

GA101

This episode begins with the sun rising and a car (buggy) in silhouette driving along a road with the backdrop of a city. A couple of kids run by the foreground, carrying kites. The kites pass by the camera and are used as a transition to inside the car.

Inside the car, there is a young girl - Sally Dunn, looking bored. Her eyes face to outside the window, and she lets out a sigh, before looking forward again.

SALLY
(whining)
Are we there yet?

The camera cuts to Robert, her father, in the back seat. His arm lazily hangs out the window, and he looks to the world outside.

ROBERT
No Sally.

SALLY (O.S.)
Mom?

The camera pans back, showing her mother, Autumn, boredly reading a book.

AUTUMN
No, not yet.

The camera cuts back to Sally. Her brother, Max Dunn - an older boy about the age of 12 is in the seat next to Sally on the passenger's side. He is trying to read a comic book, completely frustrated.

SALLY
(Loud groan) How about now? Are we there yet?

Max stops reading his comic book and he looks to Sally.

MAX
(matter-of-factly)
Sally, YOU'RE the one driving.

Cut to a wide shot of the entire vehicle. The kids are in the front seat, and Sally is the one driving. The adults are in the back seat. Sally gives a surprised expression.

SALLY
Oh yeah....

Beat.

SALLY

Does that mean we're there yet?

Sally turns towards Max, smiling hopefully. Max returns her a grumpy look, and then his eyes roam towards the street. He doesn't change his expression when he speaks.

MAX

Crosswalk Sally.

Sally's head darts towards the road, her ponytail whipping Max in the face. Sally rams on the breaks, looking panicked. Cut to an exterior shot of the car - a vehicle more reminiscent of a beetle than an actual car. It comes to a stop at a hopscotch court running across the road. Children skip across the court, while a child wearing a crossing guard uniform holds up a stop sign with the word "NO" written on it. She looks at the car angrily.

CROSSING GUARD

(shouting)

My parents could drive better than you!

Sally sticks out her tongue and blows a raspberry at the Crossing Guard.

MAX

Just an average day in Summerway.

Play theme song.

Cut to Sally driving past the Summerway Town Hall. The mayor Talula is standing outside, addressing a large crowd of kids. Melissa, her assistant is cowering behind her. Many of the children are jumping up and down. Many of them are showing other displays of displeasure. Kids dressed as boy or girl scouts are also there, attempting to keep the peace.

ROBERT

It looks like the mayor's busy. I wonder what Ms. Talula on her hands.

AUTUMN

Who really cares? Politics is kids' business.

Cut to outside. The kids are angrily jumping up and down. Some of them are throwing tantrums, or doing other things to

showcase their displeasure.

MELISSA

Please listen to your mayor, everyone.

TALULA

I'm sorry, but if you do something wrong, imaginary friends CANNOT go to time out in your place.

CROWD KID #1

But what if they actually did it?

Talula faceplams.

Cut to the Dunn car interior.

SALLY

Hmmm.... do we take a right here?

MAX

Sally, you know where our house is.

SALLY

So it's a left turn then?

MAX

Right, Sally.

SALLY

Alright, turning right!

MAX

Sally, that's not-- never mind.

Sally turns the car at a wide angle, going over the curb and then back onto the road.

SALLY

Good thing we got those bumpers fixed.

AUTUMN

Sally, can we just go home? I think that Max knows what you're doing.

Sally goes white as a ghost. She looks over to Max, who is giving a deadpan expression back towards her.

SALLY

Grown-ups, huh? They always the silliest--

MAX
Sally, you do this every year.

SALLY
I do a lot of things every yere. You
have to be more specific.

MAX
Stop playing stupid.

SALLY
I'm not familiar with that game.

MAX
So, you're telling me that you didn't
drive us all around town for three
hours so your friends could set up a
surprise party?

The camera shows Sally through the rearview mirror. She has
became deflated. She looks over to Robert. He can do nothing
else, but showcase an expression of sympathy.

SALLY
Uh... not exactly?

Sally gives her best nervous grin right at Max. Max returns a
deadpan expression.

SALLY
I got your friends to help too.

MAX
I don't have any friends, Sally.

SALLY
Sure you do! Anna and Neven helped me
plan this, and Shelly was a big help
setting everything up-

MAX
Those are my employees. Like I said, I
don't have any friends.

As Max talks, Sally just rolls her eyes and makes mocking
motions as Max falters into his own sadness.

