's wrap your hair in a towel and let it sit for a few minutes.

DAPHNE GETS A TOWEL AND WRAPS GEORGIE'S HAIR.

DAPHNE (CONT'D)

I'll be right back.

GEORGIE

Daphne, is something wrong?

DAPHNE DOESN'T ANSWER AND RUNS OUT THE ROOM.

GEORGIE (CONT'D)

Daphne!?

CUT TO:

INT. GARAGE (DAY 1 - AFTERNOON)

TOM IS IN THE GARAGE LOADING THE BACK OF HIS CAR.

HARLEY AND ETHAN GO INTO THE GARAGE AND HIDE BEHIND SOME BOXES.

HARLEY

(whispers) That's a lot of stuff!

ETHAN

(whispers) Everything is in boxes.

There's no way of telling what's in there.

HARLEY ACCIDENTALLY KNOCKS OVER THE BOXES GETTING TOM'S ATTENTION.

TOM

Harls? What are you guys doing back there?

HARLEY

Dad! Uh... We're just...

ETHAN

... looking for one of Harley's experiments.

TOM

Oh... okay... well I have to go to work for a few hours so Rachel is in charge. Got it?

HARLEY

Got it!

TOM GETS IN HIS CAR AND LEAVES.

HARLEY LOOKS INTO THE CAMERA.

HARLEY (CONT'D)

Could my dad be the "Marshport
Bandit"? You hear about these kind of
stories all the time. Where the family
thought their dad was going to work
but he was really living a double life
by committing some sort of crime.
(beat) There's no way my dad is a
thief!

ETHAN TAPS HARLEY ON THE SHOULDER CAUSING HER TO JUMP.

HARLEY (CONT'D)

Aww! What? Ethan, you scared me.

ETHAN

Sorry... I have an idea. I'm going to
set up my camera and leave it rolling.
That way when dad get's back we can
see if he stole anything.

CUT TO:

INT. RACHEL'S BEDROOM

DAPHNE COMES RUNNING IN.

DAPHNE

Rachel? I may have done something bad.

RACHEL

What?

GEORGIE (O.S.)

Daphne! My hair!

RACHEL

What did you do?

GEORGIE COMES BURSTING IN.

GEORGIE

I'm missing some of my hair!

RACHEL

Daphne, what did you do?

DAPHNE

I was just trying to put hair product
in Georgie's hair.

GEORGIE

What did you put in it?

DAPHNE

Something called Nair...

RACHEL

NAIR!!!

GEORGIE

What am I going to do?

RACHEL COMES OVER TO GET A CLOSER LOOK AT GEORGIE'S HAIR.

RACHEL

Relax, I think I may have an idea.

DAPHNE

Can I help?

RACHEL
L

NO!

GEORGIE

NO!

Daphne walks away sad.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM (DAY 1 - LATE AFTERNOON)

HARLEY AND ETHAN SIT ON THE FLOOR. ETHAN IS HIDING HIS CAMERA INSIDE A BOX.

ETHAN

So when dad gets home, the camera's lens will stick out of this hole and will film the entire garage. If dad has...

THERE'S A LOUD KNOCK ON THE DOOR.

HARLEY GETS UP AND PEAKS THROUGH THE WINDOW.

HARLEY

It's the police!

ETHAN

What?

HARLEY

What should I do?

ANOTHER KNOCK ON THE DOOR.

ETHAN

Answer it but be cool.

HARLEY TAKES A DEEP BREATH AND OPENS THE DOOR.

POLICE OFFICER

Hello, are your parents home?

HARLEY CAN'T PLAY IT COOL.

HARLEY

Nope! And wherever my dad is, he's not stealing anything!

POLICE OFFICER

Okay... I'm just going door-to-door to let everyone know that it's a good idea to make sure you lock your doors and windows when you're not home.

ETHAN NOTICES THAT THERE IS A PICTURE OF HIS DAD HANGING ON THE WALL SO HE RUSHES OVER TO STAND IN FRONT OF THE PICTURE SO THE OFFICER WON'T SEE IT.

ETHAN

Yes, sir... we make sure to lock up every time we leave the house.

POLICE OFFICER

Okay... Do you mind if I ask you both a couple of questions?

