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BROTHERLY LOVE

- EPISODE 9: DRIVING LESSON -

The mechanic's workshop. Joe and Matt arrive by car.

JOE: Right, buddy, perfect: A+ (*plus*)! (You) can let go the wheel now.

MATT: Really? A+? Did you notice I used the proper hand signals?

JOE: Yeah. And did you notice those guys have flipped the improper hand signal when they passed you?

Recorded laughter.

MATT: Look, Joe: within two hundred yards of a school you're automatically supposed to slow down to twenty five: the were reckless!

JOE: They were Amish!

Recorded laughter.

MATT: Joe, if I pass my test tomorrow....

JOE: Ah-ah-ah: WHEN you pass your test tomorrow

MATT: When I pass my test tomorrow...it's all gonna change, right Joe?

JOE: You're talking about the babes, aren't you Matt?

MATT: Babes...tell me about babes, Joe!

Recorded laughter.

JOE: All I'll say is it'll take a lot more fun to have a girl in the back seat when you're mom is not in the front seat.

MATT: How am I gonna drive from the back seat?

Joe puts his hand on his forehead. Recorded laughter.

Next morning, in the kitchen. Joe comes in.

JOE: Matt! Wake up!

MATT: (*suddenly waking up*) The answer is B: turning to the escape!

Recorded laughter.

JOE: What are you doing?

MATT: Oh, Joe, I couldn't sleep!

JOE: Tell that to that puddle of drool!

Recorded laughter.

MATT: Look, I just wanna make sure that I am 100% (*one hundred percent*) prepared!

JOE: Will you relax? You're a very good driver and you have to be: 'cause you were taught by me, alright?

MATT: I wish you were to give me that test instead of that old man Hangarter. He makes me nervous, Joe!

JOE: Here's a little trick: when you look at Hangarter just make there's a beautiful babe who loves to watch you drive! That will help you relax!

MATT: It won't, girls make me nervous too!!!

Recorded laughter.

The telephone rings. Matt answers.

MATT: *(on the phone)* Hello? Oh, hi Monica! Yeah. Yep, you heard right: today is the day! Sure, I'll swing by to pick you up on Monday for school! No problem! Well, I can't guarantee a -----! Okay, bye, bye!

Matt hangs up the phone.

JOE: Was I right?

MATT: You were right!!!

JOE AND MATT: Yes!

Andy and Claire enter the kitchen.

CLAIRE: Wow, you guys are up early!

JOE: Today's the big day! Say goodbye to your little boy!

CLAIRE: *(hugging Matt)* Goodbye little boy!

MATT: Oh, come on, mom!

CLAIRE: I'm very proud of you!

MATT: Ain't passed yet! Mr Hangarter's tough!

CLAIRE: I know he is: boy, he flunked me, Lloyd..and your father! I like to think he flunked Henry Ford!

Recorded laughter.

MATT: I gotta pass! I gotta pass!

JOE: Will you relax? You gonna be born in a rubber robe at downside street before you know it!

CLAIRE: Not my Matt: he's cautious and careful.

MATT: What's that supposed to mean?

CLAIRE: Show me another boy who gave his mother nonskid daisies for the bath tub!

Recorded laughter.

MATT: Has anybody slipped? Has anybody ever slipped?

CLAIRE: And what other son came up with an evacuation plan in case of nuclear attack?

Claire indicates the sheet of paper on the fridge, where Joe is.

JOE: I always wondered what this map is here for!

Recorded laughter.

MATT: Okay, if you'll excuse me, for the last time in my life I have to WALK to school.

Matt goes out.

JOE: You know, Claire, I have to tell you: you're really taking this well. I mean, most moms freak out when their first born son starts to drive!

CLAIRE: Not me. (*Turning worried to Joe*) But he does know how to drive, right?

Recorded laughter.

JOE: Yes. He's a very safe driver and also a very good kid. Almost too good. (Are) you sure there's not some evil twin around here somewhere?