ROBERT
You know, Max, you really should have
some fun. It is your birthday after
all. And you know what happens to

people who don't have fun on their birthdays?

MAX

What?

ROBERT

They end up like Autumn.

Autumn looks annoyed.

AUTUMN

I heard that, Robert!

ROBERT

(sing-songy)

I kno-ow!

Max just looks outside the car in annoyance.

Cut to the car pulling up to the Dunn House's driveway. The camera holds on the house overall to allow the audience to breathe it in, focusing on many of the party-themed decorations that are scattered about - balloons hanging on the mailbox, a banner across the garage, the bounce house on the lawn, etc.

Cut to Sally outside the car, stamping her foot down.

SALLY

Oh come on! We've been gone for three hours and the outside looks exactly the same as before they started!

MAX

Yup, sounds *exactly* like my employees.
Can't do anything without-

Harper Clementine, a girl with a curly orange hair under a green beret rushes up. She has a notepad by her side and a microphone in her hands. She also has a gap in her teeth, so she speaks with a slight lisp. She puts the microphone in Max's face.

HARPER

Harper Clementine here, reporting with the Summerway News Network! Can I get a scoop?

Max is taken aback. He pulls the collar of his shirt.

MAX
I don't think that my birthday is what
I'd call newsworthy.

Beat.

HARPER
No, I'm talkin' bout the ice cream!
Sally said you'd have chocolate chip
cookie dough!

Sally whispers in Harper's ear. They do it in plain view of Max. The camera sits behind Sally and Harper and showcase Max's increasingly annoyed expressions.

SALLY
(whispering)
It's supposed to be a surprise. Max
isn't supposed to know about it.

HARPER
(whispers louder)
Oh, I didn't know. Sorry.

As Sally speaks, she starts from a similar whisper, but she grows louder and louder with each word until she's at a shout.

SALLY
But yeah! We can getcha a scoop. Or
two! Or twenty-seven! Or a hundred!
And a mile of cake too!

MAX
(angrily)
Sally, I told you that I didn't want
to have a birthday party!

SALLY
Well, just cuz you're not gonna enjoy
it doesn't mean one else can. I
invited a lotta people.

Cut to a very small boy in a combat helmet marching past Autumn. This is Avery. Autumn looks very frightened at this small child, and attempts to stay out of his way.

AVERY
Move outta the way, Autumn!

AUTUMN
Yes, of course Mr. Avery.

AVERY
Goodie. Make sure yer ready for a
super special obstacle course on
Monday!

Autumn panickedly rushes over to Sally.

AUTUMN
Uh... Sally? Why did you invite our
gym teacher to Max's birthday?

SALLY
He lives on our street doesn't he?

AUTUMN
Well, who else did you invite?

SALLY
Oh just a few... hundred kids.

Robert walks by.

ROBERT
Don't you think that that's just the
tiniest bit excessive?

SALLY
Well, most of 'em didn't show up
anyway.

Autumn quickly ducks back as she is nearly run over by a
little girl pulling along her older brother. The older
brother looks bored out of his mind. These are Stella and
Cerra respectively.

AUTUMN
Who exactly?

SALLY
Well, there was the prince and
princess.

MAX
Yeah, I *wonder* why they didn't show
up.

SALLY
And there was a super awesome kid who

called to gimme a Cribabean cruise!

Max facepalms.

MAX

Sally, that was a telemarketer.

SALLY

And of course, Ryker.

MAX

Sally, I told you to stop bothering the neighbors-

There's a tap on Sally's shoulder. She turns around to find Ryker standing there, looking down at her angrily.

RYKER

You left this in my mailbox.

Ryker stomps on Sally's foot, causing her mouth to open up. Ryker stuffs the crumpled up invitation into Sally's mouth and closes it. Then Ryker walks off.

SALLY

(Tries to talk with a full mouth.)

MAX

If you need me, I'm going to be in my room. I'll be there until the party is over.

Max opens up the door into the Dunn's living room. It is scattered with most of the child cast, including Sally's friends - Molly and April. As well as the Lemonade Employees - Niall, Steve, Shelly, Anna, and Neven. On top of the normal decor, party decal is placed everywhere. A banner on the back wall says "HAPPY BIRTHDAY MAX". There's a pile of presents stacked on the merry-go-round coffee table. Streamers and confetti are everywhere. A multi-layered cake sits on the ground.

CROWD

Surprise!