BOTH HARLEY AND ETHAN ARE FAILING TO KEEP IT COOL.

HARLEY

Mind... NO! Of course not!

POLICE OFFICER

Have either one of you seen any suspicious activity?

HARLEY

NOPE! You Ethan?

ETHAN

Nope... Nothing...

POLICE OFFICER

All right... I have a sketch here I'd like for both of you to look at.

POLICE OFFICER PULLS OUT THE SKETCH OF THE "MARSHPORT BANDIT".

POLICE OFFICER (CONT'D)

Do either one of you recognize this man?

HARLEY

No, not my dad!

POLICE OFFICER

What?

ETHAN

What she meant to say is that sketch looks nothing like anyone we know.

POLICE OFFICER

Are the two of you okay?

HARLEY

Yeah! Why?

POLICE OFFICER

I'll tell you what. I'm going to leave my business card and if you two run across anything, will you give me a call?

POLICE OFFICER HANDS HARLEY HIS BUSINESS CARD.

HARLEY

Sure.

POLICE OFFICER

Okay... stay safe.

ETHAN

We will.

POLICE OFFICER TURNS AND LEAVES. HARLEY CLOSSES THE DOOR.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

If dad is the bandit, he's going to be
in a lot of trouble.

HARLEY LOOKS AT THE CAMERA.

HARLEY

What would our lives be like if dad
goes to jail?

CUT TO A "WHAT
IF" SCENARIO:

INT. JAIL

DAPHNE SITS AT A WINDOW WITH A PHONE. A PRISON GUARD BRINGS
TOM TO THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WINDOW.

PRISON GUARD

You have five minutes.

TOM PICKS UP THE PHONE TO TALK TO DAPHNE.

TOM

Hi Daphne! You look great!

DAPHNE

Stop with the pleasantries. I'm
busting you loose tonight.

DAPHNE SLIPS A NAIL FILE THROUGH THE SLOT UNDER THE WINDOW.

DAPHNE (CONT'D)

Here's a nail file. I'll be on the
other side of the south wall. Be there
11 PM sharp!

DAPHNE HANGS UP THE PHONE AND EXITS.

END "WHAT IF"
SCENARIO:

HARLEY

This could change our whole family!

FADE TO BLACK.

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

INT. BATHROOM

GEORGIE SITS IN FRONT OF A MIRROR WHILE RACHEL ATTENDS TO HER HAIR.

RACHEL

What were you thinking letting Daphne do your hair?

GEORGIE

I know! I made her promise not to color my hair. I kind of feel bad that I yelled at her.

RACHEL STARTS TO BRUSH OUT GEORGIE'S HAIR.

RACHEL

You know, your hair isn't that bad.

GEORGIE

Really?

RACHEL

Your hair is so thick, I think we can hide the bald spot by putting your hair up.

GEORGIE

That's good news!

RACHEL BEGINS TO MOVE HER HAIR AROUND.

RACHEL

There, no bald spot and your hair looks great. You should wear your hair up more often. What do you think?

GEORGIE

Thanks so much, Rachel. I really appreciate you.

RACHEL

Okay, let's not get all mushy.

CUT TO:

INT. GARAGE (DAY 1 - EARLY EVENING)

ETHAN IS PLACING HIS CAMERA IN PLACE. HARLEY IS STANDING AS A
LOOK OUT LOOKING OUT A WINDOW.

HARLEY

Here he comes!

ETHAN QUICKLY HITS RECORD AND THEY BOTH GO AND HIDE.

THE GARAGE DOOR STARTS TO OPEN AND TOM PULLS IN.

TOM COMES AROUND TO THE BACK OF THE CAR AND PULLS OUT A BIG
SCREEN TV AND LEANS IT UP AGAINST THE WALL.

ETHAN

(whispers) HE STOLE A TV!

TOM PUTS THE TV OFF TO THE SIDE AND THEN WALKS INTO THE
HOUSE.

HARLEY TALKS TO THE CAMERA.

HARLEY

Oh no! Its true! My dad is definitely
going to do hard time!

ETHAN GOES OVER TO HIS CAMERA AND STOPS IT.

