

SHORT STACK INC. - PILOT - "THE CASE OF THE ROUGE PANCAKE"

EXT. STREET - DAY

A fly roams around a culdesac full of mail boxes and toys. The fly notices this once beautiful house with a large brick chimney, bright yellow walls, and a sky blue door. As he rounds a corner he sees an open window and races to land on the sill. He gets closer and closer to the window as a beeping noise starts coming from a distance. The fly lands to see a child's bedroom with two monumental bunk beds sitting on top of the hard wood floor you can barely see through the mountains of clothes. Asleep in the beds are RYAN and LILLY, eight year old twins on their first day of summer. Next to Ryan is an alarm clock chirping away.

INT. HOUSE - DAY

Ryan slowly wakes up and goes to hit his alarm clock but Lilly snatches it first from the top bunk. She throws it out the window, hitting the fly and propelling it towards the fence, along with the clock. The fly hits the ground and scampers around the grass, dizzied from the enormous blow to the head.

LILLY

What is wrong with you? It's the first day of summer bozo! No more clocks!

Lilly slams her head back down on the pillow while Ryan makes his way to the bathroom.

RYAN

Just because it's summer doesn't mean I have to get off schedule.

LILLY

That's exactly what it means! No more teachers, no more classes, just sleep and fun!

RYAN

I think brushing my teeth is fun and if I don't do it at the right time my whole day will be all wrong.

LILLY

You are so weird.

Lilly raises her head from the pillow and takes a large whiff of the smell coming from the kitchen.

LILLY (CONT'D)
Pancakes!

Lilly jumps out of the top bunk and pushes Ryan over as he is brushing his teeth which causes the brush to fly out of this hand and land in the sink.

RYAN
Hey my brush!

Lilly rounds the corner and jumps into her seat in the kitchen, fork in hand.

MOM
I thought that smell might wake you up.

Mom puts a plate down in front of Lilly with a big stack of pancakes covered in syrup and butter. Across the table are BEN and HANNAH, another set of twins who are three years old. Ben is trying to pour syrup on Hannah while she is looking intently at her picture book.

MOM (CONT'D)
Ben, what did mommy say?

Ben puts the syrup down on the table.

MOM (CONT'D)
That's my boy.

As soon as Mom turns around Ben throws the syrup at Hannah's head.

HANNAH
Ow! Momma he did it again!

Ben shakes his head and puts on an innocent frown for his mother, but she doesn't believe him for a minute. Mom swipes away his plate.

MOM
You can get more to eat when you behave young man.

Ben slams his fists on the table and pouts. Back across the table, Lilly is devouring her pancakes and finishes them up quickly. As she cleans her plate her fork inches towards Ryan's plate to snag one of his pancakes but just before she gets it another fork comes down to block her.

RYAN
My pancakes!

Mom comes over and puts another pancake on Lilly's plate.

MOM
You don't have to steal, I have more.

LILLY
It's not stealing mom. It's more like seeing a goal and reaching it.

RYAN
No, it's stealing, and it's pancakes so that is like the worst kind of stealing.

Lilly takes a huge slab of butter and covers her pancake.

RYAN (CONT'D)
Do you really need that much butter?

LILLY
I gotta get ready for my first day of summer. Build my energies! Mom, can we go to the park today?

MOM
I'm sorry honey daddy took the car, we can go when he gets home though.

LILLY
That is like in a million gagillion years though!

MOM
We can just spend the day in the back yard. You have your tire swing.

RYAN
I don't think that swing is going to last much longer mom.

EXT. BACK YARD - DAY

The same fly who got the alarm clock thrown at him lands on the tire swing to catch his breath. Right as he lands the swing collapses on top of him, and he is dizzied once more.

INT. HOUSE - DAY

LILLY

I play on that swing every day.
This is the biggest day of my life
ever! The first day of summer, it
has to be wonderful! Magnificent!
Even better than..than...Pancakes!

Ryan puts a piece of pancake in his mouth and his eyes turn
to hearts.

RYAN

Impossible.

MOM

I'm sorry dear, but I can't do
anything about it.

LILLY

What a way to start off the summer.
Hanging out with you chumps inside
the house all day.

RYAN

We can do lots of fun things in the
house.

LILLY

Like what?

Ryan's face turns to absolute excitement.

RYAN

We can clean our room! Oh and our
play room! We can clean every room!

Lilly slams her head on the table.

LILLY

Let's face it. The day is ruined.

HANNAH (O.C.)

Stop it!

A piece of pancake is seen flying through the air and in slow
motion it hits Lilly and sticks to her hair. Lilly sits up
almost in tears.

