

Episode 11 - Mathematical Family

By Three Kids in a Closet

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EXT. TACO BUS - DAY

Craig stands dejectedly in front of a taco bus. The sign says CLOSED in bright, disheartening red. He is saddened at the loss of tacos. A mournful wind blows.

INT. LUCAS AND AMANDA'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN

Lucas sits at the kitchen table on his laptop. He searches Amazon, brow furrowed in concentration. Beside him, Sophia munches away sloppily at a homemade hamburger, and Emmy sits in a high chair at the end of the table. A cup full of pens and pencils stands on the table, including Lucas's TEAL PEN. Amanda stands in the kitchen, cooking more hamburgers.

As Lucas scrolls on his laptop, Sophia reaches, starry-eyed, for the bottle of ketchup, spurred by her budding sense of independence.

LUCAS
(casually, without looking
away from his computer)
No more ketchup for you, thanks.

As he speaks, he reaches out and moves the ketchup out of Sophia's reach.

Unfazed, Sophia picks up her burger and bites it.

LUCAS
(to Amanda)
Still looking at headphones for
your brother. These black ones have
4.3 stars and they're 20% off.

AMANDA
(flipping a hamburger)
Craig likes black.

LUCAS
But then there're these white ones.
They're not on sale, but they're
higher rated.

AMANDA
They're 5 stars?

LUCAS
4.6.

AMANDA
(amused)
So they're both 4 stars.

(CONTINUED)

LUCAS

Hey, it makes a difference. Oh,
wait! These red ones are 40% off
and 4.7 stars. We have a winner.

Craig suddenly bursts into the apartment unannounced. Lucas
snaps his laptop shut, trying to look innocent. Craig grins
intensely.

CRAIG

The gypsy woman said there would be
tacos.

AMANDA

(rolling her eyes)

You know we only make tacos on
Tuesdays.

At the table, Sophia looks up urgently from her hamburger.

SOPHIA

And my birthday!

AMANDA

(conceding)

And Sophia's birthday.

Beat.

CRAIG

Can you make an exception in my
case?

Hamburgers sizzle on the stove top.

Beat.

AMANDA

No.

SOPHIA

No.

Lucas inconspicuously slides his laptop to the side of the
table. He rises to help Amanda, getting out plates and
silverware to set the table.

LUCAS

So, Craig, how'd that job interview
go?

CRAIG

I think it went well. There were
six other people, though, so I've
got my fingers crossed.

(CONTINUED)

LUCAS
(setting the table)
When are you supposed to hear back?

Amanda's phone dings, and she looks at it.

CRAIG
Probably not for another four days,
at least. They said I'd hear back
in about a week.

Amanda pipes up.

AMANDA
Hey, do you guys ever get texts
from local government? This is,
like, the third text I've gotten
from Ryan Andrews.

Craig's like,

CRAIG
Who?

LUCAS
(excitedly)
He's running for governor. I heard
he's actually in the lead. I saw an
article...

Lucas pulls out his phone and taps around for a few seconds.

Craig comes over to see.

LUCAS (CONT'D)
Yeah, here. It says 51% of voters
are going for Andrews and only 49%
are for Garcia.

Amanda glances over her shoulder at them.

AMANDA
But what's the margin of error?

Lucas looks uncertain and searches through the article for a moment.

LUCAS
...The article says it's 3%. Does
that make a difference?

(CONTINUED)

CRAIG

Well, with a margin of error of 3%, that just means anywhere between 48 and 54% of voters will choose Andrews and 46 to 52% will go with Garcia. So really it's anyone's game.

LUCAS

(impressed)

You know, I really think you'll get that job.

CRAIG

(teasingly flattered)

Oh, stop...

AMANDA

We should also check the p-value to see how reliable the article is.

CRAIG

(murmuring)

You're right...

AMANDA

Food's ready.

Craig looks up, excited.

CRAIG

Nice.

The phone is set aside for now. Amanda brings the plate of hamburgers to the table, and Lucas brings other toppings. As the whole family sits at the table, they continue chatting amicably. Muted dialogue.

Sophia reaches for the mustard but is intercepted by Amanda.

It's happy. It's peaceful.

FADE TO BLACK