HARLEY (CONT'D)

This is not good.

ETHAN

I know. Should we turn him over to the
police?

HARLEY

No, I think we should call mom.

ETHAN

How many inches do you think that TV
is?

HARLEY

What?

ETHAN

I've always wanted a flat screen TV in
my bedroom.

HARLEY

Ethan, Dad's going away! Now's not the
time to joke!

ETHAN

Who's joking?

CUT TO:

INT. DAPHNE'S BEDROOM (DAY 1 - LATE AFTERNOON)

DAPHNE SITS ON THE FLOOR PLAYING WITH HER DOLLS. SHE LOOKS SAD.

GEORGIE

Daphne?

DAPHNE

Yeah...

GEORGIE

I'm sorry I yelled at you.

GEORGIE COMES OVER AND SITS ON THE FLOOR WITH DAPHNE.

DAPHNE

It's okay. I'm sorry I messed up your hair.

GEORGIE

Actually, my hair is gonna be fine. I'll just have to put my hair up in a pony tail and wear baseball hats for the next few months but I'll be okay. Anyway, I just wanted to make sure you're okay.

DAPHNE

I'm okay.

GEORGIE

Good!

GEORGIE GETS UP AND STARTS TO LEAVE.

DAPHNE

Georgie? I love you.

DAPHNE CATCHES GEORGIE OFF GUARD.

GEORGIE

Wow... Daphne, I love you too.

DAPHNE GETS UP AND HUGS GEORGIE.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM (DAY 1 - NIGHT)

HARLEY AND ETHAN ARE WATCHING THE FOOTAGE ON ETHAN'S CAMERA.

ETHAN

I can edit this so...

TOM WALKS IN.

TOM

Hey, what are you two watching?

ETHAN QUICKLY STOPS THE TAPE. THE TV REMAINS ON.

HARLEY

Um... Nothing?

TOM

Was that me in the garage?

ETHAN

Yes...

TOM

Why were you filming me in the garage?

HARLEY

Dad? Are you the "Marshport Bandit"?

TOM

What? You mean that guy?

TOM PICKS UP REMOTE CONTROL AND TURNS THE VOLUME UP ON THE TV. ON THE TV IS A NEWS REPORTER.

NEWS REPORTER (V.O.)

The "Marshport Bandit" was caught tonight stealing a pizza at Red Harry's Pizzeria. They caught him red handed...

NEWS REPORTER LAUGHS TO HIMSELF.

TOM TURNS THE TV OFF. BOTH HARLEY AND ETHAN LOOK AT EACH OTHER.

HARLEY

Dad, we're so sorry.

TOM

Harls, do you really think I'm capable of stealing anything?

HARLEY

No... I'm sorry dad.

TOM

And Ethan, why are you hiding cameras around the house and filming me?

ETHAN

We just wanted to make sure that you weren't stealing anything. By the way, how big is that flat screen TV in the garage?

TOM

Sixty-two inches! It's a really nice TV.

ETHAN

Are we keeping it?

TOM

No! It's for a display at my store.

HARLEY

So all that stuff that was in the garage was for your store?

TOM

Yep... It's going to be a whole summer sports display.

HARLEY

Okay! Now it all makes sense!

ETHAN

Dad?

TOM

Yeah

ETHAN

Think we could hook up the TV for just tonight and watch a movie?

TOM

I thought you'd never ask. Go get in your jammies and I'll hook up the TV.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM (NIGHT - DAY 1)

TOM SITS ON THE COUCH WITH HARLEY, ETHAN, DAPHNE, BEAST, LEWIE, RACHEL AND GEORGIE. THEY'RE ALL IN THEIR PAJAMAS AND ARE ALL EATING PIZZA WHILE THEY WATCH A MOVIE ON THE BIG SCREEN TV.

SUZY ENTERS THROUGH THE FRONT DOOR CARRYING HER SUITCASE AND SHE'S SOAKING WET.

TOM

Hey, you're home early.

SUZY

My vacation got rained out. Pizza?

TOM

Yep.

SUZY COMES OVER GRABS A SLICE OF PIZZA AND JOINS HER FAMILY ON THE COUCH.

END OF ACT TWO

THE END.