CLAIRE: No, no, I was at the birth: I probably would have noticed.

Recorded laughter.

ANDY: Do I have an evil twin?

CLAIRE: You certainly do and he usually comes out right around bedtime!

ANDY: Excellent! Maybe it's time we let him outdoor in the day! Eh, eh, eh....

Recorded laughter.

Later that morning. Mr Hangarter's office.

MATT: You wanted to see me, Mr Hangarter?

MR HANGARTER: Ah, Mr Roman! Enter!

Matt enters.

MR: Sit!

Matt sits. Recorded laughter.

MR HANGARTER: I was just reviewing your record!

MATT: And?

MR HANGARTER: You have a firm grasp of comparative braking distances on the full array road surfaces.....

MATT: Thank you, sir!

MR HANGARTER: However...I do have a problem stemming from this morning's driving test.

MATT: I thought it did pretty well!

MR HANGARTER: Technically I could pass you. However I see your position is more...on the cusp, poised on the precipice between passing and failing. Tiniest gust of wind could blow you in either direction. Which way to do see the wind blowing, Mr Roman?

MATT: It's fine, right?

Recorded laughter.

MR HANGARTER: You know what the defining moment for me was? It was right to the end. You failed to crimp your wheels to the curb, and we were parked on the 15% (*fifteen percent*) incline. My course was clear.

MATT: Sir, I'm begging ya! Don't you understand how important this is to me?

MR HANGARTER: Of course I do: you think you're the only over eager teenager with a lead foot I stop from being a danger on our public roads?

Recorded laughter.

MR HANGARTER: Well, you're not!

MATT: Sir, can't you understand how I feel? Don't you have any compassion?

Some noise comes from outside. Mr Hangarter goes to the window and shouts.

MR HANGARTER: Hey, you kids! Get away from my car! Do you know how much greese there is on the human hand? And I am only guessing you're human, get away!!!!

Recorded laughter. Mr Hangarter turns to Matt again.

MR HANGARTER: Putting compassion aside, Mr Roman.... I sincerely hope you have a working bicycle, because according to the laws of the great State of Pennsylvania you're going to need it for at least three months.

MATT: But sir....

MR HANGARTER: And the next time we're in a car together, I would appreciate you're not staring at me as if you're undressing me with your eyes!

Recorded laughter. Matt goes out.

Later in the garage. Matt returns.

CLAIRE: Ah, here's my little king of the road!

JOE: Hey, congratulations, buddy: today you're man!

MATT: No, today I am a loser!

Recorded laughter.

JOE: What?

MATT: I failed Joe. I failed my driving test.

JOE: Failed? But I taught you everything!

MATT: I didn't crimp!!! I didn't crimp!!!

Recorded laughter.

JOE: Crimping? What's crimping? I've driven a thousand of miles and never once crimped!

Recorded laughter.

CLAIRE: Oh, it's some Hangarter thing: some little technical thing you've never heard of!

Recorded laughter.

JOE: You know what? This is absolute bull! ----- driving expert has already passed you, pal: me!

MATT: It doesn't matter anyway: my life is over!

Lloyd and Lou approach bringing a cake.

JOE: ----- It's...it's, you know -----failed your driving test!

They blow on the candles and Lloyd takes the cake away.

CLAIRE: Matt, I am so sorry: I know how hard you studied for this.

MATT: The thing that really gets me is to think that Mr Hangarter really enjoyed it!

LOU: Oh! Mr Hangarter? I hate him!

MATT: You know him?

LOU: (*Imitating Mr Hangarter*) Miss Davies, perhaps you should take your pretty little curls to a home economics class because it's obvious you'll never learn anything about cars! Right then and there I decided to learn everything I possibly could about the motor science.

CLAIRE: Way to go, Lou, you showed him!

LOU: Well, I suppose. Of course I was early accepted in pre-law. Right now I could be in a Mercedes instead of under one.

Recorded laughter.

JOE: -----

LLOYD: Hey, getting one?