Max only barely turns to the party. He turns back away from it and walks up the stairs. The stairs light up and play a tone as he does so. This leaves the rest of the cast feeling awkward and sad. Sally, Robert, and Autumn walk into the room.

NIALL

Is it something that we did?

AUTUMN

You know that bedroom idea sounds like a particularly attractive one. I think that I'll head up to mine.

SALLY

Oh no you don't. You know as well as I do that grown-ups need at least seven hours of fun a day, and a birthday party is a perfect place to get some!

AUTUMN

But I have homework to do. That's enough fun to last an entire week.

Sally folds her arms and looks straight at Autumn.

SALLY

You aren't gonna do your homework, are you?

AUTUMN

Of course I am. You know... eventually.

Start starts to get angry.

SALLY

Well yeah, you WILL have to do it "eventually" because you're gonna be spending the evening at this party. A lotta kids worked really hard on it.

Autumn tries to go and sit quietly in the corner. Another one of the neighbors, Riley shows up.

RILEY

Hey, do you wanna play pin the tail on the donkey?

Autumn looks over to Sally, who is still watching the entire party. Autumn rolls her eyes.

AUTUMN

Sure, why not.

RILEY

Awesome, I'll get the roller skates.

AUTUMN

Roller skates? Whatever for?

RILEY

Just using a boring old blindfold is easy. We gotta make this challenge extreme!

Cut to April walking up to Sally. She puts her arm around Sally's shoulder.

APRIL

Dear, it's okay. It was no trouble at all making this party. You don't need to take it out on your parents.

Steve wakes up from sleeping on the floor.

STEVE

Speak for yourself.

SHELLY

You're one ta talk! You've been asleep the entire time!

STEVE

Which took a LOT of work with all your noise, thank you.

ANNA

It's a real shame that all the effort went into such a horrible horrible, I guess. Are you gonna want us to take it down? What are you gonna do with the cake, cuz there's a lot of it. You should probably eat it before it goes bad-

NEVEN

Anna, you're rambling again.

Sally sits down on the couch. April and Molly join her.

MOLLY

Yeah, I guess we didn't do too hot on this one. We'll have ta make it up to ya somehow.

SALLY

No, the party's great. It's... it's the best I've seen in months!

APRIL

Then what is it, Sally?

SALLY

It's something that I shoulda known.
Max doesn't like my birthday parties.
He never has.

MOLLY

That sounds like a fib to me. Yeah
throw 'em all the time! He's gotta
like at least a few of 'em.

SALLY

Not any of the birthday parties,
Molly. At least none of them since I
was really little.

Sally is interrupted by the sound of hoof beats. In come
Gumdrops, the family's pet pony. As soon as Sally sees him,
she brightens up.

SALLY

Gumdrops! There you are!

Sally holds her arms out wide. Gumdrops starts galloping
towards her; however he ends up tripping, tumbling over and
crashing into Shelly. As she falls over, Sally, April, and
Molly gasp, horrified.

APRIL

My word! Are you quite alright?

Shelly sits up and shakes her head wildly.

SHELLY

Oh yeah, I'm fine. Why do you ask?

Shelly spits out a tooth.

SHELLY

Oh hey! Lost another one! Why does
that keep happenin'?

APRIL

Are you... quite sure? It looks as if
you had quite the blumish.

SHELLY

What about it? I get worse knocks all
the time. I got a tougher one at my

last football game. Combat yo-yos hurt!

Shelly points to a band-aid on her arm.

MOLLY

Combat yo-yo!? Are you sure that yer okay?

ANNA

Oh don't worry about it. Lil' Shelly's always taking little knocks and bruises. Like this one time, me and her had stacked up all of the tables at Lemonade Land and we were gonna use a frying pan to sled down it and right out the door, and--

APRIL

I just SINGE thinking about it. Please spare me the details.

Sally looks to Gumdrops, and brushes his mane affectionately.

SALLY

You're okay too, aren't you?

Gumdrops licks Sally affectionately.

SALLY

Oh yes you are. Yes you are! Good boy!

Sally goes back to appearing sad.

APRIL

What's wrong?

SALLY

April, Max got me Gumdrops for my last birthday. We looked at ponies all day. I got to ride so many of them, and we didn't leave the dealership until I had found the perfect one!

Sally looks around and sees most of the crowd staring back at her.

SALLY

I just wish that I got this right. Now I don't know what to do.

STEVE
(sarcastically)
Maybe you should just keep trying
until you get it right.