LILLY

Is...there...something in my hair?

Ryan reaches and pulls the pancake off Lilly's head.

RYAN

Yes. It was a pancake.

Ryan wraps up the piece of pancake and throws it into the trash from across the room.

RYAN (CONT'D)

Count it!

Lilly jumps half way across the table but Ryan holds her back.

LILLY

Who did it!? Was it you?! Or you?!
WHO?!

Hannah and Ben look at each other and point a finger at the other sibling.

LILLY (CONT'D)

Oh I see how it is. You're not
gonna talk are ya?

A light bulb turns on over Lilly's head. Mom flicked the switch.

MOM

Huh this light wasn't on the whole
time. Weird.

Lilly turns around on the table to face Ryan.

LILLY

I know what we are gonna do!

RYAN

What are you talking about?

Lilly jumps off the table, takes Ryan's hand, and drags him into their room.

Lilly throws herself into their closet and starts going through everything while Ryan picks it up as she hurls it at him.

RYAN (CONT'D)

Lilly? Lilly! What are you doing?

Lilly shoots out of the closet wearing a red dress and a huge red hat.

LILLY

I got it!

Lilly puts a fedora that is way too big on Ryan's head.

LILLY (CONT'D)
We are going to be detectives! We
will find crimes and solve them!

RYAN
I was really looking forward to
cleaning the play room today so I
just don't know if I can...

LILLY
Oh come on! It will be fun! Don't
be a stick in the mud. Plus think
of it this way, what horrible
things might I get into if you let
me do this alone!

Ryan lets out a large sigh.

RYAN
(beat)
That is true.

LILLY
Great, I'm glad we had this talk.

Lilly takes Ryan by the hand again and drags him back to the kitchen. Lilly climbs on top of the table in front of her younger brother and sister.

LILLY (CONT'D)
So you wont talk eh? Well we will
see about that. I am Agent L, and
this is Agent R.

Ryan tries to fix his fedora that is covering his whole face.

We will be looking into this
investigation, so don't think you
are gonna get away with it!

The young twins look at each other again and giggle.

LILLY (CONT'D)
No laughing!

The young twins stop laughing abruptly.

LILLY (CONT'D)
This is serious business! Now don't
move while I talk to my partner.

Lilly jumps off the table next to Ryan who is still swimming under his hat.

LILLY (CONT'D)

What do you think of the crime scene agent R?

RYAN

Agent R?

LILLY

Yeah it's your code name. We need code names just in case the room is bugged.

RYAN

Why would the room be bugged?

LILLY

I don't know. There is lots of fruit in here. You never know!

RYAN

This isn't a crime scene. This is our kitchen.

LILLY

No! It's the crime scene. You have to use your imagination!

RYAN

How do I do that?

LILLY

Just stop thinking for a little while. Pretend we are at a crime scene.

RYAN

I don't know how to do that.

LILLY

Everyone knows how! They just gotta figure it out...Follow me.

Lilly takes Ryan by the hand once more and they go under the kitchen table.

See this? What does it look like to you.

RYAN

It's a chair.

LILLY

No silly! It's a tall sky scraper
in the middle of a large city. You
see?

RYAN

No. I just see a chair.

Lilly hits Ryan over the head hard enough for him to fall to
the ground. As he becomes conscious he sees Lilly standing
over him in the dark night under city lights.

EXT. CITY - NIGHT

LILLY

Now do you see?

RYAN

Oh wow! Look at this place! There
are so many lights and streets
and...

A taxi cuts in front of the Ryan and almost hits him causing
him to jump back.

LILLY

Watch out for the moving vehicles,
very dangerous.

INT. HOUSE - DAY

Ben is seen playing with a taxi car toy in front of the
table. Lilly and Ryan walk by him.

BEN

Vroom vroom!

INT. SKY SCRAPER - NIGHT

Lilly and Ryan enter a large building with a lobby made of
gold bricks and gold support beams. Lilly walks to the
elevator and pushes the up button.

RYAN

What are we doing here?

LILLY

Going to the scene of the crime. If
we wanna solve this case we have to
get some evidence.

(MORE)

LILLY (CONT'D)
We have to go to the top floor.
That's where we will find our clues.

Ryan is terrified of elevators and takes a deep breath as Lilly enters when the doors open.

LILLY (CONT'D)
Oh don't be a baby. Just get in!

RYAN
I'll do it when I'm ready. Just
hold on!

Lilly grabs Ryan and pulls him into the elevator, then pushes the button to the top floor.

INT. HOUSE - DAY

Ryan puts a hand down to the floor and lifts Lilly up. She then steps on Ryan's face to get herself up to the chair.