CLAIRE: Lloyd?

LLOYD: Don't worry! People---- a little afternoon treat!

MATT: (*Reading on the cake*) Congratulations, Matt, our newest RIVER?

Recorded laughter.

LLOYD: Long may you flow!!!!

Recorded laughter.

MATT: Excuse me!

Matt goes away.

JOE: What you won't do for a piece of cake?

Recorded laughter.

That evening, in the kitchen. Matt is on the phone.

MATT: (*on the phone*) Listen, Veronica: just because I can't drive it doesn't mean we can't go together. We can still walk to the.... (*Veronica hangs up*) Hello?

Recorded laughter.

ANDY: Hey, Matt: wanna borrow my bike? Eh, eh, eh....

Recorded laughter.

MATT: Shut up, Andy!

ANDY: I'm not Andy: I'm Randy, his evil twin.

MATT: Oh, excuse me, Randy: shut up, Randy!

Recorded laughter.

ANDY: I see why you're upset. Looks like I'll be driving before you. Eh, eh, eh....

Recorded laughter.

CLAIRE (*from another room*): Andy, it's time for your bath!

ANDY: Andy? Pfuh!!! I despise that weakling! (*To Claire, changing voice*) Coming, mom: there's nothing like a good bath!

Matt goes to the living room. Joe and Claire are on the couch.

JOE: Hey, Matt! Wanna go check out a movie?

MATT: You mean If I want my big brother to drive me to the movies? No, thanks!

Matt goes out.

JOE: Poor kid. You know, somebody's got to do something. I think I'm gonna go over and talk to this Hangarter guy. Where does he live?

CLAIRE: Oh, you can't do that!

JOE: Why not? Nobody could be more prepared than Matt was! I think he just got rattled and somebody has to tell this guy!

CLAIRE: Joe, I don't think you should do that!

JOE: Alright, you're right. I overstep my bounds here. You should, 'cause you're his mother.

CLAIRE: I can't. Hangarter scares me.

Recorded laughter.

JOE: So much for the mother tiger myth.

Recorded laughter.

CLAIRE: Maybe Matt would be better off if he didn't get his license for another three months.

JOE: Oh, you see? I knew it. This is not about you being afraid of Mr Hangarter. This is about you being afraid of Matt growing up.

CLAIRE: That is not true!

JOE: No, no. You know what I think? You don't want Matt to get his license because you wanna keep him a kid.

CLAIRE: No, I do not want to keep him a kid. But my heart is in my throat every time he drives off in that car. Now maybe seeing my husband die on the race track has something to do with it, but I think I did a pretty good job in not showing that fear to Matt.

JOE: Yeah, you have. -----make him wait three more months? I mean, Claire, when you're sixteen that seems forever!

CLAIRE: I know, Joe, but....

JOE: You know what, Claire? If dad were here, he would want all of us to stand up for Matt.

Later in the garage. Matt and Andy are talking on the stairs.

MATT: You know, you study hard, you play by the rules...and what does it get ya?

ANDY: A big pack full of nothing!

Recorded laughter.

LOU: It's just not fair, I mean, Mr. Hangarter completely ruined my senior year!

LLOYD: I did ruin either of mine!

Recorded laughter.

LLOYD: I never got mad at Hangarter. I got even.

ANDY: Sounds evil. Share with us, stranger!

LLOYD: I took on a secret identity! I became the Masked Avenger!

JOE: Wow! You were the Masked Avenger??? Oh, Cool!

LLOYD: My exploits were passed on from generation to generation.

JOE: Actually it was just -----

Recorded laughter.

LOU: So, Lloyd, what did you do to him?

LLOYD: Everyday I sneak into the classroom, steal his sandwich and replace it with a note that said: "The Masked Avenger strikes...again!"

JOE: You guys are all pathetic! Look, Matt, did you deserve to pass that test?

MATT: Yes!

JOE: Then there was no justice, and when there's no justice you have to make your own.

MATT: How?