Beat.

SALLY
Hey, that's not a bad idea!

MOLLY
I'm pretty sure that he was bein'
sarcastic.

SALLY
Sarcasm is usually where the best
ideas are. I gotta plan, but I'm going
to need some help.

APRIL
I suppose it would get me out of the
house for another day.

MOLLY
Why does no one ever listen ta me?

A crash is heard. Autumn has crashed into a wall and fallen over in her attempted to pin a tail on the donkey. Robert is in the background, giggling as he eats some cake. Riley pins the tail on Autumn.

RILEY
Awesome! I win!

Cut to an establishing shot of the Dunn House on an early morning, sunrise. Cut to Max's bedroom. Max is sleeping in his bed. We cut to Max's first person view. His eyes blink open. The first time, he sees his normal room. The second time he does, Sally is in plain view, wearing a polka-dotted party hat. She has a noisemaker in her mouth. Cut to third-person as she blows her noisemaker, shocking Max off of his bed.

SALLY
Happy birthday! Gotcha this time!

MAX
(angrily)
Sally, my birthday was yesterday! You
were there!

Sally gives an oblivious smile.

SALLY

I have no idea what you're talking about.

MAX

You planned the party!

SALLY

I *may* have planned a certain party for a certain person, but all I remember is that that certain person didn't even bother to show up.

Max gets back into his bed. He puts his pillow over his head in order to silence Sally.

MAX

So, that's what this about revenge? It's bad enough that I need to deal with one birthday a year. I don't need to deal with two.

SALLY

Max, I know I screwed up your party. But I'm gonna promise you that today's gonna be the best... no! The BESTEST birthday that anyone's ever had in history!

MAX

Sally, you don't understand-

SALLY

No, I think that I do. I just didn't do a good enough job yesterday. So, I gotta do better today.

MAX

That isn't it--

SALLY

And what would a birthday be without a breakfast in bed? A pretty terrible birthday if you ask me!

Sally rings a bell. Robert enters, holding a classic dish plate with a cover.

ROBERT

Sally, you know that your mother and I
have to get ready for school, right?

SALLY

This won't take long at all! I
promise!

ROBERT

Well...

SALLY

Pleeeeeeeeeeeeeeease!

Sally gives Robert puppy-dog eyes.

ROBERT

How could I say no to that?

SALLY

Goodie!

Sally places the plate in front of Max.

SALLY

Extra cheese, no pickles, and just the
tiniest dab of mustard in the middle.
With a double-order of fries!
(sing-song)
They're still warm.

MAX

Sally, I know that you're trying, but-

Max looks to Sally. She has a smile filled with hope and
innocence. Max doesn't have the heart to break hers. He takes
a bite out of the burger. His face brightens up when he does.

SALLY

Yes! It's working!

MAX

If it'll get you to just leave me
alone...

SALLY

Imagine how good the second course is
gonna be!

Max swallows hard.

MAX
Second course?

Autumn comes into the room, holding another covered platter. Sally opens it, revealing a pizza.

SALLY
It's a pizza, complete with mushrooms, pepperoni, sausage and the teeniest sprinkling of Parmesan cheese.

Max looks unnerved by all of the food in front of him.

AUTUMN
Sally, don't you think that this might be a bit much?

SALLY
I hope not. I still gotta bring out dessert!

MAX
Dessert!?

SALLY
See, he's excited!

AUTUMN
I don't think that's what he--

Gumdrops enters the room, balancing a covered plate on his head. Sally opens it to reveal:

SALLY
Triple chocolate chip brownie cake with molten hot fudge, topped with whipped cream and a cherry. Oh, and did I mention chocolate?

Sally places a fork in Max's hand. Max is still staring dumbfounded at all of the food. Sally makes a motion as if she was telling Max a secret.

SALLY
And feel free to start with the dessert. It's your birthday. No one's gonna mind!

MAX
Sally, I--

Max is interrupted by the sound of an ice cream truck jingle. Sally looks out Max's window to see that a caterpillar-shaped vehicle has arrived near their house by a bus stop, with several other adults gathered around.

SALLY
Robbie! Autumn! Bus!

ROBERT
But I still have to get dressed for school.

AUTUMN
Don't worry about it. Any outfit you wear is going to be covered by mud, slime, paint or all three by the end of the day.

Autumn drags Robert out of the room. Sally's cellphone rings. Max starts eating the lava cake in the background.

APRIL (V.O.)
So, do tell. How did it go?