LILLY
Stop moving!

RYAN
I will when you get off my face!

INT. SKY SCRAPER - NIGHT

The elevator door opens to show a golden ballroom covered head to toe in gold plated forks and spoons. Ryan and Lilly stroll out of the elevator and look around in amazement. Just as Ryan is becoming comfortable with his surroundings a golden fork narrowly misses his face and sticks into the wall behind him. Across the room two chairs turn around to unveil the two younger twins in 1950's mobster garb and a large arsenal of kitchen utensils.

LILLY
Evasive maneuvers!

RYAN
I don't know what that means.

LILLY
It means get down!

A golden spatula whizzes by Ryan's head as he jumps behind a pillar.

RYAN
What do we do now!?

LILLY
We must complete the mission Agent
R! Follow me!

INT. HOUSE - DAY

The two younger twins are hurling forks at Ryan and Lilly from across the table as Lilly uses Ryan as a human shield and inches closer towards their objective.

INT. SKY SCRAPER - NIGHT

As Ryan and Lilly cross the room Lilly is judo chopping the incoming utensils out of the air.

RYAN
Where did you learn karate?

LILLY
It's my imagination, I can do anything I want here, and I've always wanted to be all to be able to judo chop!

A cavalcade of utensils come flying at Lilly and she deflects them all into the adjacent walls.

RYAN
So I can do anything I want in my imagination?

Lilly round house kicks a plate that was thrown at her.

LILLY
Just about.

Ryan looks over to one of the round pillars holding up the room and runs towards it. Using his new imaginary brute strength he rips it out of the ground, places it sideways, and rides it like a log towards the other end of the room.

INT. HOUSE - DAY

Ryan is seen clumsily riding a rolling pin towards the twins at the end of the table, barely staying upright.

INT. SKY SCRAPER - NIGHT

The pillar that Ryan is riding is rapidly picking up speed and heading towards the twins who are still relentlessly attacking. Lilly jumps on the pillar along side Ryan and runs to make it go even faster. Once the twins realize they are going to get run over they jump out of the way. Ryan and Lilly then jump off the pillar right before it smashes through the large glass windows in the back of the room.

EXT. SKY SCRAPER - NIGHT

The pillar falls from the top story of the sky scraper and lands on a taxi cab, making it explode and blowing out all the glass windows surrounding it.

INT. HOUSE - DAY

The rolling pin goes shooting off the table and lands on Ben's taxi toy, breaking off one of its wheels. Ben immediately bursts into tears which then makes Hannah also cry. Mom comes rushing in at the sound of crying. She picks up Ben and Hannah to console them.

MOM

What happened? Did your cars get wrecked? It's okay there are more in the play room, you wanna go play in there?

Ben and Hannah stop crying and nod their heads, "yes."

MOM (CONT'D)

Okay. Ryan, Lilly, get off the table, and pick up this mess, there is silverware everywhere!

Ryan and Lilly jump down from the table as Mom brings the twins away.

MOM (CONT'D)

Hannah, why are your hands all sticky? Looks like we have to give you a bath before you play.

Hannah breaks into a panic and tries to escape her mother's grasp. Ben laughs at her misfortune.

MOM (CONT'D)

You too mister.

Ben's eyes open wide in disbelief and he too begins to squirm violently.

LILLY

Ah hah! So it was sticky hands Hannah who threw the pancake at me! And she would have gotten away with it if she wasn't so afraid of the bath tub!

RYAN

She will learn her lesson. No pancake can be thrown without consequences.

(beat)

Well this was a fun game, I'm going to go clean now.

Lilly pulls Ryan in by the shoulder.

LILLY

Hold your horses mister! I'm thinking this was so much fun we should do it more often. Create our own detective agency. Solve crimes. All that junk.

RYAN

I mean it was good once but I don't...

LILLY

Nonsense! We are now detectives, I have just decided. We just need a name.

RYAN

How about, "someone save me from my sister"? Or "this is my worst nightmare coming true"?

LILLY

No, that doesn't work at all. We need something catchy. Something fun. I got it! Short Stack Incorporated! Named after our first and most important case to date.

Ryan's fedora falls back over his eyes.

RYAN

I like my idea better.

LILLY
Come on Agent R, the world needs
our assistance. We mustn't keep
them waiting!

RYAN
Keep who waiting!?

Lilly takes Ryan by the shirt and drags him off camera out of
the kitchen.

RYAN (CONT'D)
Lilly! Stop! Keep who waiting?
Mom!? I think it's my bath time
too! MOM?!

FADE TO BLACK.

END

Ryan Brady Wrote This