JOE: I don't know, you have to do something stupid.

Recorded laughter.

MATT: Joe, you don't know Mr Hangarter.

JOE: Matt, come on, he's only a teacher.

LLOYD: Oh, Joe, he is mean! Everyday right after lunch he became furious with me and made me polish his car. For no reason!!!

Recorded laughter.

JOE: Good thing he never found out you were Masked of Avenger, Lloyd!

LOU: That stupid red Pontiac? He loved that car!

MATT: He still got it!

JOE: Okay, I have an idea. I have an incredibly stupid idea!

MATT: It sounds dangerous. You're gonna get me in trouble, aren't you Joe?

ANDY: Oh, for crying out loud, listen to the man!!!!

Recorded laughter.

JOE: Alright, when do something, there's only two ways it can go: you can get caught and pay the price, you can get away with it -----, or.....okay there's only two ways. But only one of those ways is actually never gonna happen.

LOU: Matt, for once I actually agree with Joe.

LLOYD: Me too.

ANDY: I think it's obvious I stand. Eh, eh, eh...

Recorded laughter.

MATT: You know what? You're right. I'm sick of being cautious, of looking before I leap. For once in my life I wanna take a bath and scrape my bottom on those stupid nonskid daisies.

Recorded laughter.

JOE: Alright, we'll meet at the school at... 18:00 (*eighteen hundred*) hours.

LLOYD: That's over two months from now, but....I guess it's better -----.

Recorded laughter.

At school. Joe, Matt, Lou and Lloys sneak in and go to Mr Hangarter's office, where they compose, piece by piece, Mr Hangarters's car.

LOU: Done! I'm gonna go get the rest of my tools ----- outside.

MATT: How great is this? Who does this? Gods do this! If Zeus ever failed Driver'Ed that's what he'd do! I scare me! I wonder what I'm gonna do next!

JOE: You have to go out and stay next to Lou.

MATT: I'm on it, Joe!

JOE: Alright, buddy: I'm all done. You?

LLOYD: I'm all done. All I have to do now is leave my calling card!

JOE: Okay, okay, but hurry up, alright? We're gonna all meet back at the garage for the briefing!

LLOYD: Actually I'd rather do that in the privacy of my home. But I'll stop by, anyway!

Joe goes out.

LLOYD (*writing his message*): You never had a hunch, who kept stealing you lunch. But now I'm gone taste it, you no good old.... driving teacher. Signed... the Masked Avenger!

Lloyd tries to get out the car, but he finds himself stuck in it.

LLOYD: Oh, oh!

Back to the garage. Andy was waiting for them.

ANDY: How'd it go? How'd it go?

JOE: Mission accomplished, bud!

LOU: Oh, you should have been there, kiddo!

ANDY: Yeah, it's tough being evil when you gotta be in bed by eight!

Recorded laughter.

MATT: I can't believe we actually did it: the perfect crime!

LOU: There, clap our hands!

Matt and Lou clap each other's hands.

JOE: How do you feel, buddy?

MATT: Like a man, Joe!

JOE: Like a man who has just done....

MATT: ...incredibly stupid.

JOE, MATT, ANDY: Yes! We're stupid men! We're stupid men!

LOU: Hey, guys....what about me? Can I be a stupid man too?

JOE: You're in! As at tonight! You are now a very stupid man!

MATT: You know, I just wish to get to see the look on his face when he walks into his office Monday morning and sees his car!

LOU: Matt Roman, you're the greatest prankster of our times. You are even better than Lloyd.

JOE: (*To Matt*) Now there's one of the greatest stupid man of our times.

MATT: So where's Lloyd anyway, eh?

JOE: I don't know: he should have been here by now.

Back to Mr's office. Lloyd is still in the car.

LLOYD: (*singing*) Thirty nine bottles of beer on the wall, thirty nine bottles of beer... Take one down, pass it around, ...thirty eight bottles of beer on the wall....thirty eight bottles of beer on the wall....