SALLY
(whining)
I told you to use the walkie-talkies!

APRIL (V.O.)
But dear, we have cellphones.

SALLY
But walkie-talkies are cooler!

APRIL (V.O.)
(sigh) Very well.

There's a buzz by Sally's side. It's a walkie-talkie shaking. Sally picks it up and answers it.

APRIL (V.O.)
(annoyed)
So, do tell. How did it go?

Sally whispers into the walkie-talkie. Max remains distracted by his food.

SALLY
Phase one is a super success! I have no idea how you got the Silly Burger right. I swear, that place could be

run by GROWN-UPS and they'd get their orders right more often.

APRIL (V.O.)

Apparently, your brother's employees do have hidden talents.

Cut to Niall in a car, at the Silly Burger drive thru. He makes over-the-top motions as he speaks.

NIALL

They're watching us. Always.

FAST FOOD WORKER (V.O.)

And who would that be this time?

NIALL

The turbo aliens! They're doing it through their crystal ball energy devices. This is why you need to get this order right. They're really, really allergic to cheese. Or was it pickles? I don't remember.

Cut to inside the Silly Burger kitchen. The kid on the intercom doesn't seem very impressed, but the kids making the food are noticeably frightened. They're running around with ingredients and boxes. Two of them even collide with each other.

FAST FOOD WORKER

And how exactly do you know that?

NIALL (V.O.)

It's not important how I know what I know. Just that I know what I know, you know? And what I know is that if one of these guys eats onions, or whatever I said the first time, the whole alien species gets crazy and they just start eating people!

Cut to Niall in the drive thru. He's reading from a comic book - Space Man from Outer Space.

NIALL

Especially fast food workers that screw up their orders.

Cut back to Max's bedroom. Max is sitting on his bed, almost passed out from all of the food, surrounded by his garbage.

Sally is talking on the walkie-talkie.

SALLY
Get ready for phase 2.

APRIL
Confirmative.

Sally rushes over to Max's bed. She grabs Max by his arm and pulls him out of his bed, causing him to crash on the floor.

SALLY
Come on Max, your birthday bash is just getting started!

MAX
(groans)

Cut to Sally and Max walking down the stairs into the Living Room. Max has his hand on his stomach, indicating that he has eaten far too much. The floor is overloaded with presents to the point that the door is completely blocked off.

SALLY
Gotta open your presents now. There's no way out unless you do!

MAX
I'll just use the back then.

Max tries to open the backdoor, but it will not budge. Pan transition to the outside. Neven is leaning against the door. Anna stands by rambling on and on.

ANNA
This reminds me of that one time we were helping Sally throw Max an extra birthday party because his first one didn't go so well, and so we planned a new one the next day and had to block the door to stop Max from getting out the back--

NEVEN
Anna, that's what what we're doing now.

ANNA
Nah, I'm pretty sure we did this before.

NEVEN
Can something please just knock me out
right now?

A UFO throwing disc toy comes from off-screen and hits Neven in the head, knocking him over.

RYKER (V.O.)
I told you Dunns to keep your toys out
of my yard!

Neven picks up the toy.

NEVEN
What's this?

ANNA
Pony.

NEVEN
It is most certainly not a--

Gumdrops runs on screen, trampling Neven in order to grab the UFO throwing disc.

NEVEN
Pony...

Gumdrops drops the UFO toy onto Neven's face, and begins wagging his tail, as if he wants to play fetch.

Cut to the Dunn's living room. Max walks towards his presents.

MAX
You know, I could just move the boxes
out of the way, right?

Max tries to lift one of the boxes, but he can't get it to budge. Cut to Sally, holding a bucket of glue and a paintbrush.

SALLY
Nope (snickers). I glued the boxes to
the floor. The only way out is to open
them.

MAX
But how are we supposed to get the
wrapping paper off of the floor?

SALLY
Oh you just leave that to me.

Sally pulls herself away and pulls out the walkie-talkie.

SALLY
(whispering)
Um... April? How am I supposed to get
the wrapping paper off of the floor?

Max opens a present, and he pulls out a Captain Commando comic book.

SALLY
Do you like it?

MAX
Sally, I haven't been into Captain
Commando since I was nine.

SALLY
(under her breath)
Well, maybe if you opened it back when
I got it for you...

Max opens up another present, and it's a Turbo Kart game package.

SALLY
What about that?

MAX
Sally, I already own a copy of Turbo
Kart.