Back to the garage. Joe tries to call Lloyd in the phone.

JOE: Alright ther's no answer, so he's not at home.

MATT: Okay, nobody panic! Let's just try to trace our steps.

JOE: Okay, let's see. You guys left, Lloyd started to write his note, I retested the door, then I squeezed out....

LOU: Hold it! You squeezed out?

JOE: Yeah, what?

Recorded laughter.

MATT: He's in the car!!! He's trapped in the car!!! Joe, how could you leave him in the car???

JOE: I don't know, Matt... I'm just a stupid man!

Recorded laughter.

MATT: Not funny! He's just gonna squeal on us, I know it!

JOE: Even if someone finds him, he won't squeal! He will never rat us out!

CLAIRE (*from upstairs*): Guys, breakfast!!!!

MATT: Yes, ----- in six hours. He sells us out for a pack of cocktail peanuts!

LOU: Oh, Joe, he's right.

JOE: DAMN IT, I KNOW HE IS! Alright, we're just gonna have to go back in.

MATT: What are we gonna tell mom?

ANDY: Don't worry, I'll make something up! She'd believe anything her beloved Andy tells her. Eh, eh, eh....

Recorded laughter.

JOE: You're a very strange little kid. But I'm glad you're on our side. Let's go!

Later in the kitchen. Andy comes in.

CLAIRE: Where's everybody?

ANDY: Out.

CLAIRE: Doing what?

ANDY: -----

CLAIRE: Really? And Matt?

ANDY: Matt? My brother Matt. He's at school... doing homework for stupid kids!

CLAIRE: Andy, you know, you don't have to lie to me. I know that they're all out cheering up Matt because he's so depressed.

ANDY: You got me, mom. I've never seen Matt so depressed in my life.

Recorded laughter.

CLAIRE: And I didn't even stand up for. Excuse me, I have to make a phone call I should have made two days ago.

The phone rings at Mr Hangarter's-home.

MR HANGARTER: All this stupid Sunday morning! (*He steps in his cat's tail*). Get out of the way, Orson! (*He answers the phone*) What?

CLAIRE: Mr Hangarter, this is Claire Roman. I'm calling about my son, Matt. We need to talk, it's important. Right away.

MR HANGARTER: My office, twenty minutes.

CLAIRE: Twenty minutes?

MR HANGARTER: Don't be late. (*He hangs up. To the cat*) Don't lick me!!!

Back to Claire's kitchen.

ANDY: To tell the truth... Shut up! You must! I can't! You must! I can't!!!

CLAIRE: I sense there is a good Andy and a bad Andy here.

ANDY: Yeah!!!

CLAIRE: And I think the bad Andy could get the good Andy in an awful lot of trouble!

ANDY: Yeee...

CLAIRE: Like no TV for a month for either one of you.

ANDY: I've nothing to do with it, mom! I swear! It wasn't my idea: they made me! I don't even know the guy, please, don't take away my TV! Don't take away my TVVVV!!!!

Mr. Hangarter's office. Joe, Matt and Lou have come back to save Lloyd.

JOE: I find it hard to believe you were able to put any pranks to this guy without getting caught!

LLOYD: It's hard to get trapped inside a paper bag, Joe. Please, get me out of here.

MATT: You guys, hurry up! Instead we'll gonna get caught!

JOE: Settle down, it's Sunday, we got all day to get Lloyd out!

Claire enters the office.

CLAIRE: Not exactly!

MATT: Mom! What are you doing here?

CLAIRE: Don't get me this. What am I doing here? What are YOU doing here!

LOU: Oh, it was Joe's idea!

MATT: Yeah, mom. Joe.

LLOYD: Joe made me do it!

JOE: So much for all for one!

Recorded laughter.

CLAIRE: I don't care whose fault it is. Hangarter is on his way here and he's gonna be here any minute!

JOE: Why is he coming here on Sunday, Claire?

CLAIRE: I called him up and asked him!

Recorded laughter.