SALLY
(groans)

Sally returns to using the walkie-talkie.

SALLY
Phase two ain't goin' so well. I told
you we shoulda got him new presents.

APRIL
Just move onto phase three. That's
sure to strike him!

Sally grabs Max by the arm.

SALLY
Alright grumpy pants. There's no way
that you'll hate the next thing on my
list.

MAX
Let's just get this over with.

SALLY
First you gotta put this on.

Sally holds out a blindfold.

MAX
You're joking.

SALLY
I still got the glue...

Max rolls his eyes and puts the blindfold on.

MAX
You know that I have to get to work,
right?

SALLY
Don't worry about it. Shelly said that
she'd have everything covered.

MAX
Wait, SHELLY? She's only been working
there for three months!

SALLY
Oh, that's practically forever. She'll
be fine.

Sally pushes Max out the front door.

Cut to Shelly at Lemonade. She has a crayon and a piece of
paper. She comes to wait at a table with two fancily-dressed
kids - Tiana and Franklin sitting there. A couple of kids are
playing a trading card game in the background.

SHELLY
Welcome to Lemonade Land. What can I
getcha? I'm in charge today.

TIANA
Lemme guess, your drinks come in
sippie cups?

Tiana and Franklin laugh.

SHELLY

I'll have you know that we serve
nothin' less than crazy straws here.

FRANKLIN

I guess we'll just have a couple of
lemonades then.

SHELLY

Comin' right up!

Shelly writes something down with the crayon. Reverse shot to show that it's just nonsensical scribbles. Shelly runs along. She trips over her apron and causes her to tumble and crash into the table of the kids playing the card game, breaking it.

TIANA

I'd come here more often if I knew the
show was this good.

SHELLY

(dazed)

What can I get you two?

RESTAURANT KID #1

I think we'll just pay our bill.

They hand Shelly their playing cards and they walk off.

Cut to Max, Sally, and Steve in a beat-up old car. Steve is driving. Sally is in the passenger side seat, eagerly looking back and forth from the road to Max. Max is in the back seat.

MAX

Can I take the blindfold off now?

SALLY

Not yet. Hey! No peeking!

Cut to them arriving at the amusement park Wacky World. Sally whispers in Steve's ear.

SALLY

(whispers)

I'm going to buy our tickets. You know
what to do.

Cut to Steve guiding Max into the line of a huge roller

coaster. He starts whistling as he joins up with Sally. Sally is watching the roller coaster, jumping up and down as she holds onto the rail.

SALLY
He's almost on! He's almost on!

STEVE
I'm surprised Max would want to go on this thing.

SALLY
Why? This is his favorite roller coaster.

STEVE
That's odd. He's been afraid of going upside down ever since my invention held him by the toes for five hours.

SALLY
Wait, what?

AMUSEMENT PARK WORKER (V.O.)
Alright, next on!

Cut to Max being guided onto the roller coaster. The bars end up coming down.

MAX
Sally? Sally, where are you? I'm taking this blindfold off right now.

Max takes off the blindfold. He immediately sees exactly where he is. The camera jolts really close to him.

MAX
Well, that just-

The roller coaster is launched forward at blistering speeds. Cut to Sally and Steve standing on the pavement down below, watching the coaster go. Sally is looking on, her eye twitching. Screams, Max's audibly among them, can be heard coming from the coaster.

SALLY
I am so dead. I am so dead. I am so dead.

STEVE
I've got an invention that might be

able to help you with that.

Sally slowly, angrily turns towards Steve.

STEVE

Uh... look at the bright side. At least he didn't eat nothing too greasy or anything like that.

Sally's expression becomes wrought with fear.

SALLY

I am double dead.

(shouting)

WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME HE DIDN'T LIKE GOING UPSIDE DOWN!?

STEVE

Thought you knew. He is your brother after all.

SALLY

YOU drove us here!

STEVE

And for that, you are welcome.

Steve takes a small bow. Sally looks to the roller coaster.

SALLY

What am I gonna do, what am I gonna do, what am I gonna do!?

STEVE

I dunno... try again?

SALLY

(sarcastic)

Yeah, that's just what I'll do. I'll keep trying again and again to give Max the perfect birthday until--

Beat.

SALLY

That's it!

Sally runs off in excitement.

STEVE

Steve old boy, how do you come up with

so many awesome ideas?

A family of four walks by Steve.

FAMILY KID #1

Like standing under the biggest
coaster in the park?

STEVE

Yeah, like standing under the--

Steve turns to the family. They're wearing raincoats and have umbrellas open. Family Kid #2 giggles.

FAMILY KID #1

Hope no one on the coaster ate
anything greasy.

Steve looks incredibly nervous as we cut to black.

Cut to Max's Bedroom. Max is sleeping in his bed. Sally, wearing a different colored party hat. Sally blows her noisemaker. This time Max only barely moves.

SALLY

Happy birthday Max!

MAX

How many times does this make?

SALLY

Uh... twelve. But I promise that this
one is gonna be the one!

Max climbs out of his bed.

MAX

That's what you said yesterday... and
the day before that, and--

SALLY

This time it's gonna work! I got front
row seats to the championship Pillow
Fight!

Cut to the Summerway Pillow Fighting. Two kids are in what appears to be a wrestling arena, both wearing pajamas. One of them has a red pillow and one of them has a blue pillow. They both knock each other around.

Cut to two announcers - Harper, and a girl with a deadpan

look on her face. This is Violet. Violet only ever speaks in a deadpan voice.

HARPER

And welcome to the Summerway
Championship Pillow Fight! I for one
couldn't be more excited! What about
you?

VIOLET

I am excited, as you can tell by the
sound of my voice.

HARPER

You're... not really into this are
you?

VIOLET

I don't know what you're talking
about. It's been my lifelong dream to
see kids whacking each other with
pillows.

HARPER

How did you even get this job?

VIOLET

Nepotism.

We cut to Robert, Sally, Autumn and Max sitting and watching the show. Robert appears to be very into the game and shows excitement. Autumn looks like she'd rather be anywhere else.

MAX

I guess this isn't so bad.

ROBERT

Looks like you got one right, Sally.

Sally has a bright smile.

SALLY

I knew that this one would work! Happy
birthday Max!

The words "Happy birthday Max" echo around the arena. The lights turn off, and then a spotlight casts itself over Max. Max looks around nervously. Harper walks up to Max and puts her microphone in his face.

HARPER

Do I hear that someone's having a

birthday?

MAX

N-no!

HARPER

Ah... someone's a little shy!

MAX

Wait a minute, YOU were at my party!
You know it's not my birthday!

HARPER

I think someone just doesn't want to
get in the ring.

MAX

Get in the ring?

HARPER

Excellent idea! This birthday boy is
gonna have a once in a lifetime
opportunity!

SALLY

I don't think that's a good--

HARPER

I'm gonna need some help here! We
gotta spoilsport!

The crowd starts chanting "spoilsport". Violet enters the scene.

VIOLET

Is there a problem here?

HARPER

The birthday boy doesn't wanna get in
the ring.

VIOLET

Never been professional pillow
fighting before?

MAX

No, and I'd rather not.

VIOLET

Sorry sir, but this is an upper class
establishment and we have a code of

behavior. Please have a sense of humor.

Harper and Violet push Max into the ring. We focus on the Sally, Robert, and Autumn's expressions as they cringe over what happens.

HARPER

Three! Two! One! And the birthday boy tries running around the room, but he's just too slow! And he's dropped his pillow! And now he's getting creamed! It's like he's never had a pillow fight in his life!

Cut to Max exiting the ring. He's covered in feathers and made up to look like a chicken.

SALLY

(nervously)

Better luck... tomorrow, right?

MAX

Sally, I don't want to hear it. I don't want a birthday party. Ever again!

Cut to Sally sadly looking at the camera. The camera pans back to show that Sally and Molly are at Mermaid's Beauty Salon. Their hair is currently in a mechanism that looks like an eggbeater, with spinning cylinders.

MOLLY

You look like yeah gotta bunch of buzzards in yer britches. I thought bringin' yeah here would cheer ya up.

SALLY

No matter what I do, Max just can't seem to have a good birthday.

MOLLY

Wasn't his birthday like... two weeks ago or somethin'?

SALLY

I thought he'd have loved the aquarium! What kinda kid doesn't like riding on dolphins or going scuba diving with octopi?

MOLLY

That sounds like something yeah like more than he does.

SALLY

Yeah well, the roller coaster was somethin' that we both liked! Or... used to. Laser tag, bungee jumping, pillow fighting! He didn't like any of 'em.

MOLLY

Shouldn't yeah know what yer brother likes?

SALLY

I do, or... I thought I did...