LOU: Oh, who would make you do something like that?

CLAIRE: Joe made me. It was Joe's idea. (*To Joe*) Well, you're the one who told me to stand up to him.

JOE: Not now! You had twenty years to do it and you decided to pick the one day we decided to put his car in his office???

MATT: I'm not gonna drive for the rest of my life!

LOU: Okay, let's just concentrate on getting Lloyd out and we'll deal with the car later.

CLAIRE: Lou, I don't think you're really in a position of being making suggestions.

LOU: Oh, actually I am. I just saw Hangarter walk into the building.

LLOYD: PLAN B!!!

Lloyd turns on the car.

School corridor. Claire goes out trying to stop Mr Hangarter.

CLAIRE: Hi! I bet you don't remember me.

MR HANGARTER: Of course I do: Claire Cooper! Homecoming queen of the ---year. Little miss perfect.

Recorded laughter.

CLAIRE: Except in your class.

MR HANGARTER: Life can be all early rewards... are you still using your rearview mirror to touch up you lipstick?

CLAIRE: No, I am not.

MR HANGARTER: And you know why? Because I gave you a hard time about it.

CLAIRE: Yes, you certainly did. I always wondered why you had to be so mean to us.

MR HANGARTER: Think back. You remember any of the teachers who let you coast? Even more important... do you remember anything from the lessons they taught you. Of course not. But I guarantee you: every student I ever had remembers me.

A noise comes from the office.

CLAIRE: Those were great times! So, how about if we go get a cup of coffee and talk about them?

The noises continue.

MR HANGARTER: Don't you think we'd be more comfortable in my office?

CLAIRE: Mr. Hangarter, Matt is a really good kid.

MR HANGARTER: They're all good kid. That's why I try to keep them alive. You more than anyone know how dangerous cars are.

CLAIRE: Yes, I do.

MR HANGARTER: I was really sorry to hear about Mike. That's probably why I was so hard on his son.

The sound of the horn.

MR HANGARTER: I give away! I did he get my car in there?

CLAIRE: Oh, he had help.

MR HANGARTER: Very inventive.

CLAIRE: So you're not furious.

MR HANGARTER: I just gave up out my final grades. I'd be very disappointed of somebody was not to get me. Now, let's go put the fury of God into that son of yours.

CLAIRE: You're a very good man, Mr Hangarter.

MR HANGARTER: Keep that to yourself, Mrs Roman.

Back to the office.

MATT: Hurry up, leave it up on borrow time!

MR HANGARTER: You loan just came due!

LLOYD: Mr Hangarter!

MATT: Mom!!!

CLAIRE: Well, I couldn't stop him!

MR HANGARTER: -----over my eyes, I don't care what people may think. Isn't that right, Masked Avenger?

LLOYD: You knew?

MR HANGARTER: Of course I knew. I also know that you're supposed be mechanics. Miss Davies I expect this car to be back in his parking space by morning.

LOU: Yes, sir.

MR HANGARTER: And you, Mr Roman, I will consider this instance when reviewing your situation three months from now. It's going to be fun. (*To Joe*) And you...what are you looking at?

JOE: Let me tell you a little some, buddy.

MR HANGARTER: Yes?

JOE: You got a little rust problem in the crankcase, I'll take care.

MR HANGARTER: Excellent. And you, Mrs Roman, I expect you to find suitable punishment for all of them when you get them home.

CLAIRE: Yes, sir.

MR HANGARTER: You have one more son, don't you?

CLAIRE: Yes, I do.

MR HANGARTER: Tell him I'll be waiting for him.

VOICE OVER: The entire crew was found guilty of maliciuos mischief. Joe and Lou were ordered to donate five weekends performing free maintenance on school vehicles. Lloyd was

ordered to polish Mr. Hangarter's car every day right after lunch. Matt Roman was grounded until the turn of the century. Randy Roman was sent away forever. Andy Roman will have to face Mr Hangarter in the year 2004 (*two thousand and four*).

THE END.

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