MOLLY

It's soundin' to me that this is more about you throwing a good party than yer brother havin' a good birthday.

SALLY

Yeah... that sounds kinda... right.

MOLLY

Why don't you try askin' him what he wants fer a change?

The hairdresser, Comet, walks up.

COMET

And you two are done.

Sally and Molly's hair are pulled out of the machine. Their hairstyles are in all sorts of random styles with random dyes in random sections. Pigtails and ponytails and braids all go in random directions. The two girls stare at each other for a beat. Then they laugh.

Cut to Sally slamming open the door to Max's bedroom. Sally is determined. She has her hands on her hips. Max is sitting at his desk, reading the Captain Commando comic. He doesn't even turn towards Sally.

MAX

Sally, we've been over this. Please knock before barging into my room.

SALLY

Oh sorry.

Sally pulls the door closed. She knocks on it, and then barges in again.

MAX
(deadpan)
Hello Sally, why don't you come in.

SALLY
You're gonna have a great birthday if it takes me all year to get this right!

MAX
Not this again.

Max gets up and he starts walking off.

SALLY
Don't worry, it'll be whatever you choose to do.

Max stands in front of Sally, looking down at her.

MAX
Hmm... what do I choose to do? Oh I know. Forget that my birthday exists.

SALLY
But why? Your birthday is supposed to be the awesomest day of the year!

MAX
Not for some kids.

SALLY
What's that supposed to mean?

MAX
Sally, how old am I?

SALLY
What?

MAX
How old am I?

SALLY
Twelve?

MAX
That's right. Next year I'm turning...

SALLY
Thirteen?

MAX
Yeah, I'll be a teenager.

SALLY
So what?

MAX
Before you know it... I'll be a grown-up.

Max looks out his window. We see the Robert and Autumn exiting the bus. They are both covered in slime, mud, and paint. Sally thinks for a moment and then she starts laughing.

MAX
What, what's so funny?

SALLY
That's what's got worked up? As far as I can see it, you're already a grown-up.

Sally sticks out her tongue.

MAX
What?

SALLY
What kinda kid doesn't crack a smile when he sees a living room filled with presents? You ate your weight in fast food, rode the biggest, bested coaster in the park, got into a pillow fight and moped all the way through. Sounds like what a grown-up would do.

MAX
You're very funny.

SALLY
Nope, I'm serious. Maybe I should pack your lunch for school tomorrow. You did do your homework, right Max?
(sing-songy)
I wouldn't want to have to ground you!

MAX
Take that back!

SALLY
Make me!

Sally blows Max a raspberry, and then Sally rushes out of Max's Bedroom into the hallway. Sally takes the slide down and Max follows suit.

Cut to Robert and Autumn opening the door into the living room. Sally is hanging onto the monkey bars, with MAX chasing her down.

MAX
I'm gonna get you!

SALLY
I'd like to see you try... old man!

Max grabs at Sally, but she drops into the ball pit down below.

AUTUMN
Well, they're at it again.

ROBERT
What's going on here?

MAX
Sally keeps calling me a grown-up!

Max drops down.

AUTUMN
What's wrong with being a grown-up?

MAX
Well... look at you.

Autumn sits down on the couch.

AUTUMN
What about me?

MAX
You're all covered in paint.

AUTUMN
Oh, I wasn't aware that you didn't like paintball fights.

MAX
I do... it's just...

SALLY
Paintball! I knew I missed something!

Autumn and Robert give each other a sympathetic look.

ROBERT
We've been worried about you Max. This isn't like you.

MAX
I... don't want to grow up. I want to run my store... hang with my employees.

SALLY
Forever and ever, for all eternity. With Steve holding you upside down for five hours, or Anna going on and on about the lettuce she got stuck in her teeth the other day.

AUTUMN
I still hang out with the friends I had as a kid. I even married one of them.

Robert sits down next to Autumn.

MAX
I can't not think about the future.

ROBERT
You can't not think about the present either.

Max thinks for a moment. Then he falls backwards into the ball pit, laughing.

MAX
Wow. I've been wasting so much time being miserable. I could have had a really great time, but I blew it acting like the boring old grown-up I didn't want to be.

SALLY
Funny, huh?

MAX

Not as funny as what's going to happen
when I get you.

SALLY

I'd like to see you try!

Sally gets up and Max chases her up the stairs. Cut to Robert
and Autumn on the couch.

ROBERT

Kids, huh?

AUTUMN

What a world they've created.